

1. ...but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear; 1

What is the poet trying to do in the lines below from the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'?

- A. confessing her feelings for her mother who was getting old
- B. narrating the discomfort of travelling to the airport with her mother
- C. preaching about human mortality and the need to cherish our relationships
- D. pleading to us to remember the important role that our parents play in our lives

2. In the line below from 'My Mother at Sixty Six', why has the poet used 'winter' to describe her mother? 1

..I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon...

- A. to convey that her mother looked as beautiful in her old age as she did when she was young
- B. to hint that she could see the sadness that her mother felt while leaving her
- C. to show that her mother was ridden with diseases that made her age faster
- D. to indicate that her mother was in the final stage of her life

3. Why is garbage equivalent to gold for the people of Seemapuri? 1

- A. because they can find food only through rag-picking
- B. because they can become wealthy only through rag-picking
- C. because rag-picking helps them earn money for their basic needs
- D. because rag-picking helps them use garbage to build their houses

4. In 'The Last Lesson', which of these would most likely NOT be M Hamel's thought on the day of the last lesson? 1

- A. "If only these students had realised the importance of their language earlier."
- B. "Why do they seem so unaffected, do they not know what has happened yet?"
- C. "I can't teach them French anymore, let me at least tell them the importance of holding on to our language."
- D. "Perhaps I should have been more considerate with these children, maybe they would have learned better."

5. Comment on regret as a theme with any two examples from the story 'The Last Lesson'. In the examples, do you think the characters'

regret is justified? Explain in 120–150 words. 2

6. Why does Anees Jung spend a significant portion of 'Lost Spring' talking about shoes? Explain any one reason in 30–40 words with relevant examples from the story. 2

7. Despite the difficulties that Mukesh's family goes through, his grandmother believes that their occupation is their destiny. What could be a reason behind this belief? State your response in 30–40 words with evidence from the text 'Lost Spring'. 2

8. Draft an invitation in about 50 words, on behalf of your aunt, Meghna Menon, which she has to share to invite prior work colleagues to the inaugural event of her own investment consultancy firm, in the Acer mall, Kozhikode, Kerala.

**OR**

Sunrise Global School, Agra is going to organize a one-act play competition in the school auditorium. You have decided to invite noted stage artiste, Nalini to grace the occasion. Draft a formal invitation for her in about 50 words. You are Karuna/Karan, Cultural Secretary.