

QUESTION BANK
CLASS - B.A – PART III
SEMESTER - VI
SUBJECT: COMPULSORY ENGLISH
Prescribed Textbook: Sands of Time

UNIT – 1:

SHORT QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. Describe the shoe shop in your own words.
2. Why does the narrator feel guilty about meeting Mr. Gessler after a long period?
3. What kind of person do you think the narrator is? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
4. Show two ways in which the narrator realizes that Mr. Gessler is aging and that his business is not doing well.
5. What happens to Mr. Gessler in the end? Why does this situation come about?
6. Give a brief character sketch of Miss Brill.
7. Why and how does the lovers' conversation affect Miss Brill?
8. How does the band reflect the protagonist's mood?
9. Why was Miss Brill disappointed by the old couple on her bench? What does this reveal about Miss Brill?
10. What is Miss Brill's reaction when a boy and a girl occupy the bench next to her?

UNIT -1:

LONG QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. Provide a character sketch of Mr. Gessler, the shoe maker.
2. Enumerate three ways in which Mr. Gessler's way of doing business was different from that of his competitors.
3. Describe, in your own words, the relationship between Mr. Gessler and the narrator.
4. There seems to be a tussle between big business and businesses that rely on craft and experience. How does the author bring this out in the story? Whose side do you think the author is taking? Do you agree with the author's opinion?
5. Paraphrase the final encounter between the speaker and the shoe maker in your own words.
6. What transpires between 'an ermine toque' and 'a gentleman in grey'? Answer in your own words.
7. Why does the narrator use the language of theatre and performance to describe Miss Brill's feelings at the park?
8. Describe the fur neckpiece that Miss Brill takes out at the beginning of the story. What is her response to it? How does she treat it?
9. How is the theme of rejection foreshadowed by the author?
10. Describe the crowd in the park, in your own words.

UNIT – 2:

SHORT QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. Why was the narrator nervous?
2. What did the manager think about the narrator until he told the manager who he was?
3. Describe the manager of the bank.
4. Why did the author decide to open a bank account?
5. What happened when the narrator tried to write a cheque?
6. What, according to Socrates, is the purpose of education?
7. What is Socrates' objective in talking to the villagers?
8. What do the villagers think of Socrates?
9. Why does the teacher hesitate to follow Socrates' advice?
10. How is Socrates' attitude towards coarse language different from that of the villagers?

UNIT -2:

LONG QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. Comment on the title. What expectations does it create? Are these expectations fulfilled by the story?
2. Draw a character sketch of the narrator.

3. Identify and describe (in your own words) two incidents that make the story a humorous one.

Why do you think they are funny?

4. What elements contribute to the humour in this story?

5. Why did the narrator withdraw all his money from the bank? What did he want everyone to think?

6. Summarize Socrates' advice to the schoolmaster in your own words.

7. What are Socrates' ideals?

8. Write a character sketch of the schoolmaster.

9. What do you think Socrates thinks of the villagers? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

10. What do you think is the purpose of this dialogue? Does it still hold true today? Illustrate your answer with examples from the text and from real life.

UNIT – 3:

SHORT QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. What activity is the poet engaged in when he spots the subject of the poem? Whom does the poet see? What is his reaction to this person?

2. How does the song of the reaper carry through the valley?

3. What do we know about the person singing the song? What is this person doing while singing?

4. What do you think the poet's thoughts would be when he remembers the song years later?

5. Comment on the following lines with reference to the poem:

a. Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain, / That has been, and be again!

- b. The music in my heart I bore, / Long after it was heard no more.
- c. Stop here, or gently pass!
- 6. When is the time to curb resentment?
- 7. How can one win over selfishness and spite?
- 8. How does one feel when one's wishes are denied?
- 9. What happens when your mind is tranquil?

UNIT - 3:

LONG QUESTIONS:

Answer each of the following questions in 150-200 words.

- 1. How is the song of the reaper described by the poet?
- 2. What impact does the reaper's song have on the poet's thoughts and feelings?
- 3. The beauty of the countryside is an important aspect of this poem. How is this beauty captured in the poem?
- 4. What, according to the poet, was the reaper's song about?
- 5. What does the poet compare the song to, and why?
- 6. Why is tranquility important?
- 7. Paraphrase the message of the poem in your own words.
- 8. What does one gain from being calm?
- 9. What is the most vital thing in life, and why must you master it?

UNIT - 4:

LONG QUESTIONS:

REPORTS:

(A) Write brief newspaper reports, of two paragraphs each, on the following topics.

1. a railway accident
2. an international football/cricket/hockey/basketball match
3. a new shopping mall in your city

(B) Write reports, consisting of three short paragraphs each, on the following topics for your college magazine.

1. the drama club
2. a visit to a historical monument
3. tree plantation week

(C) Imagine that you have completed doing the following experiments/ processes. Report, in a paragraph each, the steps followed in doing them.

1. a report on a science experiment of your choice
2. a report on making chapatis/an omelette/vegetable soup

ESSAYS:

EXPOSITORY / ANALYTICAL ESSAYS:

Try your hand at writing an expository/analytical essay of about 500-750 words on the following topics. You can refer to books, magazines, newspapers, or the internet for information, but you should write the essay in your own words.

1. Mangalyaan: the Mars Orbiter Mission
2. Climate change and its impact

3. Social media: a curse or boon?
4. The benefits of diversity in society
5. The role of women in the armed forces
6. Science and religion can never agree
7. Fast food and lifestyle diseases
8. Freedom and censorship
9. Women's empowerment
10. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan
11. The positive and negative effects of advertising OR Advertisements and their effects on society
12. The benefits of meditation
13. The role of youth in nation building
14. Intolerance in Indian society
15. The value of time management
16. The advantages and disadvantages of the semester system in colleges
17. Overdependence on technology
18. Rights versus responsibilities
19. The impact of mobile phones on the lives of young people in the present day OR The uses and abuses of mobile phone technology
20. India suffers from Brain Drain

NARRATIVE OR DESCRIPTIVE ESSAYS:

Try your hand at writing either a narrative or a descriptive essay of about 500-750 words on the following topics.

1. Trekking in the mountains
2. The proudest moment of your life
3. An embarrassing experience
4. What super power would you choose to have, and why?
5. How you would spend a million rupees?
6. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be, and why?
7. An accident/a robbery that you have witnessed
8. An unexpected holiday
9. One thing you would change about the world
10. A difficult choice you have made

DISCURSIVE ESSAYS:

Write a discursive essay of about 500-750 words on the following topics. You may choose to write either for OR against the given topic. Remember to do some research before you begin!

1. One should not criticize one's country
2. Cricket in India today is more about spectacle than sport
3. India should reduce its defense budget and spend more on education
4. Television journalism today is little more than entertainment
5. The exorbitant amount spent by the Indian government exploration is a waste of taxpayers' money
6. Marriages arranged by family elders last longer
7. Technology is ruining our ability to communicate

8. Money spent by the government on the arts is better spent elsewhere space
9. Nursing homes can provide better care for the elderly than their families
10. People living in the public eye have little right to privacy
11. The death penalty is the only deterrent for serious crimes
12. Tourism should be banned in certain areas to protect local culture