



ENGLISH
REVISION

My mother at sixty-six,
Keeping quiet, A thing of
beauty

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XII

My Mother at Sixty Six

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she
looked but soon
put that thought away...

i Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.

- 1) a conversation
- 2) an argument
- 3) a piece of advice
- 4) a strategy
- 5) a recollection
- 6) a suggestion

- a) 1, 3 & 6
- b) 2, 4 & 5
- c) Only 5
- d) Only 1

ii. Choose the book title that perfectly describes the condition of the poet's mother.

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

- a) Title 1
- b) Title 2
- c) Title 3
- d) Title 4



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iii Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.

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

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

- a) Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.
- b) Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
- c) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
- d) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.

iv. Choose the option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract.

her face
ashen like that
of a corpse...

- a) Just as I had I had this thought, she appeared and...
- b) My thoughts were as heavy as lead that evening when ...
- c) I think like everyone else who...
- d) I like to think aloud when ... A. i. (c) ii. (c) iii. (c) iv. (b)

B. And

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

i What is the most likely reason the poet capitalised 'Young Trees'?

This was to

- a) convey a clearer meaning.
- b) highlight the adj.-noun combination.
- c) enhance the contrast.
- d) draw a connection with the title.

ii Choose the option that appropriately describes the relationship between the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The poet knows her mother has aged.

Statement 2: The poet feels the pain of separation.

- a) Beginning – Ending
- b) Cause – Effect
- c) Question – Answer

iii Choose the option that completes the sentence given below.

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

- a) the pain of separation has shaded mother's expression.



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- b) age has fogged mother's youthful appearance.
- c) growing up has developed a seasoned maturity in the poet.
- d) memories warm the heart like the pale moon in winter.

iv Choose the correct option out of the ones given below.

(a)

Simile: The merry children spilling
Metaphor: Old familiar ache

(b)

Metaphor: Pale as a late winter's moon
Imagery: Young trees sprinting

(c)

Imagery: All I did was smile
Personification: The merry children spilling

(d)

Personification: Young trees sprinting
Simile: Pale as a late winter's moon

- a) Option 1
- b) Option 2
- c) Option 3
- d) Option 4

B. i. (c) ii. (b) iii. (b) iv. (d)

Answer in 30-40 words

i The pain of separation is expressed both literally and metaphorically in this poem. Elucidate.

ii Comment on the tone of the poem with references to "My Mother at SixtySix".

iii Imagery was an effective literary device to bring out the contrast between the "merry children" and mother. Comment.

iv The poet does not directly mention the fear of her mother's death and yet she is successfully able to convey the same through different poetic techniques.

Discuss.



KEEPING QUIET

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow:

A. For once on the face of the Earth
 let's not speak in any language,
 let's stop for one second,
 and not move our arms so much.
 It would be an exotic moment
 without rush, without engines,
 we would all be together
 in a sudden strangeness.

- i The poet uses the word “let’s” to _____
- initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
 - invite readers as part of the poem’s larger call to humanity.
 - welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject.
 - address readers as fellow members of the human race.

ii Margaret Atwood said, “Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole.”

Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood’s words and the line from the above extract – “let’s not speak in any language”

- Atwood endorses Neruda’s call to not speak in any language.
- Atwood justifies Neruda’s request to not engage in any speaking.
- Atwood undermines Neruda’s intent to stop and not speak in any language.
- Atwood surrenders to Neruda’s desire for silence and not speak in any language.

iii Why do you think the poet employs words like “exotic” and “strangeness”?

- To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once.
- To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life.
- To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
- To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence.

iv Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. On the face of the earth | (i) In existence |
| 2. What on earth | (ii) To do all possible to accomplish something |
| 3. Move heaven and earth | (iii) To express surprise or shock |
| 4. The salt of the earth | (iv) To be good and worthy |

- 1 – (i); 2 – (iv); 3 – (iii); 4 – (ii)
- 1 – (i); 2 – (iii); 3 – (ii); 4 – (iv)
- 1 – (ii); 2 – (i); 3 – (iv); 4 – (iii)
- 1 – (iv); 2 – (ii); 3 – (iii); 4 – (i) A i – b ; ii – a ; iii – b ; iv – b

B. If we were not so single-minded
 about keeping our lives moving,



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and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.

i. What do you think is the mood of the poet in the above extract?

- a) gloomy, cynical
- b) reflective, inspired
- c) introspective, aware
- d) critical, demotivated

ii Pick the option that DOES NOT complete the given sentence suitably, as per the extract.

Threatening ourselves with death _____

- a) feeds on the fear of death.
- b) challenges finiteness of life.
- c) keeps us rushing through life.
- d) makes us restless and impatient.

iii What might the “huge silence” signify?

- a) melancholy
- b) understanding
- c) discomfort
- d) flexibility

B i – c ; ii – b ; iii – b

Answer in 30-40 words

i In a world that is constantly running after ‘more’ chasing the next new thing, would it be fair to think of Neruda’s call as merely a fanciful idea?

ii The world has become a global village, and people across boundaries, nationalities and communities are now connected to one another. With the advancement of technology, and the advent of social media, do you think that the task of keeping quiet, as envisaged by Neruda, has become easier or more complicated? Justify your stance.



A Thing of Beauty

A)
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

i In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with 'despondence'?

- a) The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
- b) A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
- c) I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench,
- d) Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.

ii Pick the option that is NOT an example of 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways.'

- a) A person who is egoistic and looks down upon others.
- b) A person who seeks God's help for all his problems.
- c) A person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
- d) A person who is corrupt and manipulative.

iii Pick the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' would include.

- 1. Selflessness
 - 2. Insensitivity
 - 3. Enthusiasm
 - 4. Aggression
 - 5. Meticulousness
 - 6. Judiciousness
- a) 1, 4 and 5
 - b) 2, 3 and 6
 - c) 2, 4 and 5
 - d) 1, 3 and 6

iv Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.

Statement 2: The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.

- a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
 - b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
 - c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
 - d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.
- A. i. (b) ii. (b) iii. (d) iv. (c)

B) Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;



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All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

i Pick the quote that matches best with—

‘And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead.’

- In the night of death, hope sees a star, and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
- When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.
- Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.
- Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once.

ii Pick the option that refers to what ‘an endless fountain of immortal drink’ suggests.

- inspirational deeds of great men
 - a ceaseless series of dreams
 - an infinite source of strength
 - an elixir of life for upliftment of the soul
 - an eternal source of delight
 - a boundless gift of love
- 1, 4 and 5
 - 2, 3 and 5
 - 1, 2 and 6
 - 2, 4 and 6

iii Pick the option that pairs the TRUE statements based on the extract, from the list below.

- The bushes with fragrant flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.
 - Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.
 - Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar of joy.
 - Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us.
- 1 and 2
 - 2 and 4
 - 1 and 4
 - 2 and 3

iv Pick the option that uses the same literary device as the ‘mighty dead’.

- sleepless nights
 - deafening silence
 - glaring lights
 - time is a thief
- B. i.(b) ii. (a) iii. (c) iv. (b)

Answer in 30-40 words:

i If you were given an opportunity to share your perception of beauty, what would you say? Explain.

ii ‘Beauty is best left undefined’. Support your position on this statement with your rationale, coupled with ideas in the poem.

iii Artists, singers and musicians have a different perception of beauty as compared to people who are in other professions. Comment