





**SECTION A  
SHORT STORY**

**Direction:** *From the TWO SETS of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in the space provided. Read the extract given below and answer the questions based on the story from which this extract has been taken.*

Some were sparkling white. These had just started hunting that day and irritated the White Knight by innocently asking directions to the nearest Black Knight.

**SET I**

**Question Ia.**

**[1x5=5]**

*Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct response and write it in the space provided.*

1. The White Knight lived in a

- A white palace.
- B village .
- C castle.
- D forest.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the White Knight's first misconduct?

- A He stole buns from a bakeshop.
- B He killed another White Knight.
- C He ravished an innkeeper's daughter.
- D He replaced his horse with another white horse.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the above extract, some knights were described as "sparkling white" because they were

- A the good white knights.
- B irritating the White Knight.
- C inexperienced in their quest.
- D wearing lots of sparkling jewelries.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. “The world at large”, has been symbolized in the story as forest of
- A life.
  - B trees.
  - C birds.
  - D animals.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The given story is an example of
- A contemporary realistic fiction.
  - B classical satire.
  - C allegory.
  - D fantasy.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 1b.**

**[3x5=15]**

*Read the following questions carefully and write your answers in the space provided in about 60 words.*

1. Why does the protagonist feel that he is superior to the Black Knight? Give **TWO** reasons. (5)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---













## SECTION B ESSAY

**Direction:** *Read the essay given below carefully. From the TWO SETS of questions on this text, choose ONE SET and write your responses in the space provided.*

### **The Long Chain of Evolution**

Darwin's great work, *The Origin of Species*, is now generally accepted as one of the most important books ever written. But when it first came out in 1859, it was both bitterly condemned by scientists and laymen. Much of the opposition to *The Origin of Species* arose from Darwin's claim that all living creatures, including men are somehow related. Many people were outraged by the suggestion that man shared a common ancestor with animals such as apes and monkeys. They attacked Darwin for saying that man descended from the apes. But Darwin never actually said this. He believed that modern men and apes have both descended from the same ancestor. But at some time in pre-history, millions of years ago, men and apes began to develop separately, and ever since have continued to take on different characteristics. Today, more than 90 years after Darwin's death, this is the opinion which scientists continue to hold.

In his works, Darwin described the progression of life from its earliest forms. First came the invertebrates – creatures without a backbone. Then invertebrates evolved into fish; fish into amphibians; amphibians into reptiles; and reptiles into birds and mammals. Fossil remains were not the only information which we now possess but which Darwin lacked. He did not know that apes have the same diseases as men; nor that they and men have same kind of blood. Nor did he know about the modern uses of radiation which enable scientists to tell the age of fossil remains and so estimate the speed at which evolution has taken place.

Lacking all this information, Darwin had to rely on other branches of science. One of them was comparative anatomy – the science which compares the physical make-up of different species. He observed that all vertebrates – amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals – possess forelimbs which are basically the same. The limbs may be used for swimming, flying, or walking, but they are all built on the same plan. They contain one bone in the upper arm, two bones in the forearm, several bones in the wrist, and five bones in the hand with finger joints attached.

Darwin marvelled at this similarity between such widely differing species. 'What can be more curious,' he asked, 'than that the hand of a man formed for grasping, that of a mole for digging, the leg of a horse, the paddle of a porpoise, and the wings of a bat, should all be constructed on the same pattern?' From this extraordinary fact, he drew the correct conclusion: that different species share the same characteristics because they are descended from the same ancestors. Then, later, they took on the separate characteristics which helped them most in the struggle to survive in their own environments.

Darwin also made use of the science of embryology, which deals with the early stages that a creature passes through inside its mother's body before being born, or inside an egg before being hatched. He observed that the embryos of fish, birds, and men have amazing similarities. For example, all three have gill slits and tails. The reason is that in the period before it is born or hatched, every creature

passes rapidly through several stages which follow the entire history of its species. A human therefore reproduces the stages when man's remote ancestors possessed gills for swimming later, tails for maneuvering among the trees.

Long before birth the human embryo closes its gills and curls up its tail, so that no signs of them appear after it is born. Yet every human carries traces, now useless, of man's distant past. He possesses patches of the hair which once protected his ancestors against the cold, and the beginnings of muscles which his ancestors once used to twitch their ears.

Once again Darwin drew the inescapable conclusion from his observations. Since the embryos of men, fish and birds possess some of the same characteristics, all these orders of life must have descended from the same ancestors.

[Source: Guided English for India, Book 5, (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)  
Howe, D.H. Oxford University Press.]

**SET I**

**Question Ia.**

**[1x5=5]**

*Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct response and write it in the space provided.*

1. The major claim made by Darwin in 'The Origin of Species' is that,  
A man has descended from apes.  
B apes and monkeys are man's ancestors.  
C man and apes share a common ancestor.  
D there is no difference between a man and an ape.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fossil is the  
A remains of plants or animals preserved in a rock for a very long time.  
B photographs of plants and animals which have become extinct.  
C embryos of animals like apes, fish and amphibians.  
D group of animals and plants kept in a zoo.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The third paragraph of the essay is about
- A description of animals' forelimbs.
  - B vertebrates possessing forelimbs which are same.
  - C vertebrates using their limbs for different purposes.
  - D all the forelimbs being similar in the embryo stage.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Two branches of science that Darwin used for his work were studies of
- A embryology and fossil.
  - B fossil and comparative anatomy.
  - C comparative diseases and embryology.
  - D embryology and comparative anatomy.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. To which of the following forms of writing does the given essay belong?
- A Argumentative
  - B Persuasive
  - C Expository
  - D Descriptive

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question Ib.**

**[3x5=15]**

*Read the following questions carefully and write your answers in the space provided in about 60 words.*

1. Using Darwin's theory of evolution, explain how you would draw a connection between yourself and a fish. (5)

---

---

---













---

---

---

---

---

**SECTION C**  
**POETRY**

**Direction:** *Read the poem given below carefully. From the TWO SETS of questions on the poem, choose ONE SET and write your responses in the space provided.*

**Some Clouds – Steve Kowitz**

Now that I've unplugged the phone,  
no one can reach me-  
at least for this one afternoon  
they will have to get by without my advice  
or opinion.  
Now nobody else is going to call  
& ask in a tentative voice  
if I haven't heard that she's dead,  
that woman I once loved-  
nothing but ashes scattered over a city  
that barely itself any longer exists.  
Yes, thank you, I've heard.  
It had been too lovely a morning.  
That in itself should have warned me.  
The sun lit up the tangerines  
& the blazing poinsettias  
like so many candles.  
For one afternoon they will have to forgive me.  
I am busy watching things happen again  
that happened a long time ago.  
as I lean back in Josephine's lawn chair  
under a sky of incredible blue,  
broken – if that is the word for it –  
by a few billowing clouds,  
all white & unspeakably lovely,  
drifting out of one nothingness into another.

SET I

Question.Ia.

[1x5=5]

Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct response and write it in the space provided.

1. The meaning of the word 'tentative' [line 7] is

- A sad.
- B polite.
- C caring.
- D uncertain.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The speaker disconnected the phone

- A to go out to meet Josephine.
- B as his phone was out of order.
- C as he didn't want to be disturbed.
- D since he hadn't paid his phone bills.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The speaker in the poem is

- A bored and tired of his busy life.
- B on a vacation enjoying a break.
- C recollecting his childhood days.
- D trying to recover from a loss of his beloved.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The given poem is an example of a

- A dramatic monologue.
- B sonnet.
- C ballad.
- D lyric.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_















**SECTION D  
NOVEL**

**Direction:** *From the TWO SETS of questions based on the novel 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry, choose ONE SET and write your responses in the space provided.*

**SET I**

**Question 1a**

**[1x5=5]**

*Each question below is followed by four responses. Choose the correct response and write it in the space provided.*

1. The birth order number of Fiona is

- A sixteen.
- B seventeen.
- C eighteen.
- D nineteen.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. During one of Lily's playtime hours, a boy who visited from another community

- A did not play with her.
- B showed his fist during the game.
- C locked her in the instructor's room.
- D did not follow her childcare group's play rules.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jonas was late for his second day of training because he spent some time

- A worried over Fiona's brown hair.
- B wondering over the change in Fiona's hair.
- C wondering over the style change in Fiona's hair.
- D worried about the change in Fiona's hair colour.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Asher has to apologize whenever he is late for his class. This shows that
- A his teacher does not like him.
  - B he gets distracted by fish hatchery.
  - C he has to practise how to apologize.
  - D his community is strict about punctuality.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The red sled that Jonas and Gabriel find during their escape from the community is a symbol of
- A freedom.
  - B memories.
  - C happiness.
  - D determination.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 1b.**

**[3x5=15]**

*Read the following questions carefully and write your answers in the space provided in about 60 words.*

1. Why are there no sufferings, no memories of the past, and no inter-generational family connections in the community? Give **ONE** reason. (5)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---









