



## THE SERMON AT BENARES

### Class 10 - English Language and Literature

Time Allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Maximum Marks: 50

1. Kisa understood the temporality of life as she sat at the wayside watching the city lights. Can you think of any other object or phenomenon, natural or man made, that might similarly reflect the fragile nature of human life? Justify your choice. [3]
2. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not? [3]
3. What did Kisa Gotami do after the Buddha had asked her for a handful of mustard seeds? [3]
4. What message might the Buddha's story hold for those who are in positions of power and privilege? [3]
5. Sermon at Benares could just as well be considered another glimpse of India. If it were part of the story **Glimpses of India**, what ideas, values, and/or experiences would it highlight? How would you present this historical part of India? [6]
6. In literature, the purpose of a legend is to present the story of human actions in such a way that the audience perceives them to be true. In "First Flight" textbook, two main legends are attached related to Buddhism. One in Sermon at Benares about Prince Siddhartha and the other about Bodhidharma in Glimpse of India. Elucidate both the Indian legends. [6]
7. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:** [4]  
At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession and finally a monk begging for alms.
  - a. Name the Prince.
  - b. What was the Prince's age in the passage?
  - c. What are the sights of sufferings that the Prince saw? (Any 2)
  - d. Give the meaning of the word 'shielded'.
8. The table below shows the results of a survey that asked 6800 Indian adults (aged 16 years and over) whether they had taken part in different cultural activities in the past 12 months. Write an analytical paragraph by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant (150-200 words). [5]

Participation in cultural activities, by age				
	16-24%	25-44%	45-74%	All ages 16 and over %
Any performance*	35	22	17	22
Undertaking any crafts	11	17	22	19
Cultural purchases	11	17	18	16
Any visual arts	30	16	11	15
Any writing	17	6	5	7
Computer-based	10	9	5	6

\* Dancing, singing, playing musical instruments and acting

9. Can you pass me \_\_\_\_\_ book please? [1]
- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| a) A    | b) The |
| c) Some | d) An  |

Question No. 10 to 14 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: [5]

Poor Kisa Gotami now went from house to house, and the people pitied her and said, **Here is mustard-seed; take it!** But when she asked, **Did a son or daughter, a father or mother, die in your family?** they answered her, **Alas! the living are few, but the dead are many. Do not remind us of our deepest grief.** And there was no house but some beloved one had died in it.

10. Pick the option that explains- ...**the living few, but the dead many.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) It shows the high death rate and low birth rate in the city of Benares.      | b) It reflects that many children who had died in the village for various reasons. |
| c) It throws light on the numerous loved ones the villagers had lost over time. | d) It highlights the holy status of Benares where many Hindus go to die.           |

11. Imagine you are a photo journalist visiting the city at the time Kisa Gotami went from house to house. You documented her experience given in the above extract in a photo series.

Your publisher wants to publish the photo series in three parts wherein Part 1 shows Kisa's visits to the houses; Part 2 depicts her conversations with people, and Part 3 captures Kisa's reflections at the end of the day sitting by the wayside. The publisher would also like you to choose titles for the series and its three parts.

Look at the titles given below, and choose the options that provide the most appropriate set of titles.

i. **Series Title - From Darkness to Light.**

Part I- Living in Loss; Part II- A Mother's Journey; Part III- Mustard Seed

ii. **Series Title - Mustard Seed.**

Part I - A Mother's Journey; Part II - From Darkness to Light; Part III - Living in Loss

iii. **Series Title - A Mother's Journey.**

Part I - Mustard Seed; Part II - Living in Loss; Part III - From Darkness to Light

iv. **Series Title - Living in Loss.**

Part I - From Darkness to Light; Part II - Mustard Seed; Part III - A Mother's Journey

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| a) ii and iii | b) i and iv |
| c) iii and iv | d) i and ii |

12. The community's response to Kisa in the above extract was somewhat different from before. Why do you think that was the case?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) They liked Kisa and enjoyed talking to her. | b) They had learnt from Buddha's sermons.             |
| c) They understood parental grief.             | d) They were able to help Kisa in some way this time. |

13. Which of the following options represent the correct understanding of the word **poor** in the phrase **Poor Kisa Gotami**?

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| a) in need of money | b) weak        |
| c) inferior         | d) unfortunate |

14. **Do not remind us of our deepest grief.** The tone of the speaker(s) is

- a) disillusioned
- b) solemn
- c) sceptical
- d) ironic

**Question No. 15 to 19 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** [5]

At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession and finally a monk begging for alms.

15. The name of the Prince was \_\_\_\_\_.

16. What was the Prince's age in the passage?

- a. thirty
- b. forty
- c. twenty
- d. twenty-five

17. What are the sights of sufferings that the Prince saw?

18. Give the meaning of the word **shielded**.

- a. protected
- b. buried
- c. exposed
- d. provided

19. What impact did all these sights have on the Prince?

- a. He was petrified
- b. He was enraged
- c. He went out to seek enlightenment
- d. He was indifferent

**Question No. 20 to 25 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** [6]

You love your father very much, like any other father he may be an ideal or a strict father. You are writing a descriptive paragraph on him in your own words.

20. Which of the following is the most effective way to begin your description?

- a) I derive my identity from a person who is not only my father but my idol
- b) My father, Mr. Saurav Joshi, is a polite man with a stern face that hints at
- c) Like any other father, my father, Mr. Saurav Joshi, is a strict man as a father but
- d) My father's name is Mr. Saurav Joshi. He is a very polite and caring person

21. What is the reason behind writing in a descriptive way?

- a) To inform the reader about technical features.
- b) To appeal to the reader's liking for numbers.
- c) To provide the reader with scientific details.
- d) To allow the reader to grasp the writer's idea through the reader's sense of sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch.

22. Once you fell ill. Which is the most descriptive way to describe the role your father played during that time?
- i. Once I fell seriously ill. My father did not go to his office until I recovered completely.
  - ii. Once I had a malarial fever, he spent sleepless nights and he stood like a rock behind me.
  - iii. Once I had malaria, my father was there with me all through. He was very disturbed and could not sleep because of me.
  - iv. Once I had a fever due to malaria. My father got me proper medication on time, and I recovered within four days.
- a) Option (iv)    b) Option (i)
- c) Option (ii)    d) Option (iii)
23. Which of the following sentences is most descriptive in the context of your father?
- a) He pays full attention to me and helps my mother.
- b) No wealth on earth can get me the love and care he showers on me.
- c) He is a true friend and counsellor to me.
- d) He is very polite and caring person.
24. Good descriptive writing uses
- a) all of these    b) precise language
- c) strong action verbs    d) specific adjectives and nouns
25. Good descriptive language is
- a) frugal with words    b) extremely well-organised
- c) vague    d) succinct