

## Dust of Snow

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. What mood of the poet is reflected in the poem 'Dust of Snow' initially? What images are used by the poet to bring about the effect? Comment. (2024)

**Answer.** • Mood- depressed/ hopeless. (Any other appropriate word can be accepted) • Images- 'hemlock tree' and 'crow'.

2. How far would you agree that one's positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances? (2024)

**Answer.** Positive attitude can help individuals see opportunities where others see problems. (Students can answer this question with/ without reference to any chapter(s)/character(s) (any two points)

#### MCQ (1 mark)

1. "The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree."

The dust of snow has made the poet:

- (a) appreciative of nature.
- (b) thoughtful.
- (c) happy.
- (d) cold. (Term I, 2021-22)

### CBSE Sample Questions

#### MCQ (1 mark)

1. In the poem Dust of Snow, which negative symbols have been used to create a positive effect?

- (a) hemlock tree; crow
- (b) crow; snow
- (c) snow; hemlock tree
- (d) crow; dust (Term I, 2021-22,

## ANSWERS

## Previous Years' CBSE Board Question

1. (c) happy.

## CBSE Sample Question

1. (a) hemlock tree; crow (1)

## Fire and Ice

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

#### MCQ (1 mark)

1. Which word from the poem, Fire and Ice will complete the following?

Cruelty: Fire :: Insensitivity: \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Ice
- (b) Hate
- (c) Desire
- (d) Destruction (Term I, 2021-22)

### CBSE Sample Questions

#### MCQ (1 mark)

1. Which option correctly replaces the underlined phrase in the given line from Fire and Ice? I hold with those who favour fire.

- (a) am as experienced as
- (b) strongly disagree with
- (c) have the same opinion as
- (d) habitually avoid (Term I, 2021-22)

#### SA II (3 marks)

2. The use of symbolism in the poem 'Fire and Ice' conveys the poet's message effectively. Expand with reference to the poem. (2020-21)



3. Explain why the poet personally holds the conviction that the world will primarily end in fire? (2022-23)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Question

1. (a) Ice

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. (c) have the same opinion as (1)

2. HINTS: Poem discusses the way the world can end.

- Fire stands for great/lust/human desire; Ice stands for hatred/coldness/human indifference;

- World can end with either greed or indifference. (3)

3. According to the poet, human's never-ending desires and ever increasing hatred would be enough to bring destruction to the world. In the poem, the fire represents desire. Like fire, desire spreads quickly and overpowers a person's sane thinking and whole life. The poet personally holds the conviction that the world will primarily end in fire as he was a victim of the fiery aspect of desire. He had experienced its destructive effects in life by his own confession (from what I've tasted....) (3)

## A Tiger in the Zoo

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two : (2024)

(A) He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass



Near the water pole  
Where plump deer pass.

He should be snarling around houses  
At the jungle's edge,  
Baring his white fangs, his claws,  
Terrorising the village!

**(i) State any one point of contrast between the tiger in the zoo and in its natural habitat.**

**Answer.** • Zoo- stalks in his cage/forced to be quiet • Forest- moves majestically wherever he wants/snarls and terrorises the village. (Any one point from the above)

**(ii) When the speaker suggests that the tiger should be "Snarling around houses at the jungle's edge"? What does he insinuate about the tiger's natural behaviour and habitat?**

**Answer.** Tiger- naturally powerful, free and ferocious (Any one point/ any other suitable word/phrase is acceptable)

**(iii) The poet's skillful use of imagery effectively depicts the confinement and frustration of the tiger. Elaborate in about 40 words.**

**Answer.** • In his vivid stripes, pads of velvet quiet, in his quiet rage  
(Any two of these images with elaboration to be accepted)

**(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'quiet rage' in the given sentence from the extract?**

The few steps of his cage on pads of velvet quiet in his 'quiet rage.'

**Answer.** Suppressed anger

**LAI (5 marks)**

1. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

He hears the last voice at night.

The patrolling cars,

And stares with his brilliant eyes

At the brilliant stars.

He stalks in his vivid stripes

A few steps of his cage.

(i) Whose is the last voice heard by the tiger?

- (a) police jeep
- (c) watchmen
- (b) patrolling cars
- (d) roar of lion

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately

It is clear that 'Repetition' is the poetic device used for 'his brilliant eyes at the brilliant stars' because \_\_\_\_\_. (Clue: explain how repetition applies here)

(iii) The main contrasting ideas in this extract are

- (a) tiger and deer
- (b) cruelty and sympathy
- (c) confinement and freedom
- (d) master and slave

(iv) The use of the word 'stalks' creates an image of

- (a) cowardice
- (b) frustration
- (c) lethargy
- (d) purposefulness.

(v) State whether the following statement is true or False The poem uses 'staring at the sky' to symbolize the freedom 'he' yearns for. (2023)

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

He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.  
He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.

(i) 'Quiet rage' refers to the tigers \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) helplessness
- (b) has not been able to hunt
- (c) his prey has not come to the water hole
- (d) he is not free

(ii) He is lurking in shadows because \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. It is clear that metaphor is the poetic device used for 'pads of velvet' because \_\_\_\_\_ (clue - explain how metaphor applies here).

(iv) Find a word from the extract which means - to walk with measured, stiff or haughty strides:

(a) steps (b) lurking (c) pads (d) stalk

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False:

The tiger is stealthily waiting for the deer to come to the water hole. (2023)

3. He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where plump deer pass.

I. How does the tiger show his helplessness?

(a) Through his beautiful stripes

(b) Through his brief walk

(c) Through his controlled anger

(d) By walking quietly

II. Study the following statements:

(i) Even in the zoo the tiger has retained his majesty.

(ii) He is walking softly in the cage as he is looking for his prey.

Choose the correct option:

(a) (i) is right and (ii) is wrong.

(b) (ii) is right and (i) is wrong.

(c) (i) and (ii) are both right.

(d) (i) and (ii) are both wrong.



III. Looking at the caged tiger we :

- (a) admire his majestic looks.
- (b) get scared of him.
- (c) feel sympathetic towards him.
- (d) feel safe that he is caged.

IV. The tiger in the zoo does not have to hunt for his food:

- (a) so he feels happy.
- (b) yet he is angry.
- (c) so he feels secure.
- (d) yet he feels lonely.

V. He likes the water hole as:

- (a) the deer visits it
- (b) there is tall grass around it
- (c) it is a shady place
- (d) he can hide behind the grass. (Term I, 2021-22)

### CBSE Sample Questions

#### MCQ (1 mark)

1. In the poem A Tiger in the Zoo, what does the tiger's 'quiet rage', indicate?

It indicates that the tiger's anger is

- (a) forgotten
- (b) provoked
- (c) suppressed
- (d) opposed (Term I, 2021-22)

### ANSWERS

#### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (i) (b) patrolling cars  
(ii) because there is a repetition of word 'brilliant'.  
(iii) (c) confinement and freedom



(iv) (b) frustration

(v) true

2. (i) (a) helplessness

(ii) he is waiting for his prey

(iii) softness of the velvet is used to describe the softness of tiger's feet.

(iv) (d) stalk

(v) True

3. I. (c) Through his controlled rage.

II. (a) (i) is right and (ii) is wrong.

III. (c) feel sympathetic towards him.

IV. (b) yet he is angry.

V. (a) the deer visits it.

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. (c) suppressed (1)

## How to Tell Wild Animals

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

#### SA III (4 marks)

1. If ever you should go by chance  
To jungles in the east;  
And if there should to you advance  
A large and tawny beast,  
If he roars at you as you're dyin'  
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

(a) Where can one find the Asian Lion?

(b) What are the characteristics of the Asian Lion?

(c) What is the effect of the roar of a lion on you?

(d) Identify the poem and the poet. (AI 2019)

#### LAI (5 marks)





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

2. Or if some time when roaming round,  
A noble wild beast greets you,  
With black stripes on a yellow ground,  
Just notice if he eats you.  
This simple rule may help you learn  
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

(i) Who is the 'noble wild beast' in the above lines?

- (a) zebra
- (b) Asian Tiger
- (c) Asian Lion
- (d) Bengal Tiger

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately. It is clear that 'Alliteration' is the poetic device used for 'roaming round' because \_\_\_\_\_ (Clue: explain how alliteration applies here)

(iii) State whether the following statements is True or False:  
The extract helps to identify a Royal Bengal Tiger.

(iv) In the given lines, what effect does the poet create? 'Just notice if he eats you.

This simple rule may help you learn  
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

- (a) irony
- (b) terror
- (c) sympathy
- (d) criticism

(v) Which word in the extract tells you that you have recognised the 'noble beast'?

- (a) rule
- (b) discern



- (c) roaming
- (d) notice

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (a) The Asian Lion can be found in jungles in the east.  
(b) The Asian Lion is a large, tawny beast with a loud roar.  
(c) When a lion roars it feels as if we are about to die.  
(d) The name of the poem is 'How to Tell Wild Animals' by Carolyn Wells.
2. (i) (d) Bengal Tiger  
(ii) because there is a repetition sound of consonant sound 'r'.  
(iii) True  
(iv) (b) terror  
(v) (b) discern

## The Ball Poem

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

#### 1. No use to say 'O there are other balls (2024)

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down  
All his young days into the harbour where his ball went.

I would not intrude on him,  
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now  
He senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions. People will take  
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy  
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external  
He is learning.....

**(i) Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards the boy's reaction to losing his ball?**



- (A) indifferent as the ball is inexpensive
- (B) sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss
- (C) mocking, finding the boy's reaction exaggerated and unnecessary.
- (D) panicked, sharing the boy's distress over the lost ball.

**Answer.** (B) – sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss

**(ii) Comment on the use of metaphor in the above extract.**

**Answer.** Ball is a metaphor for possessions/childhood innocence

**(iii) Explain the phrase 'all his young days into the harbour' with reference to the extract.**

**Answer.** • loss of the ball- moment of transition from childhood to maturity/  
memories of childhood flashed in front of his eyes. (Reference- 'senses his first responsibility', 'he is learning')

**(iv) Briefly state in about 40 words the boy's journey from 'shaking grief' to 'he is learning' in the above extract.**

**Answer.** • Journey from innocence to maturity/ youth to adulthood •  
Realisation/learning- loss is inevitable, he will lose things, • replace them but never be able to buy back the thing he has lost.

**MCQ (1 mark)**

1. After losing his ball, the boy :
- (a) become sad.
  - (b) felt angry.
  - (c) learnt a lesson.
  - (d) went for another ball. (Term I, 2021-22)

**SA II (3 marks)**

2. 'He senses first responsibility'- What responsibility is referred to here? (The Ball Poem). (2018)

**LAI (5 marks)**

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.



3. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing, down the street and then  
Merrily over-there it is in the water!  
No use to say 'O there are other balls': (The Ball Poem)

(i) What does the expression 'what, what is he to do' denote?

- (a) loss of the ball
- (b) ask the poet for another ball
- (c) boy's grief over the loss of the ball
- (d) go down the street

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False:

The poet was delighted to watch the ball bouncing down the street into the water.

(iii) The poet repeats the word 'what' in order to \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) There is no use to say 'O there are other balls' indicates that the poet feels that it would be \_\_\_\_\_ to console the boy

- (a) helpful
- (b) futile
- (c) easy
- (d) shameful

(v) 'What is the boy now, who has lost his ball. Which feeling is expressed in this line?

- (a) regret
- (b) cheer
- (c) despair
- (d) thrill (2023)

4. .... I would not intrude on him;  
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now  
He senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.  
And no one buys a ball back. (2021C)

- (i) Who is 'him'?
- (ii) Why won't 'I' intrude on 'him'?
- (iii) 'I' seems to be
- (iv) Why does no one buy a ball back?
- (v) Which word is opposite in meaning to the word 'worthless'?

5. 'His ball went. I would not intrude on him;  
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now  
He senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions. (2020C)

- (i) The loss of the ball will help the child to understand his \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Giving another ball to the child is \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) The boy is sad because \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) The ball is called worthless because it costs only

### CBSE Sample Questions

#### LAI (5 marks)

1. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:

Money is external.

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes, The epistemology of loss, how  
to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know And most know many days, how  
to stand up

- (i) The poet says money is external. What does it mean in this extract?
  - (a) Money helps us purchase materials that make life worth living.
  - (b) Money promotes materialism and hunger for power among youngsters.
  - (c) Money only impacts a person's external environment.
  - (d) Money buys materialistic things and can be earned again, when lost.
- (ii) What does the boy learn by losing the ball, according to the extract?
  - (1) Loss is the unavoidable truth of life.
  - (2) Material objects can be replaced.



- (3) Money buys happiness.  
 (4) Losses in life can be prevented with care.  
 (5) Life continues despite losses.  
 (a) (1), (2) and (5)  
 (b) (2) and (4)  
 (c) Only (1)  
 (d) (3) and (5)
- (iii) The boy is learning how to stand up...  
 This means that he is learning to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of difficulties.  
 (a) patient  
 (b) resilient  
 (c) defensive  
 (d) judgemental
- (iv) Which option lists who is speaking these lines?  
 (a) An observer  
 (b) The boy's parent  
 (c) The ball salesman  
 (d) A friend
- (v) According to the poet, from whom do we mostly learn about loss?  
 (a) Elders  
 (b) Experiences  
 (c) Books  
 (d) Teachers (Term I, 2021-22)

### LA II (6 marks)

2. "Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind".  
 If you had to use the message of the given quote from the Buddha's sermon (The Sermon at Benares) to help the boy cope with the loss of his ball and what it signifies (The Ball Poem), what would you include in your advice? Also, evaluate why it might be difficult for him to understand the notion. (2022-23)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (c) learnt a lesson.



2. The responsibility referred to here was that of taking care of his things in this world of possessions and learning to cope with loss. The boy must understand that one way or the other, he is always going to lose his most prized possessions. However he should not feel sorry for his loss.

3. (i) (c) boy's grief over the loss of the ball

(ii) False

(iii) emphasise on his statement

(iv) (b) futile

(v) (c) despair

4. (i) The little boy

(ii) 'I' wants him to face the situation.

(iii) sensible

(iv) The boy should learn to be careful.

(v) valuable

5. (i) first responsibility

(ii) intruding on him

(iii) he lost his ball

(iv) a dime

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. (i) (d)

(ii) (a)

(iii) (b)

(iv) (a)

(v) (b) ( $1 \times 5 = 5$ )

2. According to Gautam Buddha, human life is very short and it is full of sorrows and pains. He believes that weeping or grieving for a lost one will not give anyone peace of mind. The wise and intelligent persons never weep on death and never grieve on sorrows as they know that these are the realities and truths of lives. No one can escape from death. so, we should not grieve on deaths. If a person seeks peace of mind, he should draw out the grief and complains. Buddha's preachings will help the boy to cope with loss who had lost his ball. In this poem 'The Ball Poem', the poet teaches a philosophy of universal truth in our life. He has learnt that loss is a part of human life. But

the boy is too young to understand the depth of life. It's easy to feel disheartened at this age. Moreover he is all alone in his loss. There is no one to explain and he must learn from his experience as it will take time to cope up. Life is all about living and dying so, we should not get worried at losses. (6)

## Amanda

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. In the chapter 'A Baker from Goa' the narrator talks about his childhood in Goa and his fond memories. In about 120 words write a presentation draft comparing the childhood of the narrator in 'A Baker from Goa' to that of Nelson Mandela. You may begin this way:

Childhood memories remind us of the days gone by....

Reference: A Baker from Goa and Nelson Mandela: Long Walk (2024)

**Answer.** Differences- • A Baker from Goa- freedom is a reality, • Nelson Mandela- freedom is an illusion. • Commonalities- • both talk about freedom of childhood • carefree existence • innocence of childhood. (any three points)

**SAI (2 marks)**

1. "Don't bite your nails Amanda! Don't hunch your shoulders Amanda!" What does this reflect about Amanda's mother and Amanda? (Term II, 2021-22) R

2. Amanda was blamed for a number of things. Mention any two. (Term II, 2021-22)

**SA II (3 marks)**

3. What impression do you form about Amanda in the poem? (2023)

**SA III (4 marks)**

4. (There is a languid, emerald sea,  
where the sole inhabitant is me  
a mermaid drifting blissfully.)

(a) Who does 'me' stand for?



- (b) How does 'me' feel?
- (c) Who is 'me' compared to?
- (d) Which word in the extract means opposite of 'sorrowfully'? (Delhi 2019)

**LAI (5 marks)**

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

Don't eat that chocolate Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you

Amanda!

(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care; life in tower is tranquil and rare, I'll certainly never let down my bright hair)

(i) The Speaker's tone is

- (a) loving
- (b) hopeful
- (c) instructive
- (d) indifferent

(ii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract: reare: uncommon :: peace: \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) State whether the following statement is true or false.

Amanda did not want anyone to invade her privacy and silence.

(iv) Select the appropriate option:

Amandas's mother is continuously \_\_\_\_\_ Amanda.

- (a) encouraging
- (b) reprimanding
- (c) motivating
- (d) disappointing

(v) Which word in the extract is oppoiste in meaning to the word 'dull'?

- (a) dreary
- (b) shady
- (c) bright
- (d) angry (2023)

6. Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you, Amanda!

(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;



life in a tower is tranquil and rare;

I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

(i) The speaker does not want Amanda to eat chocolate because \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) The speaker's attitude is \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Where was Rapunzel kept?

(iv) How is Amanda different from Rapunzel?

(v) Which word is opposite in meaning to the word, 'tranquil'? (2021C)

### CBSE Sample Questions

**SAI (2 marks)**

1. Comment on the tone of the speaker when she says 'Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you, Amanda!! (Term II, 2021-22)

**SA II (3 marks)**

2. Justify the poet's allusion to Rapunzel in 'Amanda. (2020-21)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. In the two lines of the poem given, Amanda's mother's voice is more like an order rather than an instruction. This shows that she is a nagging mother who constantly nags and instructs Amanda for something or the other.

Amanda is just a small child who will obviously do things differently. But at the same time, her mother's restricting and authoritative voice seems to loom over her desire to be free and have her own space to learn/grow.

2. The poem 'Amanda' is about a girl being told what to do or not do. Being blamed for a number of things. Amanda had to listen to her mother's instructions. 'Two things she was blamed for were that she shouldn't bite her nails and eat chocolates.

3. Amanda is a little girl in her teens who is constantly nagged by her mother about how to behave and what to do. Amanda feels her freedom is curtailed



but she is helpless, so she imagines herself as a mermaid, an orphan and Rapunzel sets herself free in the imaginary world.

4. (a) 'Me' stands for Amanda.

(b) Amanda feels as if she is a mermaid, the only inhabitant of a languid, emerald sea in which she drifts blissfully.

(c) Me is compared to a mermaid.

(d) Blissfully

5. (i) (c) instructive

(ii) tranquil

(iii) rue

(iv) (b) reprimanding

(v) (c) bright

6. (i) (b) it may affect her face

(ii) (a) full of annoyance

(iii) (c) In a tower

(iv) (a) Rapunzel lived away from her parents/guardian.

(v) (b) peaceful

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. Amanda is lost in her thoughts and doesn't look at her scolding mother to which her mother sternly asks Amanda to look at her while she is speaking as a sign of respect for her. The tone of the speaker is serious. (2)

2. HINTS:

- It is justified as Rapunzel lived with a witch who would constantly keep a check on her and had several rules to be followed.
- Amanda too, feels caged by the impositions
- Amanda desires peace in isolation like Rapunzel had in her tower; clarifying she will not let her hair down for anyone. (3)

# The Trees

## Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

### SAI (2 mark)

1. Why is the poet writing long letters? Why does she not mention the departure of the trees? (AI 2019)
2. What are the three things that can't happen in a treeless forest? (Delhi 2017)
3. In the poem 'Trees', where are the trees? What are their roots, twigs, etc. trying to do? (AI 2017)
4. What happens to the house when trees move out of it? (Foreign 2017)

### SA II (3 marks)

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

5. long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof  
like newly discharged patients  
half-dazed, moving  
to the clinic doors.

- (a) What does the poet compare the branches to?
- (b) Name the figure of speech used in these lines.
- (c) What does the word 'shuffling' mean? (AI 2015)

6. The trees inside are moving out into the forest,  
the forest that was empty all these days  
where no bird could sit  
no insect hide

no sun bury its feet in shadow

- (a) Which three things cannot happen in a treeless forest?
- (b) Why was the forest empty?
- (c) Which word here means 'hide from view'? (Foreign 2014)

### SA III (4 marks)

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

7..... Winds rush to meet them.

The moon is broken like a mirror,

Its piece flash now in the crown

of the tallest oak.

(a) The above lines were written by

(i) Robert Frost

(ii) John Berryman

(iii) Robin Klein

(iv) Adrienne Rich

(b) The crown of the oak lies in its

(i) top most branch

(ii) roots

(iii) rich and tasty fruit

(iv) broad leaves

(c) The winds are rushing to meet the \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Find the word from the extract which means the same as 'shine'. (2020)

The trees inside are moving out into the forest,

the forest that was empty all these days

where no bird could sit

no insect hide

no sun bury its feet in shadow

the forest that was empty all these nights

will be full of trees by morning.

(a) What are the trees trying to do?

(b) Why was the forest empty?

(c) All these days, the forest referred to here was \_\_\_\_\_

(i) filled

(ii) empty

(iii) hidden

(iv) separated

(d) The figure of speech used in these lines is. \_\_\_\_\_

(i) Simile

(ii) Alliteration

(iii) Personification

(iv) Metonymy (2020)

## CBSE Sample Questions

LAI (5 marks)

2. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

The trees inside are moving out into the forest,  
the forest that was empty all these days  
where no bird could sit  
no insect hide  
no sun bury its feet in shadow  
the forest that was empty all these nights will be full of trees by morning.

(The Trees)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. It is clear that Personification is the poetic device used for 'No sun bury its feet....' because \_\_\_\_\_ (Clue: explain how personification applies here)

(ii) The poet has used a poetic device in the given lines. What effect does she wish to create by its use?

...no bird could sit

no insect hide

no sun...

(a) emphasis

(b) comparison

(c) rhyme

(d) humour

(iii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:

The extract uses trees as a symbol for conservative people.

(iv) Select the appropriate option to complete the sentence, according to the extract. The idea of a forest that has been 'empty all these days' is \_\_\_\_\_

(a) unnatural

(b) scary

(c) magical

(d) legendary

(v) How does the use of enjambment impact this extract?

(a) It forces frequent pauses.

(b) It simplifies the meaning.

(c) It builds momentum.

(d) It makes the lines lyrical. (2022-23)



## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. The poet is writing long letters probably to keep herself busy in some activity. She does not mention the departure of the trees in her long letters because she doesn't want anyone to know that the trees inside her house are rebelling and fighting their way out to reach the forest. The trees struggle silently at night to break free from their captivity when no one is watching them. She wants the trees to be liberated and be one with nature where they belong. Therefore, she feels that it is best not to say a word about it to anybody.
2. In a treeless forest, no birds could sit, no insect could hide and no sun could bury its feet in shadow.
3. The trees are inside the house. The roots, leaves, twigs, etc. all are trying to make an escape from the house. The roots disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor; leaves strain towards the glass, small twigs and boughs move to the doors.
4. When the trees move out of it, the doors remain open. The moonlight, the smell of the leaves, and lichen enter the rooms.
  - (a) The poet compares the branches to the newly discharged patients.
  - (b) Simile - boughs are compared with the patients.
  - (c) Moving repeatedly from one position to another/ mixing up.
6. (a) In a treeless forest, no birds could sit, no insect could hide and no sun could bury its feet in shadow.
  - (b) The forests are empty because the trees have been cut down to create land for buildings, houses, etc. in other words, expansion of cities.
  - (c) Bury
7. (a) (iv) Adrienne Rich
  - (b) (i) top most branch
  - (c) trees
  - (d) flash



8. (a) The trees are trying to move out into the forest.  
(b) The forest was empty because there were no trees, birds or insects and it is because humans have destroyed the forest for building cities and other uses.  
(c) (ii) empty  
(d) (iii) personification

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. (i) the sun, which is non-human, is attributed the human feature of having feet.  
(ii) (a) emphasis  
(iii) false  
(iv) (a) unnatural  
(v) (c) It builds momentum. ( $1 \times 5 = 5$ )

## The Cable of Custard the Dragon

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

(1) What makes Custard, the dragon look fearsome? Explain. (2024)

**Answer.** • sharp teeth, spikes on top of him and scales underneath. • mouth was similar to a fireplace and nose was like a chimney. • daggers on his toes.  
(any two points)

(2) Explain, why the speaker mentions God in the poem "For Anne Gregory". (2024)

**Answer.** • • Human beings incapable of seeing inner beauty. • Only God sees beyond external beauty.

**SAI (2 marks)**

1. How would you describe Custard the Dragon? (Term II, 2021-22)  
2. How did Custard prove 'the cowardly dragon tag' to be untrue? (Term II, 2021-22)

**SA II (3 marks)**



3. What character trait is revealed of Custard when he accepts that the other animals are braver than him. (2023)

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

4. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful, Ink, Blink and Mustard,  
they rudely called him Percival,  
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon At the realio, trulio, cowardly  
dragon.

(a) Who is Belinda?

(b) How did Belinda and the other pets laugh at the dragon?

(c) Which word in this extract means the same as 'unkind'? (AI 2014)

### SA III (4 marks)

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

5. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful, Ink, Blink and Mustard,  
they rudely called him Percival,  
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon At the realio, trulio, cowardly  
dragon.

(a) Who was tickled by Belinda?

(b) Why did she tickle 'him'?

(c) Who are Ink, Blink and Mustard?

(d) Why did they all laugh at 'him'? (2018)

## CBSE Sample Questions

### SAI (2 marks)

1. A ballad includes the telling of a tale as well as a surprise ending. Using evidence from the poem, explain how these features are included in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'. (Term II, 2021-22)

2. Describe how Custard's reaction was different from that of others, on seeing the pirate? (2020-21)

### SA II (3 marks)

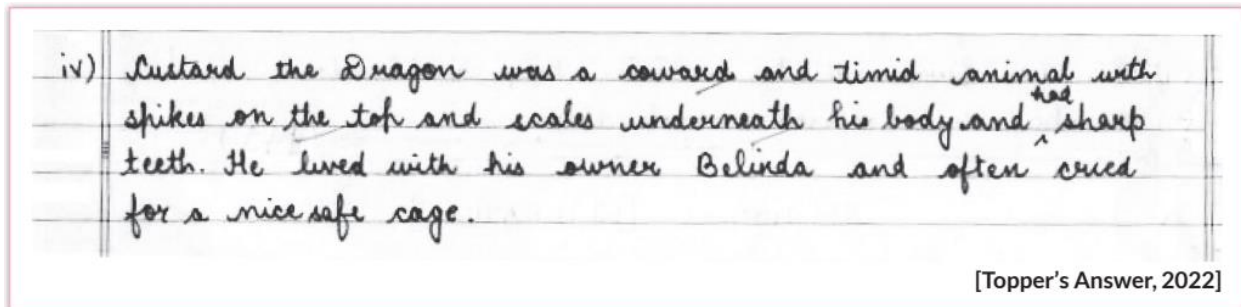
3. Give one reason why 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is more a fable than a ballad. (2022-23)



# ANSWERS

## Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1.



2. When the pirate appeared, everyone refused to attack except Custard. He faced the pirate courageously jumping in front of him and making dangerous and instant gestures. The pirate fired two shots at Custard but missed. Custard then swallowed him whole, leaving no trace of him. This way, Custard proved the 'cowardly dragon tag' untrue.

3. Custard was a true hero of the poem. Custard is never seen to boast about his bravery and courage like other inmates of the house. When he accepts that the other animals are braver than him, it shows its humbleness. When the real situation arises and everybody leaves Belinda, Custard takes over the situation like a true hero.

4. (a) Belinda is the little girl who's the owner of the cat, mouse, dog and the dragon.

(b) They sat in the little red wagon and laughed at the dragon.

(c) Unmerciful

5. (a) Custard the dragon was tickled by Belinda.

(b) She tickled him in order to tease/make fun of him.

(c) The three characters in the given stanza are a black kitten named Ink, a little grey mouse named Blink and a dog called Mustard.

(d) They all laughed at him because they thought he was a coward.

### CBSE Sample Questions

1. A ballad is a poem that tells a story. The theme of a ballad is an adventure, bravery, romance, etc. The ballad is highly musical due to its rhyme scheme.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon has these qualities. But it is a parody of a ballad. The poet shows these qualities in a humorous way. (2)

2. HINTS:

- Custard was always teased as being the cowardly one, by all others.
- When the pirate arrived, others ran away to hide Custard was the only one who stood up to fight with him/who attacked him. (2)

3. Fable is a fictitious narrative usually with animals, birds, etc. as characters. It also conveys a strong message. On the other hand, a ballad is a narrative verse that can be silly or heroic. The theme of a ballad is an adventure, bravery, romance etc. It is highly musical due to its rhyme scheme. The Tale of Custard the Dragon is a humorous and fictitious story of a dragon named Custard and how he bravely saved everyone from a pirate. The poem may have all the qualities of a ballad but it is a parody. Thus, it qualifies more as a fable than a ballad. (3)

## For Anne Gregory

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SA II (3 marks)

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follows:

1. "But I can get a hair-dye  
And set such colour there,  
Brown, or black, or carrot,  
That young men in despair  
May love me for myself alone  
And not my yellow hair."

- (a) Who is speaking these lines?
- (b) Why are young men in despair?
- (c) What is the antonym of the word, 'despair'? (Delhi 2017)

2. "Never shall a young man,  
Thrown into despair  
By those great honey-coloured  
Ramparts at your ear,  
Love you for yourself alone



And not your yellow hair."

- (a) Whom are these lines addressed to?
- (b) What would throw a young man into despair?
- (c) What does the word, 'ramparts' here mean? (AI 2017)

3. "I heard an old religious man  
But yesternight declare  
That he had found a text to prove  
That only God, my dear,  
Could love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair."

- (a) Whom are these lines addressed to?
- (b) What has the old religious man declared?
- (c) What does 'a text' mean here? (Foreign 2017)

4. "Never shall a young man,  
Thrown into despair  
By those great honey-coloured  
Ramparts at your ear,"

- (a) Who is the speaker of these line? Who is he speaking to?
- (b) What does the young man mean by 'honey- coloured ramparts'?
- (c) What does the word 'despair' mean? (AI 2015)

5. "I heard an old religious man  
But yesternight declare  
That he had found a text to prove  
That only God, my dear,  
Could love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair."

- (a) What does 'I' refer to here?
- (b) How is God's love different from the love of the young lovers?
- (c) Which word in the extract means 'a religious book'? (Delhi 2014)

### SA III (4 marks)

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

"Never shall a young man,  
Thrown into despair



By those great honey-coloured  
Ramparts at your ear,  
Love you for yourself alone  
And not your yellow hair."

- (a) The lady's hair is compared to
- (i) ramparts
  - (ii) ears
  - (iii) honey
  - (iv) despair
- (b) The young man has fallen in love with the lady for her
- (i) wealth
  - (ii) social position
  - (iii) looks
  - (iv) mind
- (c) Name the poem and the poet.
- (d) According to the poet, the lady wants the young man to love her for (2020)

### LA III (8 marks)

7. The poet in the poem 'For Anne Gregory' conveys that we should give importance to the inner beauty and not to the physical appearance. Elaborate with reference to the poem. (Delhi 2019)

## ANSWERS

### Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (a) The speaker is Anne Gregory, friend of the poet.  
(b) The young men are in despair because they are in love with the speaker, but she does not respond.  
(c) Hope
2. (a) These lines are addressed to Anne Gregory.  
(b) Honey coloured hair  
(c) Lock of hair at her ear
3. (a) Anne Gregory - a young woman  
(b) The old religious man declared that he has found a book which says that



men love women for their looks. Only God loves them for who they really are.  
(c) A holy book

4. (a) A young man to a young woman.  
(b) A woman's blonde hair, which adds to her beauty.  
(c) Hopelessness

5. (a) 'I' is the speaker the poet.  
(b) The old religious man declared that he has found a book which says that men love women for their looks. Only God loves them for who they really are.  
(c) Text

6. (a) (i) ramparts  
(b) (iii) looks  
(c) The name of the poem is 'For Anne Gregory' and the poet is W.B. Yeats.  
(d) herself and not just her outlook.

7. The poet in the poem 'For Anne Gregory' conveys that we should give importance to the inner beauty and not the physical appearance, and this is evident from the conversation that takes place between Anne and the speaker in the poem. The speaker says to Anne that her beautiful looks and honey-coloured hair can make men fall in love with her any given day. However, they shall never look past her outer appearance and take notice of her inner beauty or get to know the real Anne. Hence, the speaker is sure that no man would love her when her looks fade away. They will love her only for her gorgeous yellow hair. Anne points out that physical appearance is changeable and thus, secondary. She says that her looks can change, and so can the colour of her hair, for instance she can change it to brown or carrot, but she will remain the same person on the inside. She feels therefore, men should not love her for her superficial looks, they should learn to love the person that she is underneath her surface.

