

CLASS XII-GENERAL ENGLISH
[List of Probable Short Questions]

SECTION-A (Lessons for Intensive Study)

1. HASSAN'S ATTENDANCE PROBLEM (Sudha Murthy)

1. Why was Hassan not noticed by the teacher in the class?
2. Why were Hassan's parents called to school?
3. Why did the parent – teacher meeting end fruitlessly?
4. What had the narrator expected Hassan to become in his life?
5. According to Hassan, who were “nerds”?
6. Why did Hassan start living separately?
7. What made Hassan feel optimistic as he left the narrator's office?

2. THE MARCH KING (Katherine Little Bakeless)

1. What did Philip want to become when he was a child?
2. Why did Philip learn violin quickly?
3. Why did Philip get into trouble on the day of the concert?
4. What made the concert a flop show for Philip?
5. Why couldn't Philip work at the bakery?
6. How was Philip lured to work in a circus?
7. How was Philip a success as the leader of the Marine Band?

3. THINKING OUT OF THE BOX: LATERAL THINKING

1. What was the proposal given to the poor farmer by the money-lender?
2. What would have happened if the girl had selected a black pebble in the 'pebble-game'?
3. What trick did the money-lender cunningly play to win the game?
4. How did the girl intelligently win?
5. What do you understand by the term 'lateral thinking' after reading the chapter?
6. What was the millionaire's trick in borrowing the loan?

4. ROBOTS AND PEOPLE (Isaac Asimov)

1. List out the dangerous jobs that humans generally take up.
2. What is more creative; a robot or a human brain? How?
3. What led to the loss of jobs with the invention of automobiles?
4. How can we deal with the 'transition period'?
5. What is the prime difference between a 'robot' and a 'human brain'?

5. ON GIVING ADVICE (Joseph Addison)

1. Why does one feel reluctant to receive an advice?
2. Why are the people so eager to advise others?
3. How is the 'fable' best suited amongst the various ways of instruction?
4. Why did Mahmoud want to know about the conversation of the owls?
5. What made Mahmoud change his old tyrannical ways?

6. ON SAYING “PLEASE” (A.G. GARDINER)

1. Why was the passenger hurled out of the lift?
2. How could the liftman restore his equilibrium?
3. What serves as ‘little courtesies’ in our daily life?
4. What does a conductor in the bus generally think about the passengers?
5. Describe the ‘glow of pleasure’ that the narrator experienced.
6. What were the good qualities of the conductor?
7. How could the liftman have avoided the trouble?

7. THE STORY OF MY LIFE (Helen Keller)

1. What was something unusual happening at the narrator’s home?
2. What was the wordless cry of the narrator’s soul?
3. How did the narrator learn to spell the words?
4. What made Miss Beam think that there was something in her system?
5. List the few words that the narrator’s teacher made her learn?
6. What made the narrator repent and feel sorrowful?

8. TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA (A. J. CRONIN)

1. What were the jobs that the two boys undertook?
2. How were the two boys useful for the narrator in many ways?
3. Why did the two boys work endlessly?
4. What made the two brothers and their sister orphans?

9. IN CELEBRATION OF BEING ALIVE (DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD)

1. According to Dr Barnard, what is the business of living?
2. In which incident were Dr Barnard’s gloomy thoughts rooted?
3. Why does Dr. Barnard consider the suffering of the children heart breaking?
4. What made the driver and the mechanic choose their roles?

10. GHADARI BABAS IN KALAPANI JAIL (Dr. Harish K. Puri)

1. List a few key members of the Ghadar Party
2. What were the physical conditions of the cellular jail?
3. How were the ‘convicts’ punished when they failed to work properly?
4. Who were addressed as ‘demi-gods’ and why?
5. Why was Jyotish Chandra Pal removed to a mental hospital?
6. Why did jail authorities discontinue some of their practices of bad treatment?

SECTION-C (Lessons for Extensive Study)

1. THE SCHOOL FOR SYMPATHY (E. V. Lucas)

1. What does the author tell us about Miss Beam?
2. What was the real aim of Miss Beam’s school?
3. Why did the author feel sorry for some of the children?
4. What is the educative value of a blind, deaf or a lame day?
5. Which day was the most difficult for children?
6. How did the girl with the bandaged eyes feel on her blind day?
7. What made Miss Beam think that there was something in her system?

2. A CHAMELEON (Anton Chekhov)

1. Where was the police superintendent Otchumyelov walking? What was he carrying under his arm?
2. Why was Hryukin chasing the dog?
3. How was Hryukin's bleeding finger a flag of victory?
4. Why did Hryukin think that he must have damages?
5. Why did Otchumyelov later refuse to take any action against the owner of the dog?
6. What did the policeman tell the superintendent about the General's dog?
7. What information did Prohor give about the dog?
8. Why did the crowd laugh at Hryukin at the end of the story?

3. BHOLI (K.A. Abbass)

1. How many siblings did Bholi have?
2. Why was Sulekha called Bholi, the simpleton?
3. Why did the other children make fun of Bholi?
4. Why was Ramlal worried about Bholi?
5. Why did the Tehsildar want Ramlal to send his daughters to the school?
6. Why was Bholi glad to see so many girls of her own age at school?
7. What happened when the teacher asked Bholi her name?
8. Why did Bholi's parents agree to Bishamber's proposal for Bholi?
9. Why did Bholi refuse to marry Bishamber?

4. THE GOLD FRAME (R.K. Laxman)

1. Where was the 'The Modern Frame Works' situated?
2. What were the walls of this shop covered with?
3. What types of frames did Datta show to the customer?
4. What was Datta's experience about his customers?
5. For whom did Datta make frames?
6. How did the photograph get damaged?
7. What was customer's complaint regarding the frame?

5. THE BARBER'S TRADE UNION (Mulk Raj Anand)

1. Why did the narrator consider Chandu the embodiment of perfection for him?
2. Why was Chandu not good at doing sums at school?
3. What does the narrator tell us about Chandu's dress?
4. Why did Bijay Chand, the landlord turn Chandu out of his house?
5. What did the Sahukar think about Chandu's wearing clothes like a doctor?
6. What type of woman was Chandu's mother?
7. How did Chandu's mother treat the narrator?
8. Why did Chandu decide to go on strike?
9. What jokes became popular in every home and why?
10. Why did the village elders threaten Chandu?

6. THE BULL BENEATH THE EARTH (Kulwant Singh Virk)

1. Who were Mann Singh and Karam Singh?
2. What were the designations of Karam Singh and Mann Singh in the army?
3. What did Mann Singh tell Karam Singh's family about the latter's war-skills?
4. Which words of Mann Singh pierced Karam Singh's father's heart?
5. What was the effect of Karam Singh's death on Mann Singh?
6. Why did the members of Karam Singh's family not break the news of his death to Mann Singh?
7. Why did Mann Singh compare Karam Singh's father to a bull who bore upon its head the burden of the whole earth?

[List of Probable Long Questions]

SECTION-A (Lessons for Intensive Study)

1. HASSAN'S ATTENDANCE PROBLEM (Sudha Murthy)

1. Draw a brief character-sketch of Hassan.
2. Draw a character-sketch of Sudha Murthy.

2. THE MARCH KING (Katherine Little Bakeless)

1. Write a brief character-sketch of John Philip Sousa.

3. THINKING OUT OF THE BOX: LATERAL THINKING

1. Write a note on the theme of the chapter: "Lateral Thinking".

4. ROBOTS AND PEOPLE (Isaac Asimov)

1. Give, in brief, the theme of the chapter 'Robots and People'.

5. ON GIVING ADVICE (Joseph Addison)

1. What is the theme of the chapter – 'On Giving Advice'? Discuss briefly.

6. ON SAYING "PLEASE" (A.G. GARDINER)

1. Write, in your own words, the theme of the chapter "On Saying Please".
2. Draw a brief character-sketch of the bus conductor in your own words.

7. THE STORY OF MY LIFE (Helen Keller)

1. Draw a brief character-sketch of the narrator. (Helen Keller)

8. TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA (A. J. CRONIN)

1. Draw a brief character-sketch of the two boys in the story.
2. Write the theme of the story – 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' in your own words.

9. IN CELEBRATION OF BEING ALIVE (DR. CHRISTIAN BARNARD)

1. Write a note on the theme of the chapter 'In Celebration of Being Alive'.

10. GHADARI BABAS IN KALAPANI JAIL (Dr. Harish K. Puri)

1. How were the Indians treated in the cellular jail of Andamans by the British officials?
2. Discuss the various physical problems that the Indian freedom fighters had to face in the cellular jail.

SECTION-C (Lessons for Extensive Study)

1. THE SCHOOL FOR SYMPATHY (E. V. Lucas)

1. Give a brief character-sketch of Miss Beam.
2. What is the theme of the lesson 'The School for Sympathy'?

2. A CHAMELEON (Anton Chekhov)

1. Give a brief character-sketch of Otchumyelov.
2. Justify the title of the story. 'A Chameleon'

3. BHOLI (K.A. Abbass)

1. Write, in brief, a character-sketch of Bholi.
2. Write, in brief, the character-sketch of Bishamber.

4. THE GOLD FRAME (R.K. Laxman)

1. What impression do you gather about Datta, the frame maker?
2. How did the author describe the shop owned by Datta?

5. THE BARBER'S TRADE UNION (Mulk Raj Anand)

1. Give a brief character-sketch of Chandu.

6. THE BULL BENEATH THE EARTH (Kulwant Singh Virk)

1. Write a character-sketch of Karam Singh.
2. Write a character-sketch of Mann Singh.
3. Discuss the appropriateness of the title of the story: 'The Bull beneath the Earth'.

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{Note: The list of above questions is mere a guess. Other questions cannot be ignored.}