

# Madam Rides the Bus

— Vallikkannan



## OBJECTIVE Types Questions

[ 1 mark ]

### Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Yes, I'm travelling alone," she answered curtly. And I've got a ticket too.' 'Yes she's on her way to town,' said the conductor. 'With a thirty paise ticket.' 'Oh, why don't you mind your own business,' said Valli. But she laughed all the same, and the conductor laughed too. But the old woman went on with her drivel. 'Is it proper for such a young person to travel alone? Do you know exactly where you're going in town?

What's the street? What's the house number? 'You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself,' Valli said, turning her face towards the window and staring out."

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]


- (A) Pick the option that matches the expressions with 'mind' correctly.

Expression		Meaning
(1) bring mind	to	(I) be receptive to someone's ideas





Expression	Meaning
(2) be in two minds	(II) think about only one subject
(3) have an open mind	(III) recall something
(4) put your mind at ease	(IV) undecided
	(V) reassure you
	(VI) reach a decision

- (a) (1)-(VI), (2)-(III), (3)-(I), (4)-(IV)  
 (b) (1)-(III), (2)-(IV), (3)-(I), (4)-(V)  
 (c) (1)-(II), (2)-(VI), (3)-(V), (4)-(I)  
 (d) (1)-(VI), (2)-(IV), (3)-(III), (4)-(II)
- (B) Valli told the conductor to mind his own business and laughed as well. This shows that Valli ...  
 (a) was not bothered about what the conductor said.  
 (b) didn't like the conductor speaking about her.  
 (c) disliked what the conductor said but was amused.  
 (d) was impressed with what the conductor said.
- (C) The old woman went on with her drivel. Why is the word 'drivel' used here?  
 It is used to show that the old woman  
 (a) was talking incessantly.  
 (b) kept muttering a lot of nonsense.  
 (c) was volunteering advice on request.  
 (d) spoke non-stop about herself.
- (D)  The old woman asked her questions:  
 (a) due to anxiety about Valli travelling alone.  
 (b) out of curiosity and concern for Valli.  
 (c) interest in Valli's life and need for travel.  
 (d) due to the habit of interfering in Valli's life.
- (E) How do you think Valli felt when the old woman asked her questions?  
 Pick the option that best describes her feelings.  
 (a) (1) irritated (2) agitated  
 (b) (1) concerned (2) upset  
 (c) (1) upset (2) agitated  
 (d) (1) upset (2) irritated

**Ans. (A)** (1)-(III), (2)-(IV), (3)-(I), (4)-(V)

**Explanation:** The phrase 'bring to mind' means to remember something. 'Be in

two minds' means to be undecided. 'Have an open mind' means to be receptive to someone's ideas. 'Put your mind at ease' means reassure someone.

- (B) (c) *disliked what the conductor said but was amused.*

**Explanation:** Valli got angry and laughed at the conductor as well. This shows that Valli disliked what the conductor said but was also amused by it. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (C) (b) *kept muttering a lot of nonsense.*

**Explanation:** The word 'drivel' means to talk nonsensically. Here, the woman was (b) talking a lot of nonsense. She wasn't (a) talking incessantly, (c) volunteering advice on request or (d) speaking non-stop about herself. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (E) (a) (1) *irritated* (2) *agitated*

**Explanation:** When the woman asked a lot of questions to Valli, she answered curtly. 'Curtly' means to say something in brief. This shows that Valli was getting irritated by the woman's questions. At last, she said "You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself, agitatedly. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

## 2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

THERE was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight-year old and very curious about things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside. There were no playmates of her own age on her street, and this was about all she had to do. But for Valli, standing at the front door was every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.

- (A) Choose the statement that is NOT true about Valli.

- (a) Valli was an eight-year old girl.  
 (b) She had a lot of friends to play with.  
 (c) Her favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house.  
 (d) Watching the street gave her many unusual experiences.

- (B) 'Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.' What was Valli's favourite experience?

- (a) watching the kids play  
 (b) watching ladies go to the market





- (c) watching the bus pass through her village.
- (d) watching the street vendors
- (C) Which of the following is Valli's characteristic?
- (a) immature                      (b) inquisitive
- (c) timid                              (d) rude
- (D) Pick the word that does NOT relate to 'unusual'.
- (a) strange                      (b) unconventional
- (c) outlandish                      (d) orthodox
- (E) Which word is similar to 'playmate'?
- (a) chum                              (b) foe
- (c) enemy                              (d) opponent

**Ans. (A)** (b) She had a lot of friends to play with

**Explanation:** It is clear from the extract that (a) Valli was an eight-year old girl, (c) Her favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house and (d) Watching the street gave her many unusual experiences. But, (b) isn't true as 'there were no playmates of her age on her street.' Hence, (b) is the correct answer.

- (B) (c) watching the bus passing through her village.

**Explanation:** As per the text, Valli's favourite pastime was to (c) watch the bus passing through her village which she could see from the front of her house in the street. Hence (c) is the right answer.

- (C) (b) inquisitive

**Explanation:** It is clear from the extract that Valli was 'curious, another word for inquisitive'. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (D) (d) orthodox

**Explanation:** The term 'unusual' means odd or uncommon. Here, options (a), (b), and (c) are all similar to 'unusual' while (d) orthodox means regular or common. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

- (E) (a) chum

**Explanation:** Option (a) chum means a friend while options (b), (c) and (d) mean enemy. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

**3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

*The conductor was a jolly sort, fond of joking. "Oh, please don't be angry with me, my fine madam," he said. "Here, have a seat right up*

*there in front. Everybody move aside please — make way for madam."* It was the slack time of day, and there were only six or seven passengers on the bus. They were all looking at Valli and laughing with the conductor. Valli was overcome with shyness. Avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.

- (A) How was the bus conductor?
- (a) chucklesome                      (b) wicked
- (c) rude                              (d) depressed
- (B) ② 'It was the slack time of day, and there were only six or seven passengers on the bus.' Slack time means:
- (a) tight schedule with much activity
- (b) schedule with no activity
- (c) tight schedule with less activity
- (d) loose schedule with less activity
- (C) What were Valli's emotions when she stepped on the bus?
- (a) sad                              (b) annoyed
- (c) shy                              (d) tensed
- (D) Pick the word that does NOT relate to 'overcome'.
- (a) conquer                              (b) flunk
- (c) master                              (d) defeat
- (E) Which word is NOT similar to 'jolly'?
- (a) jovial                              (b) happy
- (c) cheerful                              (d) gloomy

**Ans. (A)** (a) chucklesome

**Explanation:** It is clear from the extract that 'the conductor was a jolly sort, fond of joking'. Hence, (a) is the right answer.

- (C) (c) shy

**Explanation:** When Valli stepped into the bus, she was (c) shy as 'avoiding everyone's eyes, she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down.' Hence, (c) is the right answer.

- (D) (b) flunk

**Explanation:** The term 'overcome' means to control. Here, options (a), (c) and (d) means to overcome while (b) flunk means to fail. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (E) (d) gloomy

**Explanation:** The term 'jolly' means happy. Options (a), (b) and (c) are all similar to 'jolly' while (d) gloomy means sad. Hence, (d) is the right answer.





## SUBJECTIVE Type Questions

### Short Answer Type-I Questions

(SA-I)

[ 2 marks ]

Answer the following questions in 20-30 words:

4. What was the most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street? [CBSE 2019]

**Ans.** The most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street was the bus that travelled between the village and the nearest town. The sight of the bus loaded with passengers was a source of unending joy for Valli.

5. ② How did Valli save money to travel by bus? [CBSE 2013]

6. How did Valli feel about seeing the dead cow on the road? [CBSE 2014]

**Ans.** When Valli saw the dead cow on the roadside, she became extremely sad and pensive. The dreadful event dampened her enthusiasm so much so that she had no more desire to look out of the window and kept glued to her seat till she reached the village.

7. What did Valli see on her way that made her laugh?

**Ans.** On her journey to the city, Valli saw a young cow that was running very fast, right in the middle of the road, in front of the bus. The driver honked to remove the cow to the side of the road but it got scared and hence, ran even faster. The funny sight of the cow made Valli laugh.

8. ② 'Why didn't she get off the bus at the bus station?

9. During her journey, Valli observed the natural beauty and clapped her hands in happiness on seeing a young cow running very fast. What does this reveal about Valli? [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

**Ans.** When Valli saw the natural beauty and the running cow during her bus journey, she was bemused. This tells us that even though Valli had planned the journey all alone, she was still a child who got happy looking at the outside world.

10. How did Valliammai gather the information about the bus ride?

**Ans.** Valli gathered the information by asking various questions to the people who travelled on the bus from the village to the town. She also talked to the neighbours.

11. Why does Valli stand up on the seat? What does she see now? [CBSE 2013]

**Ans.** The canvas blind of the window has cut-off half of Valli's outside view from the window. So, she stands up on her seat to take a view from the upper half of the window. Now, she can see green fields and canals.

12. Why does Valli refuse to look out of the window on her way back?

**Ans.** Valli sees that the young cow that was running on her onward journey was lying dead by the roadside. The sight of the dead cow haunts her, dampening her enthusiasm. So, she refuses to look out of the window on her way back.

13. Why does the conductor refer to Valli as 'madam'?

**Ans.** The conductor is amused to see an eight-year old girl behaving like an adult and in jest, he calls her 'madam'.

### Short Answer Type-II Questions

(SA-II)

[ 3 marks ]

Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:

14. Imagine you come across a little girl travelling alone on a bus. Write down any two questions you would ask her and your reasons for asking them.

**Ans.** I would ask the girl the following two questions:

- (1) Are you travelling with a family member or are you alone?

**Reason:** I would want to ensure if the girl is being accompanied by someone who is known to her or if she is travelling all alone.

- (2) Do you know the details of the location that you are visiting?



**Reason:** I would ask her if she knows the details of the place she wants to visit to ensure she doesn't get lost in the city, especially when she is travelling all alone.

15. ② If you were to advise Valli on any two things she ought to take with her if she was travelling alone for the first time, what would they be and why?

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

16. Do you think Valli's mother would have taken her for the bus ride if she had requested her to do so? Why/ Why not?

**Ans.** Yes, I think if Valli would have asked her mother to take her for the bus ride, her mother would have surely taken her for that. It wasn't a long-distance journey or an expensive one. If it was possible for Valli to save the money and gather the details for the bus fare, it would be easier for her mother to do that and a mother would never say 'no' to any small desire of a child.

17. Imagine Valli had to plan a day-long budget trip to a domestic destination for her family all by herself. What things do you think she would keep in mind while planning?

**Ans.** If Valli had to plan a day-long budget trip to a domestic destination for her family all by herself, she would keep many things in her mind like the details of the journey, bus fare, location of the destination, timings of the bus, etc.

18. ② 'How did Valli save up money for her first journey? Was it easy for her?

19. Give examples from the text to show that Valli was a meticulous planner? [CBSE 2014]

**Ans.** Valli was a keen observer as well as a meticulous planner. She had collected all the useful information by observing the passengers everyday and by making discreet inquiries about the timings, duration and fare for the ride. She saved every penny to finance her trip and finally accomplished it by the efficient execution of her plans.

## Long Answer Type Questions (LA)

[ 5 marks ]

Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

20. ② Valli sneaked out of the house when her mother was asleep. Her mother didn't get to know that Valli was out for a bus ride all alone.  
Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam

Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary conversation between Valli and her mother on Valli's return to home, regarding her absence from home.

21. ② Travelling teaches us many life lessons and enriches us with experiences. You and your classmate have a discussion on this statement and your love for travel.

Write the dialogue.

You may begin like this...

Friend: I think travelling is one of the best ways to explore not just the world around you but also helps you introspect about life itself.

You: .....

Friend: Travelling enriches us with so many varied experiences.

You: ..... [CBSE Question Bank 2021]

22. ② After reading the story about Valli; you realise that she had such a small desire and demanded nothing from her mother.

After reflecting on this, you decide to write a diary entry on how you felt about the unreasonable demands you have posed to your parents.

You also realise that life is not all about materialistic possessions.

You may begin like this:

15 August 2020, Saturday 9:00 pm

I feel I have learnt a big lesson in life after reading about Valli. I feel ashamed for the way I have been .....

23. ② Compare the reactions of Valli while her journey onwards to the town and her return to the village.

24. If you were one of the passengers on the bus in which Valli was travelling, would you appreciate her taking the journey alone or would you discourage her decision?

Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary conversation between you and Valli to answer the question.

**Ans. Valli:** (to the bus conductor) Here's your money for the ticket, sir!

**Me:** Hey you little kid. Where are your parents? Whom are you travelling with?

**Valli:** Myself. I am a big girl now. I can travel all alone. Also, I have paid for the ticket fare myself.

**Me:** (shocking) What! Is there no one



accompanying you, dear? Well, this is insane. I know that you are a big girl now, but I believe not as big as to be able to travel alone. You should have taken someone along with you. Do your parents know about this journey?

**Valli:** No. My mother was asleep. But I will return to the town by the same bus itself. Do not worry about me, sir. I have calculated everything.

**Me:** What if the tyre of the bus gets punctured and you couldn't get back home in time? What will you do then Valli?

**Valli:** (*tensed*) Oh yes! You are right. I haven't thought about it at all. I will never travel alone from next time.

**Me:** Good girl!

- 25.** ② **'Valli calculated everything about her first bus journey. From the bus fare to the timing-everything. She managed the journey easily as the conductor of the bus was helpful. Imagine yourself as the author of 'Madam Rides the Bus' and write an imaginary**

**conversation between Valli and the bus conductor if he were not as helpful as depicted in the text.**

- 26.** **An eight-year old girl travelling alone on a bus. Is it right on the girl's part to take this journey? What would have happened if she had informed her mother before leaving?**

**Ans.** An eight-year old girl travelling alone is quite an unusual scenario. It was not right on Valli's part to take this journey alone. Anything could have gone wrong with her during her journey. The bus might not have returned in time or would have returned the next day. She had not informed her mother about it so, if the bus had been delayed due to unknown reasons, her family wouldn't have known anything about their child. It was really fortunate that she got caring co-passengers and a helpful conductor. If Valli had informed her mother before leaving, either her mother would have refused to let her go alone or she would have accompanied her on the ride.

