

Animals

— Walt Whitman



OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Extract Based Questions

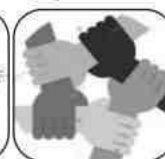
1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*They bring me tokens of myself,
they evince them plainly in their possession
I wonder where they get those tokens,
Did I pass that way huge times ago and
negligently drop them?*

- (A) Look at the images given below. Choose the option that does not reflect “tokens” referred to by Whitman:



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- (a) (1) & (2) (b) (2) & (3)
 (c) (1) & (3) (d) (1) & (4)
- (B) How would you describe the tone of the poet?
- (a) melancholic, resigned
 (b) fanciful, noble
 (c) reflective, idealistic
 (d) fearful, gloomy

- (C) Imagine you were asked to rename the poem.

Column A lists titles of some famous poems.

Column B justifies how each of these titles may be appropriate for the above extract.

Choose the option that correctly lists the matching of Column A to Column B.

| Column A | Column B |
|-----------------------------|---|
| (i) 'Paradise Lost' | (1) This title is appropriate as the poet speaks about how man chose not take the path of a simple, unaffected life as that of the animals. |
| (ii) 'The Road Not Taken' | (2) This title is appropriate as this is a commentary on the importance of living life by remaining close to our innate nature and qualities. |
| (iii) 'The Deserted Temple' | (3) This title is appropriate for the given extract as the poem laments the loss of a simpler and more harmonious life. |
| (iv) 'Nature' | (4) This title is appropriate for the given extract as it reflects how man has abandoned his sacred bond of harmony with nature. |

- (a) (i) – (1); (ii) – (2); (iii) – (3); (iv) – (4)
 (b) (i) – (2); (ii) – (3); (iii) – (4); (iv) – (1)
 (c) (i) – (3); (ii) – (1); (iii) – (4); (iv) – (2)
 (d) (i) – (4); (ii) – (1); (iii) – (2); (iv) – (3)
- (D) The word 'evinced' means the same as:
- (a) deactivate. (b) devastate.
 (c) deteriorate. (d) demonstrate.
- (E) Pick out the correct rhyme scheme of the poem:
- (a) aabb (b) abab
 (c) aaab (d) free verse

Ans. (A) (c) (1) & (3)

Explanation: By 'tokens', the poet means those good human values that humans had left behind. Here, images (1) and (3) does not reflect 'tokens'. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (B) (c) reflective, idealistic

Explanation: The tone of the poet in the stanza is reflective of human's lost values and virtues. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (C) (c) (i) – (3); (ii) – (1); (iii) – (4); (iv) – (2)

Explanation: The titles of the poem are correctly matched to their ideas in option (c). Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (D) (d) demonstrate.

Explanation: The term 'evinced' means to reveal or show. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Not one is dissatisfied,
 not one is demented with
 the mania of owning things,
 Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that
 lived thousands of years ago,
 Not one is respectable or unhappy over the
 whole earth.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

- (A) The repetition of "not one" in the given extract signifies the poet's:
- (a) effort to create a sense of continuity.
 (b) attempt at musicality and rhythm.
 (c) sense of disappointment and frustration.
 (d) feelings of anger and vengeance.
- (B) Which of the following set of qualities does the poet attribute to animals in the given extract?
- (a) discontented, furious, respectful
 (b) fearless, materialistic, reputable
 (c) contented, equal, non-acquisitive
 (d) happy, self-serving, intelligent
- (C) Pick the option that completes the following:
- demented → mania →
- (a) maniac
 (b) manically

- (c) manical
(d) maniacal
- (D) Choose the option that contains a statement which CANNOT be conclusively inferred from the extract:
- (a) Man is miserable.
(b) Man is materialistic.
(c) Man is power-hungry.
(d) Man is curious.
- (E) Which of the following characterises the poet's attitude towards animals in the given extract?
- (a) admiration
(b) nostalgia
(c) jealousy
(d) enthusiasm

Ans. (A) (c) sense of disappointment and frustration.

Explanation: The repetition of "not one" is given by the poet to emphasize the fact that animals are full of good virtues and respect each other. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (B) (c) contented, equal, non-acquisitive

Explanation: In the extract, the poet has attributed animals' contentment, equality and non-acquisitive nature by saying that none of them 'kneels to another' is 'unhappy' or 'has a mania for owning things'. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (C) (d) maniacal

Explanation: Demented and mania leads to the person being a maniacal. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

- (D) (d) Man is curious.

Explanation: Options (a), (b) and (c) can all be concluded from the extract. The ironic appreciation of animals' contentment, no greed for power and having no mania to own things is an indirect reference to man's misery, materialism and hunger for power. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

- (E) (a) admiration

Explanation: It's clear from the extract that the poet admires and appreciates the animals' values. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

Short Answer Type-I Questions (SA-I)

[2 marks]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

3. Does Whitman believe that animals and humans are essentially similar? Provide one reason to support your opinion.

Ans. No, the poet didn't believe that the animals and humans are essentially similar. He believed that humans were once as innocent and self-satisfied as animals but with the passage of time, they lost their natural values which animals managed to preserve theirs.

4. ² What qualities in the animals fascinate the poet in the poem 'Animals'?

5. Why, according to the poet, animals do not 'wake and weep' for their sins?

Ans. The poet believes that animals are pure souls. They don't commit any crime or sin and hence, don't have to repent for the same by crying and asking God for forgiveness the entire night.

6. A misanthrope is a person who dislikes humankind. Do you think the poet is a misanthrope? Provide a rationale to support your response. [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. Yes, the poet could be said to be a misanthrope. He disliked the fact that human today have no warm feelings or virtues that they possessed in the past. He was so disappointed with the humankind that he wanted to live with animals rather than amongst humans.

7. ² Explain: "the mania of owning things".

8. ² Calling someone 'an animal' usually has a negative connotation. How does the poet invert it?

9. Why don't animals 'sweat and whine' about their condition?

Ans. Animals don't 'sweat and whine' about their conditions as they are satisfied with what they have in their life. They don't expect more and never get sad on not receiving it.

10. How would you evaluate the poet's opinion on religion? [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. The poet has said in one of the stanza of the poem that animals do not have to repent or pray to God to ask Him for forgiveness as animals are innocent and do not commit any sins or crimes. Through this, we can tell that the poet thinks that people do not really follow their religions. Rather they remember God only when they need forgiveness.

Short Answer Type-II Questions (SA-II)

[3 marks]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

11. ② Whitman's ode to animals is merely a yearning for a simpler life. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

12. What is the central idea of the poem 'Animals'? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The poem draws a contrast between humans and animals. With the passage of time, humans have forgotten all those good qualities that they possessed and have become uncivilized beasts who are extremely jealous, greedy, egoistic, hypocrite, lusty and discontent. However, the animals have been successful to carry the similar virtues that they had in them from the beginning of the world.

13. Walt Whitman wrote this poem towards the end of the nineteenth century. How might it be different if he were to write it today?

Ans. If Walt Whitman would have to write this poem today, then I suppose it would be even more audacious than the present version. As humans have become more uncivilized and selfish with the passage of time, the poet would have described it more sarcastically. Humans today have lost all their virtues. Hence, the reality in the poem about human values would have been uglier if the poet would have written it today.

14. What are the tokens that the animals give to the poet?

Ans. The tokens that the animals give the poet are the qualities of innocence, simplicity and contentment. These are the qualities that man had, but now has left them on his journey towards a materialistic world.

15. The poet has an exaggerated and idealized perception of animal life. Do you agree? Why/Why not? [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. Yes, I think the poet has an exaggerated and idealized perception of animal life. It's a fact that animals are pure souls who do not commit any sins or crimes. But they are not as satisfied and calm as depicted by the poet. In the wild life, even the animals have to survive by killing other innocent animals or snatching

away their share of food. 'Survival of the fittest' is the rule everywhere. The animals are greedy too. Hence, I think the poet has exaggerated the piousness of the animal kingdom.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

16. How can you relate Baloo's words in 'The Jungle Book'—"They'll ruin him. They'll make a man out of him!"—to the poem 'Animals' by Walt Whitman?



Ans. Baloo's words—"They'll ruin him. They'll make a man out of him!" aptly fit to the poem 'Animals'. According to the poet, the animals are pure souls who are calm, composed, satisfied, and happy. They do not possess any 'mania' of acquiring wealth or materials. They have been able to preserve their natural values of innocence in them. Baloo rightly said that if Mowgli would live amongst man, he would be ruined by them as Men are so greedy, cold-hearted, insincere and hypocrite beings. They would make him one of them. The poet has the same idea about humans in the poem 'Animals'.

17. ② Nelson Mandela is more hopeful about human kind than Walt Whitman. Do you agree? Support your opinion based on your reading of 'Animals' and 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]