

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 Mahendra's job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site. He had to keep moving from place to place every now and then as ordered by his head office: from a coal mining area to a railway bridge construction site, from there after a few months to a chemical plant which was coming up somewhere.

- (i) When the writer says 'to keep an eye on', he means
 - (a) to supervise
 - (b) to guide
 - (c) to help
 - (d) to modify
- (ii) The statement that is true about Mahendra, according to the extract is
 - (a) Mahendra is constructor.
 - (b) Mahendra loved his work of travelling.
 - (c) Mahendra was a young supervisor.
 - (d) Mahendra lived all alone.
- (iii) From the given extract, we can infer that Mahendra worked for a
 - (a) supervising company
 - (b) construction business
 - (c) event management company
 - (d) No of the above
- (iv) The extract uses the phrase, 'coming up somewhere'. Which of the following expressions is incorrect with respect to the word 'invites' ?
 - (a) Event
 - (b) Increasing
 - (c) Nearing
 - (d) None of these
- (v) Why was Mahendra asked to move from place to place?

- Ans.** (i) (a) to supervise
(ii) (c) Mahendra was a young supervisor.
(iii) (a) supervising company
(iv) (d) None of these
(v) Mahendra's job required him to keep an eye on activities at different work sites.

2 "The road was deserted and I was all alone. Suddenly I spotted something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. I was half inclined to turn and go back. But I came closer I saw that it was a fallen tree, with its dry branches spread out."

- (i) The given lines are being said by
 - (a) Mahendra
 - (b) Iswaran
 - (c) Mahendra's friend
 - (d) Mahendra's roommate
- (ii) The speaker of the given lines is
 - (a) Reading a Tamil thriller
 - (b) Talking to a friend
 - (c) Telling a story
 - (d) Narrating an incident
- (iii) Which of the following characteristic cannot be related to the speaker of the given lines?
 - (a) Imaginative
 - (b) Quiet
 - (c) Humorous
 - (d) Courageous
- (iv) The word 'deserted' means
- (v) What did the 'bushy beast' turn out to be?

- Ans.** (i) (b) Iswaran
(ii) (d) Narrating an incident
(iii) (a) Imaginative
(iv) empty
(v) The 'bushy beast' was just a fallen tree.

3 "There is a richly wooded forest all around. The logs are hauled on to the lorries by elephants. They are huge well-fed beasts. When they turn wild even the most experienced mahout is not able to control them." After this prologue Iswaran would launch into an elaborate anecdote involving an elephant.

- (i) 'There' as mentioned in the given lines refer to
 - (a) the construction site
 - (b) Iswaran's village
 - (c) Mahendra's town
 - (d) can't say
- (ii) The word 'hauling' means
 - (a) Abrupt change
 - (b) a cart
 - (c) Push
 - (d) Drag with force
- (iii) When the writer says, "after this prologue", he means
 - (a) after talking to Mahendra about his thriller novels
 - (b) after eating their food
 - (c) in their free time
 - (d) after giving an introduction

- (iv) The anecdote here refers to
 (v) What can be said about Iswaran from the given extract?

- Ans. (i) (b) Iswaran's village
 (ii) (d) Drag with force
 (iii) (d) after giving an introduction
 (iv) the story of a wild elephant
 (v) After reading the extract it can be said that Iswaran was an amazing storyteller.

4 Mahendra who had been listening with rapt attention would be left hanging. When he returned, Iswaran would not pick up the thread of the story right away. Mahendra would have to remind him that the conclusion was pending. "Well, a veterinary doctor was summoned to revive the animal."

- (i) The animal referred to in the given extract is
 (a) a wild elephant
 (b) a circus animal
 (c) a mad dog
 (d) an unrecognisable beast

- (ii) Choose the options that lists the set of statements that are not true according to the given extract.

1. Iswaran was an amazing storyteller.
2. Mahendra loved listening to Iswaran stories.
3. Iswaran was Mahendra's roommate.
4. Iswaran would always complete the story properly.
5. Mahendra would wait for Iswaran to complete the story.

- (a) 1,2,3 (b) 3,4 (c) 1,3,5 (d) 2,4

- (iii) The word 'summoned' does not mean

- (a) ordered (b) called
 (c) provoke (d) None of these

- (iv) The phrase 'Thread of the story' means

- (v) Where would 'he' return from?

- Ans. (i) (a) a wild elephant
 (ii) (b) 3, 4
 (iii) (d) None of these
 (iv) storyline
 (v) He would return after warming up the dinner.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 Why Mahendra had to keep moving from one place to another?

Ans. Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm which provided supervisors for various types of construction sites. His job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site.

As one site's work was over, he moved to another site. Thus, he had to keep moving from place to place.

2 What were Iswaran's duties in Mahendra's house?

or Who was Iswaran? What all he did for his master?

Ans. Iswaran was Mahendra's cook who used to carry out all domestic works for him. He cooked delicious dishes for him, also washed his clothes and kept his house clean. Besides, he would entertain Mahendra with his endless stories.

3 How did Iswaran show his usefulness to the narrator?

Ans. Iswaran showed his usefulness to the narrator by somehow getting vegetables and cooking ingredients even when no shops were there for miles around.

He could also prepare most delicious dishes with fresh vegetables.

4 What made Iswaran so imaginative and a good narrator?

Ans. Imagination is an outcome of deep thinking, sharp insight and extensive reading. Iswaran loved to read. In his free time, he would read a popular Tamil thriller that ran upto hundred of pages. The imaginative descriptions, and its narratives influenced him so much that he would use the same methods in his storytelling.

5 Why did Mahendra become fond of Iswaran?

Ans. Mahendra became fond of Iswaran because Iswaran was not only his domestic helper but also was a good storyteller. Iswaran's style of storytelling entertained Mahendra. He would add elements of suspense, thrill, horror and adventure which replaced absence of a television in his quarters.

6 What destruction did the elephant cause in the town?

Ans. The elephant caused major destruction in the town by breaking tree branches and fences, smashing fruit stalls, and entering the school playground by breaking a brick wall. In the school, he destroyed football goal post, tore down the volleyball net and crushed the water drum.

7 Why did Mahendra listen to Iswaran's stories without interrupting him?

Ans. Mahendra listened to Iswaran's stories without interrupting him because of the interesting and special way in which the stories were narrated. Iswaran had replaced the entertainment value of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters. Because of Iswaran's stories, the absence of a source of entertainment was never felt in the house.

8 Why did Iswaran want to cook something special for dinner?

Ans. Iswaran wanted to make something special for dinner because that day was an auspicious day to feed the spirits of the ancestors. So, special delicacies were prepared by Iswaran.

9 When did Mahendra expect Iswaran to be bad-tempered? Did it really happen?

Ans. Mahendra expected Iswaran to be bad-tempered after Mahendra had scolded him for believing in ghosts and spirits. However, next morning, Mahendra found Iswaran as cheerful and talkative as ever.

Iswaran never minded the rebukes of his master and remained devoted to him.

10 What impact did Iswaran's story of a female ghost have on Mahendra?

Ans. Iswaran's story of a female ghost disturbed Mahendra a lot. After hearing it, he would always look outside through his window to make sure that there was no movement. Before to hearing the story, Mahendra loved to look at the landscape on full moon nights. Now he completely avoided looking outside.

11 Do you think the ghost Mahendra saw on the night of the full moon was a real ghost?

Ans. No, the ghost that Mahendra saw on the night of the full moon was not a real ghost. It was a creation of his affected mind. Iswaran had affected Mahendra's thinking by telling him the ghost story. When Mahendra rebuked him for believing in ghosts, he felt offended. To prove that he was right, he probably posed as a ghost. That was how he could now say that Mahendra had seen a ghost at night.

12 What did Mahendra decide after he had seen the ghost? Why?

Ans. After Mahendra saw a dark cloudy figure outside his window, he became very terrified. He was scared at the thought of the presence of ghosts in the location. So, Mahendra decided to leave the place the next day.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

1 Iswaran was a fascinating storyteller. How was he an asset to Mahendra? What skills he had?

or "Iswaran was a good cook as well as story teller". Elaborate with the help of examples.

or Give a character sketch of Iswaran.

Ans. Iswaran was Mahendra's cook. He was an asset to Mahendra. He would follow his master wherever he went without any complaints. Not only did he cook delicious food for Mahendra but would also clean his house and wash his clothes.

Iswaran's resourcefulness as a person did not end with him being a domestic help. He was also a great

storyteller and entertainer. Due to this love for reading popular Tamil thrillers he had all those qualities that are required for story telling. Even while narrating the smallest of incidents, he would add suspense and surprise to make the story thrilling. He would use his voice and body movements to capture attention of his listeners.

His style of storytelling was so interested that Mahendra would sit every evening to listen to Iswaran's stories.

Iswaran's presence, thus, made up for the absence of a television or source of entertainment in Mahendra's house.

2 What qualities of Iswaran make him a fascinating storyteller?

Ans. The qualities of Iswaran that make him a fascinating storyteller are as follows

- (i) He gives an imaginative descriptions of events.
- (ii) He uses dramatic language and gestures to describe any situation.
- (iii) He changes a simple event into a story full of suspense.
- (iv) He creates surprising endings or unexpected twists and turns in his narration.
- (v) All his stories have some elements of adventure, horror and suspense in them.

3 What did Iswaran tell Mahendra about a ghost? Describe Mahendra's horrible experience one night.

Ans. One day, Iswaran told Mahendra that the place where they were staying was initially a burial ground. He told his master that he often come across skulls and bones on the way and had seen ghosts at night. He informed Mahendra that there was an ugly female ghost who would appear at midnight on full moon nights. He often see her, carrying a foetus. The story told by Iswaran greatly disturbed Mahendra even though he did not believe it.

One night, Mahendra woke up from his sleep because of a sound coming from his window. As the sound grew louder, he gathered courage to look outside. He saw a dark cloudy figure holding a foetus. Mahendra got terrified and began to sweat with fear. However, he soon calmed down after thinking that it must be a trick played by his mind.