

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

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

1 Remember, no men are strange, no countries
foreign
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon
Is Earth like this, in which we all shall lie.

(i) Through the given lines, what does the poet propose?

- (a) Peace
- (b) Secularism
- (c) Fraternity
- (d) Innocence

(ii) The line 'single body breathes' indicates the relationship of

- (a) contrast
- (b) similarity
- (c) equality
- (d) universality

(iii) The literary device used in the given lines is

- (a) Repetition
- (b) Alliteration
- (c) Metaphor
- (d) Allusion

(iv) What does the poet want to convey in the given lines?

(v) Describe the poet's assumption about human being's reality.

Ans. (i) (c) Fraternity

(ii) (b) similarity

(iii) (b) Alliteration

(iv) The poet wants to convey that the life cycle of all humans is the same.

(v) He considers all human beings to be indifferent or discriminatory.

2 They, too, aware of sun, air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long
winter starv'd

Their hands are ours, and in their lines we
read

A labour not different from our own.

(i) The rhyme scheme of the given lines is

- (a) aabb
- (b) abaab
- (c) abca
- (d) No rhyme

(ii) 'Peaceful harvests' in the extract means

- (a) the crops grown during times of peace.
- (b) the crops grown in winter.
- (c) the crops grown during times of war.
- (d) the crops grown in summer.

(iii) What is the significance of the word 'too'?

- (a) It emphasises that 'they' are our enemies.
- (b) It emphasises that 'they' are greedy.
- (c) It emphasises that 'they' are just like us in their need of sun, air and water.
- (d) It emphasises that 'they' are wealthy.

(iv) What does "By war's long winter starv'd" indicate?

(v) Whom does 'they' refer to?

Ans. (i) (d) No rhyme

(ii) (a) the crops grown during times of peace.

(iii) (c) It emphasises that 'they' are just like us in their need of sun, air and water.

(iv) It indicates that all humans suffer through the same problems.

(v) 'They' refers to the people who hail from countries different from ours.

3 Let us remember, whenever we are told

To hate our brothers, it is ourselves

That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn

Remember, we who take arms against each
other

It is the human earth that we defile.

Our hells of fire and dust outrage the
innocence

Of air that is everywhere our own,

Remember no men are foreign, and no
countries strange.

(i) In the given lines, the poet argues against

- (a) the concept of borders.
- (b) the concept of difference based on nationalities.
- (c) the concept of wars.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

(ii) How did the poet prove "no men are foreign, and no countries strange"?

- (a) With the help of physical features of humans.
- (b) With the same patterns of life and death.
- (c) With the help of natural produces.
- (d) All of the above

(iii) How do we defile the earth, according to the poet?

- (a) By deforestation
- (b) By discrimination
- (c) By killing each other
- (d) By pollution

(iv) The word in the extract which present the evil practices prevalent in the present society is

(v) The poet says "Whenever we are told to hate our brothers." Who do you think tells us to do so?

- Ans.** (i) (d) Both (b) and (c)
(ii) (d) All of the above
(iii) (c) By killing each other
(iv) betray
(v) Selfish people tell us to do so.

4 Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life
That all can recognise and understand

- (i) 'They' in the extract refers to
(a) the rich people.
(b) the poor people.
(c) the poet's countrymen.
(d) the people from other countries.

(ii) Which word in the extract is the opposite of 'weakness'?

- (a) Strength
(b) Won
(c) Like
(d) Common

(iii) What is the poet's message in this stanza?
(a) Physical strength cannot be won.
(b) Physical strength can be won by hatred.
(c) Mental strength can be won by love.
(d) Physical strength can be won by love.

(iv) In what respect are their eyes compared to ours?

(v) What is it that can be recognised or understood?

- Ans.** (i) (d) the people from other countries.
(ii) (a) Strength
(iii) (d) Physical strength can be won by love.
(iv) They too wake and sleep, just as we do.
(v) That life is common everywhere, can be understood and recognised.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 What does the poet mean by saying "no men countries foreign"?

Ans. By saying this, the poet means that the whole world is a singular entity despite of all the possible differences in it. All of us are humans. Thus, we all are brothers and sister irrespective of all the diversities of language, caste, colour etc. Therefore, there is no stranger or no country is foreign.

2 Does the earth unite us in a sense? If yes, explain in the context of the poem.

Ans. Yes, the earth does unite us in one of the most beautiful senses. It is the earth that we walk upon and live our lives. Even after our deaths we all shall lie inside the same Earth.

3 What is the irony in the use of word 'uniform'?

Ans. Uniform is a dress that is meant to give an individual a unique identity and a sense of belonging. But, ironically, uniform divides all humans and gives rise to differences based on culture and nation. Instead of uniting, the uniform of each nation functions to divide the world.

4 In which context, 'harvests' and 'war' have been used by the poet?

Ans. 'Harvest' is symbolic to the times of peace, when one does the agricultural work in order to feed oneself. While 'war' has been used to show an intensity that is similar to starvation and destruction.

5 How is the labour not different for us and for the so called strangers?

Ans. The labour is not different for us and for the so called strangers because all of us have to do it for survival on a regular basis. Also, the hands and the mechanism that we use are same.

6 What meaning does the poet imply by saying "strength that can be won by love"?

Ans. By saying this, the poet wants to imply the meaning that even the mightiest one can be conquered (won over) by the invincible (unbeatable) power of love. Love has the capability to soften anyone and unite the whole world.

7 How can we say that there is a common life in every part of the land?

Ans. The poet asserts that all of us have a common lifestyle. We all live similarly and use the same natural resources. We all also work hard to earn the basic necessities of life. Even physically we all are similar.

8 How do we hate our brothers? Is it right?

Ans. We hate our brothers by taking arms against them, by judging them wrong and by seeing them as our enemy. This is not right as when we hate others, we hate ourselves. By harming them and blaming them, we only hurt our spirit and character.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

1 The poet has used various ways to establish the fact that we all are same. Explain these ways in accordance with the poem.

Ans. This poem is a revelation of the fact that the whole world is a union. Nothing is strange or foreign. No person or no country can be categorised to be strange. We are the people, who share this common land and hence, we can affirm that we are the same. Despite being from different countries, speaking different languages, believing in different religions, we all are same - the human beings. We feel pain and the pleasure equally. We put our best and devoted efforts in the form of labour to procure the harvest. We are afraid of the war and rejoice at love. We share similar resources over the earth and our hatred is harmful for the earth. Keeping all these in mind, the poet has tried his best to establish the fact that we all are same.

2 Explain how does our hatred, jealousy and misdeed pollute our own earth.

Ans. The world is a union i.e. a singular entity. We may belong to different nations, may speak different languages, may believe in different religions, but still we are same. Every person on this earth is our brother. In brotherhood, we share the joys of being together and enjoy the peace.

But, if we stand against our fellow men, who are our brothers and start a war with them, then we are polluting our own earth. We not only lack our strength of character, but also criticise our own values.

Our misdeeds, hatred and jealousy are a blow to humanity. Because of them, we initiate wars which pollutes the land as well as the air and water. It further spreads death and hunger. As a result, the earth loses its purity.

Its innocence is filled with the dirt and smoke which becomes unsuitable for human survival. Therefore, we must remain intact to our values, ethics and dignity. Only these things can keep our earth away from being polluted and will remain a place to live in beautifully.