

CBSE TEST PAPER - 02
Class - 12 English Core (Keeping Quiet)

General Instruction:

- Question No. 1 to 3 carry four marks,
 - Question No. 4 to 10 carry Three marks.
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1. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

Now we will count to twelve

And we will keep still.

For once on the face of earth,

Let's not speak in any language;

- i. What is the meaning of "twelve" in the first line?
- ii. Why the poet is urging us to keep quiet?
- iii. What could be the common language of mankind?
- iv. What is poet's motive behind asking everybody to keep quiet?

2. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

Fisherman in the cold sea

Would not harm whales

And the man gathering salt

Would not look at his hurt hands

- i. What does "fisherman in the...harm whale" mean?
- ii. What has gone wrong with the man gathering salt?
- iii. What is the central idea in the extract?
- iv. How violence could be stopped?

3. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

Perhaps earth can teach us

As when everything seems dead

And later proves alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve

And you keep quit and I will go

- i. What can earth teach us?

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- ii. Which positive value is required in our life as suggested in the lines above?
 - iii. Why does the poet say that he'll go?
 - iv. What is death symbolical of?
4. What can introspection and retrospection help us achieve?
 5. Which moment is referred to in the poem and how the moment will be?
 6. Can you relate the lines of the poem with our life?
 7. What should be the purpose of our life?
 8. In what way can huge silence dispel sadness?
 9. What is the "sadness" that the poet refers to in the poem?
 10. What does the title of the poem suggest? What do you think the poem is about?

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Answers

1.
 - i. "Twelve" stands for the twelve hours of the day and the twelve months of the year.
 - ii. The poet is urging us to keep quiet because he wants everybody to analyze and assess themselves and their deeds.
 - iii. Silence could be the common language of mankind.
 - iv. Poet wants to establish a mutual understanding and peace throughout the nations and the world.
2.
 - i. The fisherman who catches fish in the sea for sustaining his livelihood will also stop as killing is violent deed.
 - ii. Salt has a property of absorbing the moisture from the skin, so the workers who process salt and extract salt from the ocean damage their hands.
 - iii. All the violent deeds and harmful activities should be stopped for a moment at least so that people will get time to think and reflect.
 - iv. Introspection is a good solution to invoke ultimate realization of the truth which could result in ceasing of all violent activities.
3.
 - i. Earth can teach us to keep faith and positive attitude as after a momentary silence, things again change and a new energy is restored in the old things.
 - ii. Optimism is required to fight against any obstacle in our life.
 - iii. The poet has done his part of showing the path to the readers and now the readers have to do their work as expected by the poet.
 - iv. 'Death' here means winter which is so quiet and silent that it appears everything has become inactive.
4. Introspection gives us a self-enlightenment by providing us a clear and unbiased path which reaches to our inner self. It helps us achieve the goal of succeeding in our life which is only possible through correction of past mistakes done by retrospection. Analysis and time to time assessment of our deeds is very important for our growth and development.
5. A moment of complete silence is referred to in the poem which will be suitable for a deep soul searching. In the moment of complete silence the people doing all sorts of activities will cease to stop and will only think and rethink about themselves so that they will

understand the true nature of humanity and will start serving humanity. All the violence and aggression will come to an end.

6. Yes, there is a close resemblance of the poem to our lives as we all are leading a very chaotic life with hectic schedule. We need to take rest in order to spare some time for ourselves but in the race of competing with others we are become negligent and show ignorance to ourselves. Thus, it's required that we should also stop to think for a moment to keep the boat of our lives move swiftly.
7. The purpose of our life should be to keep progressing and moving forward as suggested in the poem. But, it should not be confused with an unstoppable and reckless motion which has no proper goal or destination to reach. The ultimate truth of our life can never be escaped so we should try to understand ourselves and control our mind which takes us on the path of distraction and deviation in the form of various desires.
8. Huge silence will remove all our tensions, worries and confusions. It will do away all the sadness which results from not understanding ourselves. The silent moment will give us the scope of correcting our mistakes and will provide us the space to feel relaxed. It will also allow us to meet ourselves which is a cardinal necessity of our life.
9. The poet Pablo Neruda refers to "sadness" which we form due to excessive thinking or because of some undesirable deeds. We put our heart and soul in trying to understand different sort of things but we fail to understand ourselves. This leads to all the chaos and confusion in our mind which results in sadness.
10. The title of the poem - "Keeping Quiet" suggests the importance of silence. The poem is about the importance of self-examination, introspection and retrospection. These foster our growth and development. The poem appeals for universal harmony.