



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

ENGLISH REVISION

Poets and Pancakes

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XII

Extract 1

His success in films overshadowed and dwarfed his literary achievements - or so his critics felt. He composed several truly original 'story poems' in folk refrain and diction and also wrote a sprawling novel Thillana Mohanambal with dozens of very deftly etched characters. He quite successfully recreated the mood and manner of the Devadasis of the early 20th century. He was an amazing actor-he never aspired to the lead roles-but whatever subsidiary role he played in any of the films, he performed better than the supposed main players. He had a genuine love for anyone he came across and his house was a permanent residence for dozens of near and far relations and acquaintances.

- i. Which of these statements is NOT TRUE about Subbu?
- His literary accomplishments stole the limelight from his films.
 - He was a gifted poet and writer and his literary works were noteworthy.
 - He was selfless in nature and was empathetic towards others.
 - He never hankered after lead roles and performed minor roles in films.
- ii. The word 'sprawling' has been used with the word 'novel'. Pick the option with which the word 'sprawling' CANNOT be used.
- metropolis
 - handwriting
 - campus
 - portrait
- iii. The phrase 'deftly etched' shows that Subbu
- created the roles delicately.
 - was skillful in creating the characters.
 - pondered beyond necessity about the characters.
 - gave very little thought to the characters.
- iv. Pick the option that best describes Subbu according to the extract.
- benevolent
 - powerful
 - accomplished
 - witty
 - generous
 - temperamental



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

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

1. Answers:

- i. Option (a)
- ii. Option (d)
- iii. Option (b)
- iv. Option (c)

Extract 2

Barring the office boys and a couple of clerks, everybody else at the Studios radiated leisure, a pre-requisite for poetry. Most of them wore khadi and worshipped Gandhiji but beyond that, they had not the faintest appreciation for political thought of any kind. Naturally, they were all averse to the term 'Communism'. A communist was a godless man-he had no filial or conjugal love; he had no compunction about killing his own parents or his children; he was always out to cause and spread unrest and violence among innocent and ignorant people. Such notions, which prevailed everywhere else in South India at that time also, naturally, floated about vaguely among the khadi-clad poets of Gemini Studios. Evidence of it was soon forthcoming.

- i. Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as 'A communist is a godless man.'
 - a. She is as determined as Gandhi when it is a fight against injustice.
 - b. She is a Gandhi when she raises her voice against 'hinsa' or violence.
 - c. She, like Gandhi, feels that the earth is crying for deliverance.
 - d. She lives a life of opulence and calls herself a follower of Gandhi.

- ii. Based on the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
 - Statement 1: At Gemini Studios, the poets had a profound knowledge of Communists.
 - Statement 2: Communists were responsible for anarchy and discontent in the country.
 - 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 cannot be inferred.
 - d. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.

- iii. Why do you think leisure is a prerequisite for poetry?
 - a. Poetry means freedom of expression.
 - b. One can enjoy poetry when there's free time.
 - c. In order to write poetry, one needs free time.
 - d. Poetry means freedom from work.

- iv. Asokamitran says that leisure is a prerequisite for poetry. He says this because poets



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

- need to relax for a period of time before composing lines.
- maintain a leisurely pace in all tasks they do.
- are creative and need to have free time to weave their thoughts.
- begin poetic compositions in a rushed way and end in a relaxed manner.

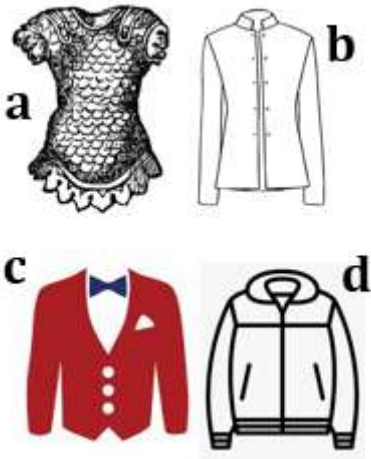
2. Answers

- Option (b)
- Option (d)
- Option (c)
- Option (c)

Extract 3

While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often he looked alone and helpless — a man of cold logic in a crowd of dreamers — a neutral man in an assembly of Gandhiites and khadiites. Like so many of those who were close to The Boss, he was allowed to produce a film and though a lot of raw stock and pancake were used on it, not much came of the film. Then one day The Boss closed down the Story Department and this was perhaps the only instance in all human history where a lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home.

1. Which of the following images best represents a coat of mail?



- Why did the legal adviser look helpless?
- What are Gandhiites and Khadiites?
- The Boss closed down the Story Department because-
 - The poets were not working
 - The film produced by the legal adviser failed
 - the staff was against each other
 - Can't say



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

Answer

i. a

ii. His work involved application of logic while the other members were poets whose work involved creativity. So, he was alone and helpless because their way of working was different.

iii. Those who follow the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and wear Khadi fabric are called Gandhiites and Khadiites.

iv. b