

**Questions Bank**  
**BA 2**  
**Semester 3**  
**English ( Compulsory)**

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## Prose

### 1. India's Message to the World

**#. Answer the following questions, choosing from the options below.**

1. What does the author think is common between beings and races?
  - a) the capacity for evil
  - b) the human heart and soul
  - c) the capacity for goodness
  - d) the tendency towards empire building
  
2. Who or what is Swami Vivekananda grateful for?
  - a) He is grateful to India for giving birth to him.
  - b) He is grateful to his parents for giving him everything he ever wanted.
  - c) He is not grateful for anything
  - d) He is grateful to the West for opening their hearts, minds and homes to him.
  
3. Whom does he blame for his weaknesses?
  - a) India
  - b) the West
  - c) the English
  - d) himself
  
4. What is the 'animal' that he is referring to?
  - a) unaware man
  - b) the animals of the forest
  - c) cruelty
  - d) pride
  
5. Where did man break through the fetters of delusion?
  - a) England
  - b) America
  - c) India
  - d) Sri Lanka
  
6. What is the solution, according to the author, to modern money-madness?
  - a) renunciation
  - b) living a life of privilege

- c) making more money
- d) nothing

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What does Swami Vivekananda claim was the most wondering thing to discover during his travels?
2. What does Swami Vivekananda offer as proof that 'In every land dwell Brahmins and Shramanas. What is India's message to the world?
4. Briefly describe Swami Vivekananda's attitude towards materialism.
5. How does he describe the progress of India's history?

**# Answer the following questions in about 150 to 200 words each.**

1. Examine how Swami Vivekananda uses spirituality to depict the land and country of India. Support your answer with examples from the text.
2. Examine Swami Vivekanandas use of degradation' and 're. generation' to structure his essay.

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## 2. Pleasures of Ignorance

**# Answer the following questions, choosing from the options below.**

1. According to Lynd, who cannot distinguish between the songs of cuckoos and thrushes?
  - a) he himself
  - b) by almost everyone
  - c) about ten percent of the population
  - d) no one
2. How can Ignorance give us pleasure?
  - a) gives us the pleasure of learning all our lives.
  - b) It gives us the pleasure of being utterly stupid.
  - c) It allows us to not take responsibility for ourselves.
  - d) It does not give us any pleasure.
3. According to the author, why can one go on reading Plutarch and The Arabian Nights?
  - a) because they are so boring that you keep falling asleep
  - b) because they are always interesting
  - c) because you can't remember every single detail, so every time you read them it feels likereading them for the first time
  - d) You can't read them more than once.
4. Why was Socrates famed for his wisdom?
  - a) because he knew everything
  - b) because he could answer any question
  - c) because he was a great teacher
  - d) because he realised at age seventy that he knew nothing

5. Who said that rye was England's main crop?

- a) Robert Lynd
- b) prominent English author
- c) Robert Bly
- d) an ignorant townsman

6. Who is the author envious of?

- a) Benjamin Disraeli
- b) Benjamin Jowett
- c) Benjamin Button
- d) Benjamin Netanyahu

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What do we get out of Ignorance?
2. What kind of pleasure does a naturalist enjoy?
3. Upon what does a naturalist's happiness depend in some measure?
4. What kind of memory does the author have? Explain.
5. Which is one of the greatest joys of man? Why is it so?

**# Answer the following questions in about 150 to 200 words each.**

1. Describe Robert Lynd's thesis that 'real pleasure lies in ignorance. What examples does he give?
2. Narrate your own experiences of the pleasure derived from ignorance.
3. Show how the title aptly sums up the thrust of this essay.

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### 3. The Happy Prince

**# Answer the following questions, choosing from the options below.**

1. Where did the swallow want to go?

- a) Egypt
- b) Syria
- c) the Congo
- d) India

2. Whom does the ruby go to?

- a) a seamstress
- b) a poor student
- c) match girl
- d) no one

3. What jewels are the Prince's eyes made of?

- a) beryls
- b) rubies
- c) Sapphires
- d) diamonds

4. Why does the student get a jewel?

- a) because he is a brilliant artist
- b) because he has no money for coal and food
- c) because he needs some money to finish his play and become famous.
- d) because he is a relative of the Prince

5. What happens to the swallow in the end?

- a) He flies away to Egypt.
- b) He dies of cold.
- c) He is captured by an ornithologist
- d) He lives with the Happy Prince forever.

6. What are the two treasures of the town?

- a) the leaden heart and the swallow's body
- b) the statue of the Prince and the councillor
- c) the little match girl and the seamstress
- d) a little boy and girl

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences each.**

1. Why was the Happy Prince SO admired?

2. Why did the swallow delay his departure to Egypt?

3. What reason does the Happy Prince give for his tears?

4. Why does the swallow decide to stay on with the Prince instead of going to Egypt?

5. Why is the statue of the Happy Prince pulled down?

**# Answer the following questions in about 150 to 200 words each.**

1. What kind of relationship do the swallow and the Reed have? compare this with the relationship between the swallow and the Happy Prince.

2. Describe the evolution of the character of the swallow in the story.

3. Explain the significance of the Happy Prince's lead heart.

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## 4. The Three Questions

**# Answer the following questions, choosing from the options below.**

1. Who came to answer the king's questions?

- a) everyone
- b) learned men
- c) his enemies
- d) his friends

2. Why did one of them suggest you need magicians:

- a) because only magicians know the future
- b) because they are the most trustworthy
- c) because he wanted the job
- d) no one suggested magicians.

3. What was the hermit doing when the king went to meet him?

- a) planting trees
- b) meditating
- c) digging the ground
- d) eating lunch

4. What was the hermit doing the next morning when the king woke up?

- a) planting seeds
- b) digging the ground
- c) eating breakfast
- d) playing a flute

5. How did the king help the injured man?

- a) He didn't help him.
- b) He changed his bandages.
- c) He got medicine.
- d) He got his own doctor to come and help.

6. Did the king give the reward to anyone?

- a) to the hermit
- b) to no one
- c) to his councillors
- d) to himself

**# Answer the following questions in about 3-4 sentences each.**

1. What were the three questions the king thought learning the answer to was crucial to succeeding at everything in life?
2. What did the king do in order to learn the answer to his questions?
3. What happened when the king visited the hermit?
4. Why did the king fall asleep on the hermit's threshold?
5. Why did the injured man want to kill the king®

**# Answer the following questions in about 150 to 200 words each.**

1. What answers does the king receive to his questions from the learned men?

2. Describe the character of the king's attacker.

3. A parable is a story which tries to impart a moral lesson through an analogy. Is this story a parable? Justify your answer.

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## Poetry

### 1. Sonnet 116

**# Answer the following questions, choosing from the options below.**

1. What does the poet not want to do?

- a) believe that is an obstacle to true love
- b) describe love
- c) talk about love
- d) talk about death

2. What is the poem about?

- a) true love
- b) death
- c) time
- d) life

3. Which of the following does he not compare true love to?

- a) a ship
- b) a red rose
- c) a star
- d) he doesn't compare it to anything

4. What does he mean by wand'ring bark?

- a) drift wood
- b) a ship
- c) a star
- d) a piece of paper

5. What is the rhyme scheme of the first four lines of the poem?

- a) abab
- b) abba
- c) abcb
- d) abcc

6. What implement does Time carry?

- a) a pitchfork
- b) a scythe
- c) compass
- d) a clock

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences each.**

1. Explain the line, Love's not Time's fool'
2. List out all the different images in the sonnet and bring out their effectiveness.
3. What could be the possible changes that can come to people through the passage of Time, as suggested in Shakespeare's sonnet?
4. What does the poet mean by true minds?
5. Can you explain the line 'ever-fixed mark . . . never shaken'?

**# Answer the following questions in about 150 to 200 words each.**

1. Explain Shakespeare's idea that true love is not dependent on physical aspects.
2. What is the relevance of the last two lines to the meaning of the poem? What kind of bet does the poet take on?
3. Describe the poem as a meditative sonnet.

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## 2. Dirge

**# Answer the following, choosing from the options given below.**

1. Identify the figure of speech used in this line: 'Death lays his icy hand on kings'
  - a) synonym
  - b) personification
  - c) alliteration
  - d) metonymy
2. Who do you think Shirley is referring to as 'the poor scythe and spade?'
  - a) soldiers in war
  - b) monarchs
  - c) farmers and peasants
  - d) noble men
3. What is meant by the phrase 'strong nerves?'
  - a) a healthy person
  - b) the courage to face difficulties
  - c) physical strength
  - d) pride and glory
4. What are the 'actions of the just compared of the lyric?'
  - a) death
  - b) brave deeds
  - c) blood
  - d) flowers

5. What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?

- a) ababccdd
- b) abcabcb
- c) aabbccdd
- d) free verse

6. Who is the ultimate lord of all according to the poet?

- a) Time
- b) Death
- c) Life
- d) God

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. Why does Shirley compare earthly glories to 'shadows'.
2. What is Shirley's attitude towards royalty in this excerpt?
3. Who do think Shirley is talking about in the second stanza? Provide examples from the text to support your answer.
4. Explain the term 'victor-victim in the context of this extract.
5. What, according to Shirley, is the only substantial thing in life?

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. 'Death is the greatest leveller! Elaborate on how Shirley brings out the significance of this statement in the excerpt.
2. Write a note on the various ways in which Shirley portrays the power of death over mortals in the excerpt. Support your answer with examples from the text.

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### 3. Leisure

**# Answer the following questions, choosing from the options**

1. What question does the poet ask in the first line of the poem?
  - a) How are we so busy all the time?
  - b) What is the point of life if we cannot enjoy it?
  - c) How can we waste our time staring out of the window? of life?
  - d) What is the purpose
2. What does the poet wish to do like sheep and cows?
  - a) stand beneath boughs
  - b) sleep beneath boughs
  - c) gaze meditatively

d) graze peacefully  
3. What does the poet imagine doing when passing through woods?

- a) watch squirrels
- b) watch sheep or cows
- c) watch streams of water
- d) watch the skies at night

4. What do the squirrels in the woods do?

- a) hide themselves from humans
- b) hide nuts in the grass
- c) dance in the woods
- d) stand and stare

5. What does the poet mean by the phrase 'streams full of stars'?

- a) a stream made of stars
- b) a stream of small lights floating on the water
- c) a stream whose waters reflect the light of the sun
- d) the Milky Way galaxy

6. Whom does the poet talk about in lines 9-12 of the poem?

- a) his wife
- b) his lover
- c) his mother
- d) beauty itself

7. What does the poet imagine Beauty doing?

- a) walking
- b) staring
- c) singing
- d) dancing

8. What does the poet conclude?

- a) that this life is beautiful
- b) that this life is not worth living
- e) that we must stop working to really enjoy life
- d) that life is not fulfilling if we don't have time for leisure

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What is the meaning of the word 'leisure'? Is the poet in favour of it, or against it?

2. Explain, in your own words, what the poet wishes to convey.

3. What aspect of life troubles the poet?

4. What does the poet mean by the phrase 'stand and stare'? Is the poet in favour of idleness or laziness?

5. Elaborate on the theme of the poem.

6. Why do you think 'we have no time to stand and stare'?

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Pick out the images of nature in the poem. Why does the poet use these specific images?
2. Paint a picture of the poet from your reading of the Do you think the speaker of the poem and the Poem. same? (Keep the poet's biography in mind poet are the this question.)
3. To whom is the poem addressed? Do point of view expressed in the poem? you agree with it?

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**4. A Baby Asleep After Pain**

**# Answer the following, choosing from the options given below.**

1. What does the poet compare his baby to?
  - a) a bee
  - b) an innocent flower
  - c) tears
  - d) an angel
2. What is the tone of this poem?
  - a) excited
  - b) despairing
  - c) comic
  - d) anxious
3. 'Like a burden she hangs on me. Identify the figure used in this line.
  - a) antonym
  - b) hyperbole
  - c) simile
  - d) idiom
4. Which of the following colours are used in the poem?
  - a) brown
  - b) red
  - c) blue
  - d) ebony
5. Which of these adjectives does the poet use to describe the motion of his baby?
  - a) swinging
  - b) floating
  - c) bouncing
  - d) slithering

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What is the primary subject of this poem? of heaviness
2. How does the poem manage to convey a sense and gloom?
3. Identify the one image from nature that the poet uses in this poem.
4. What purpose does it serve in the poem?
5. How does the poet use adjectives and rhythm to heighten the sense of motion in the poem?
6. How would you characterise the poet's attitude towards the baby?

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Lawrence uses simple yet striking images to make his readers experience the same emotions he feels. Do you agree with this statement? List and explain the reasons for your answer.
2. Write a note on the ways in which the language and structure of the poem contribute to the effect it has on the mind of the reader.

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