***DISCOVERING TUT : SAGA CONTINUES***

A. Understanding the Text

**Question 1:  
Give reasons for the following:**  
**(i)**King Tut’s body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.  
**Answer:**  
The mummy of King Tutankhamun has earned world wide fame for the riches it was buried with. There is also speculation about the manner of his death and his age at the time of death. Hence King Tut’s body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.

**(ii)**Howard Carter’s investigation was resented.  
**Answer:**  
Howard Carter’s investigation was resented because he used unscientific methods and illegitimate ways. He was focusing more on treasure and less on cultural and historical aspects.

**(iii)**Carter had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king’s remains.  
**Answer:**  
Carter found that the ritual resins had hardened. The result was that Tut’s body had  
been cemented to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Proper force could not move the resins. Even the scorching sun failed to loosen the resins. So he got the resins chilselled away to raise the king’s remains.

**(iv)**Tut’s body was buried along with gilded treasures.  
**Answer:**  
The people of ancient Egypt believed in resurrection of the dead. Their kings were extremely rich. So Tut’s body was buried with gilded treasures. Their eternal brilliance was meant to guarantee resurrection. Things of everyday use were also buried with the king.

**(v)**The boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun.  
**Answer:**  
Tutankhamun means “living image of Amun”. He was a major god in ancient Egypt. King Amenhotep IV who changed his name to Akhonaten smashed the images of Amun and got his temples closed. Tut oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He changed his name to express his belief in Amun.

**Question 2:  
(i)**List the deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as ‘wacky’.  
**Answer:**  
Akhenaten means the servant of the Aten i.e. the sun disc. He moved the religious capital from the old city of the Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, known now as Amarna. He smashed the images of Amun, a major God and closed his temples. These deeds led Ray Jonson to describe Akhenaten as ‘Wacky’.  
**(ii)**What were the results of the CT scan?  
**Answer:**  
The results of the C.T. scan were quite encouraging. 1700 digital X-ray images in cross-section were created. A gray head appeared on screen. Neck vertebrae were quite clear. The images of hand, ribcage and skull were equally bright. These revealed that nothing had gone seriously wrong with Tut’s body  
**(iii)**List the advances in technology that have improved forensic analysis.  
**Answer:**  
The advances in technology have helped in improving forensic analysis. Many scientific tests can be carried out to determine the causes of crime. These include X-ray,  
ultrasound, C.T. scan, post mortem, autopsy and biopsy. All these help in diagnosis and provide exact information.

**(iv)**Explain the statement, “King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned— in death as in life”  
**Answer:**  
King Tut’s mummy was the first one to be X-rayed by an anatomy Professor in 1968. On 5 January 2005 CT scan created virtual reality and produced life-like images. King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned. Thus in death as well as in life Tut moved regally ahead of his countrymen.

B. Talking About the Text

**Discuss the following in groups of two pairs, each pair in a group taking opposite points of view:**  
**Question 1:  
Scientific intervention is necessary to unearth buried mysteries.**  
(Students are expected to debate on issue raised in the text related to rediscovering history with the help of technology; respect for traditions, etc. While answering these questions, students are required to reflect on the issues and give their points of view.)  
**Answer:**  
**For the motion.**  
Every nation glorifies its past history, culture and civilization. However, certain mysteries lie buried with them. Rituals and legends are insufficient to clear the wrap of mystery surrounding them. For example, take the case of Tutankhamun’s mummy. He was laid to rest laden with gold more than 3,300 years ago. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922 AD, the modem world has speculated about him. Some people believe that the boy king might have been murdered. There is a mystery around his life as well as death. Scientific intervention is necessary to clear the dust and cloud of mysteries around him. Hence, if we want to study archaeology properly we must take help of scientific techniques.  
**Against the motion:**  
If present is perfect and future certain, why many about the past? Let the dead past bury its dead and the mysteries surrounding them. In the present world full of competition, we must devote our money, time and energy to build up our resources and sustain the life style. Scientific techniques should be employed to feed the hungry millions and clad the naked ones. Some mysteries of the past have lost their relevance with the passage of time. Won’t it be futile and wastage of precious resources of a developing nation in this idle pursuit? Let the thinkers, philosophers and priests worry about mysteries—not the scientists.

**Question 2:**Advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events.  
**Answer:**  
**For the motion.**  
I fully subscribe to the observation that advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events. Even my opponents will agree that there is no proper written record about many past events. Myths and legends surround even the most celebrated personalities and events of their life or circumstances of death. Facts and fiction are mingled together and sometimes have become inseparable. Various persons have given coloured versions of the past events to suit the demands of their masters or to serve their own ends. The evidence that opposed their point of view has been condemned and rejected. Thus sometimes we get a warped version and subjective account of past events. Only advanced technology can help us understand the past in right perspective.  
**Against the motion:**  
I disagree with the remarks that advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events. It may hold good in certain cases where evidence can be reconstructed and examined closely with the sophisticated techniques of modem science available now. However, it will be unfair to generalise and hold it true in all cases. Sometimes the processing of available data may yield contradictory accounts and create more confusion than unravelling the knotted issues. Moreover, the available evidence may not be worthy of analysis and examination. The tests may determine the possible time period of the action, but it is quite difficult to assess the causes that prompted it or the results that followed it.

**Question 3:**Tradition, rituals and funerary practices must be respected.  
**Answer:**  
**For the motion.**  
Different religions, cultures and civilizations follow various traditions, rituals and funerary practices. The dead bodies buried under the earth, are supposed to lie in rest peacefully till the doom’s day or the day of resurrection or after life. The ancient Egyptians had mastered the art of mummifying. Certain traditional rituals were performed while treating the dead body with special oils and wrapping it in cloth. Ritual resins held the mummy close to the bottom of the coffin. The burial chamber and grave contained all the important things that the king might need in after life. The funerary practices had a certain sanctity for the followers of that particular religion. We must learn to be more tolerant of the belief of others. Hence I conclude that traditions, rituals and funerary practices must be respected.  
**Against the motion:**  
The world is on the move. We have to be forward looking. We can’t remain content with the achievements of the past or rest on our laurels. If traditions, rituals and certain funerary practices block the flow of information and knowledge, these may be overlooked for the greater benefit of humanity, i.e. clearing the air of mystery, ignorance and superstitions surrounding some of the age-old beliefs. However, in our quest for knowledge, we should not be intolerant or disrespectful. We must conduct our probe objectively and dispassionately. Facts must be given more weightage than the beliefs attached to them. A detached outlook can provide clear understanding of past events.

**Question 4:**Knowledge about past lives is useful to complete our knowledge of the world we live in.  
**Answer:**  
For the motion.  
Modem world has expanded the frontiers of knowledge. In fact the whole world has become a global village. Within a few seconds we become aware of incidents happening thousands of miles away. Information technology has indeed brought a revolution in the field of knowledge. Still our knowledge of the world is incomplete without the knowledge about past lives. We are the direct descendants of our ancestors and we must be aware of the circumstances in which they existed and how they coped with them. The structure of future is rooted in the past. We draw lessons from the past and make improvements. The fives of the people of the past are like beacon fights to guide and inspire us and enlighten us about the world we five in.  
**Against the motion:**  
We are constantly learning new things about the world we live in. The knowledge of our present circumstances and future prospects is more important than the knowledge about past fives. Their traditions, rituals, tools, ways of conduct and ethos are not going to help us in our struggle for existence in the highly competitive and complex modem world. The knowledge about past lives can at best make us retrograde instead of being progressive. For many of us the world means their sphere of activities and the environment they five in. People aim at specializing in restricted fields instead of being Jack of all trades. As such the knowledge of the world we need is also restricted to our requirements and we need not bother about knowledge about past fives.

C. Thinking About Language

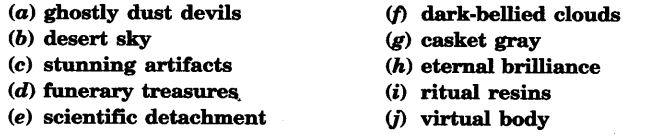
**Read the following piece of information from The Encyclopedia of Language by David Crystal.**  
“Egyptian is now extinct: its history dates from before the 3rd millennium BC, preserved in many hieroglyphic inscriptions and papyrus manuscripts. Around the 2nd century AD, it developed into a language known as Coptic. Coptic may still have been used as late as the early 19th century and is still used as a religious language by Monophysite Christians in Egypt.”

**Question 1:**What do you think are the reasons for the extinction of languages?  
**Answer:**  
A language becomes extinct when its use is restricted to certain classes or categories of people. Secondly, the harshness of rules and lack of flexibility in usage also contribute to the extinction of languages.

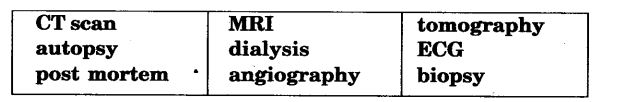
**Question 2:**Do you think it is important to preserve languages?  
**Answer:**  
I think it is important to preserve languages. Various languages are the vehicles of thought and medium of interaction between the users of that language and the outside world. A language has intimate connection with the lives, culture and civilization of the people and reflects their thinking.

**Question 3:**In what ways do you think we could help prevent the extinction of languages and dialects?  
**Answer:**  
Certain steps must be taken to help prevent the extinction of languages and dialects. The most important is to encourage its use. A language thrives as long as it is used by masses. Measures should be taken to propagate the languages and dialects used in certain areas. The help of interpreters may be provided for interaction between native users of language/dialect and non-users. Certain incentives in the form of stipends, scholarships, preferences in jobs etc. may also prove handy in attracting the youth towards languages and dialects which are on the verge of extinction. State patronage can also help in the preservation of languages.

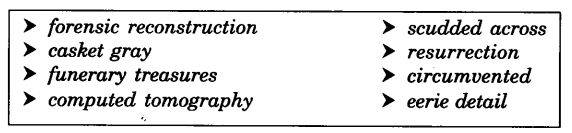
D. Working With Words

**Question 1:**Given below are some interesting combinations of words. Explain why they have been used together:  
  
**Answer:**  
In each combination of words, one word is an adjective and it modifies as well as reinforces the meaning of the noun following/preceding it. Let us try to understand the meaning of each combination of words:

* **ghostly dust devils:** ghost-like wicked evil spirits formed by dust.
* **dark-bellied clouds:** bulging/swelling clouds
* **desert sky:** the sky over the desert
* **casket gray:** the grey sky hiding the stars in it
* **stunning artifacts:** extremely attractive man-made objects if) eternal brilliance: everlasting shine
* **funerary treasures:** treasures stored following rituals of funeral
* **ritual resins:** resins applied according to religious rites
* **scientific detachment:** aloofness of a scientist
* **virtual body:** body made to appear to exist by computer software.

**II. Here are some commonly used medical terms. Find out their meanings:**  
  
**Answer:**

* **CT scan:** a medical-test in which a machine produces a three dimensional picture of the inside of a person’s body on a computer screen after taking X-rays.
* **MRI:** an abbreviation for magnetic resonance imaging—a technique for producing images of body organs by measuring the properties of atomic nuclei in a strong magnetic field.
* **Tomography:** a technique for displaying a cross section through a human body (or other solid object) using X-rays or ultrasound.
* **Autopsy:** an examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death or the extent of disease.
* **Dialysis:** a technique of clinical purification of blood, as a substitute for the normal functions of the kidney.
* **ECG:** abbreviation for electrocardiogram or electrocardiograph; preparing a graph showing the measurement and recording the activity in the heart using electrodes placed on the skin.
* **Post mortem:** medical examination of the body of a dead person in order to find out how he died.
* **Angiography:** radiography of blood or lymph vessels, carried out after introduction of a substance that is opaque to X-ray.
* **Biopsy:** an examination of tissue taken from the body to discover the presence, cause, or extent of a disease.

**III. Notice these expressions in the text. Guess the meaning from the context.**  
  
**Answer:**

* **forensic reconstruction:** activity of building again something damaged or to help scientific test to solve a crime
* **scudded across:** moved quickly across something
* **casket gray:** a small gray box or grey sky
* **resurrection:** a new beginning for something which is old
* **funerary treasures:** collection of valuable things used at a funeral
* **circumvented:** found a way of avoiding a difficulty or a rule
* **eerie detail:** strange and frightening little bits of facts.

E. Things to do

**I. The constellation Orion is associated with the legend of Osiris, the god of the afterlife.**  
**Find out the astronomic descriptions and legends associated with the following:**

1. Ursa Major (Saptarishi Mandala)
2. Polaris (Dhruva tara)
3. Pegasus (Winged horse) (iv) Sirius (Dog star)
4. Gemini (Mithuna)

**Answer:**

1. **Ursa Major (Saptarishi mandala)**. This bright constellation can be observed all year long as it never sinks below the horizon. It is also known as ‘Greater Bear’ as it represents the back and tail of the bear. According to Sanskrit mythology this group of seven sages (sapta rishi) also moves around the constant star ‘Dhruva Tara’ known as Polaris.
2. **Polaris (Dhruva tara).** This star remains constant and always points to the North. The direction of Ursa Major keeps changing with the passage of the night, but Polaris remains unchanged. It is associated with the legend of Dhruva, the six year old boy who was blessed by Lord Vishnu with a permanent and constant abode in the universe.
3. **Pegasus (Winged horse).** This is associated with Greek mythology as the winged horse, sprung from Medusa’s blood. It carries lightning bolts for Zeus. Pegasus’ constellation may be seen when stars are out.
4. **Sirius (Dog star).** This is associated with the legend of Orion. It is called ‘Dog Star’ as it represents Orion’s large hunting dog. The first glimpse of Sirius in dawn announced the rising of the Nile in ancient Egypt.
5. **Gemini (Mithuna).** A combination of two Nakshatras—Aardhara and Punarvasu and having contradictory qualities.

**II. Some of the leaves and flowers mentioned in the passage for adorning the dead are willow, olive, celery, lotus, cornflower. Which of these are common in our country?**  
**Answer:**  
Willow, olive, lotus and cornflower are common in our country.

**III. Name some leaves and flowers that are used as adornments in our country.**  
**Answer:**  
Roses, Lotus, myrtles, marigolds, champa and chameli flowers and the leaves of mango, peepal, banana and basil are used as adornments in our country.

MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

A. Short Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**Why is 5th January 2005 significant in Tutankhamun’s saga?  
**Answer:**  
On this date for the first time Tutankhamun was removed from his tomb and taken to a C.T. scanner brought there to probe the lingering mysteries surrounding this young ruler.

**Question 2:**How was the atmosphere when Tut’s body was taken for C.T. scan?  
**Answer:**  
Violent wind raised ghost like shapes of dust. Bulging clouds moved quickly across the desert sky and hid the stars in the grey sky.

**Question 3:**How did the visitors to Tut’s grave pay their respects to him?  
**Answer:**  
They gazed at the murals on the walls and peered at Tut’s gilded face on his mummy shaped outer coffin lid. Some visitors read from guide book in whisper. Others stood silently.

**Question 4:**What according to A.R. Williams were the thoughts of the visitors who stood silently near Tut’s grave?  
**Answer:**  
Perhaps some of them were thinking deeply over Tut’s untimely death in his teens. Others might be trembling with fear and wondering if the Pharaoh’s curse was really true.

**Question 5:**What was the Pharaoh’s curse? Who refers to it and in what context?  
**Answer:**  
The pharaoh’s curse was that death or misfortune would fall upon those who disturbed him. The silent visitors are the first to refer to it. Later on a guard joked nervously when the million dollar scanner stopped functioning because of sand in a cooler fan.

**Question 6:**“The mummy is in very bad condition because of what Carter did in the 1920s.” Who was Carter? What did he do to the mummy?  
**Answer:**  
Howard Carter was a British archaeologist. He discovered Tut’s tomb in 1922 after many years of futile searching. Carter’s men removed the mummy’s head and cut off almost every major joint to remove the golden adornments.

**Question 7:**What problem did Carter face when he reached the mummy ? How did he find a way out?  
**Answer:**  
Carter found that the ritual resins had become quite hard. These had fixed Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. The heat of the sun could not melt it. So the solid resins had to be chiselled away to free the King’s remains from the box.

**Question 8:**How did Carter defend his action of cutting the mummy free?  
**Answer:**  
Carter said that if he hadn’t cut the mummy free, thieves would certainly have found a way of avoiding the guards. Then they would have tom apart everything forcibly to remove the gold.

**Question 9:**List some of the adornments and golden objects on Tut’s body.  
**Answer:**  
Precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for fingers and toes and the inner coffin and mask. All of them were made of pure gold. His coffin was of solid gold.

**Question 10:**Why do you think the royals carried so much gold to grave?  
**Answer:**  
There were two reasons: first, the royals were extremely wealthy. Secondly, they thought or hoped that they could take their riches with them to the great beyond.

**Question 11:**What is so special about the contents of Tut’s tomb?  
**Answer:**  
Stunning artifacts in gold found in Tut’s tomb remain the richest royal collection ever found. These caused a sensation at the time of the discovery. Even now they get the most attention.

**Question 12:**Which evidence proves the burial of Tut in March or April?  
**Answer:**  
Tilt’s shroud was found adorned with faded garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals and cornflowers. Since some of them are available only at the end of winter season, Tut must have been buried in March or April.

**Question 13:**How did Carter’s men treat Tut’s body while removing gold?  
**Answer:**  
They removed the mummy’s head and cut off every joint to remove the golden adornments. Then they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box and filled it with soft material to hide the damage caused by chiselling.

**Question 14:**What startling fact came to light in 1968 through X-ray?  
**Answer:**  
In 1968, an anatomy Professor X-rayed the mummy. He revealed a startling fact. Tut’s breast-bone and front ribs were missing beneath the resin that covers his chest with a thick layer.

**Question 15:**How can CT scan prove more effective than the X-ray?  
**Answer:**  
In CT scan, hundreds of X-rays in cross section are put together like slices of bread to create a three-dimensional virtual body. X-ray provides only a two-dimensional image.

**Question 16:**Which two questions still linger about Tut?  
**Answer:**  
Two questions still remain unanswered. The first is: “How did Tut die?’ The second one is, “How old was he at the time of death?”

**Question 17:**How has Archaeology undergone change in the twentieth century?  
**Answer:**  
The change is in two ways: approach and techniques. Now Archaeology focuses less. on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and interesting mysteries of  
death. Secondly, it uses more sophisticated tools including medical technology.

**Question 18:**How was Tut’s body carried to the C.T Scanner?  
**Answer:**  
Workmen carried Tut from the tomb in his wooden box. They climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs in the sand outside. Then they rose on a hydraulic lift and went into the trailer that held the scanner.

**Question 19:**What snag did the million dollar scanner develop? How was it set right?  
**Answer:**  
The million dollar scanner had stopped functioning because of sand in a cooler fan. Two men ran to an office nearby and brought a pair of white plastic fans. These substitute fans worked well enough for the scanner to work.

**Question 20:**Why do you think Zahi Hawass smiled and felt relieved?  
**Answer:**  
Clear images of C.T. scan revealed that the head, neck vertebrae and ribcage were in proper order. Zahi Hawass smiled and felt relieved that nothing had gone seriously wrong. Evidently, the curse of the Pharaoh had not hindered the work of the technicians. –

**Question 21:**How was the atmosphere when the CT scan of Tut was over?  
**Answer:**  
It was nearly midnight. The wind that blew in the evening had now stopped. The dust storm and clouds had. cleared off. The winter air lay cold and still. Just above the entrance to Tut’s tomb stood Orion—the soul of Osiris, the god of afterlife.

B. Long Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**How has Tut’s mummy fascinated the scientists and commoners alike over the previous decades?  
**Or**  
Give a brief account of the exploration of Tut’s mummy from 1922 to 2005.  
**Answer:**  
King Tutankhamun was the last of his family line. His funeral marked the end of a dynasty. He was laid to rest laden with gold as the royals in Tut’s time were extremely wealthy and thought they could take their riches with them. His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter, a British archaeologist in 1922, more than 3000 years after his death. The rich royal collection’ of jewellery and golden artifacts fascinated Carter. Visitors thronged the boy King’s tomb. The particulars of King Tut’s death and its aftermath are not clear. In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter’s discovery, an anatomy Professor X-rayed the mummy. He revealed a startling fact. The breastbone and front ribs of Tut were missing. On 5 January 2005 a CT scan was done to obtain precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. It was hoped that it would offer new clues about his life and death. Thus Tut’s mummy has been the centre of fascination throughout the previous decades.

**Question 2:**“He was the last of his family line.” What do you learn about Tut’s dynasty from the extract ‘Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues’?  
**Answer:**  
Tut’s grandfather, Amenhotep III, was a powerful Pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades at the height of the dynasty’s golden age. His son Amenhotep IV promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disc. He changed his name to Akhenaten, or “Servent of the Aten”. He moved the religious capital from the old city Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten. He further shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, breaking his images and closing his temples. Thus the wacky king started one of the strangest periods in the history of ancient Egypt. After Akhenaten’s death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and departed without leaving any sign. Then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne. He is widely known today as king Tut. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, “Living image of Amun.” He supervised the restoration of the old ways. Tutankhamun ruled for about nine years and then died unexpectedly. The details of his passing away are not available. The modem world has speculated about what happened to him. How did he die and how old was he at the time of his death?” are two unanswered questions.

**Question 3:**Why did Tut’s body have to undergo a C.T. scan? How was it carried out and what results did it yield?  
**Answer:**  
A veil of mystery surrounded Tut’s life and death. Old methods of archaeology did not provide satisfactory clues to the circumstances of his death and his age at the time of demise. An X-ray of the mummy in 1968 further complicated the confusion. CT scan was undertaken to create a three dimensional virtual body.  
A scanner was taken in a trailer to the sandy area near Tut’s tomb. Tut’s body was carried there from his tomb in a box. The CT machine scanned the mummy head to toe, creating 1700 digital X-ray images in cross section. Tut’s entire body was scanned in 0.62 millimetre slices.  
The C.T. scan produced clear images of Tut’s head, neck vertebrae, ribcage, hand and skull. The results proved satisfactory. A team of specialists in radiology, forensics and anatomy are busy probing the secrets lying buried in Tut’s grave with his body.

**Question 4:**AR Williams says, “King Tut is in death, as in life moving regally ahead, of his countrymen,” How far do you agree with the assertion and why?  
**Answer:**  
Perhaps no other Pharaoh of Egypt has fascinated the public mind so greatly as the boyish king Tutankhamun. Although he died in his teens and ruled for about nine years only, he introduced certain changes during his brief rule. These were significant as they marked restoration of the old ways of worship of Amun. The unanswered questions about the causes and modes of his death as well as his age at the time of death kept public curiosity alive.  
After his death, his dead body has been a centre of scientific examination. Howard Carter, the British archaeologist discovered Tut’s tomb in 1922. In 1968, an anatomy Professor X-rayed the mummy. The Egyptian Mummy Project began an inventory in late 2003. It has so far recorded 600 and is still continuing. The next phase of CT scanning with a portable CT machine began an 5 January 2005. The pride of place went to King Tut, whose mummy was the first to undergo C.T. scan. Thus I fully endorse the aforesaid assertion.

***THE LABURNUM TOP***

Question 1.  
What laburnum is called in your language.  
Answer:  
In Hindi, the Laburnum tree is called the amaltaas tree.

Question 2.  
Which local bird is like the goldfinch.  
Answer:  
The local bird similar to the goldfinch is called Indian Lutino Ringneck.

Think It Out

Question 1.  
What do you notice about the beginning and the ending of the poem?  
Answer:  
The thing similar in the beginning and the ending of the poem is that the Laburnum tree is still and silent on both occasions.

Question 2.  
To what is the bird’s movement compared? What is the basis for the comparison?  
Answer:  
The bird’s (goldfinch’s) movement is compared to that of a lizard. The basis of the comparison is that the goldfinch’s movement is sudden and abrupt, which is quite similar to the movement of a lizard.

Question 3.  
Why is the image of the engine evoked by the poet?  
Answer:  
The poet evokes the image of the engine as it is the source of energy for a machine. The poet compares the bird with an engine as she is the source of energy for the machine i.e. the nest where the chicks are resting.

Question 4.  
What do you like the most about the poem?  
Answer:  
I like the description of the Laburnum tree laden with yellow flowers. Apart from this, I also like the arrival of the goldfinch which changes the silent tree into one full of noise . and activity.

Question 5.  
What does the phrase “her barred face identity mask” mean?  
Answer:  
The Laburnum tree has flowers that fall like bars and, when the bird sits behind the flowers, the shadow of the flowers on her face looks like she is wearing a mask that has bars on it. Thus, ‘barred’ is actually an adjective for the flowers and has been transferred and applied to the bird. –

### Extract based Questions and Answers (2 Marks)

I. Read the extract given below and answer any two of the questions that follow.  
The Laburnum top is silent, quite still In the afternoon yellow September sunlight, A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.  
Question 1.  
What does ‘Laburnum top’ mean here?  
(a) It means the top part of any tree  
(b) It means the top part of the Laburnum tree  
(c) It means the top part of a fictional tree  
(d) It does not mean anything  
Answer:  
(b) It means the top part of the Laburnum tree

Question 2.  
What has happened to the tree?  
(a) The tree is being worshipped  
(b) The tree has been cut down  
(c) The leaves of the tree have turned purple and are falling down  
(d) The leaves of the tree have turned yellow and its seeds falling down  
Answer:  
(d) The leaves of the tree have turned yellow and its seeds are falling down

Question 3.  
Find a word from the extract which is the antonym of ‘noisy’.  
(a) Quiet  
(b) Quite  
(c) Hush  
(d) Silent  
Answer:  
(d) Silent

II. Read the extract given below and answer any two of the questions that follow.  
Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,  
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up  
Of chitterings and a tremor of wings, and trilling  
The whole tree trembles and thrills.  
Question 1.  
Who is ‘she’ in the second line ? Where does she enter?  
(a) She is the baby goldfinch who enters the thickness of the Laburnum tree  
(b) ‘She’ is a squirrel who enters the thickness of the Laburnum tree  
(c) ‘She’ is a lizard who enters the thickness of the Laburnum tree  
(d) ‘She’ is the mother goldfinch who enters the thickenss of the Laburnum tree  
Answer:  
(d) ‘She’ is the mother goldfinch who enters the thickenss of the Laburnum tree

Question 2.  
What does ‘machine’ refer to in the extract?  
(a) If refers to the machine used to drill a hole in the tree  
(b) It refers to the machine used to cut the tree  
(c) It refers to the nest of the goldfinch where its young ones are staying  
(d) It refers to the nest of the squirrel  
Answer:  
(c) It refers to the nest of the goldfinch where its young ones are staying

Question 3.  
Find a word from the extract which is the synonym of ‘entire’.  
(a) Abrupt  
(b) Hole  
(c) Whole  
(d) Tremor  
Answer:  
(c) Whole

III. Read the extract given below and answer any two of the questions that follow.  
Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings She launches away, towards the infinite  
And the Laburnum subsides to empty.  
Question 1.  
What does ‘launches’mean in the extract?  
(a) It means sleeping  
(b) It means flying  
(c) It means diving  
(d) It means fluttering  
Answer:  
(b) It means flying

Question 2.  
What effect does the last line create?  
(a) It creates the contrast between the liveliness of the tree and its silence  
(b) It creates the contrast between the change of seasons  
(c) It creates an opportunity to plant more Laburnum trees  
(d) It creates the scene for the arrival of new bird species on the tree  
Answer:  
(a) It creates the contrast between the liveliness of the tree and its silence

Question 3.  
……….from the extract means the same as ‘strange’ and ‘mysterious’.  
(a) Delicate  
(b) Odd  
(c) Infinite  
(d) Eerie  
Answer:  
(d) Eerie

### Short Questions and Answers (2 Marks)

Question 1.  
Why is the poem named ‘The Laburnum Top’?  
Answer:  
The poem has been named ‘The Laburnum Top’ because the top of the Laburnum tree has been described in detail in the poem. It is on the top of the Laburnum tree that the nest of the goldfinch is located and where all the activity takes place when the goldfinch visits the nest.

Question 2.  
What is the significance of ‘yellow’ in the poem?  
Answer:  
The flowers of the Laburnum tree and its leaves (in autumn) both are yellow in colour. Apart from this, the goldfinch’s feathers are also yellow in colour. The poem highlights the high security that the mother bird (goldfinch) ensures for her babies and the colour yellow helps in camouflaging the babies. Hence they escape being noticed by any predator.

Question 3.  
How is the tree transformed during the bird’s visit?  
Answer:  
After the goldfinch arrives on the tree, the silent and still Laburnum tree suddenly starts trembling and moving. The whole tree comes to life as the chicks of the goldfinch make a lot of noise as they chitter and trill on seeing their mother.

Question 4.  
To what is the movement of the goldfinch compared? What is the basis for the comparison?  
Answer:  
The movement of the goldfinch is compared to that of a lizard. The basis of the comparison is the sleek, alert and sudden movements of a lizard. The goldfinch makes similar kind of movements when it arrives on the Laburnum .tree to avoid being noticed by any predator.

Question 5.  
‘Then sleek as a lizard and alert and abrupt, She enters the thickness’. Explain the given line.  
Answer:  
The lizard is a quick moving animal. It is also very alert and its movements are sudden. In the given line, the arrival of the goldfinch on the Laburnum tree is described. The poet describes its movements as alert and sudden just like that of a lizard. This is done to avoid getting the attention of the predators.

Question 6.  
What is the engine of the machine? What is its fuel?  
Answer:  
The goldfinch has been called the engine of her family. Just as the engine starts up the machine, the goldfinch’s arrival in the nest has suddenly started the machine i.e. the young ones in the nest have started making noise. The fuel of the engine is the food that the goldfinch brings for her chicks.

Question 7.  
How does the Laburnum ensure security for the nestlings?  
Answer:  
According to popular belief, the bark and the seeds of the Laburnum tree are poisonous. So, predators normally do not come near the tree. Apart from this, its yellow flowers and yellowing leaves in the autumn season complemented by the yellow coloured feathers of the goldfinch help in camouflaging the nestlings from the predators.

Question 8.  
Explain the line, ‘And the Laburnum subsides to empty’.  
Answer:  
This is the last line of the poem. It describes that with the departure of the goldfinch from the Laburnum tree, it falls silent. The tree was noisy and lively when the goldfinch came to feed its chicks, but it reverts to its earlier self after its departure from the tree.

### Long Questions and Answers (6 Marks)

Question 1.  
The arrival of the goldfinch on the Laburnum top brings about a change in the poem. How do you interpret this change? Is change good or bad in life?  
Answer:  
At the start of the poem, the top of the Laburnum tree in the poem is silent and still. There is hardly any activity on it as the sunlight falls on it on a September afternoon. However, with the arrival of the goldfinch, it suddenly becomes a place of feverish activity. The silence of the place is broken by the twittering and chirruping of the chicks and the goldfinch.

I think that the change brought about by the arrival of the goldfinch on the Laburnum top is good, as it breaks the monotony. The tree becomes alive and lively with the movement of the goldfinch and the twitterings and chirrupings of the chicks.

Change can be good or bad in life depending on a situation. However, the fact is that change is the only constant in life. So, even if a change is bad, we have to accept it and move on in life.

Question 2.  
What values do you learn from the goldfinch in the poem ‘The ‘Laburnum Top?  
Answer:  
The goldfinch has its nest on the top of the Laburnum tree in the poem, ‘The Laburnum Top’. Her chicks stay in the nest while she (the mother goldfinch) keeps going out at regular intervals to get food to feed her chicks. This shows her caring nature and highlights the values of motherly care and affection of a mother towards her offspring.

The other aspect of the goldfinch that is captured in the poem is its movement. She arrives at the Laburnum top in a sudden manner and is very much alert to her surroundings. The poet has compared her movement with the sleek movement of a lizard. However, there is a reason for her moving like this (in an alert and sudden manner). She is moving in this manner so as to avoid getting noticed by any predator. She does not want any predator to know that her chicks are resting in her nest on the Laburnum top as then the predators may kill them or harm them. The values of safety and security for her offspring is highlighted in this act of the goldfinch.

***THE VOICE OF RAIN***

### A. Think it Out

**Question 1:**There are two voices in the poem. Who do they belong to? Which lines indicate this?  
**Answer:**  
One of them belongs to the poet and the other to the rain. These are indicated in  
lines 1-2 and 3-9 respectively.

**Question 2:**What does the phrase ‘strange to tell’ mean?  
**Answer:**  
The phrase refers to a strange phenomenon—the rain gives an answer to the poet’s query. It is surprising to report the answer.

**Question 3:**There is a parallel drawn between r« in and music. Which words indicate this? Explain the similarity between the two.  
**Answer:**  
The following words/phrases indicate the parallel between rain and music: ‘Poem of Earth’, ‘eternal I rise impalpable out of land and the bottomless sea’ ‘For song duly with love returns.’  
Both originate from a source, rise up, reach fulfilment, wander about whether cared about or not and finally return to source of origin with love.

**Question 4:**How is the cyclic movement of rein brought out in the poem?  
**Answer:**  
Rain water rises untouched out of the land and deep sea and gathers in the sky, where it changes form, and then comes down to earth to bathe the dry tiny particles of dust layers and all that lies buried under it. Then it returns to the place of its origin. Science textbooks indicate that water vapours from the rivers and ocean rise up to the sky due to the intense heat. They assume the form of clouds and after condensation drop down as rain. The water flows back through rivers to the seas and oceans.

**Question 5:**Why are the last two lines put within brackets?  
**Answer:**  
The last two lines contain a comment about music and its cycle. These differ from the first nine lines. The first two lines are the voice of the poet whereas lines three to nine are spoken by rain. The cycle of song is put within brackets to mark the difference in speakers but similarity in content.

**Question 6:**List the pairs of opposites found in the poem.  
**Answer:**  
rise-descend; day-night; reck’d-unreck’d

### B. Notice the sentence pattern in the following:

**Rewrite these sentences in prose.**

1. And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower.
2. I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain.
3. Eternal I rise
4. For song duly with love returns.

**Answer:**

1. I said to the soft-falling shower, “Who are you?”
2. The voice of the rain said, “I am the poem of Earth.”
3. I rise eternally.
4. For song returns duly with love.

### MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

### A. Short Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**The poem begins in a conversational tone. Who are the two participants? What is the advantage of this method?  
**Answer:**  
The two participants are the poet and the rain. The poet makes the rain relate its own story. This direct presentation makes the narration more authentic, interesting and captivating.

**Question 2:**“Behind the apparent simplicity, the poem hides a deep meaning.” What exactly does the poem convey to the reader?  
**Answer:**  
The poem is not merely a description of life-cycle of rain. It has deeper meaning. Rain is a poem or thing of beauty of Earth and so is song or music. The comparison between rain and music .and their function: making the Earth pure and beautiful conveys the eternal role of natural phenomenon and art in real life.

**Question 3:**How does the rain justify its claim: “I am the Poem of Earth’”?  
**Answer:**  
The rain narrates the journey of its life—from birth to return to origin in mythical terms. The facts are scientific but the phrases that convey them are metaphoric and literary. The whole journey has a beauty and charm associated with a poem.

### B. Long Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**How is the cyclic movement of rain brought out in the poem “The Voice of the Rain”? What points of similarity do you notice between rain and music?  
**Answer:**  
The rain calls itself the poem of earth. It is everlasting and perpetual. It is something that cannot be touched. It originates from the land and the deep sea. Then it rises upward to heaven where it changes its form into a cloud, yet remains the same in quality. From the sky it pours down on earth to wash the dry tiny particles and dust layers of the earth. The rain helps the unborn seeds to sprout. These seeds lay hidden and unborn under the layers of earth. Rain gives back life to its origin making it pure and beautiful. Rain and music are both beautiful and life-giving. They are eternal sources of joy and go on perpetually. They inspire even dormant objects and persons with life and activity.