

## 4. The Home-Coming

### (a) Text-based Multiple Choice Questions

- |          |           |            |          |         |
|----------|-----------|------------|----------|---------|
| (i) (c)  | (ii) (b)  | (iii) (a)  | (iv) (b) | (v) (d) |
| (vi) (d) | (vii) (b) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (d) | (x) (c) |

### (b) Comprehension Passages

#### PASSAGE 1

- (i) Phatik, the ring-leader of the village boys, thought of a new plan to make mischief. It was regarding a heavy piece of log.
- (ii) The log was lying on the mud-flat of the river. It was lying there for future use. It was to be shaped into a mast for a boat.
- (iii) Phatik decided that all the village boys would work together to displace the log from its original place. Then they would roll it away into the river water.
- (iv) The act of mischief by the village boys would anger and surprise the owner of the piece of heavy wood. They would enjoy by doing this.
- (v) It was Phatik's younger brother Makhan who posed an obstacle to carrying out the mischievous plan. He walked up to the log and sat down silently on the log.

#### PASSAGE 2

- (i) As all the boys pushed log into the river water, Makhan fell into the mud. As they shouted with delight, Makhan got up, scratched Phatik's face, kicked him and went away home, crying.
- (ii) A middle aged man, with grey hair and dark mustache, stepped on shore. Phatik came to know later on that this man was in fact his maternal uncle.

- (iii) The 'man' asked Phatik where the Chakravortis lived. The boy pointed in one direction vaguely as he continued to chew grass. No, his reply "over there" wasn't satisfactory.
- (iv) Phatik was of the opinion that everybody at home was biased against him. So his behaviour was rude with the members of his family and he repeated it with the stranger too although it was uncalled for.
- (v) It was a servant who came down from home. He told Phatik that his mother wanted him but he refused to move. The servant, a strong man, was forced to pick him up roughly and carry him away.

### **PASSAGE 3**

- (i) The grey haired stranger referred to here is Bishamber, the maternal uncle of Phatik.
- (ii) Phatik's mother was angry because of Phatik's behaviour. He had beaten Makhan and pushed her aside when she tried to stop him.
- (iii) She welcomed her brother warmly. She bowed to the ground and touched his feet respectfully.
- (iv) While the stranger i.e. Bishamber was in Bombay, his sister i.e. Phatik's mother had lost her husband.
- (v) As soon as Bishamber came back to Calcutta he made enquiries about his sister. When he learnt that she had lost her husband, he came to meet her. This shows that he was a caring brother.

### **PASSAGE 4**

- (i) 'they' referred to in the first line are Phatik and his maternal uncle Bishamber. They had just arrived from the village.
- (ii) Phatik met his aunt for the first time. She wasn't pleased to see him. It meant unnecessary addition to her family.
- (iii) Phatik's aunt thought she was already burdened with the responsibility of her own three sons. The addition of another boy terribly upset her. So she was unhappy.
- (iv) Phatik's aunt thought that it was an act of indiscretion to bring him to Calcutta. He should have thought carefully before taking such a step.
- (v) The impression the reader gets regarding Phatik's aunt is she seems to be of an irritable nature. She is not ready to adjust herself to the new situation of looking after the fourth boy of fourteen. It is impossible to shower affection on a grown up boy than as on a little boy.

### **PASSAGE 5**

- (i) The biggest nuisance is a boy at the age of fourteen. It is so because he is neither ornamental nor useful.

- (ii) When a boy of fourteen talks like a grown up person, he is called impertinent. He is asked not to meddle with the affairs of grown up persons.
- (iii) At the crucial age of fourteen he grows out of clothes with indecent haste i.e., his clothes becomes tight. His voice becomes hoarse and he breaks and quivers. His face too becomes unattractive, suddenly growing angular.
- (iv) Shortcomings of a boy of fourteen cannot be excused because he is expected to behave like a grown up person. Even his unavoidable lapses cannot be tolerated. Since he grows up physically, he is also expected to grow up mentally at the same pace.
- (v) At this age a young lad's heart most craves for recognition and love. If anyone shows him consideration, he becomes his devoted slave.

#### **PASSAGE 6**

- (i) If a boy of fourteen is continuously scolded, he feels insulted. It becomes torture to live in a strange home with strange people.
- (ii) For a boy of fourteen, the height of bliss is to live in his own home. Moreover, receiving the kind looks of women in new home is like living in paradise.
- (iii) Phatik, being a sensitive boy of fourteen, soon realised that he was unwelcome in his aunt's house. It was insulting for him to be rebuked repeatedly by an elderly lady.
- (iv) Whenever his aunt asked him to do something, he would overdo it. Then his aunt would tell him not to act foolishly. He should rather pay attention to his lessons.
- (v) A boy of fourteen is habitual of living in his home in a particular manner. He is comfortable in dealing with his mother and other members of the family. Adjustment with new people in a new home becomes difficult for him. No wonder, he becomes a big nuisance for them.

#### **PASSAGE 7**

- (i) Phatik was the most backward boy in the school. He could never reply teacher's questions. He patiently suffered blows on his back like an overladen ass.
- (ii) Just as an ass suffers silently when his master puts extra weight on its back without eliciting any protest, similar was Phatik's way of enduring punishment.
- (iii) The above line clearly shows that Phatik was deeply disillusioned with city life at his aunt's house. He constantly thought of his village by standing wistfully by the window and gazed at the roofs of the distant houses.
- (iv) While the other children played on the open terrace of any roof, Phatik's heart was filled with deep pain. On such occasions, he longed for his village, home and friends with whom he indulged in acts of mischief.
- (v) Gathering all his courage one day, Phatik asked his uncle when he could go home. His uncle's reply was that he would take him there during holidays.

### **PASSAGE 8**

- (i) Phatik's aunt said that he had brought a lot of trouble for the family. It would be appropriate if he was sent home. On hearing this, he began to weep.
- (ii) 'they' referred to in the second line are the two constables who brought Phatik back to his aunt's home. Phatik had tried to run away to his village on his own.
- (iii) Phatik had high fever and a doctor was called in. He opened his eyes, looked towards the ceiling and asked his uncle if holidays had come. He was restless to go home. Bishamber was moved and tears came into his eyes.
- (iv) Bishamber sat by Phatik through the night, holding his lean and burning hands in his own. It shows his attachment and affection for his sister's son.
- (v) Phatik was half-conscious because of high fever. He had become delirious due to it. In such a state, he dreamt of his mother who was always ready to beat him although not without reason.