

## FLAMINGO - POETRY



**Term-I**

# MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

### Syllabus

II. Questions based on extracts/ texts to assess comprehension and appreciation, analysis, inference, extrapolation. (4 × 1 = 4)



### STAND ALONE MCQs

[1 Mark each]

Q. 1. What is the theme of the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty Six'?

- (A) Poet's fears
- (B) Poet's love for her mother
- (C) Theme of old age
- (D) All of these

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** The poem revolves around the central idea depicting poet's fears of losing her mother to death. She loves her mother but feels helpless to control the advancing age of her mother and the problems associated with it.

Q. 2. The image of merry children in the poem is created to:

- (A) show energy and exuberance of young children.
- (B) to show the children playing.
- (C) to show the children playing pranks.
- (D) to compare with herself.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** Childhood stage is always full of energy and high spirits and happy playful children enhance this effect.

Q. 3. The narrator displays fake smile to:

- (A) cover up her pain
- (B) make herself happy
- (C) to make her mother happy
- (D) to make her father happy

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** She is trying to hide her pain or her latent fears with a fake smile.

Q. 4. When the narrator, while bidding goodbye, looked at her mother again, she felt a pang of:

- (A) guilt
- (B) her familiar ache
- (C) heartache
- (D) a headache

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** She remembered her childhood fears of losing her mother, if she would part from her.





Q. 5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the poetic device used in, 'Trees sprinting'.

- (A) Simile  
(C) Repetition

- (B) Alliteration  
(D) Personification

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** Here, the trees are given the human quality of running. Due to the fast paced car, trees appear to be running.

Q. 6. What do the poet's parting words, "See you soon Amma!" imply?

- (A) Poet's carelessness.  
(B) Poet's optimistic farewell full of cheerfulness.  
(C) Poet's way of bidding goodbye.  
(D) Poet is in a hurry.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**Explanation:** She wishes to see her mother in future and doesn't want to lose her so soon.

Q. 7. What is the demand put forward by the complexity of the situation in the poem?

- (A) What to do in old age?  
(B) How to take care of one's problems?  
(C) How to drive fast?  
(D) How to strike a balance between duties and responsibilities?

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** To fulfil the demands of one's career, one has to part away from the old parents and thus feel helpless not being able to perform one's responsibilities at the home-front.

Q. 8. What does the narrative single sentence style of the poem highlight?

- (A) Poet's feelings.  
(B) Poet's insecurities.  
(C) Poet's thoughts.  
(D) Poet's intertwining thoughts.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** It shows a single thread of thought mixed with harsh realities.

Q. 9. The phrase 'old familiar ache' has been used to refer to a fear, in this extract. This phrase can also be used to:

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) compare physical pain with mental agony.  
(B) elicit someone's unanswered queries.  
(C) substantiate reasons for aches and pains.  
(D) describe a longing one has been aware of.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q. 10. The tone of the poet in the poem is primarily a combination of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. dauntlessness | 2. apprehension   |
| 3. dejection     | 4. disappointment |
| (A) 1, 2         | (B) 2, 3          |
| (C) 3, 4         | (D) 1, 4          |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.



## EXTRACT BASED MCQs

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

- I. Driving from my parent's  
home to Cochin last Friday  
morning, I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that



of a corpse and realized with pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away...

**Q.1.** Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| (1) A conversation    | (2) An argument  |
| (3) A piece of advice | (4) A strategy   |
| (5) A recollection    | (6) A suggestion |
| (A) 1, 3 & 6          | (B) 2, 4 & 5     |
| (C) Only 5            | (D) Only 1       |

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Choose the book title that perfectly describes the condition of the poet's mother.

Title 1	Title 2	Title 3	Title 4
You're Only Old Once! by Dr. Seuss	The Gift of Years by Joan Chittister	Somewhere Towards the End by Diana Athill	The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read by Philippa Perry

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| (A) Title 1 | (B) Title 2 |
| (C) Title 3 | (D) Title 4 |

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.3.** Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.

**Assertion:** The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.

**Reason:** The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.

- (A) Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.  
(B) Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.  
(C) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.  
(D) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Choose the option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract.

her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse...

- (A) Just as I had this thought, she appeared and...  
(B) My thoughts were as heavy as lead that evening when ...  
(C) I think like everyone else who...  
(D) I like to think aloud when ...

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**II.** And

looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, but after the airport's  
security check, standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
familiar ache...

**Q.1.** What is the most likely reason the poet capitalised 'Young Trees'? This was to:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| (A) convey a clearer meaning. | (B) highlight the adj.-noun combination. |
| (C) enhance the contrast.     | (D) draw a connection with the title.    |

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Choose the option that appropriately describes the relationship between the two statements given below.

**Statement 1:** The poet knows her mother has aged.

**Statement 2:** The poet feels the pain of separation.

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) Beginning – Ending | (B) Cause – Effect            |
| (C) Question – Answer  | (D) Introduction – Conclusion |

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**



**Q.3.** Choose the option that completes the sentence given below.

Just as the brightness of the winter's moon is veiled behind the haze and mist, similarly.

- (A) the pain of separation has shaded mother's expression.
- (B) age has fogged mother's youthful appearance.
- (C) growing up has developed a seasoned maturity in the poet.
- (D) memories warm the heart like the pale moon in winter.

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Choose the correct option out of the ones given below.

<b>Simile</b> the merry children spilling	<b>Metaphor</b> old familiar ache
--	---

(1)

<b>Metaphor</b> pale as a late winter's moon	<b>Imagery</b> Young Trees sprinting
---	---

(2)

<b>Imagery</b> all I did was smile	<b>Personification</b> the merry children spilling
--	---

(3)

<b>Personification</b> Young Tree sprinting	<b>Simile</b> pale as a late winter's moon
--	---

(4)

(A) Option 1

(B) Option 2

(C) Option 3

(D) Option 4

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**AI** III. I looked again at her, wan,  
pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that  
old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
but all I said was, see you soon,  
Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and  
smile .....

**Q.1.** Name the poet.

- (A) Stephen Spender
- (C) John Keats

- (B) Kamala Das
- (D) Pablo Neruda

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What was the poet's childhood fear?

- (A) Losing mother
- (C) Shifting to a new city

- (B) Shifting house from parental
- (D) Darkness

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What has been compared to 'late winter's moon'?

- (A) Best Friend
- (C) Daughter

- (B) Mother
- (D) Sister

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What were the parting words of the poet?

- (A) As a late winter's moon
- (C) See you soon

- (B) Old familiar ache
- (D) Smile and smile and smile

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

IV. .... I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with  
pain .....



**Q.1.** Who is 'I'?

- (A) Doctor
- (C) Poetess

- (B) Army officer
- (D) Interior designer

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What did 'I' realise with pain?

- (A) Fear of losing mother.
- (C) Fear of getting injured.

- (B) Fear of shifting to other city.
- (D) Fear of plane crash.

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.3.** Why was the realisation painful?

- (A) Not happy with her job.
- (C) Dreams not yet fulfilled.

- (B) Hard fact to accept.
- (D) Will cause loss of blood.

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Which line incorporates a simile?

- (A) I saw my mother
- (C) open mouthed

- (B) beside me
- (D) ashen like that of a corpse

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

V. .... but soon,  
put that thought away and  
looked out at young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, .....

**Q.1.** What thought did the poet put away?

- (A) The impending death of mother.
- (C) The gun wound injury.

- (B) The ominous plane crash.
- (D) None of these

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What did poet see when she looked out of the car?

- (A) Houses
- (C) Children

- (B) Trees
- (D) Both (B) & (C)

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What does the phrase 'trees sprinting' signify?

- (A) Trees have started running
- (C) Fleeing time

- (B) Trees are similar to children
- (D) Homeless children

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Which word in the passage is an antonym of 'miserable'?

- (A) Thought
- (C) Merry

- (B) Sprinting
- (D) Spilling

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**