# SAINIK SCHOOL GOPALGANJ SUB: ENGLISH

**CLASS - XII**

**ASSIGNMENT- 3 (My Mother at Sixty-six)**

**Q1. Given below are four options against each question. Choose the option which you consider the most appropriate as your answer.**

(i) Who is the poet of this poem?

A) John Keats  
B) Rudyard Kipling  
C) William Wordsworth  
D) Kamala Das

(ii) What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?

A) Losing her mother  
B) heart attack  
C) headache  
D) children screaming at her

(iii) What is the significance of the title My Mother at Sixty Six?

A) Poet’s fear of losing her old mother  
B) Poet’s fear of moving fast  
C) Poet’s inability to express her feelings  
D) All of these

(iv) What did the poet realize with pain?

A) her mother's appearance like a corpse  
B) she is inconsiderate  
C) old age is pleasant  
D) she has duties

(v) What do the parting words "See you soon Amma" signify?

A) her carelessness  
B) Her optimistic farewell full of cheerfulness  
C) she bids goodbye like this  
D) she is in a hurry

(vi) The image of merry children has been brought out by the narrator in order to  
A) show energy and exuberance of young children  
B) to show the children playing  
C) to show the children playing pranks  
D) to compare with herself

(VII) What does the expression smile, smile and smile signify?

A) poet was going home and was elated  
B) poet was happy  
C) poet was hopeless  
D) poet’s desperate efforts to hide her fears

# Q2. Read the passage given billow and answer the following questions.

Today I Rabindranath Tagore complete eighty years of my life .As I look back on the vast stretch of years that lie behind me and see in clear perspective the history of my early development, I am struck by the change that has taken place both in my own attitude and in the psychology of my countrymen -- a change that carries within it a cause of profound tragedy.

Our direct contact with the larger world of men was linked up with the contemporary history of the English people whom we came to know in those earlier days. It was mainly through their mighty literature that we formed our ideas with regard to these newcomers to our Indian shores. In those days the type of learning that was served out to us was neither plentiful nor diverse, nor was the spirit of scientific enquiry very much in evidence. Thus their scope being strictly limited, the educated of those days had recourse to English language and literature.

Their days and nights were eloquent with the stately declamations of Burke, with Macaulay’s long-rolling sentences; discussions centered upon Shakespeare's drama and Byron's poetry and above all upon the large-hearted liberalism of the nineteenth-century English politics.

At the time though tentative attempts were being made to gain our national independence, at heart we had not lost faith in the generosity of the English race. This belief was so firmly rooted in the sentiments of our leaders as to lead them to hope that the victor would of his own grace pave the path of freedom for the vanquished. This belief was based upon the fact that England at the time provided a shelter to all those who had to flee from persecution in their own country. Political martyrs who had suffered for the honour of their people were accorded unreserved welcome at the hands of the English.

I was impressed by this evidence of liberal humanity in the character of the English and thus I was led to set them on the pedestal of my highest respect. This generosity in their national character had not yet been vitiated by imperialist pride. About this time, as a boy in England, I had the opportunity of listening to the speeches of John Bright, both in and outside Parliament. The large-hearted, radical liberalism of those speeches, overflowing all narrow national bounds, had made so deep an impression on my mind that something of it lingers even today, even in these days of graceless disillusionment.

**2.1. From the first paragraph, give a synonym for ‘deep’:**  
A. Perspective  
B. Profound  
C. tragedy  
D. Psychology

**2.2 What helped the Indians to conceive of a notion of the Englishmen?**  
A. Their advanced weaponry  
B. Their literature  
C. Their orders  
D. Their administration

**2.3. Who could read and gain from English literature?**A. The educated Indians  
B. All the Indians  
C. Only writers such as Rabindranath Tagore  
D. None of the above

**2.4. From the third paragraph, give an antonym for ‘victorious’**A. Victor  
B. vanquished  
C. Belief  
D. Persecution

**2.5. Whose speeches did Tagore listen to, as a boy?**A. Shakespeare  
B. Byron  
C. John Bright  
D. .Macaulay

# Q3. In the question below, there is a sentence with jumbled up parts. Rearrange these parts, which are labelled A, B, C and D to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence.

3.1 a. The managing director

* + 1. in listening to her
    2. was not interested
    3. explanation about why profits were lessening
       1. abcd (ii) adbc (iii) acbd (iv) bcda

3.2 By defining ‘our best’…….

1. a task, I fear we are letting ourselves
2. merely put a lot of effort into
3. as the thing we did when we
4. off the hook
   1. cbad (ii) abdc (iii) dbac (iv) bada

3.3 I have been sharing Roger’s …..

1. production curve for a long time
2. what’s actually happening
3. but I realize that it doesn’t
4. viscerally explain
   1. cbad (ii) acdb (iii) dbac (iv) bada

3.4 One cannot recall any movement……

1. which has gripped the imagination of the entire human race
2. in world history
3. which started nearly twenty-five years ago
4. so completely and so rapidly as the Green Movement
   1. cbad (ii) abdc (iii) dbac (iv) badc

3.5 A classical Chinese painting….

1. as would a
2. is not meant to
3. Western figurative painting
4. represent an actual view
   1. bdac (ii) abdc (iii) dbac (iv) badc

# Answer the following questions

Q4. Why are the young trees described as sprinting’?

Q5. Why has the poet brought in the image of the children ‘spilling out of their homes’?

Q6. Why does the poet compare her mother’s face to the late winter’s moon’?

Q7. Having looked at her mother the poet looked at her mother, why does Kamala Das look at the children?

Q8. In the last line of the poem, ‘My Mother at Sixty-Six’, why does the poet use the word ‘smile’ repeatedly?

Q9. How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?

Q10. What were Kamala Das’s fears as a child? Why do they surface when she is going to the airport?

**Q11. Life in metropolitan cities has left no time with members of the family to spend with each other. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily voicing your concern over the increasing number of old age homes in metropolitan cities highlighting the values required in the younger generation to care for the elderly.**

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