7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,
His lesson, from his desk. At the back of the dim class
On unnoted, sweet and young.
(i) Who is the unlucky heir?  
(ii) What will he inherit?  
(iii) Who is sitting at the back of the dim class?

OR

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked...
(i) Where was the poet driving to?  
(ii) Why was her mother's face looking like that of a corpse?  
(iii) What did the poet notice about her mother?

Ans. (i) The unlucky heir is the boy with deformed body.  
(ii) He will inherit a disability of twisted bones from his father.  
(iii) A sweet-looking, yet unnoticeable boy is sitting at the back of the dim class.

OR

(i) The poet was driving to the airport.  
(ii) Her mother's face was looking like that of a corpse because it was pallid and its natural radiance had desiccated with age.  
(iii) The poet noticed her mother's pale and 'ashen' face, lost of all vitality and colour, owing to her old age.

8. Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words each:  
(a) What does Keats consider an endless fountain of immortal drink and why does he call its drink immortal?  
(b) What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda's attitude towards these wars?  
(c) What news in the poem, ‘A Roadside Stand’ is making its rounds in the village?  
(d) What lies heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand? How is it associated with her husband?

Ans. (a) Keats compares the beautiful things of nature to a fountain of immortal drink. He calls its drink immortal because the beauty, joy and pleasure derived from it are everlasting.
(b) The different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' are green wars, wars with gas, and wars with fire. Neruda considers these wars as destructive and futile activities.

(c) The news in the poem 'A Roadside Stand' that is making its rounds in the village is that the villagers will be provided with homes near theaters and shopping complexes; that they will be taken care of; and that they have to worry no more.

(d) The 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band' lies heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand. This wedding ring is representative of the oppression of her chauvinist husband and of the duties and responsibilities that burdened her, post her marriage.

9. Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words each:
   2 × 3 = 6
   (a) What was the order from Berlin and what changes did it cause in the school?
   (b) How did Douglas make sure that he conquered the old terror?
   (c) What do you learn about Umberto Eco's distinctive style in his doctoral dissertation?
   (d) Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff's silence?

   Ans. (a) The order from Berlin was that only German was to be taught to students in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The order brought the routine hustle-bustle of the school to a standstill. The teacher became more patient and the students more attentive.
   (b) Douglas appointed an instructor who successfully built a swimmer out of him. After this, he swam alone in the pool and later went to Lake Wentworth to dive. Finally, in his diving expedition in the Warm Lake, he made sure that he conquered his old terror completely.
   (c) Eco’s writing style is strikingly different from that of the standard academic mode. In his doctoral dissertation, he tells the story of his research, including his “trials and errors”. Eco’s style is personalised and playful, and in the form of a narrative.
   (d) Sophie was jealous of Geoff’s silence because she thought that he had access to an unknown world, of which she too wanted to be a part. For Sophie, Geoff symbolised liberty from the monotonous and colourless life they had been living.

10. Answer the following in 125-150 words: 10
    How does humour and satire enliven the account of the events and personalities at Gemini Studios as portrayed by Asokamitran in ‘Poets and Pancakes’?

    OR

    Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers? How did it influence the peasant–landlord relationship in Champaran?

    Ans. The narrative of the story is interspersed with instances dipped in subtle humour and satire. These elements make livelier the account of events and personalities at Gemini Studios. The instances of humour, used by the author, mark the eccentricities and idiosyncrasies without making any direct and rude comment on anybody. For
instance, the author portrays the make-up artists and the usage of the pancakes in an interesting way. Even the caricature of Subbu is hilarious. These humorous instances make interesting and relevant comments on the behaviour of people in general. Criticism by means of humour is more effective, hence writers and film-makers often use humorous elements in their works and make sarcastic comments and criticism. In the story, Asokamitran makes sarcastic comments on make-up and make-up men, and about more serious issues such as caste system and hierarchical functioning of the society.

OR

For Gandhi, it was not the money but the principles that were of utmost importance. He believed that the very fact that the British landlords surrendered was of more significance than the percentage of refund. He wanted the poor farmers to realise that they too had rights and that they need not really live in fear of the British landlords. Therefore, although he had initially quoted a 50 percent refund, he later agreed to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers. This agreement had a long-term influence on the peasant-landlord relationship in Champaran. Gandhiji's proved right when, years later, the British landlords decided to leave their estates, putting an end to the sharecropping arrangement.

11. Answer the following in 125-150 words:

Give a character-sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison based on your understanding of the story, ‘Evans Tries on O-level’.

OR

Tishani Doshi calls her two-week-stay in Antarctica, 'a chilling prospect'. How far do you think she is justified? What other features of the continent are described?

Ans. The Governor of Oxford Prison was a person of agreeable intelligence who thought highly of himself. He was suspicious of the true intentions of Evans in wanting to take the exam, and quite rightly so. He considered his precautionary measures to check the chances of Evans' escaping were more than sufficient; however, Evans managed to outsmart him. This was because he lacked good judgment in matters of pressing importance. At the Golden Lion when he arrested Evans, he should have been extra cautious. If he knew the whereabouts of Evan, he should have taken along more police officials. Also, considering the fact that Evans had successfully fooled them earlier, he should not have taken chances by sending him in a van with just a couple of police officers whom, apparently, he did not know. His final act of foolishness really proved that “he was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor, that was all”.

OR

Trishani Doshi calls her two-week-stay in Antarctica 'a chilling prospect'. She is justified in saying that because she, being a South Indian, is more used to the sun and to hot weather. Besides, to stay in an extreme cold environment with snow stretching as far as one can see on all sides is literally a ‘chilling’ idea.
Among other features of the continent, Doshi mentions the lack of any human markers. There are no trees, billboards or buildings. She also talks of how the continent is home to the tiny midges and mites as well as to the gigantic blue whales and icebergs. The continent is silent but for the occasional avalanche or carving ice sheet. Besides that, the days tend to stretch on and on with 24-hour ‘austral summer light’.

12. Answer the following in about 100 words:

There is a saying, ‘Kindness pays, rudeness never’. In the story, ‘The Rattrap’ Edla’s attitude towards men and matters is different from her father’s attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, ‘The Rattrap’?

Ans. Edla and her father have different attitudes towards men and matters. While the father is impetuous in nature, the daughter’s behaviour is more mature and controlled. In the story, ‘The Rattrap’, the character of Edla brings out the values of concern and compassion. The ability to understand a fellow human being is a value highlighted through the empathy shown by Edla towards the peddler and his fears. She is also able to acknowledge the peddler’s plight and treats him well even after knowing his true identity. Finally, it is Edla and her genuine care that changes the peddler for the better.

13. Answer the following in 30-40 words each:

(a) What forced Dr. Sadao to be impatient and irritable with his patient?
(b) Why does Jo insist that her father should tell her the story with a different ending?
(c) If you were to give a different ending to the story, ‘On The Face of It’ how would you end it?
(d) What were the articles in the stalls and shops that fascinated Bama on her way back from school?

Ans. (a) The distress of his wife at the sight of the operation and his inability to go to her at once forced Dr. Sadao to be impatient and irritable with his patient who lay like a dead under his knife.
(b) Jo insists that her father should tell her the story with a different ending because according to her, neither Roger Skunk nor the wizard was wrong. She fails to understand why the skunk’s mother hit the kind wizard without being hit back.
(c) One alternate ending to the story ‘On The Face of It’ would be that when Derry returns to Mr Lamb, he finds the latter waiting for him in his garden. The two would become good friends and inspire each other to live life with zeal and hope.
(d) The articles in the stalls and shops that fascinated Bama on her way back from school include sweets, fried snacks, payasam, halva, boiled tamarind seeds and iced lollies, needles, clay beads, etc.