

I. Read the Extract A and Extract B and then answer the questions from 1 to 8:

The Sound of the River

1. **How does Kai feel when he first arrives in Lijiang?**
The correct answer is B. Kai feels nervous and out of place when he first arrives because Lijiang is so different from his home in Beijing. A is incorrect because he does not feel excited at first. C is incorrect because he is not bored, just uncertain. D is incorrect because he does not feel calm at the beginning.
2. **What does Kai's grandfather teach him about the pace of life in Lijiang?**
The correct answer is B. Kai's grandfather teaches him that it's important to listen to the quiet and slow down. A is incorrect because his grandfather doesn't emphasize speed. C is incorrect because his grandfather does not discourage the river; he encourages listening to it. D is incorrect because slowing down is emphasized, not constant motion.
3. **How does the tea in the tea house make Kai feel?**
The correct answer is C. The tea makes Kai feel calm and peaceful, helping him appreciate the quiet of the tea house. A is incorrect because he does not feel energized. B is incorrect because the tea makes him feel at ease. D is incorrect because the tea helps him relax, not feel restless.
4. **What is the significance of the river in the story?**
The correct answer is C. The river symbolizes the need to slow down and appreciate life's quiet moments. A is incorrect because the river is not related to noise. B is incorrect because the river does not symbolize time directly. D is incorrect because the river isn't primarily a social gathering spot.
5. **How does the atmosphere in Lijiang differ from Beijing?**
The correct answer is C. Lijiang is peaceful and calm, while Beijing is busy and loud. A is incorrect because the noise contrasts with Beijing's quiet. B is incorrect because Beijing is not slower than Lijiang. D is incorrect because both places have people, but the pace is different.
6. **How does Kai's perspective on life change by the end of the story?**
The correct answer is B. By the end of the story, Kai learns to appreciate slowing down and enjoying the quiet moments. A is incorrect because Kai does not focus more on work. C is incorrect because he does not leave the city permanently. D is incorrect because he

embraces the simplicity of Lijiang.

7. **What does Kai learn from his visit to Lijiang?**
The correct answer is C. Kai learns that it's important to slow down and appreciate life's quiet moments, a lesson from his visit. A is incorrect because he doesn't think city life is better. B is incorrect because he begins to appreciate calmness. D is incorrect because he enjoys Lijiang but returns to Beijing.
8. **How does the setting contribute to the overall theme of the story?**
The correct answer is C. The setting reflects the peaceful life that Kai learns to appreciate during his visit. A is incorrect because the setting highlights quiet, not fast-paced city life. B is incorrect because it contrasts noisy places with the calm of Lijiang. D is incorrect because the setting emphasizes the value of slowing down rather than cultural differences.

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

The Midnight Garden

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

Answer: C) Escaping the pressures of life

Explanation: The poem focuses on a secret garden that offers the speaker a peaceful escape from the worries of the world. The garden symbolizes a refuge where the speaker can leave their troubles behind and feel free, as shown in lines like "Leave the world behind" and "No worries, no fears, just peace to be."

10. **What is the significance of the phrase "a world beyond the cloak of night"?**

Answer: A) It refers to the mystical nature of the garden.

Explanation: The phrase "a world beyond the cloak of night" emphasizes the magical and mysterious qualities of the garden. It suggests that the garden exists in a realm of beauty and tranquillity that is separate from the ordinary world, where the speaker can experience something extraordinary.

11. **How does the speaker feel when they enter the garden?**

Answer: C) Free and peaceful

Explanation: The speaker expresses feelings of freedom and calm when they enter the garden, particularly in the lines "For just a moment, I am free" and "No worries, no

fears, just peace to be.” This shows that the garden provides a sense of peace and release from stress.

12. What is the effect of the line "The flowers hum a gentle tune"?

Answer: B) It emphasizes the magical and serene atmosphere.

Explanation: The line "The flowers hum a gentle tune" contributes to the peaceful and dreamlike quality of the garden. It uses personification to give the flowers a melodic, calming role, enhancing the garden's tranquil mood.

13. What does the "secret place" symbolize in the poem?

Answer: B) A place of inner peace and escape.

Explanation: The "secret place" symbolizes a refuge where the speaker can disconnect from the pressures of the world and experience tranquillity. The poem highlights this as a place where the speaker feels calm, light, and free from worries, a place to "leave the world behind."

14. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its tone?

Answer: B) The repetition of phrases builds a sense of peacefulness.

Explanation: The repetition of phrases like "a secret place" and "leave the world behind" contributes to the calming, rhythmic flow of the poem. This repetition, combined with the soft, descriptive imagery, enhances the tone of peace and serenity that the speaker experiences in the garden.

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.

Space Exploration

Answer Key: 15. F 16. A 17. G 18. B 19. C
20. E

IV. Read the four extracts below on the theme of courage.

For questions 21 – 30, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question.

Which writer ...

21. is a medical professional? (B)

22. gives an indication that they personally knew the courageous person mentioned? (A)

23. is of the opinion that we sometimes misunderstand what courage means? (C)

24. refers to a brave act to illustrate a broader definition of courage? (B)

25. observes a connection between past courage and its impact on today's world? (D)

26. mentions an action that instantly uplifted the writer's spirit? (B)

27. refers to an effort to encourage ordinary people to act more courageously? (C)

28. uses sarcastic humour when discussing modern perceptions of courage? (C)

29. invites readers to reflect on how society glorifies acts of courage? (A)

30. provides a detail that highlights the wider struggle linked to an act of bravery? (A)

ANSWERS

EXTRACT A - (Answer: This passage discusses personal knowledge of a courageous person (mother) and invites reflection on the glorification of courage.)

EXTRACT B - (Answer: This passage is written by a medical professional and discusses how an act of courage uplifted the writer.)

EXTRACT C - (Answer: This passage critiques modern misunderstandings of courage and uses sarcastic humour to challenge perceptions.)

EXTRACT D - (Answer: This passage connects past courage to present advancements.)