

# Ode On Solitude

---

## EXERCISE

### A. Answer the following questions very briefly :

#### Q.1. How many of you want to be happy? What constitutes happiness.

**Ans .** Everybody on this earth aspires for happiness in life. Our efforts since very beginning are directed towards achieving that goal. Happiness comes from satisfaction and satisfaction is attained if one is self-sufficient in the basic needs of life bread, clothing and housing. The other requirements can be earned.

#### Q.2. What makes our like happy – money or contentment or both. Discuss.

**Ans .** This has already been answered above in question no.1.

#### Q.3. Have you ever visited a remote village adorned with natural and a capital town full of skyscrapers. Which one would you like and why?

**Ans .** Yes, I had the opportunity of seeing both — a remote village with natural beauty and capital town with high skyscrapers. I think both have got their advantages and disadvantages. Capital towns provide more opportunities for progress in life while in remote village one can live in peace and harmony which are rarely found in big cities.

### B.1. Answer the following questions very briefly.

#### Q.1. Who is happy man?

**Ans .** A happy man is he whose wish and care are fulfilled through land inherited from father- mother.

#### Q.2. Who (m) does the pronoun ' his ' in the third line of the 1st stanza refer to?

**Ans .** It refers to man in general and then to the poet himself in particular.

#### Q.3. Who gives him milk?

**Ans .** The herds kept in this native land will give him milk.

#### Q.4. What gives him bread?

**Ans .** The paddy and wheat grown in his field will give him bread.

#### Q.5. From where does he get his clothes?

**Ans .** The cloths reared in his native field will provide clothes to him.

**Q.6. How do trees help him ?**

**Ans .** The trees in summer will help him by their shades. Shades will protect him from the scorching sun. When winter comes, he can use woods of the trees to make fire to protect himself from cold.

**B.2. Answer the following questions very briefly :**

**Q.1. Name the poem and the poet ?**

**Ans .** The title of the poem is ' Ode to Solitude ' and the name of the poet is Alexander Pope.

**Q.2. Who is blessed man ?**

**Ans .** A blessed man is he who has got a piece of land from his parents where he can breathe air directly from his native land.

**Q.3. How does a happy man spend his time ?**

**Ans .** A happy man spends his time with sound sleep at night, gets nice recreation with innocence during day and can have meditation as per his wish.

**Q.4. Who does ' me ' refer to in the last stanza ?**

**Ans .** ' Me ' in the poem again stands for the poet himself .

**Q.5. What do you mean by ' slide soft away ' ?**

**Ans .** Here it refers to the passing of days, months and years smoothly.

**Q.6. What does the poet wish after the death ?**

**Ans .** The poet does not like that his death is noticed by any body and then again there should not be any sign or mark of identification on his grave.

**Q.7. How does the poet want to live ?**

**Ans .** He wants to live unseen and unknown.

**Q.8. How does the poet want to die ?**

**Ans .** The poet wants to die unlamented without any grievance of his any wish left unfulfilled.

**Q.9. What are the features of happy man ?**

**Ans .** The main features of a happy man are :

- (a) The one who has some acres of parental land.
- (b) The one who can breathe in his native in his own ground.
- (c) The one who has sound sleep at night.
- (d) The one who can study well with good recreation and meditation at times.

### C.1. Long Answer Questions :

**Q.1. The poet thinks that those who are connected with what they have are happy men. Do you agree ? Give reasons.**

**Ans .** It is difficult to define happiness. Happiness is an individual thing. It is the state of mind which established happiness in a person. Some may be having crores and crores at their disposal and still be unhappy.

The philosophy of being content on what one has and be happy at the same time is also a way of looking at the aim of one's life. But for achieving some goal, one has to earn more and more and there the contentment part may be bringing adverse results in his achievements. So in my opinion one should go in life by maintaining a balance between the two.

**Q.2. What does the speaker mean by ' Together mixt recreation. Can these things be mixed ? Have you ever tried to do so ?**

**Ans .** When one studies without any tension in mind -it gives a lot of pleasure because one is not reading under pressure. The pressure starts when one is reading from the point of view of examination, Hence the study can be combined with pleasure for recreation. This is also a way to lead a tension free life. A life of peace.

**Q.3. Why does the poet want to live and die stealthily from the world. How many of you would like to do so and why ?**

**Ans .** The poet's philosophy is that of a noble soul. He is not interested in any publicity for himself during life and even on his death.

Every few people would like to go the poet's way because everybody wants to be known in the world by their virtue during the period they are alive and even after death. Name and fame is a part of man's visions and goal.

**Q.4. How do you think the title of the poem is justified ? Can you suggest any other title ? Give reasons for your choice.**

**Ans .** I think the title given by the poet as ' Ode to Solitude ' for his poem is quite appropriate as the poem revolves round the philosophy of contentment and achieving that contentment by passing life in solitude.

### G. Group Discussion :

**Discuss the following in groups or pairs.**

**Q.1. Are we happier than our forefathers ?**

**Ans .** The answer may be ' yes' and ' no' at the same time. We can only imagine the situation during the period of our forefathers and then analyze the subject.

But one thing can be said without doubt that we are citizens of a free country with more rights and opportunities to lead a better and modern life than our forefathers. But there are so many things in which our forefathers excelled like their truthfulness their integrity, their human approach towards life which we find is lacking today.

### **C.2. Is village life better than city life ?**

**Ans .** The city life of today are definitely better than the village life because the cities of today have more basic facilities to lead a good healthy and happy life. There are good hospitals and doctors to look after your health, better education. The villages in India are not equipped still with the basic necessities of life. Hence the position as it stands today the cities are better to live in but in villages Pollution is less than the cities and one can enjoy the natural surrounding of the village life. One can analyze the things themselves and take a decision keeping in view the plus and minus points of both.

### **C.3. Composition :**

**Q.1. Write a letter to your younger brother /sister living in Patna suggesting him / her ( the ill effects of noise pollution due to congested traffic.**

**Ans.**

At+ P.O. : Mansurganj

Distt. : Samastipur

Dear sumit,

I am writing this to you after time. Hope this will find you in good health and happiness. Sumit ! this is the second year of your stay in Patna and I thought to share some of your experiences of a city life. How is Patna ? I have come to know that the city has become too much crowded now a days.

Then again there is a lot of noise on the roads due to multiplicity of vehicles moving on road. The cars blow horns if they do not find way to go ahead, the auto rickshaw driver starts pressing the button of his whirling system which produced noise of very high degree. The loudspeakers from some houses start pounding sound of music at a very high pitch. Really, how do you feel about this ? These sounds are annoying and are creating sound pollution which is not good for human health.

Yours affectionately

Mohan

**Q.2. Write a Paragraph in about 100 words.**

**(a) The importance of trees.**

**Ans.**

Trees are essential part of human life. Trees provide us fruit, timber, wood and oxygen for survival. The tree save us from the fury of flood. They redirect erosion of earth or soil from the surface of land and thereby protect the earth from becoming barren or unproductive. It provides us shades from the scorcling sun.

Coal which is the main source of energy is the main source of energy is the by – Product of trees. Hence we must save trees at all cost and should try to grow more trees around us.

**D. Word Study :**

**Dictionary use,**

**1. Correct the spellings of the following words :**

<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Patternal	Paternal
Unconcemadly	Unconcernedly
Breath	Breathe
Atire	Attire
Inocence	Innocence
Unlmented	Unlamented

**D.2. Find out from the poem words the meaning of which have been given on the right hand side.**

1. A measurement unit = Acre
2. Dressing clothes = Attire
3. Holy or Lucky = Blessed
4. Inherited from father = Paternal
5. Indifferently = Unconcernedly

**E. Grammar :**

**Look at the following examples:**

- (a) He lives in his own ground.
- (b) Can you finish the work by day ?

Here words ‘ in ‘ and ‘ by ‘ used above to show relationship. Such words are called Preposition.

***Find out five prepositions from the poem and frame sentences of your own.***

In : The milk is in the glass.

With : He is going with his friend.  
By : The tree is by the side of the river.  
To : He has gone to the market.  
From : I have taken this from my book.

**Ex. 2. Insert suitable prepositions in the following sentences :**

1. He was knocked down by bus.
2. She saved him from drowning.
3. What is it made of ?
4. Yesterday I had an argument with Mr. Avkash.
5. It took us an hour to complete this assignment.

**F. Activity :**

**Study the following :**

Care – air,      Bound – ground.

These are called rhyming words, A word that has the same sound or ends with the same letter as another words is called rhyme.

**Can you think of a rhyme for the words " beauty " ?**

**Ans.** Yes the word may be " duty ".

**Ex.1. Make a list of four pairs of rhyming words used in the poem:**

Care – air,  
Bound – ground,  
Attire – fire,  
Find – mind,  
Away – day,  
Die – lie.

**Ex.2. Work in pair and take about the things which make you happy or unhappy.**

**Ans.** To be organized by the teacher of the class.

**G. Translation :**

**Translate the poem into your mother language.**

**Ans.** The translation of the poem in Hindi has been given in the earlier page. Please see.