

## Term-I

# KEEPING QUIET

—Pablo Neruda



### STAND ALONE MCQs

[1 Mark each]

**Q. 1.** What is the significance of the conversational style and personal pronouns as 'you', 'we' and 'I' used by the poet?

- (A) He wants to be intimate with mankind
- (B) He tries to reach out to the readers
- (C) He wants to establish contact easily
- (D) Third person is ineffective

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Every reader would feel that he is personally being addressed.

**Q. 2.** Why does the poet think that wars that are fought have no survivors?

- (A) Wars are fought for personal gains.
- (B) Wars are fought with latest weapons.
- (C) During the wars, loss of life is experienced by both winning as well as losing side.
- (D) Wars are fought on land, air and water.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The winning as well as the losing side lose their people and those who survive may also undergo trauma or guilt.

**Q. 3.** The poetic device used in 'Cold sea' is:

- (A) personification
- (B) transferred epithet
- (C) metaphor
- (D) alliteration

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

*Explanation:* 'Cold sea' denotes the coldness of fishermen who do not bother about protection of sea life and in moments of inactivity, they would not be able to disturb the sea animals.

**Q. 4.** Which types of wars the poet talks about in the poem, 'Keeping Quiet'?

- (A) Green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire
- (B) Verbal wars
- (C) Technological warfare
- (D) Nuclear wars

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The expression refers to the chemical wars which man is waging against man and against nature.

**Q. 5.** What symbol from nature the poet uses to prove that keeping quiet is not total inactivity?

- (A) Sun
- (B) Soil
- (C) Earth
- (D) Nature and earth

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Change of seasons, movement of Earth etc., are all silent activities and truly active too.

**Q. 6.** How will speaking no language, be beneficial for everyone?

- (A) To avoid noise
- (B) To avoid loud voices
- (C) To avoid people
- (D) To avoid conflicts and misunderstandings

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Wrong interpretation might create further problems.

**Q. 7.** Read the statements given below carefully. Choose the option that best describes these statements, with reference to the poem.

**Statement I** – The poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ calls for change as much in the individual as in human society at large.

**Statement II** – The poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ implies that individual change will lead to bigger societal change.

**Statement III** – Neruda believes that when people come together as a community, they will be able to bring a transformation in each person. (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) Statement I is True, Statement II is False, and Statement III cannot be inferred.
- (B) Statement I and II cannot be inferred, Statement III is True.
- (C) Statement I is True, Statements II and III cannot be inferred.
- (D) Statement I cannot be inferred, Statement II cannot be inferred, Statement III is False.

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**AI Q. 8.** “What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.”

Choose the option that draws the most accurate parallel.

keeping quiet: total inactivity = \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) reflection and death         | (B) silence and chaos    |
| (C) stagnation and introspection | (D) mindfulness and fear |

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q. 9.** What statement does Neruda make about wars?

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) Wars are of varied kinds – internal, green wars, wars with gas, with fire etc.
- (B) Wars are wasteful and cause irrecoverable loss and damage to property and life.
- (C) Wars never yield any winners, and the loss is far greater than what can be measured.
- (D) Wars are unavoidable in the enduring struggle for human dignity and power.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q. 10.** “Now I’ll count up to twelve and you keep quiet and I will go.” Why does the poet wish to go at the end of the poem? (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) The poet does not believe people will be quiet.
- (B) The poet has already invested enough time.
- (C) The poet will move on and seek to inspire others.
- (D) The poet is marking the end of the poem by leaving.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**



## EXTRACT BASED MCQs

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

- I. For once on the face of the Earth  
let’s not speak in any language,  
let’s stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

**Q.1.** The poet uses the word "let's" to :

- (A) initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
- (B) invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity.
- (C) welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject.
- (D) address readers as fellow members of the human race.

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Margaret Atwood said, "Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole."

Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract – "let's not speak in any language"

- (A) Atwood endorses Neruda's call to not speak in any language.
- (B) Atwood justifies Neruda's request to not engage in any speaking.
- (C) Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language.
- (D) Atwood surrenders to Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language.

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.3.** Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness"?

- (A) To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once.
- (B) To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life.
- (C) To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
- (D) To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence.

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A		Column B	
1.	On the face of the earth	(i)	In existence
2.	What on earth	(ii)	To do all possible to accomplish something
3.	Move heaven and earth	(iii)	To express surprise or shock
4.	The salt of the earth	(iv)	To be good and worthy

(A) 1 – (i); 2 – (iv); 3 – (iii); 4 – (ii)

(B) 1 – (i); 2 – (iii); 3 – (ii); 4 – (iv)

(C) 1 – (ii); 2 – (i); 3 – (iv); 4 – (iii)

(D) 1 – (iv); 2 – (ii); 3 – (iii); 4 – (i)

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**[AI] II.** If we were not so single-minded

about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with  
death.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

**Q.1.** Look at the images given below. Choose the image to which the above extract can be seen as an appropriate response.



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

(A) Option (i)

(C) Option (iii)

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q.2. What do you think is the mood of the poet in the above extract?

(A) Gloomy, cynical

(C) Introspective, aware

(B) Reflective, inspired

(D) Critical, demotivated

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.3. Pick the option that DOES NOT complete the given sentence suitably, as per the extract.

Threatening ourselves with death \_\_\_\_\_

(A) feeds on the fear of death.

(C) keeps us rushing through life.

(B) challenges finiteness of life.

(D) makes us restless and impatient.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.4. What might the "huge silence" signify?

(A) Melancholy

(C) Discomfort

(B) Understanding

(D) Flexibility

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

**AI III.** Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.  
Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

[Outside Delhi Set-I, 2019]

Q.1. Name the poet.

(A) Kamla Das

(C) Adrienne Rich

(B) Pablo Neruda

(D) John Keats

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. What does the Earth teach us?

(A) Stillness does not mean inactivity.

(C) Stillness is the most beautiful thing.

(B) Stillness is the essence of life.

(D) Stillness is inevitable.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.3. What does the poet want to achieve by counting up to twelve?

(A) To recollect counting

(C) To control anger

(B) To waste time

(D) To introspect

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

(iv) Which of these is an example of what now seems to be dead but later becomes alive?

(A) Seed

(C) Water

(B) Earth

(D) Counting

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

**IV.** Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.  
For once on the face of the Earth  
Let's not speak in any language,  
Let's stop for one second and not move our arms so much.

[Outside Delhi Set-I, 2016]

Q.1. What is the significance of the number 'twelve'?

(A) Measure of distance

(C) Measure of gravity

(B) Measure of capacity

(D) Measure of time

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Q.2.** Which two activities does the poet want us to stop?

(A) Speak and Move

(C) Speak and Dance

(B) Move and Eat

(D) Move and Sleep

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What does the poet mean by 'let's not speak in any language'?

(A) To be silent

(C) To be unconscious

(B) To be dumb

(D) To be straight

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What is the pun in the word 'arms'?

(A) Human organs

(C) Both (A) and (B)

(B) Destructive weapons

(D) None of these

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**V.** 'It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.'

**Q.1.** What would be an exotic moment?

(A) Dreams being fulfilled

(C) Moments of stillness

(B) Moments of disarmament

(D) Moments of singing

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Why would it be exotic?

(A) It will give time for ensuring success of dreams.

(B) It will give time to get rid of destructive weapons.

(C) It will let everyone relive music.

(D) It will give time to introspect.

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What would be the result of all being together?

(A) Brotherhood

(C) Social upliftment

(B) Enmity

(D) Political synchronisation

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What does 'sudden strangeness' refer to?

(A) Silence

(C) Non-recognition

(B) Loud music

(D) Loss of memory

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**VI.** 'Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.  
Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their  
brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.'

**Q.1.** What does the poet mean by 'green wars'?

(A) War against green colour

(C) War against environment

(B) War against grass

(D) War against Dr. Green

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What does the poet want to suggest?

(A) War is imperative

(C) War is the ultimate solution

(B) War is defensive

(D) War is useless

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** How will a few moments of introspection affect the mood, thinking and actions of the people?

- (A) By bringing peace
- (B) By bringing harmony
- (C) By discouraging sadness
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What does 'victory with no survivors' indicate?

- (A) There are no survivors.
- (B) There are no victories.
- (C) There are no victories without survivors.
- (D) There are no survivors to enjoy victories.

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**VIII.** What I want should not be

confused

with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;

I want no truck with death.

**Q.1.** Name the poem.

- (A) A Thing of Beauty
- (B) Keeping Quiet
- (C) Aunt Jennifer's Tiger
- (D) The Elementary Classroom

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What does the poet mean by 'inactivity'?

- (A) Complete silence
- (B) Complete stiffness
- (C) Complete stillness
- (D) Complete sulkiness

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.3.** According to the poet, the life is a/an:

- (A) unbeatable process
- (B) standstill process
- (C) on-going process
- (D) futile process

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What is the expectation of the poet from all human beings?

- (A) Maintaining harmony
- (B) Stopping destruction
- (C) Live in peace
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**IX.** Perhaps the Earth can teach us

as when everything seems dead

and later proves to be alive.

**Q.1** What can Earth teach us ?

- (A) Silence is not death
- (B) Death is not silent
- (C) Silence and death are synonyms
- (D) None of these

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.2.** How can we achieve the state of 'seems dead' ?

- (A) Taking out time to introspect.
- (B) Taking out time to synchronise.
- (C) Taking out time to cry.
- (D) Taking out time to laugh.

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What is the antonym of 'nothing' in the stanza?

- (A) Teach
- (B) Everything
- (C) Dead
- (D) Later

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Which word in the stanza means 'not alive'?

- (A) Teach
- (B) Dead
- (C) Alive
- (D) Seems

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**