

CBSE Board Paper Solution-2020

Class	: XII
Subject	: English Core
Set	: 1
Code No	: 1/1/1
Time Allowed	: 3 Hours
Maximum Marks	: 80

Section A

(Reading Skills)

1. Read the passage given below: (12)

Donated Organs and their Transportation

1. Once an organ donor's family gives its consent and the organs are matched to a recipient, medical professionals are faced with the onerous challenge of transporting organs while ensuring that the harvested organ reaches its destination in the shortest possible time. This is done in order to preserve the harvested organs and involves the police and especially the traffic department.

2. The traditional method of transporting organs by road is referred to as a 'green



corridor'. This process entails police escorting an ambulance, so is chosen and all signals on the route stay green to ensure it reaches its destination in the shortest possible time. A green corridor is a route cleared and cordoned off by the traffic police to ensure the smooth and steady transportation of harvested organs, on most occasions, to those awaiting a life saving transplant. Organs tend to have a very short preservation time, such as the heart, which has to be harvested and transplanted within four hours or the lungs, which can be preserved for only six hours once they are harvested.

3. The first green corridor in India was created by the Chennai Traffic Police in September 2008 when they accomplished their task of enabling an ambulance to reach its destination within 11 minutes during peak hour traffic. That organ saved a nine-year-old girl whose life depends on the transplant.

4. Similarly, such green corridors have been created by traffic police of various cities such as Pune, Mumbai, Delhi NCR, etc. Personnel are stationed at selected point to divert, control and clear the traffic giving way to the ambulance. Apart from this, a motorcade of



police vehicles accompanies the ambulance ensuring that it does not face any problems. Delhi Traffic police provided a green corridor from IGI Airport to the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Vasant Kunj for transportation of a liver. The distance of 14 kms was covered in 11 minutes.

5. Experts points out the lack of a robust system to transport organs to super-speciality hospitals in least possible time. The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), the country's apex organ donation agency, is now framing a proposal to airlift cadaver organs and will send a report to the Union Health Ministry. "Cadaver organs have a short life and so transplant should be done within a few golden hours," Director (NOTTO) expressed. "Therefore, we are preparing a proposal for airlifting organs at any given moments."

6. Most States do not have enough well-trained experts to retrieve or perform transplant procedures. Also, there is an acute shortage of advanced healthcare facilities to carry out a transplant. So, it is referred to other big centers in metropolitan cities. Organs retrieved from Aurangabad, Indore, Surat, Pune are sent to Mumbai as these cities do

not have super-specialty healthcare centers, informed officials.

7. "In Indian about fifty thousand to one lakh patients are suffering from acute heart failure and need heart transplant at any point of time. In a private set-up, a heart transplant costs rupees 15 – 20 lakh, which is followed up by post-operative medication of about rupees 30,000 per month lifelong."

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage. Answer any five of the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

(1x5=5)

(a) The first green corridor in India was created in

(i) New Delhi

(ii) Chennai

(iii) Mumbai

(iv) Pune

(b) The organization which is framing a proposal to airlift cadaver organs is

(i) Union Health ministry

(ii) Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation

(iii) National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation

(iv) State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation

(c) The onerous task that the author is talking about in para 1 is

(i) finding organ donors.

(ii) finding doctors capable of performing transplants.

(iii) to carry the harvested organ in the shortest possible time.

(iv) to arrange the requisite facilities for the transplant.

(d) Most of the people do not go for heart transplant as

(i) it is very risky.

(ii) it is very painful.

(iii) it may cause death of the recipient.

(iv) the cost is prohibitive.

(e) Most states refer organ transplant cases to big hospitals because

(i) they don't have well-trained experts.

(ii) the patients don't trust local doctors.

(iii) the state hospitals are very crowded.



(iv) they don't have a pool of harvested organs.

(f) Heart retrieved from a body is alive only for _____ hours.

(i) two

(ii) three

(iii) four

(iv) five

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

(a) What is a 'green corridor'?

(b) Why is smooth transportation of the retrieved organ necessary?

(c) What opinion do you form of the Chennai Police with regard to the transportation of a harvested heart?

(d) What does the author mean by 'a few golden hours'?

(e) How much does a heart transplant cost a patient in a private hospital?

1.3 Pick out the words from the passage which mean the same as the following: (1x2=2)

(a) Save (para 1)

(b) Achieved/carried out (para 3)

Answer.

1.1 a) Ans. (ii) Chennai

1.1 b) Ans. (iii) National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

1.1 c) Ans. (iii) To carry the harvested organ in the shortest possible time.

1.1 d) Ans. (iv) The cost is prohibitive

1.1 e) Ans. (i) They don't have well-trained experts

1.1 f) Ans. (iii) Four

1.2 a) The traditional Method of transporting organs by road is known as green corridor in which police escort the ambulance to give it a clear way.

1.2 b) Organs tend to have a very short preservation time so a smooth transportation of the retrieved organ is necessary.

1.2 c) Chennai police did a heroic job as their efforts of creating a green corridor saved the life of a girl. They successfully cleared the passage for the harvested organ to reach its destination within 11 minutes in the peak traffic hours.

1.2 d) The Cadaver organs harvested for transplant have a short lifetime. It is different for every organ. Author has termed this time as golden hours because after passing of this time the organ cannot be transplanted.

1.2 e) In a private hospital a heart transplant costs 15 to 20 lakhs to a patient. Post-operative expenses are about 30,000 rupees per month lifelong.

1.3 a) Preserve

1.3 b) Accomplished

2. Read the following passage: (8)

1. How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high quality programmes that help us understand many fields of study, science, medicine the different arts and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people, who can't leave the house, as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers non-native speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice. They can increase their vocabulary and practice listening.

2. On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages of television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries people watch television for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at the TV screen for more hours a day than they spend on anything else, including studying

and sleeping. It's clear influence is often negative.

3. Recent studies show that after only thirty seconds for television viewing, a person's brain 'relaxes' the same way that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration on a subject for the amount of time between commercials.
4. Another disadvantage is that television often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem so exciting to these people. To many people, television becomes more real than reality and their own lives seem boring. Also many people get upset or depressed when they can't solve problems in real life as quickly as television actors seem to.
5. Before a child is fourteen years old, he or she view eleven thousand murders on the TV. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fights, killings and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that fights, killings and other violent after viewing certain programmes. They may even do the things that they see in a violent show.
 - (a) One is basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum four)

- and a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it. (4)**
- (b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (4)**

Answer.

Pros and Cons of Television

1. Benefits of T.V.

- 1.1 Increases our knowledge about outside world
- 1.2 High quality programmes in the fields of study, Science, Medicine, arts etc.
- 1.3 Beneficial to old ppl at home and patients in hospitals
- 1.4 Increases vocab. of non-native speakers

2. Disadvantages of long watching hrs.

- 2.1 ppl in some countries watch T.V. for more than 6 hrs
- 2.2 Children spend more time on T.V. than sleeping or studying
- 2.3 T.V. has a negative influence

3. Effects on brain

- 3.1 Brain relaxes as it relaxes on sleeping
- 3.2 Poor concentration
- 3.3 Children can't concentrate on studies

4. Brings in dissatisfaction



- 4.1 Ppl feel dissatisfied with their lives
- 4.2 Ppl find it more real than real life
- 4.3 Compare their life with heroic life of actors
- 4.4 Feel depressed

5. Increases violence

- 5.1 Children see thousands of murders before they are 14 yrs.
- 5.2 Starts taking fights, killings casually
- 5.3 Ppl become violent
- 5.4 Sometimes they copy violent acts

Abbreviation keys

Television	T.V.
Vocabulary	vocab.
People	ppl.
Hours	hrs.

Ans. B)

Summary

Television increases our knowledge. High quality programmes on different subjects are very beneficial. People can improve their language skills with the help of T.V. but it has many disadvantages. People spend long hours with it. Children spend more time than studying or sleeping. T.V. affects our mind negatively and decreases concentration. People compare their life with actors and get depressed.

Children watch violent scenes including murders and get accustomed to violence. T.V. increases violence. Thus T.V. has more disadvantages than advantages.

SECTION B

(Writing Skills) (30)

3. An International Book Fair is being held at Pragati Maidan. New Delhi from 7th to 14 the February 2020. As Librarian. Goodwill Public School, Maurice Nagar Delhi, write a notice informing the students about the fair. Give all other necessary details. (50 words) (4)

OR

Prepare a poster highlighting the dangers of drunk driving advising motorists to abstain from alcohol before taking the wheel. (50 words) (4)



Answer.

International Book Fair

Goodwill Public School
Maurice Nagar
Delhi
NOTICE

4th February, 2020

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

An International Book Fair is being held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 7th to 14th February 2020 . Tickets can be bought for Rs 10 (for children) and Rs 20 (for adults). Entry is free for school children, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Entry gates: 1, 8, 10.

Fair Timings: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For further enquiries please contact the undersigned.

Librarian

Or



4. Imagine that you are the Principal, Mayur Public School, Mall Road, Mathura. Write a letter to the Sales Manager, Apsara Publishing House, Mandir Marg, Mathura, placing an order from some books for your school library. (Minimum four titles and number of copies. (120 - 150 words) (6)

OR

You are a social worker. You are upset as some reputed schools are admitting as many as 50 – 60 students in a section just to make extra money. This inappropriate teacher-student ration adversely affects the academic standards. Write a letter to the Editor, The Nation, Delhi highlighting this unfair practice. You are Rahul/Rashmi, 41/178, Hind Colony, Delhi. (120 - 150 words) (6)

Answer.

Principal,
Mayur Public School,
Mall Road,
Mathura

1st February, 2020

The Sales Manager,
Apsara Publishing House,
Mandir Marg,
Mathura

Sub: Order for books for school library

Sir,

I got catalog of books from your publication. I would like to purchase many books from your publication for our school library. I am placing an order for the supply of the same. I need the following books from your Publication. Send them by V.P.P. as soon as possible.

1. High School English Grammar - 10 copies
2. Oxford English dictionary - 20 Copies
3. Hindi Grammar by Sashi Sharma -- 10 copies
4. G.K. by Nishant Sharma - 20 copies
5. Elementary Science by Aman Rastogi - 20 copies

The books must reach us in proper shape and order should not be delayed beyond 15th February, 2020

Yours faithfully,

XYZ

(Principal)

Or

41/178,
Hind Colony,
Delhi.

15 February, 2020

The Editor,
The Nation,
Delhi - 23

Subject :- Inappropriate teacher student ratio in certain schools

Respected Sir,

Through the revered columns of your newspaper I would like to draw your attention towards few important problems. I am a social worker and I have been noticing that good schools are admitting as many as 50-60 students in a section just to make extra money which is adversely affecting academic standard of the schools . As per my opinion this is an unfair practice. This inappropriate teacher- student ratio is creating extra load on teachers. Due to this teachers are not able to deliver quality education in schools, despite parents paying huge fee to the schools.

I shall consider it a great favour if you will publish this topic in your newspaper.

Yours faithfully,

Rashmi

5. In the mad rust of today's fast-paced life, we often forget to enjoy the simple pleasures of life

like reading a good book going out for a walk in the nearby park, a simple conversation with a friend or watching a movie with family. Write an article on 'Simple Pleasures of Life' in (150 - 200 words). You are Rakshita/ Rakshak.

OR

You are Akhil/Anjana, a resident of Kailash Colony, Fort Road, Patna. Recently your city experienced a lot of rain and consequently people living in the low lying areas suffered a lot of difficulties. NDRF rescue teams reached the affected areas in time. The marooned people were taken to safer places and provided with shelter, food and medicines. Write a report on the floods and rescue efforts in (150 - 200 words) (10)

Answer.

Simple Pleasures of life

By Rakshita

What is happiness? Is it a commodity which can be bought by paying a high price? Surely not. It is a feeling which is attained. We attain it according to our nature. The cause of sadness and happiness is within a person and not in the circumstances.

We have forgotten to enjoy life. We don't live but survive. To survive we work like a machine. We want to earn more than we need. And the irony is that we are not able to enjoy our hard-earned money. We earn, we save,



and we die paying huge hospital bills with our hard earned money.

We should learn to live in the present moment. We must start finding pleasures in simple things. Like reading a story to children, reading a book of our choice, going to the park or smelling the aroma of flowers. We should find time to go out to watch a movie with family and to help someone with problems. Man is turning mechanical day by day and going away from simple pleasures. If life is not simple, it is complicated. One has to make a choice whether to make one's life simple or complicated.

OR

Rains Wreak Havoc in Bihar

Anjana

Patna: 13 July 2020: The flood situation in Bihar continues to be grim. As on 13th July, 2020, the river Bagmati is flowing 22 cms above the highest ever flood level and 1mt and 26 cms above the danger level at Benibad. The Kosi is flowing 19 cms above the highest ever flood level.

Six Army columns are present in Bihar. Two columns are deployed in Sitamarhi and two columns have been dispatched to Darbhanga by road; and two further columns are waiting to be airlifted from Patna because they need to be inducted into Madhubani by air. People living in low lying areas suffered a lot of difficulties. NDFR rescue teams reached the affected areas in time.



The marooned people were taken to the safer places and provided shelter, food and medicines.

The situation is improving where the rainwater is slowly draining. The whole city was waterlogged on Tuesday when it really rained heavily. The low-lying areas are still water logged.

Three teams of the National Disaster Rescue Force are present for relief work. Nearly 20,000 people have been evacuated so far.

6. Write a debate either for or against the motion 'Admission to top-notch institutes guarantees a successful career'. (150 - 200 words) (10)

OR

You are Saurabh/ Savita, a student of Pinewood School, Shimla. Your school is celebrating 'Save Electricity Week'. You have been asked to deliver a speech in the school assembly. Write the speech in 150- 200 words stressing the importance of saving electricity, making some practical suggestions for the same. (120 - 150 words) (10)

Answer.

(Against)

The parents' struggle to get their children admitted in top-notch institutions starts even before the birth of their children. Nowadays it is very difficult to get an admission

in the kindergarten of a prestigious school. So, some parents book seats for their children even before they are born. The struggle to get admission in top-notch institutes like IITs and IIMs starts even when the student is in primary classes.

Nowadays 'Entrance Coaching' has become a 'multibillion dollar' business. Some parents do not send their children to regular school after class X but get them admitted in 'Entrance Coaching Institutes'. The students attending to these institutes spend 15 to 20 hours every day in preparation to various entrance tests.

The question I would like to pose to everyone present here is this. Does admission to top-notch institutes guarantee a successful career? My answer to this question is an emphatic 'no'. If so, why should one struggle to get admission in these institutes?

I believe that success is the result of hard work. Great and successful people in the history of the world were hardworking. Many of them like Abraham Lincoln and A.P.J Abdul Kalam were not born with silver spoons in their mouth. They struggled against the adversities of life to achieve success in their lives. Even our contemporaries like Sundar Pichai the CEO of google was born in an ordinary family. Though he studied in IIT, Khargapur, it is not his degree from that prestigious institute won him success in life but his hard work.

If admission to a prestigious institute guarantees success, all those who come out of such institutes would automatically be successful in life. But the reality is not



so. On the contrary many who studied in ordinary institutes have become highly successful in life.

I want to reiterate that we should control our urge to get into a prestigious institute in order to fulfil our desire to be successful in life. On the contrary we should be determined to work hard to achieve success in life.

or

Save Electricity Week

Respected Principal, Teachers and dear friends,

Good morning to one and all present here. I am Savita Sharma, a student of class XII. As our school is celebrating 'Save Electricity Week', I feel privileged to share some thoughts on the topic with you all.

Without doubt the invention of electricity is one of the greatest inventions in the history of mankind. Think about a day without electricity! We can't just imagine it. Ranging from cell phones to electric trains, big and small devices and machines work on electric power.

Electricity is produced from various sources such as wind power, water stored in dams, nuclear power, solar power, etc. A good percentage of electricity is generated in hydro-electric plants, where water stored in dams is used to produce electricity. Electricity is precious as the resources used in its production are scarce. Some of these resources such as coal, diesel, etc. are non-renewable. So, it is important to save electricity as much as we can.



It is each one's responsibility to save electricity. People causally keep the lights and fans switched on. They use electrical appliances like television, computer, air conditioner, etc. inordinately. Thus, a lot of electricity that can be used for constructive purposes is wasted. To stop the misuse and wastage of electricity we should take care to switch off electrical appliances when not in use. We should design our houses in such a way that we can use natural light and air to lighten and refresh them.

Public servants should take care to switch off streetlights during the day. We should try to save water by using less water for showers and fixing leaky faucets. People have the habit of keeping taps open while shaving, washing hands and brushing. We should use water only when necessary. Thus, we can save electricity used to pump water into overhead tanks. We should also use energy efficient equipment and LED bulbs. This can save a lot of electricity.

With the conscious efforts and determination, we can save electricity for the betterment of the environment. Electricity is precious. Let's join hands to save it.

SECTION C

(Literature: Text Books) (30)

7. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: (4+4 = 8)

(a) When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by,
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (i) Who is the aunt afraid of? (1)
- (ii) What do the tigers represent here? (1)
- (iii) How has Mrs. Jennifer failed in her aim? (1)
- (iv) Name the figure of speech used in the second line. (1)

(b) Here I sit, she said to herself, wishing Danny would come, wishing he would come and sensing the time passing, I feel the pangs of doubt stirring inside me. I watch for him but still there is no sign of him. I remember Geoff saying he would never come, and how none of them believed me when I told them.

- (i) Who is 'she'? Who is 'he'? (1)
- (ii) Why did 'she' doubt that 'he' would not come? (1)
- (iiI) When did 'she' realize that 'he' would not come? (1)

(iv) Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the word 'certainty'? (1)

Answer 7.

(a)(i) The aunt is afraid of her husband. She is a woman going through unpleasant experiences in her married, life.

(ii) Aunt Jennifer's tigers are golden yellow in colour. They prance fearlessly across a screen in sleek chivalric certainty. They are confident and do not fear men, which is totally contrasting with her own nature.

(iii) Mrs. Jennifer had the innermost desire of being strong and fearless which was overpowered by her husband. The poet says that it was impossible for aunt to fulfill her desire during her lifetime. She will attain it only after her death. The irony of her life still prevailed because she was tied up with shackles in the form of her husband's wedding ring. The ring was the sole proof of the tortures which she had faced from her husband.

(iv)The figure of speech used in the second line is symbolism 'ringed with ordeals' means to get entrapped in hardships and sufferings. 'Ringed' indicates entrapment. As the ring encircles the finger, similarly, her husband has encircled her in his clutches. Her body and soul are both trapped, struggling for freedom and fearlessness. The irony of her life still prevailed because she was tied up with shackles in the form of her husband's wedding ring.



(OR)

(b)(i) She in the given extract is Sophie, a daydreamer, who is always lost in her dreams of becoming rich and sophisticated though in reality she is a worker at biscuit factory. He refers to the young Irish footballer, Danny Casey.

(ii) Sophie had been waiting for Danny Casey for a long time. So she thought he would not come.

(iii) She realised that he would not come because there was no sign of his arrival and Geoff had already told her that he would not come.

(iv) The opposite of certainty is doubt.

8. Answer any five of the following questions in 30 - 40 words each: (2x5=10)

(a) What was the contract between the sharecroppers of Champaran and their British Landlords?

(b) What were the positive qualities of Subbu that the writer admired?

(c) How did William Douglas's fear of water start?

(d) Why does the speaker call Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example?

(e) How has Mr. Lamb kept himself open to everyone?

(f) What distracted Bama most on her way back from school?

(g) How was Gondwana different from today's world? Describe it. (Journey to the end of the Earth)

Answer.

(a) Most of the cultivable land in the Champaran district was divided into large estates owned by British landlords where Indian tenants worked. The chief commercial crop was indigo. The British landlords had entered into a long-term contract with the farmers according to which they compelled them to plant 15% of their holdings with indigo and the farmers had to surrender the entire indigo harvest as rent.

(b) The writer admired Subbu because he was a multi-disciplinarian. He had the ability to look cheerful all the time. He had a charitable and loving nature. His sense of loyalty made him turn his entire creativity to his principal's advantage: Film making was quite easy with Subbu around. He had contacts with affluent people. He was an actor, poet and a novelist.

(c) At the age of three or four, William Douglas had gone with his father to the beach. A powerful wave had struck him and knocked him down as he was with his father in the surf. This experience had terrorized him and this fear stayed even as he grew older.

(d) Shakespeare is considered to be wicked because it is through him that the slum children would want to explore



the concepts of love, travel and exploration. These children have no access to the outside world. The map opens before the slum children a beautiful world. The map is a bad example because it tempts them to aspire for a world which is beyond their reach. Their world is confined to the dark narrow lanes in the slums.

(e) Mr. Lamb always keeps his gate open because he does not mind strangers entering his house. He is an extremely social person and is ever ready to welcome anyone who enters his garden.

(f) Bama took thirty minutes to reach her home from school though she could be there in ten minutes. The things that distracted her most on her way were dancing monkeys, snake charmers, vegetable sellers, shops, political processions, pedaling cyclists and so on. She kept a strict watch on all the items that came her way.

(g) Geologists say about 650 million years ago a giant 'amalgamated' super continent, Gondwana existed in the South. At that time India and Antarctica were parts of the same landmass. Gondwana had a warm climate and a huge variety of flora and fauna. This supercontinent survived for 500 years till the age of mammals got underway.

9. Answer the following question in 120 – 150 words: (6)

Life of the bangle makers of Firozabad shows the grinding state of poverty and traditions that



condemn thousands of people to live a life of misery. Elaborate.

OR

Why do celebrities find fault with an interview?

Answer.

In the lesson 'Lost Spring' the grinding state of poverty and the miserable life of the bangle-makers is being described. Firstly, it is the plight of the street children forced into labour early in life and denied the opportunity of studying in schools. Secondly, the glass industry has its own hazards. The illegal employment of very young children and their pathetic working conditions is miserable. Over and above, it is the apathy and callousness of society and the political class to the sufferings of the poor that makes us feel sympathetic towards these bangle makers. They work in glass furnaces with high temperatures. Their dingy cells have no light, no ventilation. Boys and girls work under these conditions while welding pieces of coloured glass to make bangles. Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark than to the light outside. They often lose their eyesight at a young age.

(OR)

Celebrity writers believe that interviews unduly interfere in their private lives. They regard themselves as victims of interviews. They claim that the interview in some way 'diminishes' them, just like some ancient cultures believed that a portrait of a person takes away his soul.



V.S. Naipaul, known as a cosmopolitan writer, condemns interviews and considers them as unnecessary intrusions into their personal life which hurts them.

Lewis Carroll, the creator of 'Alice in Wonderland' had great fear for the interviewers. He believed interviews give a person too much importance in the society.

Rudyard Kipling criticised the interviewers. He considered interviews to be a crime, an immoral activity. Ironically, he later interviewed Mark Twain himself.

H.G. Wells was a frequent interviewee. In 1894, in an interview, he called an interview to be an ordeal. Forty years later, he interviewed Joseph Stalin.

Similarly, Saul Bellow, an occasional interviewee, felt that they were thumbprints on the windpipe. On many occasions he was forced to speak during the interviews.

**10. Answer the following question in 120 – 150:
(6)**

The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them? (The Third Level)

OR

How did the Tiger King meet his end? What is ironical about his death?

Answer.

(a) The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?

The modern world is full of insecurity, worry, stress, fear, etc. We hear about war, terrorism, various kinds of new sicknesses, riots and violence every day. People compete each other to achieve success. All are busy to make money thinking money can make life comfortable and happy.

Modern man thinks that vacations, sports, entertainment, partying, modern gadgets, etc. can bring him relief from insecurity, fear, worry and stress. But all these increase his stress. Only a simple life in accordance with the nature can bring relief to man. That is the message the author tries to impart in the story, 'The Third Level'.

A sharp contrast is shown between the past and the present lifestyles in the story The Third Level. Charley's psychiatrist, Sam says that Charley's experience of the third level was a waking-dream wish fulfilment because Charley was unhappy with the modern world which is full of insecurity, war, worries, and fear.

The story describes Charley as a man working overtime and rushing to reach his home. On one such occasion he reaches the third level of the station. The modern life is fast paced. People have no time to relax. As modern life is very complicated and stressful, people avail the service of psychiatrists.



On the contrary, life in the past era was shown to be peaceful. People were simple and lived a peaceful life. The description of Galesburg is a proof of this fact. People sat out on their lawns, men smoking cigars and talking quietly, women waving palm-leaf fans, with fireflies all around. It was a peaceful world.

Or

The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram was commonly known as the Tiger King. It had been predicted by an astrologer that the hundredth tiger would prove to be fatal for the Tiger King. He then set out to hunt all the tigers. He managed to kill ninety-nine, but the Maharaja's bullet missed the hundredth tiger who had fainted from the sharp sound of the bullet.

As nobody wanted the Maharaja to know about it, one of the hunters himself shot the tiger later. The Maharaja thought that he had killed the hundredth tiger, and the elated king returned to his capital and ordered his staff to bring the dead tiger in a grand procession. He buried it and erected a tomb over it.

As the astrologer predicted, the death of the king came about by the hundredth tiger. It was a wooden toy tiger which the king had presented to his three-year old son. It killed the king merely by a sliver of wood protruding from it that pierced his right hand. The wound developed pus and it soon spread all over the arm. The best surgeons failed to save the king and thus, the astrologer's prediction about the death of the Tiger King proved to be correct.



It is ironical that the king who killed many tigers with his brave hands died of a 'sliver' from the body of the toy tiger. In this way destiny took its final revenge upon the Tiger King. Ironically, death came to him from a tiger.