

A Roadside Stand (Poetry)

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SA I (2 marks)

1. Who does the poet accuse of having double standards in "The Roadside Stand"? (2023)
2. What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to? What does it reveal about city people? (2023)
3. What are the probable causes of the passing cars to stop near the roadside stand? (2020)

SA III (4 marks)

4. Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That wants all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car.

- (i) Why does the poet call this desire childish?
- (ii) Why is there sadness among people?
- (iii) Why do these people pray for a car to stop?
- (iv) What does the word 'squeal' mean? (2020)

LA I (5 marks)

5. A Roadside Stand is a social satire depicting the two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify this statement with reference to the poem. (2023)

LA II (6 marks)

6. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (2023)

In front at the edge of the road where the traffic speed,
A roadside stand too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

(i) What is the tone of the poet in the extract?

Choose the correct option:

- (a) optimistic (b) resigned
(c) sympathetic (d) indifferent

(ii) With reference to the given extract, what harm has been caused by the 'artless paint'?

(iii) The city is compared to _____.

- (a) a landscape (b) signs of N and S
(c) a flower (d) a dole of bread

(iv) Choose the correct option:

The roadside stand is

- (a) at the edge of the road. (b) marred with artless paint.
(c) like the flower of cities. (d) well maintained.

(v) What type of expectations do the stand owners have from the city dwellers who come there?

(vi) Complete the analogy with a word from the given extract.

donate: contribute: dying _____.

CBSE Sample Questions

LA II (6 marks)

1. Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.

It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. (A Roadside Stand)

(i) What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?

- (i) aggressive (ii) tolerant
(iii) sarcastic (iv) resigned
(v) sentimental

Choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) Only (i) (b) (ii) and (iii)
(c) (i), (iv) and (v) (d) Only (iii)

(ii) Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

No one bothers to take 'their' consent before pushing the promise of a better life, their way.

(iii) What quality of the villagers can be inferred through these lines?

- (a) gullible (b) futuristic
(c) hypocritical (d) ambitious

(iv) Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example.

greedy good doers: alliteration :: _____ : oxymoron

(v) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.

- (1) The city dwellers make promises for the betterment of the villagers.
- (2) The city dwellers have ulterior motives.
- (a) (1) is true but (2) is false.
- (b) (2) is true but (1) is false.
- (c) (2) is the reason for (1).
- (d) Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.
- (vi) Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract.
- '... calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being _____.
- (2022-23)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. The poet accused the so-called politicians and the welfare organizations of having double standards who claim that they are helping the poor people.
2. The expression 'polished traffic' refers to the city people, the elite and affluent people who move in decent and costly cars or vehicles. It shows how the city people would drive through the road, eyes fixed forward and not giving a second glance to the roadside stand. They are in a hurry, and have little to, no time to spare for the people in the countryside, who at the same time, are vying for their attention to earn a little money by selling their wares to them.
3. In the poem the Roadside Stand, Robert Frost criticizes the snobbish and selfish needs of the rich people who stop their cars for their own needs rather than helping the poor who have their roadside stands. Sometimes they stop by to inquire about the vegetables but have no intention of purchasing them, sometimes they stop to reverse their cars while some stop just to ask the correct directions of roads.
4. (i) Robert frost calls the desire to attract customers childish because it was highly improbable that someone who stopped by the roadside stand was interested in purchasing something. Most cars usually just sped by, without a glance.
(ii) The poor people are sad as they haven't made a single sale all day, and are dejected by the fact that no one is kind enough to take pity on them and provide them business.
(iii) They pray long and hard for a car to stop because they desperately need to be able to sell their produce to make ends meet.



(iv) The word 'squeal' refers to the screeching, high pitched noise made when the brakes of a car are applied and the car skids to a halt.

5. The poem 'A Roadside Stand' is a social satire that depicts the two contrasting worlds existing in society. It paints a clear picture of the different sides of society, one with a little house with a new shed, contrasted with the polished traffic that passes by. It represents the poor and the rich, a metaphor for the people living in poverty who are desperate for a better standard of living. Depicting the contrasting nature of the countryside and the city, the poem presents the city as a place of wealth as compared to the poverty-stricken countryside. At the same time, the poem also comments on the power dynamics between the rich and the poor, with the rich having the power to buy anything they want. On the contrary, the poor are seen as powerless, unable to decide on their own, and depending on their luck to try to get the rich buy from them. The poem is a clear depiction of the social difference between the contrasting worlds of the rich and the poor, the two sides of society.

6. (i) (c) sympathetic

(ii) The roads on the roadside as referred to as 'artless paint' for they are benign and destroy the scenic beauty of the place.

(iii) (a) a landscape

(iv) (a) at the edge of the road.

(v) The stand owners expect the city dwellers to come and buy their goods so they can maintain money flow in their business.

(vi) withering

CBSE Sample Questions

1. (i) (d) Only (iii)

(ii) 'enforcing benefits'

(iii) (a) gullible

(iv) beneficent beasts of prey

(v) (c) (2) is the reason for (1).

(vi) manipulative

