

*I. Read the text below and then answer the questions from 1 to 8:*  
**The First Monsoon**

**Answer Key & Explanations**

**1. How does Arjun initially feel about the monsoon rain?**

**Answer: B. Nervous and unsure about its intensity**

**Explanation:** The passage describes Arjun feeling a "pang of unease" as he watches the monsoon rain begin. He is unfamiliar with its intensity, as he is used to the gentle rain in London.

**2. What is the significance of the rain in the passage?**

**Answer: A. It represents Arjun's connection to his new home**

**Explanation:** By the end of the passage, Arjun embraces the rain, symbolizing his gradual acceptance of his new environment in India.

**3. Why does Arjun hesitate before stepping off the bus?**

**Answer: C. He feels overwhelmed by the differences between India and London**

**Explanation:** Arjun's hesitation reflects his struggle to adjust to India's fast-paced, intense environment, which is very different from the quiet life he knew in London.

**4. What does Arjun's decision to step into the rain at the end of the passage suggest?**

**Answer: A. He has accepted his new environment**

**Explanation:** By stepping confidently into the rain, Arjun shows that he is ready to experience his new life in India without constantly comparing it to London.

**5. How does the passage contrast the rain in London and Mumbai?**

**Answer: B. The rain in London is light and gentle, while in Mumbai it is powerful and overwhelming**

**Explanation:** The passage describes London's rain as "gentle, almost apologetic," whereas Mumbai's rain is "fierce and unrelenting," highlighting the stark difference.

**6. What does Arjun's mother mean when she says, "It's good luck"?**

**Answer: A. The first rain of the monsoon is believed to bring blessings**

**Explanation:** In many cultures, the first monsoon rain is seen as a sign of renewal and good fortune. Arjun's mother is reassuring him with this belief.

**7. What is the tone of the passage?**

**Answer: C. Reflective and emotional**

**Explanation:** The passage explores Arjun's feelings about moving to a new place, comparing his past and present experiences, making the tone introspective and emotional.

**8. What is the central theme of the passage?**

**Answer: C. Adjusting to a new environment and embracing change**

**Explanation:** The story focuses on Arjun's transition from London to India and his journey toward accepting and experiencing his new surroundings.

*II. Read the following Poem and answer the questions from 9 to 14:*

**The Weight of Stars**

**9. What is the main theme of the poem?**

**Answer: B) The fleeting nature of time and beauty**

**Explanation:** The poem reflects on the stars' beauty and their inevitable fading, symbolizing the passing of time and the fragility of beauty. The phrase "The weight they carry, the cost of glow, is a price no one truly knows" suggests that all beauty comes with a cost, emphasizing the transient nature of existence.

**10. What is the significance of "The weight of stars, in silence borne"?**

**Answer: A) It represents the burdens of the universe**

**Explanation:** This phrase conveys the idea that stars, despite their beauty and brilliance, bear unseen burdens or struggles. The weight of their glow implies that beauty often comes at a cost, which is carried silently and invisibly.

**11. How does the speaker feel about the stars?**

**Answer: B) They feel a sense of awe and melancholy**

**Explanation:** The speaker is both in awe of the stars' beauty ("They shine for us, they burn so bright") and melancholic about their fading nature ("But inside they are fading from sight"). This mix of admiration and sadness reflects the poem's emotional depth.

**12. What is the function of the line "Every dot a rhythm, every line a rhyme"?**

**Answer: C) It compares the stars to a poem or song**

**Explanation:** This line uses metaphor to compare the stars

to elements of a poem or song, emphasizing the harmony and rhythm of the universe. The imagery suggests that the sky is not just a random collection of stars but a carefully composed work of art.

**13. How does the poet convey the theme of impermanence?**

**Correct Answer: B) Through the stars' inability to shine forever**

**Explanation:** The poem repeatedly mentions the fading of stars and the cost of their beauty. Phrases like "But inside they are fading from sight" highlight the theme of impermanence, suggesting that all things, even the brightest stars, eventually diminish or disappear.

**14. How does the poem's structure enhance its meaning?**

**Answer: B) The rhyme and rhythm create a sense of harmony**

**Explanation:** The poem follows a rhythmic and rhyming structure, which mirrors the harmony of the universe and the stars. This structure contrasts with the theme of impermanence, as it offers a sense of order and beauty, even as the stars fade.

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**III. Read the text below, which consists of few paragraphs (questions 15 – 20). For questions 15 – 20, choose the option (A – G) which best summarises each paragraph. There is one extra option which you do not need to use.**

### *The Challenges of Clean Water Access*

Answers:

15 G, 16 E, 17 A, 18 C, 19 D, 20 B  
Extra (Unused) Sentence: F

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**IV. Read the four extracts below and answer the questions 21 – 30, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question**

### *Extract 1: A Vivid Recollection*

### *Extract 2: Memory and Learning*

### *Extract 3: The Blurred Line Between Memory and Imagination*

### *Extract 4: The Emotional Impact of Memory*

#### **Multiple-Choice Questions (21-30)**

**21. Which extract describes a feeling of being immersed in a past memory?**

**Answer: A**

**22. Which extract refers to using memory as a tool for professional or academic success?**

**Answer: B**

**23. Which extract mentions remembering something differently from how it actually happened?**

**Answer: C**

**24. Which extract argues that memories can teach us something valuable?**

**Answer: B**

**25. Which extract says that people mostly remember things based on strong emotions?**

**Answer: D**

**26. Which extract states that certain memories fade over time while others remain vivid?**

**Answer: A**

**27. Which extract describes a place that looked different in memory compared to its real appearance?**

**Answer: C**

**28. Which extract explains how a specific memory distracted the writer?**

**Answer: B**

**29. Which extract discusses why some memories seem more important than others, even if they are small moments?**

**Answer: D**

**30. Which extract offers advice about how to preserve or share meaningful memories?**

**Answer: B**