

English Core (301)



- 1 (i) The author tells us that having a sense of humor might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh. While at the same time it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently used to ridicule people with snide comments.
- (ii) A sense of humor is a socially valued trait like intelligence or good looks that all of us wish to have more of. Humor has evolved as an honest signal of intelligence and genetic quality. Humor helps defuse tense situations, aggressive moments. It also helps manage alliances and friendships. Humor acts as a good device to connect with people with similar interests.
- (iii) express their forbidden impulses and makes them feel amused by experiencing superiority to other people.
- (iv) By cracking jokes, making witty remarks and tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world helps one fish ^{for} and identify like-minded people. Therefore humor acts as an icebreaker because it can convert the 'ice' of new relations filled with stiffness and awkwardness into fun.



This is indicated by - "other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun.", and "light-hearted banter"; "schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party."

(v) lighten ✓

(vi) (c) People ~~with the~~ having ^{similar} ~~the same~~ interests and attitudes

(vii) (c) indignation ✓

(viii) 'Arsenal of tools' refers to a whole range or set of methods ~~that humor~~ that humor provides us with, each ~~one~~ exquisitely designed for a unique social purpose. An arsenal refers to a 'wide-set' of ~~artillery weapons~~ instruments. In the case of humor, while it may be a single instrument, the purposes it serves are many, thus helping us deal with a wide-variety of social situation.

(ix) "A person with an undeveloped sense of humor lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life."

(x) (A) Sense of humor elevates the status of a person in the social circle



a. (i) (c) higher education and career opportunities

(ii) The latest trend is on awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills by pursuing skill development programmes, so that they can get better employment opportunities.

(iii) Entrepreneurship involves an element of higher risk. It offers lesser job-security than say a public sector job, and job security is highly valued by respondents. Logically, societal barriers, lack of seed-finance and pressure from families are also barriers.

(iv) First, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring and have lesser paid work experience than their male counterparts, though their education ~~level~~ they face greater barriers in pursuing and employment aspirations match, if not exceed those of male respondents.

Second, They face greater barriers in pursuing skill development opportunities. For instance - 60% of female respondents report having no paid work experience compared to 54% of male respondents. In addition 15% of female respondents

report biases such as ~~as~~ marital status, gender, ^{age} and family background as a barrier to employment compared to 9% of ~~male~~ respondents.

(v) ~~Noting the lack of~~ more employment opportunities.

(vi) Sentence 1 - adoption
Sentence 2 - competency

(vii) First, 86% of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skill requirements.
Second, 39% of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job.
There is awareness of changing skill requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills as 70% of respondents were interested in pursuing a skill development programme.

(viii) (c) (ii), (iii) & (v)



37. (A)

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL, MUMBAI

11 March 2025

NOTICEROAD SAFETY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The school is organising a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX-XII on 20 March 2025, Friday, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Sports Ground, ABC Public School, Mumbai. The workshop is being conducted by the Mumbai Police, and will include safety drills, demonstrations and an address by the Police Superintendent. It is compulsory for all students ^{of class IX-XII} to attend the workshop. For further details contact the undersigned.

Ashish
Head Boy



Space for writing
Question Number

47 B)

Mrs. Sanita Manjrekar

English Professor

PES College

Varthur Road

Cochin → ~~Ernakulam~~ - 65

11 March 2025

The Principal

J.M. Pulicki School

M.G. Road

Cochin - 78

Madam

Sub: Response to invitation to judge inter-school ~~debate~~ ^{ti} competition

I have duly received your invitation dated 8 March 2025 to be ~~the~~ one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition. I thank you for inviting me. I understand



that the event is scheduled for 18 March 2025, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Auditorium, J.M. Public School. However, I regret to inform you that I will not be able to accept the invitation due to a prior engagement. I wish every participating student the very best for the competition.

Yours sincerely ✓
Mrs. Sanita Manjrekhan



Space for writing
Question Number

57A)

Mr. Ajay

36, N.J. Colony

Pune - 42

11 March 2025

The Principal

Bloom Public School

Bhopal - 46

Madam

Sub: Application for the post of Hockey Coach

I am Ajay, a resident of Pune and I would like to apply for the position of Hockey coach at your school, that you have advertised in the classified columns of The Hindu, dated 10 March 2025. I consider myself eligible for the post and hence am offering my candidature.

I have done my graduation in Physical Education from Hindu College and hold



a B.P.Ed degree. Previously, I have worked as a hockey coach in Junta Public School. Pune for six years. I am well versed in defence techniques ^{and} have ~~the~~ knowledge of ~~phys~~ physical and psychological performance development. I have the ability to foster team culture and promote sportsmanship. In the ~~past~~ past, I have trained over 20 ~~for~~ boys and girls for state and national championships.

I assure you that if given the opportunity, I will work for your organisation with utmost determination and hardwork.

I have attached my resume for your kind perusal and am ready to appear for an interview on a mutually convenient date. Looking forward to your response. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Ajay

(Encl: Biodata, copies of testimonials, 2 passport sized photographs)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME : Mr. Ajay
FATHER'S NAME : Mr. Vikas Khanna
ADDRESS : 36, NJ Colony, Pune - 62
D.O.B. : 28 September 1986
MOBILE NUMBER : 9316514321
EMAIL ID : ajay@gmail.com
ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS : B.P.Ed - Hindu College, Delhi - 2008 - 8.5 CGPA
Class 12 - Sunflower School, Pune - 2005 - 90%
Class 10 - Sunflower School, Pune - 2003 - 85%
EXPERIENCE : Hockey Coach, Junta Public School (2012 - 2018) - 6 years
SALARY EXPECTED : ₹10 lakhs per annum
SALARY DRAWN : ₹8 lakhs per annum
SKILLS : Well versed in defence techniques, knowledge of physical and psychological performance development, ability to foster team culture, sportsmanship, prepare students for state and national championships
QUALITIES : Hardworking, determined, team-player



LANGUAGES KNOWN : English, Hindi

ACHIEVEMENTS : Member of Maharashtra U19 team in
National Hockey Championship - 2001

REFERENCES : Mrs. Smita Goyal
Junta Public School,
MG Road, Pune - 64
91621 54321

Mr. Rakesh Prasad
Professor,
Hindu College, Delhi - 62
91624 13498



67 B)

BENGALURU REJOICES IN THE SWEETNESS OF ITS TENTH MANGO FESTIVAL

- Suraj, Reporter, Times of India

Bengaluru 11 March 2025 The tenth edition of Bengaluru's annual mango festival - 'Mango Extravaganza' was conducted on 10 March 2025, Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the KR Puram Farmer's Market, MG Road, Bengaluru - 64.

The exciting celebration of food, culture and community was attended by over 200 farmers and 3000+ residents of the city who together rejoiced in ~~the~~ celebrating the arrival of the king of all fruits. The event was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, State Government in collaboration with - 'We are farmers' a peasant rights body.

The event began with an opening ceremony which was attended by Mr. Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka, who lit the lamp and addressed the gathering. What followed was a short music-drama explaining the significance of the festival for the rural community. From 10 a.m. onwards the audience explored a plethora of activities including - mango art - where farmers made sculptures out of the fruit. They ~~per~~ took part in numerous contests such as - ~~many~~ guessing the variety of the mango blind-folded. Children of farmers sang folk songs about the harvest in Karnataka, as the visitors joined



them along. But what was most enthralling was the variety of dishes, both sweet and savoury that everyone got to savour - ~~both~~ such as mango pickle, juice, mustard and many more.

The event is supposed to have created 150+ jobs and has helped raise the income of the mango farmers of Karnataka. "Every year we celebrate this festival to mark the arrival of the mango season, but this year the participation was beyond imagination" - said Mr. Alka Kultuswamy, President, 'We are farmers'. "We are so glad to connect with people from all walks of life and share our joy with them. It helps bridge the rural-urban divide" said one of the farmers. "I had a wonderful time and can't wait to come back next year!" said an excited visitor.

The mango ~~summer~~ festival was a brilliant success and ~~has~~ helped energise the city as it heads into a blissful summer.



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7) B)

i) ^{and solely} the manner in which humans are 'only-focused' on attaining goals and achieving success - leading to stressful lives. ✓

ii) The poet believes, that if we can remain silent, we would be able to understand ourselves better - therefore overcoming the sadness of not knowing who we are and threatening ourselves with death. By remaining silent we would obtain moments of reflection, introspection, retrospection to interrupt this 'sadness'.

iii) (A) Both Assertion and Reason are true, Reason is correct explanation of Assertion

iv) The poet refers to the human tendency to focus solely on achieving goals and attaining success. He says that we want to 'keep our lives moving' and attain our predetermined goals.

v) (c) To highlight reason for our sadness ✓

vi) The poet asks us to keep quiet as he goes to continue spreading his message and inspiring others.



8) A)

i) ~~discrimination~~ ✓

ii) (B) The speaker was angry and condemning ✓

iii) ~~Anger anger~~ ✓

iv) dehumanizing ✓

9) B)

i) (B) regretful ✓

ii) (C) Source of distraction from learning ✓

iii) The speaker is filled with regret and he finally realizes the importance of his language and his studies. He wishes that he had not had such a negligent attitude in the past. ✓



iv) not learning their language ✓

v) The people of Alsace had accepted the plight of their nation. Alsace had passed over to Germany in the war and was then under German Hegemony. The Germans tried to sever all links of the people with their French roots, thus making them accept that France was no longer their country.

vi) M Kappel was a strict teacher. His ruler was a 'terrible iron ruler' implying he used it to punish his students - this made his students afraid of him.

107 i) We learn that Sophie's ~~was~~ father did not believe in Sophie. He thought that she ~~lived~~ in a world of fantasy and was always making up false stories and lies. His aggressive tone suggests the lack of cordial relations between him and Sophie; it might also point to him being rude and harsh with Sophie. However, he said this statement only because he was tired of Sophie's fantasizing and persistent habit of lying.



ii) Association with beautiful things creates vivid, joyful memories in our mind, and leaves behind positive impressions. Therefore, even after a long while the joy from beautiful things prevails in our minds. This is because - 'its loneliness increases' and 'it will never pass into nothingness'. It is also an 'endless fountain of immortal drink'. This suggests one beautiful thought breeds multiple joyful thoughts, leaving us happy.

iii) Frodo was late for school that morning. However, he counted on the commotion ^{in the room} to enter into the class unnoticed. He thought that because of the hustle that could be heard onto the streets, the opening and closing of desks, lessons being repeated in unison and rapping of the iron ruler he could slip into class without being observed - thus avoiding Mr Hornet's scoldings.

iv) The 'Polished Traffic' represents the rich, affluent, sophisticated urban folk, who live in cities and lead high qualities of life. On the other hand, the 'pathetically pleading roadside stand' symbolises the rural folk who lead lives of poverty, and low standards. The urban-rural divide is the essence of the 2 contrasting worlds.



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- v) Neruda clarifies that when he asks us to 'keep quiet' and engage in few moments of doing nothing - to reflect into ourselves - he is NOT advocating 'total inactivity' which implies he doesn't want us to ~~mean~~ misinterpret his advice for sluggishness, laziness, lethargy or passivity. He says so because he believes 'life is what it is about' and is an ongoing continuous process. He doesn't want us to be ~~totally~~ inactive. rather we should take out a few minutes of reflection in our lives.
- ii) Som was Charley's psychiatrist. Earlier, Som was the one who dismissed Charley's claim of the existence of the third level as a 'making dream wish fulfillment'. He ~~had~~ said Charley was merely imagining the third level, calling it an 'escape' and negated its existence. Therefore, when Som himself ends up reaching the third level it is ironic, because a man so convinced it did not exist, now found himself in the third level! Also, we don't expect a 'psychiatrist' to hallucinate and imagine falsehood in this manner, thus adding to the irony.
- iii) Tishani Doshi refers to the 'chaos' and 'havoc' wreaked by human civilisation on our planet and on the environment as - 'nukes'. She believes that humans have tried to etch their dominance over nature with their towns, cities, villages, megacities.



This, coupled with the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels and rapidly increasing human population that renders resources scarce causes a negative impact on the environment which she calls a -'nukus'.

127 (A)

William Douglas' character from his autobiographical account - 'Deep Water' and Mukesh's character from Annes Jung's lost spring - both face profuse challenges and difficulties that enmesh the path towards the pursuit of their goals. While Douglas' challenge is fighting against his fear, Mukesh's path is hindered by poverty and lack of opportunity. Both characters are similar in their courage, determination to overcome these hurdles and realise their ambitions.

William Douglas suffered from an ingrained fear of water. The fear was so vicious, that he was paralysed with terror everytime he was in water. Despite the intensity of his fear he was determined to overcome this 'horndiap'. He demonstrates courage as he chooses to openly confront his fear by hiring a swimming instructor. He ~~learned~~^{learnt} with patience, consistency and great will power. He was finally able to overcome his fear and leaves us inspired that we too can overcome our fears if we will to.



Mukesh aspired to become a motor mechanic. He wanted to learn to drive a car, but it seemed unlikely he would ever get the opportunity to do so because of his family's poverty. He was born in Firyalahad, a town with lineages of hangle-makers. His 'stigma of caste' and 'poverty' would stand as a hurdle on his path to realise his dream. Yet in the face of challenges he remains determined - he looks 'straight into Jung's eyes' and says he would go to the garage and learn. He also says he would walk to garage - displaying his grit and determination to achieve his goals. He is very courageous, because he ventures to 'dare' in an atmosphere of poverty - against societal forces that hold him back.

If we look for differences, besides the fact that Douglas' fear is internal to his mind and Mukesh's challenges are imposed by the society around him, we can also say that while Douglas was able to ~~set~~ realise his ambition, despite his determination, Mukesh may face innumerable challenges before he can do so.



137A)

Yes, I agree that the dilemma between humanity and patriotism elevates Dr. Sadao's character in 'The Enemy' by 'Pearl S. Buck'. The story demonstrates Dr. Sadao's struggle between his professional responsibility as a doctor to save the life of the ~~that was the~~ American prisoner of war, and his national duty as a Japanese patriot to hand him over as an ~~enemy~~ enemy at a time of war. The manner in which Sadao strikes the perfect balance between humanity, responsibility and patriotism elevates his character.

When an American prisoner of war was washed onto Sadao's house, the doctor felt obliged as a doctor to save the life of the man because he was wounded. He had been ~~was~~ taught not to let a man die if he could prevent it. Despite it being a time of war between America and Japan (World War II), he ~~is~~ is able to look beyond differences in their nationality and help the wounded man out of humanity. He operates on the man and saves his life - despite the negative attitude of his servants who advised him against it. Sadao took a great risk by helping the American but his underlying humanity because of his profession left him with a heart of compassion. Sadao also offers to the man necessary after-surgery care by checking on how he was doing.



At the same time, Sadao doesn't neglect his responsibility towards his country. As soon as he had helped the man survive, he reports the matter to the General and plots to have him killed by private assassins. He helps the man escape at the end of the story, not because he had developed an attachment, but only because it was inconvenient to have him any longer.

Sadao appears as a man who is very conscious and well aware of his responsibility. His humanity stems from his responsibility as a doctor and patriotism from his responsibility as a Japanese. The way he fulfils both these responsibilities makes us appreciate the strength of his character.



< EXTRA Q >

7) A)

i)

(B) an important decision has been taken by the government

ii)

~~(A) Both the Assertion and Reason~~~~(B) Both the assertion and Reason are true, not correct explanation~~

(A) Both assertion and reason are true, correct explanation.

iii)

making them lose their ability to think critically by giving them unnecessary comfort that they don't really require.

iv)

The irony is that while the urban folk claim that the proposal will give the rural community a life of comfort - with the store and the theatre, they would in fact end up losing their critical thinking abilities. It is also ironical that this decision had been made without consulting the roadside stand owners.

It is also ironical that while the government claims they are taking the step to help the rural folk, they were actually doing so, driven by their own selfish motives.

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v)

critique ✓

vi)

satiric ✓

CRANE