

CBSE ENGLISH CORE 301
HIGH ORDER THINKING SKILLS QUESTIONS

GOING PLACES

1. Sophie lives in a poor locality in miserable conditions. Even in her house dirt and squalor are all around and it affects the mindset of Sophie. Write an article on "Cleanliness is next to godliness".
2. Sophie always dreamt of becoming a manager, fashion designer, an actress and owner of a boutique. Though she was earmarked / destined for biscuit factory, dreams are required for growth but day dreams hamper it. Write an article on "Unrealistic dreams – bane to growth".
3. Like all other teenagers, Sophie lived in world of fantasy and worshipped her soul's hero Danny Casey. She goes to the extent of imagining a date with him and feels disappointed – when this realization dawns upon her that it was a waking dream. Write an article on "Self deception leads to depression".
4. "Now I have become sad, she thought. And it is a hard burden to carry this sadness. Sitting here and waiting" Sophie's wild fantasies have led her to a very disappointing situation. She is herself responsible for her frustration . You feel that one has to live in the realistic world. Write an article on adolescent fantasies leading to disappointment.
5. "The small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner". This shows that Sophie's family belonged to the lower middle class of the society. This has played a role in Sophie's fantasizing . How does socio – economic background influence a child's development?

INDIGO

1. Rajkmar Shukla kept following Gandhi for weeks and finally reached his ashram. "Fix a date" he begged. Impressed by the Sharecropper's tenacity and story Gandhi agreed. Write an article on determination works wonders.
2. "But Gandhi was not allowed to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket pollute the entire sources....." "Untouchability is a curse". Write an article in about 100 words.
3. "Where peasants are so crushed and fear stricken law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to be free from fear." Gandhi. Though the times were difficult but fear has increased their suffering. It happens even today. Write an article on Fear is Man's worst enemy.
4. "The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's Co-operation. He helped them regulate the crowd". This shows Gandhi was a great leader. Can good leadership quality help a student in becoming a good citizen in a democracy?
5. "Gandhi signed a receipt for the notice and write on it that he would disobey the order". With these words Gandhi started a new era in Indian politics. Civil disobedience helped him in achieving freedom from the British without any violence. Write an article on the relevance of Non-violence in modern times.
6. "He saw the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages and wanted to do something about it immediately". He appealed and many joined from different parts of India to do social work in Champaran. Do you think social service can provide solution to many of the problems faced by Indians like illiteracy, cleanliness, health, environment etc. Comment.

7. "Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance". Write an article on value of self reliance.

8. "What about the injustice to the sharecroppers". Gandhi demanded. These words of Gandhi inspired the lawyers to fight for the just cause of the poor peasants. This is a selfless trait of every good human being to fight for justice to the poor and deprived. Write an article on "Fight for justice –need of the hour".

THE RATTRAP

1. The peddler betrayed the trust of the crafter and was caught in the trap of the world. Temptation to bait should be resisted at any cost. Write a note on „Strength of Character“.

2. In the forest, the peddler felt trapped. He even accepted his approaching death. This shows that the burden of guilt of theft of money from the crafter is really heavy upon him. Write a note on Guilt burdens you and disturbs the peace of mind.

3. The Rattrap highlights human predicament / weakness and tendency to fall prey to temptations. In this pursuit, the real aim of life i.e. attaining spiritual heights is lost somewhere. Comment on "Contentment – the purpose of life".

4. Edla with her love and compassion is a true living example of humanity and brings out the best in the rattrap peddler. Confidence, optimism and kindness may reform weak personalities. Comment.

5. Selfless love, empathy, sympathy and compassion provide a healing touch to the distracted souls. This is evident from the story The Rattrap. Comment on the role of human values in bringing about change in one's behaviour.

6. The letter of the peddler addressed to Edla is a fine example of purification of soul through confession. He signs himself as Captain Von Stahle, achieving the self esteem. Write an article on "Confession leads to self esteem".

7. "But of course it is you, Nils Olof. How you do look? Now of course, you will come home with me," says the iron master. However he proves to be wrong later on. "Impulsive / rash decisions are generally wrong". Road rage is the burning example of such behaviour. Comment.

DEEP WATER

1. Fear is the stumbling block to success unless challenged. Douglas proves it by overcoming his fear of water. Grit and courage of Douglas helped him do that. "Braving the odds is the key to success". Comment.

2. "Practice makes a man perfect". Douglas tries hard to reach to the level of perfection by perseverance. "Never, never, never give in" Churchill. Comment.

3. Douglas was tossed into the deeper end by a big bruiser of a boy. Bullying is a common phenomenon of present times. Even in Indian schools it is commonly witnessed. Do you think it is the moral duty of every senior to support and protect the juniors. Write a note on Bullying; a threat to development of a child.

4. "What though the field be lost all is not lost, the unconquerable will and the courage never to submit or yield" John Milton Strong will power sustains even in the worst circumstances. Strong

will power helped Douglas to overcome his fear of water. Write an article on "Role of strong will power in attaining success".

5. Even after becoming a swimmer Douglas was not satisfied whether he had overcome his fear of water. He decided to achieve it through self learning. "The goal may be distant but awake, arise & stop not till the goal is reached." Swami Vivekananda. Write an article in 100 words on self learning helps in building the self confidence and a complete personality.

6. Fear of water remained with Douglas even as years rolled by. He did not want to live with his handicap and so tried his level best to overcome this fear. Refusal to live with a handicap paves the way for greater achievement. Comment.

LOST SPRING

1. Saheb and Mukesh are representatives of the underprivileged and impoverished section of the society. The society has its role of credit for their condition. How as a concerned student of the society you can perform your duty to educate them? Discuss.

2. Childhood is the spring time of one's life but Saheb and Mukesh are the victims of the evil of child labour. You feel pained to see children working at factories, dhabas and tea stalls. Empathising with them give concrete suggestions to deal with the problem.

3. In search of decent living conditions and better means of survival people are migrating to metropolitan cities. That is not a journey to heaven. In this rat race they are losing their identity. One should not lose one's identity in search of gold. Comment.

4. Saheb-e-Alam, a destitute, watches a game of tennis from a distance. He longs to be one of the players. Shakespeare says, "Sweet are the uses of adversity". Can one use his dreams to lead to brighter life in future? Elucidate.

5. Slums & Mukesh's lodgings pose a threat to healthy life. Do you think that better living conditions will give a positive viewpoint to them towards life. Write an article on Health is Wealth.

6. But promises like mine abound in their bleak world". Saheb and others like him spend their life on unfulfilled promises. What role should the youth play to improve their conditions through programmes like „Each one Teach one“ . Give your views in 100 words.

7. Cottage industry is being exploited by the middlemen and sahu-kars. The workers are afraid of organizing themselves into co-operatives. The main reason is that they are not aware and daring. Write an article on Awareness may open new avenues for the poor.

8. Being illiterates Saheb and Mukesh are unaware of their rights and are exploited by „the vicious circle“. Can education be an answer to this? Comment.

9. "Can a God given lineage ever be broken" says Mukesh's grandmother. Do you think that one should choose his profession by choice and not by chance (of being born in a particular caste) Discuss.

10. "And daring is not a part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh. I am cheered...." Daring and fearlessness is the only way which can bring about a radical change in life. Do you agree with the statement? Comment.

11. Migration has resulted in overpopulation in the big cities hence increasing the burden on limited resources. Conservation of resources is the duty of everyone. Comment that sustainable development is our moral duty.

12. Apathy and lack of concern have added fuel to the miseries of Saheb and Mukesh. The bureaucrats and politicians are unconcerned to their miseries. Do you feel that concern and compassion can drastically change the condition of the deprived.

THE LAST LESSON

1. "When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison." After reading M. Hamel's statement you begin to realise the importance of mother tongue that is losing its significance in the present times. Write an article for a national daily on the need of reviving the status of the mother tongue.

2. Then he turned to the black board, took a piece of chalk and bearing on with all his might, he wrote as large as he could - Vive La France Abraham Lincoln, a former President of America said, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." After reading the lesson and the above quote of Abraham Lincoln you begin to reflect on the loss of spirit of patriotism amongst the youth in India due to which there is no respect for one's countrymen and no determination amongst the youth to lead the country to a better future. Write an article in about hundred words for a national magazine on the need for revival of patriotic spirit amongst the youth in India.

3 "..... his terrible iron ruler under his arm". It has been said, "spare the rod and spoil the child". The abolition of corporal punishment from schools in India has boosted students' confidence. Do you agree or not?

4. "They preferred to put you to work on a farm or at the mills, so as to have a little more money". Some parents do not understand the importance of education. They want their kids to work. The Govt. has introduced the Right to Education Act. What changes it can bring about in the attitude of the parents. Explain.

5. The elders of the village were sitting in the classroom. The participation of the community is necessary for a healthy and productive education system. Comment.

6. Franco Prussian war had impacted all spheres of life, even the schools. It caused an emotional turmoil in the life of the civilians. Can war/violence be a solution to any problem?

7. "It was so warm, so bright birds were chirping The Prussian soldiers were drilling It was all much more tempting". In the present scenario / times there are more distractions (malls, i-pads, facebook etc). The will to resist is the only solution. Explain.

8. Mr. Hamel becomes an honest role model for the students on the day of the last lesson. How does a teacher play a constructive role in the life of the students in the present times