

# Exam Practice

## Extract Based Questions

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

1 The roads diverged into a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- (i) The rhyme scheme of the given stanza is  
(a) aaaab (b) ababa  
(c) abcba (d) ababcc

- (ii) 'Yellow wood' in the extract means  
(a) the park in the autumn season.  
(b) the forest in the autumn season.  
(c) the desert in the autumn season.  
(d) the forest in the spring season.

- (iii) Which word in the extract is the opposite of 'converged'?

- (a) Diverged  
(b) Looked  
(c) Bent  
(d) Undergrowth

- (iv) Why did the traveller take so long to decide which road to take?

- (v) What do the two roads symbolise?

Ans. (i) (a) aaaab

- (ii) (b) the forest in the autumn season.

- (iii) (a) Diverged

- (iv) Since he wanted to make the right choice, so the traveller took a long time to decide which road to take.

- (v) The two roads symbolise the different choices, one faces in life.

2 I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- (i) Why does the poet say, "And that has made all the difference"?

- (a) As the choice he had made has shaped his life accordingly.  
(b) As the choice he had made caused him many problems.  
(c) As the choice he had made turned him into a celebrity.  
(d) As the choice he had made caused him to succeed.

- (ii) The phrase "Somewhere ages and ages" indicates

- (a) a known future (b) a known place of past  
(c) an unknown future (d) a past event

- (iii) What is the poet NOT likely to say?

- (a) "I do not regret my choice."  
(b) "Only if I had taken the other option."  
(c) "I don't know why I chose this path."  
(d) "This is the best time of my life."

- (iv) Why do you think the poet will sigh?

- (v) What was the result of his going on the less travelled road?

Ans. (i) (a) As the choice he had made has shaped his life accordingly.

- (ii) (c) an unknown future

- (iii) (d) "This is the best time of my life."

- (iv) He was wondering what would have happened if he had travelled by the first road and that makes him sigh.

- (v) His life had become what it is today as a result of his going on the less travelled road.

3 Then took the other, just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for passing there  
Had worn them really about the same

- (i) Who is the poet of the given extract?

- (a) Subramania Bharati  
(b) Robert Lloyd  
(c) Gieve Patel  
(d) Robert Frost

- (ii) Which word in the extract is the opposite of hauling?

- (a) Passing (b) Worn  
(c) Grassy (d) Claim

- (iii) 'Just as fair' in the extract means

- (a) the second road was as beautiful as the first one.  
(b) the second road was less beautiful than the first one.  
(c) the second road was more beautiful than the first one.  
(d) the second road was longer than the first one.

- (iv) Which road did the narrator choose?

- (v) Why did the second road present a better claim than the first one?



- Ans.** (i) (d) Robert Frost  
 (ii) (a) Passing  
 (iii) (a) the second road was as beautiful as the first one.  
 (iv) The narrator choose the road that was grassy and less travelled.  
 (v) The second road presented a better claim than the first one because it was still grassy and had not been used by many travellers.

**4** And both that morning equally lay  
 In leaves no step had trodden black.  
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
 I doubted if I should ever come back.

(i) What does 'both' refer to?

(a) Choices

(b) Decisions

(c) Roads

(d) Careers

(ii) What is the condition of the thing that the poem is talking about?

(a) Both of them are same

(b) Both of them are used

(c) Both of them are clean

(d) Both of them are dirty

(iii) What does the poet choose?

(a) The first one

(b) The second one

(c) He returned back

(d) He travelled both of them one by one

(iv) What is the poet talking about in the given lines?

(v) Why was the poet made to choose?

**Ans.** (i) (c) Roads

(ii) (a) Both of them are same

(iii) (b) The second one

(iv) The poet is talking about the dilemma of choices.

(v) The poet was made to choose because he could only travel by one road.

## Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

**1** Describe the two roads that the poet finds. Which road did he choose?

**Ans.** The poet comes across a place at which two roads separated into two directions. One road is well used, whereas the other one does not appear to be walked over. The poet chooses the second road as it looked much more promising to him.

**2** What is the significance of the fact that the road 'bent in the undergrowth'?

**Ans.** The bend in the undergrowth obstructs the vision of the traveller and he can't see where the road leads. This image expresses the significance that the future is unknown, mysterious and surprising; one can't know what it will bring.

**3** The poet takes a long time to make his decision. What is he thinking about?

**Ans.** The poet took a long time to make his decision because he wanted to choose the road that is best for him. However, he was not sure which road would suit him the best as he couldn't see the road beyond a particular point. Thus, the poet stood there for a long time to make a choice.

**4** Why did the poet think that the other road had a better claim? What trait of his personality is revealed by his choice?

**Ans.** The poet thought that the other road had a better claim because it was not much used. He is reluctant to follow the tradition of using the same road that other people have previously used. This reveals him to be an adventurous person.

**5** What does the poet promise himself, although he knows he can't keep his promise?

**Ans.** The poet promises himself that he would come back after some time and then take the first road, even though he knew that he won't be able to keep his promise. It is because, once a choice is made and a decision is taken, he will move on and take many more decisions. As a result, he would not be able to come back and undo his choice.

**6** Explain "Way leads on to way".

**Ans.** The phrase 'Way leads on to way' means that the path chosen by the poet will lead on to many more paths. In other words, once a choice is made, one must move on and make other choices that will come in the journey of life. Therefore, it will be difficult for an individual to return to the past and undo his choice.

**7** Why does the speaker say "he will be telling this with a sigh / somewhere ages and ages hence"?



**Ans.** The speaker said these words over the thought that when he looks back at his life and the decisions he made, he may be sorry or happy about his decisions or about the roads he took. These might be sighs of satisfaction or regret. He is thinking back and it reflects on his decisions in life.

**8** "I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference." What is the speaker saying here?

**Ans.** In the given lines the poet highlights the essential theme he wants to bring out through the poem. The poet here says that in future, he will remember that he took the less travelled road. His decision and choice to do so has had a significant impact in his life/journey. In other words, our choices influence and shape our life.

**9** What do the two roads represent?

**Ans.** The two roads represent the dilemma a person faces having to make a decision. The results of taking a decision one way or the other usually are different. The decision affects further events related to it.

**10** "The Road Not Taken" is a metaphor of life. Justify this statement.

**Ans.** In the poem 'The Road Not Taken' the poet Robert Frost presents a situation that each individual faces in life. In the poem, the roads, represent all those situation when we need to make a difficult choice. The two divergences represents the multiple options. Further, the poet's choice and his thoughts about the future tells us that in life when a choice is made, it leads to many another choices. These choices, then cannot be undone and has a significant impact on one's life. Hence, it is true that 'The Road Not Taken' is a metaphor of life.

## Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

**1** Do you agree that decision making is an important factor in people's life? Support your answer with context to the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.

**Ans.** Yes, I agree that decision making is an important factor in people's life. We need to take decisions and make choices even in the simplest of situations like buying a product. Each one of our decisions/choices have far reaching consequences. It shapes our lives and makes us what we become in the future.

The poem 'The Road Not Taken' highlights exactly this point through a situation faced by the poet. The poet while travelling in the forest came across a point where the path divided into two roads going in different directions. He faces a dilemma of making a choice. After much thought, he choose the road that was less travelled. He knew that his choice will show its results in future. Therefore, he states that in future he would either be relieved or regretful because of his choice as it will have a significant impact on his life. Hence, when making a decision, it is very crucial to make the right choice.

**2** Bring out the contrast and similarities between the two roads mentioned in the poem.

**Ans.** In the poem 'The Road Not Taken', the poet comes across two roads going in different directions in the forest. He cannot see much into the roads but finds that they have many similarities as well as contrasts. To the poet, both roads in the autumn season looks equally initing and puts the poet in the dilemma. He stands and observes both the roads to decide which road to take.

He first observes the first road. He finds that it bends after some distance and is covered with dense growth of plants and bushes. The other road, according to the poet, is as beautiful as the first road. It is grassy and seemed that it has rarely been used.

However, on that morning, both the roads had not been used as it is covered with leaves. For the poet, these roads symbolises two different choices that an individual has to take in life. Once a road/choice is taken/made, it must be stuck to as both leads to two different journeys.