

TEACHERS FORUM<sup>®</sup>



# QUESTION BANK

(solved)

**Class IX**

**ENGLISH**

**SUBJECT EXPERTS**

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# GRAMMAR

## 1. GAP FILLING

1. Complete the paragraph given below by filling in each of the blanks with the help of options that follow.

Around the 1880's an American doctor George Howard Monks modified an already existing game called Hoppity and called it Halma. The idea of (a) \_\_\_\_\_ game (b) \_\_\_\_\_ to make your way across the board from your corner and move to the opposite side (c) \_\_\_\_\_ your opponent. Chinese Checkers originated as a spin off from Halma. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	this	that	these	those
(b)	are	is	were	was
(c)	along	with	before	first

2. ABC Company's first product was a rice cooker (a) \_\_\_\_\_ didn't cook rice so much as burn it. It sold less than 100 units. (b) \_\_\_\_\_ setback didn't stop the ABC's team (c) \_\_\_\_\_ they pushed forward to create a multi-billion dollar company. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	but	that	it	this
(b)	a	the	this	that
(c)	as	that	for	it

3. At first Tinmay appeared to be quite afraid of the puppy and (a) \_\_\_\_\_ back if it came too near. He would run and touch it (b) \_\_\_\_\_ his large forepaws, and (c) \_\_\_\_\_ retreat to a safe distance. Finally, he allowed the puppy to crawl on his back and rest there. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	run	ran	running	runs
(b)	by	with	from	of
(c)	than	then	go	make

4. Sandalwood is the name of a class of fragrant woods (a) \_\_\_\_\_ trees. Unlike many other aromatic woods, they retain their fragrance (b) \_\_\_\_\_ decades. Essential oils (c) \_\_\_\_\_ also extracted from these woods. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	from	at	at	for
(b)	at	of	for	from
(c)	can	are	could	will

5. Premchand passed his matriculation exam (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a great effort in 1898, and in 1899 he took (b) \_\_\_\_\_ a school-teaching job, with a monthly salary of eighteen rupees. In 1919 he passed his B.A. with English, Persian and History. Later,

Premchand worked as (c) \_\_\_\_\_ deputy sub-inspector of schools. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	with	in	through	for
(b)	up	to	for	about
(c)	the	a	with	for

6. Two eggs (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in a bowl. Salt and pepper are added to them. A few drops of milk (b) \_\_\_\_\_ to them. A pan is taken and is put on the gas stove. After switching on the gas, the pan is greased. The beaten eggs are poured on the pan and a fork (c) \_\_\_\_\_ in it, so that the cooked egg is broken into small pieces. Scrambled egg can now be eaten. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	were beaten	will be beaten	are beaten	would be beaten
(b)	are being put	are put	is being put	is put
(c)	is continuously tossed	was being tossed	is being tossed	tossing

7. Parvati is an example (a) \_\_\_\_\_ an educated person who (b) \_\_\_\_\_ comments on others. Her intelligence is spent in criticizing others. She always (c) \_\_\_\_\_ that there is foul play in everything. **(2016)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	for	towards	of	to
(b)	always	never	rarely	sometimes
(c)	wonders	know	consider	thinks

8. Given a good pitch and the right amount of capital, any educated person can make (a) \_\_\_\_\_ small secure living out of a bookshop. Unless one goes in (b) \_\_\_\_\_ 'rare' books, it is not a difficult trade to learn. You start with a great advantage if you know anything (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the insides of books. **(2016)**

	i	ii	iii	iv
(a)	a	an	the	one
(b)	from	by	for	to
(c)	of	besides	regards	about

9. Social-networking sites (a) \_\_\_\_\_ to hold the attention of most internet users, especially women (b) \_\_\_\_\_ 18 and 29 years of age, according to (c) \_\_\_\_\_ new research study.

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	continue	continues	continued	are continuing
(b)	among	between	from	within
(c)	an	the	a	their <b>(2016)</b>

10. Many contemporary dancers are trained daily (a) \_\_\_\_\_ classical ballet. This helps to keep up (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the technicality of the given choreography. These dancers tend (c) \_\_\_\_\_ follow ideals of efficient bodily movements.

I                      II                      III                      IV

(a) in                  for                  at                  of

(b) to                  of                  with                  for

(c) at                  to                  of                  as

**(2016, 2014)**

11. Orwell believes that there are four explicit motives (a) \_\_\_\_\_ writing. "They exist in different degrees in every writer and, in any one writer, the proportions will vary from time to time, according to the atmosphere in which he is living," he mused.

For Orwell, writers put pen (b) \_\_\_\_\_ paper, or these days, fingers to keyboard – out (c) \_\_\_\_\_ "sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse and political purpose." **(2016)**

i                      ii                      iii                      iv

(a) with                  about                  of                  for

(b) on                  over                  to                  with

(c) of                  in                  with                  for

12. Prevention is better than cure. (a) \_\_\_\_\_ holds good even in the matter of road accidents. Accidents happen (b) \_\_\_\_\_ many causes and may occur under different circumstances. Perhaps the simplest (c) \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time most dangerous one is caused by a banana peel thrown carelessly around. **(2016)**

i                      ii                      iii                      iv

(a) he                  this                  its                  many

(b) by                  for                  because                  due to

(c) but                  and                  although                  as

13. Place tomatoes in a pan-fill the pan with water-add onions and green chillies -cook for 10 min.-remove from the pan-peel tomatoes-grind tomatoes, onion, green chillies-add salt to taste-boil and serve hot.

To prepare tomato soup tomatoes (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in a pan and the pan is filled with water. Onions and green chillies (b) \_\_\_\_\_ and cooked for 10 minutes. Tomatoes are then (c) \_\_\_\_\_ and peeled. Tomatoes, onions and chillies are ground. After adding salt the mixture is boiled and served hot. **(2016)**

(i)                      (ii)                      (iii)                      (iv)

(a) are placed                  will be                  must be                  can be

(b) can be added                  are added                  will be added                  should be added

(c) remove from the pan                  removal from water                  removed from the pan                  removes from water

14. A doctor had the habit of talking to the trees (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the roadside as he took his walks in the evening. He would bend (b) \_\_\_\_\_ kiss the trees lovingly and whisper kind words to (c) \_\_\_\_\_. This was (d) \_\_\_\_\_ odd but beautiful sight. It was indeed (e) \_\_\_\_\_ noble act in this wicked world. One day he was very upset (f) \_\_\_\_\_ see one of his trees cut down. This nature lover was so upset that he collapsed on the spot surprising the passers by. **(2016)**

- |          |       |        |      |
|----------|-------|--------|------|
| (i)      | (ii)  | (iii)  | (iv) |
| (a) in   | above | beside | by   |
| (b) at   | to    | in     | on   |
| (c) them | it    | him    | that |
| (d) a    | an    | but    | the  |
| (e) the  | an    | a      | some |
| (f) at   | to    | on     | in   |

15. When the moon rises in June, thousands of prehistoric creatures rise (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (on, in, up to, from) the depths of the sea, (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (these, their, our, your) heavy armour clanking as they clamber over (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (two, one, hundred, thousands) another in the shallows of Tanton Bay, Maine. There they mate, leaving hundreds of thousands of green eggs in the sand (d) \_\_\_\_\_. (Then, Them, Than, Because) they simply disappear. Remarkably this is all that modern science can tell (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (of, about, into, upon) the horseshoe crab (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (in, at, where, when) Tanton Bay or anywhere else. **(2016, 2014)**

16. Breakfast (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (was, has, is, are) a very important meal of the day, as it (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (broken, broke, break, breaks) the night long fast. It also helps (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (in, to, for, with) improve the body's metabolism. Unfortunately, it is the one meal that people are (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (much, many, most, some) likely to miss each day (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (when, because, but, and) they are in a hurry to go to school or work. Others miss breakfast in an effort to (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (lose, loose, lost, losing) weight. **(2016)**

17. A man attended (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (a, an, some, many) interview for a job. Along the corridor, he (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pick, picking, had picked, picked) up a piece of paper and (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (throw, thrown, threw, will throw) it into a dustbin. The (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (interviewee, interviewing, interviewer, interviewed) passed by and (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (saw, see, seen, seeing) it. This man got the job. If you have good habits, you (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (will be, would be, can be, could be) recognized. **(2015)**

18. Tigers (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (were, will, are, is) at the top of the food chain. Only men threaten their survival as a species. Tigers kill only for food (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (or, because, but, and) only when hungry. They rarely (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (attacked, attacks, attacking, attack) humans. Easily (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (recognised, recognising, has recognised, has recognising) by its coat of reddish orange with dark (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (strips, stripes, striped, stripe), the tiger is the (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (large, larger, largest, much larger) wild cat in the world. **(2015)**

19. The importance of caring (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (in, for, about, of) road safety has been (b) (stress, stressed, stressing, not stressed) time and again. It is necessary to (c)

\_\_\_\_\_ (see, observe, follow, look) rules of the road, especially (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (for, by, about, all) school children because they (e) (are, were, will be, is) the worse affected by accidents. Observance (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (of, in, about, for) the rules of the road is necessary to avoid accidents and prevent traffic jams. **(2015)**

20. A Man on a bicycle (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (will, can, should, would) go three or four times (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (fast, faster, fastly, fastest) than the pedestrian, but (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (is using, used, use, uses) five times less energy in the process. The bicycle is the (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (perfect, more perfect, much perfect, most perfect) transducer to match (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (man, men, man's, mens) metabolic energy to the impedence of locomotion. Equipped with (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (this, that, these, those) man can accomplish his task easily. **(2015)**
21. William Shakespeare is considered to be (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (an, a, the, most) unparalleled literary genius of Elizabethan Age. He wrote (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (in, at, for, to ) the contemporary Elizabethan stage (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ( for, on, in, with) simple, lyrical language which the court and public (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (could, will, have to, has to ) enjoy. Shakespeare was equally at home (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (for, in, with, at) writing tragedies like Hamlet and Macbeth, and romantic comedies such as Twelfth Night. Shakespeare (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (has, had, have, having) the largest vocabulary of any English writer during his time. **(2015, 2013)**
22. Reading is one of the best hobbies (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (this, that, who, it) you can adopt. (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (It, They, Them, Its) not only helps you to pass your leisure time usefully (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (and, so, hence, but) also keeps you well informed. Besides that, it builds (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (yours, your's, your, its) vocabulary and helps to (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (improvement, improving, improves, improve) your expression. If you can't decide (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (whose, which, different, various) books to read, you should consult your librarian. **(2015)**
23. The old man kept dreaming (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (in, of, at, to) the past. His kite-shop (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (had, was, were, is) gone, the premises (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (having, after, had, have) been sold (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (a few, many, the few, a little) years ago to (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (a, the, at, on) junk dealer. But he still (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (makes, has made, had made, made) kites for his own amusement. **(2015)**
24. Puppetry now a dying art form, (a) \_\_\_\_\_ found acceptance (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the youth (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the Heritage Festival held at Amritsar. A patwari Rakesh Kumar, (d) \_\_\_\_\_ arrested by a team of (e) \_\_\_\_\_ Vigilance Bureau as he was taking a bribe (f) \_\_\_\_\_. Rs. 500/- from a villager. **(2015)**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	is	has	was	have
(b)	between	among	with	from
(c)	on	over	at	in
(d)	has	was	were	are
(e)	a	that	the	an
(f)	for	on	of	over



25. The crocodile (a) ----- ( open /opened/ opens /opening) his mouth wide open (b) ----- ( and /out /or /that ) the woodpecker flew right (c)----- (out /in /at /on) .The woodpecker then began (d) ----- ( pulled /pull /pulling /pulls ) the insects and food particles (e) ----- (this/that/because/to) were wedged in between (f) ----- (a /an /the /any ) crocodile's teeth. "What a delicious place this crocodile's mouth is !" the woodpecker thought and chuckled. **(2013, (2015)**

**SELF ASSESSMENT TEST**

1. They ate (a) ----- (some/any/all/a) night. The maids were tired walking (b) ---- (down/up/to/from) and down the hall (c) ----- (but/to/and/with) serving them. The crowd (d) ----- (too/will/to/be) dispersed gradually. But there (e) ----- (were/was/is/are) a few people who were ready to sacrifice their night's sleep (f) -----(at/by/for/with) this competition. **(2015)**
2. Now the five friends (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (was/ were / will be/ are) holding all (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (of / the / but / over ) trump cards. They (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (have / had / has / can) escaped from the dark prison, had (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (recover / recovered / recovers / recovering) the treasure, and they were (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (in / at / on / under) their own home ground again. They hurried off (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (from / to / at / out / of) the castle courtyard.
3. In India, festivals and special (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (occasion / occasions / occassion / occasions) were celebrated (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (on / of / for / with) ritualistic ardours, but with the changing times (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (their / there / these / those) have been changes in celebrations too. People today take the easy way (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (in / on / out / for) of dining (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (outside / inside / in / not) rather than organizing things at home. I think money and convenience (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (was / is / were / are) turning friends and acquaintances away from our doors.
4. A man in a restaurant asked a waiter for a glass, a dinner plate (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (few/many/some/that) water, a match stick and a lemon wedge. The man (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pour/was pouring/poured/pouring) enough water onto the plate to fill it. The man asked the waiter if he (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (can/may/shall/could) pour the water from the plate (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (inside/into/in/onto) that glass without touching or moving the plate (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (I/he/they/we) would give him five hundred rupees. A few minutes later (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (a, an, the, these) waiter walked away with the money in his pocket.
5. The seven holes in the Shehnai appear to (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (give, gave, giving, gives)it a very limited scope of expression (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ( and, which, while, but ) in reality, the way in (c) \_\_\_\_\_ what, that, which, whose ) the lips and tongue play on the reed mouthpiece and the manner in which the holes (d) \_\_\_\_\_ ( was open, is open, are opened, were open ) and closed with the finger, (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (renders, rendered, render, rendering ) the Shehnai (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (a, an, the, some) most sensitive instrument, capable of producing sweet notes.

**ANSWERS**

- |                         |                    |                               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. (a) this             | (b) is             | (c) before                    |
| 2. (a) (ii) that        | (b) (iii) this     | (c) (i) as                    |
| 3. (a) (ii) ran         | (b) (ii) with      | (c) (ii) then                 |
| 4. (a) (i) from         | (b) (iii) for      | (c) (ii) are                  |
| 5. (a) (i) with         | (b) (i) up         | (c) (i) the                   |
| 6. (a) (iii) are beaten | (b) (ii) are put   | (c)(i) is continuously tossed |
| 7. (a) (iii) of         | (b) (i) always     | (c) (iv) thinks               |
| 8. (a) i - a            | (b) iii - for      | (c) iv – about                |
| 9. (a) (i) continue     | (b) (ii) between   | (c) (ii) the                  |
| 10. (a) (I) in          | (b) (III) with     | (c) (II) to                   |
| 11. (a) iv - for        | (b) iii - to       | (c) i - of                    |
| 12. (a) ii - this       | (b) iv - due to    | (c) i - but                   |
| 13. (a) (i) are placed  | (b) (ii) are added | (c) (iv) removed from water   |
| 14. (a) (iv) by         | (b) (ii) to        | (c) (i) them                  |
| (d) (ii) an             | (e) (iii) a        | (f) (ii) to                   |
| 15. (a) from            | (b) their          | (c) one                       |
| (d) Then                | (e) about          | (f) at                        |
| 16. (a) is              | (b) breaks         | (c) to                        |
| (d) most                | (e) because        | (f) lose                      |
| 17. (a) an              | (b) picked         | (c) threw                     |
| (d) interviewer         | (e) saw            | (f) will be                   |
| 18. (a) are             | (b) and            | (c) attack                    |
| (d) recognized          | (e) stripes        | (f) largest                   |
| 19. (a) about           | (b) stressed       | (c) follow                    |
| (d) for                 | (e) are            | (f) of                        |

20. (a) can (b) faster (c) uses  
(d) most perfect (e) man's (f) this
21. (a) an (b) for (c) in  
(d) could (e) in (f) had
22. (a) that (b) it (c) but  
(d) your (e) improve (f) which
23. (a) of (b) had (c) having  
(d) a few (e) a (f) made
24. (a) (ii) has (b) (ii) among (c) (iii) at  
(d) (ii) was (e) (iii) the (f) (iii) of
25. (a) opened (b) and (c) in  
(d) pulling (e) that (f) the

**SECTION - C**  
**LITERATURE**

**BEEHIVE**

1. **THE FUN THEY HAD - ISAAC ASIMOV**

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Margie went into the school room. It was right next to her bedroom and the mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time everyday except Saturday and Sunday because her mother said little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

- (i) Where was Margie's school room?
- (ii) Explain 'Mechanical teacher was on'.
- (iii) Write the opposite of 'regular'.

**Ans.** (i) Next to her bedroom

- (ii) Computer was on
- (iii) irregular

2. "Because it's not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago." He added loftily.

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above lines
- (ii) 'Our kind of school.' What kind of school they have?
- (iii) Trace the word from the extract that means 'in a superior way'.

**Ans.** (i) Tommy

- (ii) future classrooms with mechanical teachers
- (iii) loftily

3. Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. 'Because It's not our kind of school. Stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago' He added loftily.

- (i) Why did Tommy call Margie stupid?
- (ii) What does 'they' here refer to?
- (iii) Find the word which means 'in a superior way'.

**Ans.** (i) Tommy called Margie stupid because she was too ignorant

- (ii) They refer to the students of centuries ago
- (iii) loftily

4. Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her-grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhoods came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so that they could help one another with the home work and talk about it.

(i) Which school is Margie thinking about in the above lines?

(ii) What is the advantage of those old schools?

(iii) Which word in the passage means 'breathing out deeply'?

**Ans.** (i) School of grandfather's grandfather when he was a little boy.

(ii) They learn the same things and help each other in their homework children could go together and come together

(iii) sigh

5. He was round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart. Margie had hoped he wouldn't know how to put it together again, but he knew how all right, and, after an hour or so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked. That wasn't so bad.

(i) Who was the round little man in the above lines?

(ii) Why did he come with the box of tools with dials and wires?

(iii) Which word from the extract given above means "unattractive"?

**Ans.** (i) The inspector            (ii) Came to mend the computer            (iii) ugly

6. The part Margie hated most was the slot where she had to put home-work and test papers. She always had to write them out in a punch code they made her learn when she was six years old, and the mechanical teacher calculated the marks in no time.

(i) Why did Margie hate the slot?

(ii) When did she learn the punch code?

(iii) What does the expression no 'time' here refers to?

**Ans.** (i) Because she had to insert her homework in it

(ii) When she was 6 years old

(iii) Very fast

7. Tommy screamed with laughter. "You don't know much, Margie. The teachers didn't live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there".

(i) Who is Tommy?

(ii) What was the 'special building'?

(iii) Find the word from the extract that means 'shouted'.

**Ans.** (i) Tommy is Margie's friend.

(ii) The 'special building' was a school.

(iii) Screamed

8. He was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart. Margie had hoped he wouldn't know how to put it together again, but he knew how all right, and after an hour or so, there it was again, large and black and ugly, with a big screen on which all the lessons were shown and the questions were asked.

(i) What did the inspector do with the teacher?

(ii) How do you know the inspector was a friendly man?

(iii) Find a word from the above passage which is the opposite of 'beautiful'.

**Ans.** (i) opened up the machine/took the teacher apart.

(ii) He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple.

(iii) ugly

9. Margie always hated school, but now she hated it more than ever. The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography and she had been doing worse and worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfully and sent for the County Inspector.

(i) Why did Margie hate the school more than ever?

(ii) Whom did Margie's mother send for and why?

(iii) Find the word from the above extract which is the opposite of 'better'.

**Ans.** (i) Margie hated the school even more as the mechanical teacher was giving her tests after test in geography. Her performance was bad in them.

(ii) Margie's mother was upset because of Margie's performance in her tests so she sent for the county inspector.

(iii) worse

10. Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

(i) What was Margie's feelings towards her school?

(ii) Why was she fascinated by the old kind of school?

(iii) Find the word which means the same as 'a long deep breath'.

**Ans.** (i) she hated for school & her mechanical teacher

(ii) she thought it was fun going to such school as they would get chance to interact with each other & help each other in doing their homework.

(iii) sigh

11. Margie did so with a sigh? She was thinking about the schools they had when her grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

(i) What was Margie thinking?

(ii) Why could all the Kids help each other?

(iii) Find the word from the passage which means 'adjoining place'?

**Ans.** (i) She was thinking about the old schools of her grandfather time

(ii) Because they learned the same things.

(iii) neighbourhood

12. Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about old schools they had when her grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighbourhood came laughing and shouting in the school yard, sitting together in the school room, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things. So they could help one another in the homework and talk about it.

(i) What did Margie do with a sigh?

(ii) How did the kids get an opportunity to meet one another in old schools?

(iii) Which word in the passage means the same as 'take and exhale deep breath that can be heard'.

**Ans.** (i) Put the mathematics homework in the slot

(ii) sitting and enjoying together in school and going home together

(iii) sigh

13. They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to on a screen you know. And then when they turned back to the page before, it had the same words on it that it had when they read it the first time.

(i) Who turned the pages?

(ii) What did they find funny?

(iii) Which word in the passage means the same as "wrinkled with many folds"?

**Ans.** (i) Tommy and Margie

(ii) Words did not move

(iii) Crinkly

14. She said, "Where did you find it?" "In my house". He pointed without looking, because he was busy reading. "In the attic." "What's it about?" "School." Margie was

scornful, "School? What's there to write about school? I hate school."

(i) Who was Margie talking to? What had he found ?

(ii) What was the thing about? Why did Margie express her surprise on knowing this?

(iii) Find the word from the extract that means "feeling or showing contempt".

**Ans.** (i) Margie was talking to Tommy. He had found a book.

(ii) It was about a school. Margie expressed her surprise about the book being written about school because she hated school. Moreover, she wondered what was there to write about school

(iii) scornful

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What kind of book did Tommy show to Margie?

**Ans.** He showed an old and real book of his grandfather's grandfather, that contained contains crinkly and yellow pages.

2. Why did Margie hope that the County Inspector would take away her mechanical teacher ?

**Ans.** She Performed poorly in all the geography tests and developed a strong disliking for the school. Also Tommy's mechanical teacher was taken away for a month when its history section blanked out.

3. Tommy thought the old books were funny and a big waste. Why ?

**Ans.** In the old books words stood still and did not run and could not be reused like the screen of their mechanical teacher.

4. What did county inspector do to improve Margie's performance?

**Ans.** County inspector found geography sector had been geared too quick. He slowed it up to an average 10-years level. He found the overall pattern of Margie quiet satisfactory.

5. What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have ?

**Ans.** Margie and Tommy had the mechanical teacher. He taught them different subjects. He worked on the television screen. He gave tests and calculated the marks. He asked questions and gave home-work.

6. How the schools were different in 'old days'?

**Ans.** In old days schools had a separate special building where all the children went to read together and teacher did not teach each child differently.

7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of teachers ?

**Ans.** In olden days the teachers were not mechanical teachers. They taught the children in a special building where all children went to learn. They asked questions and gave them home work.



8. How were the old school and old teachers different, according to Tommy ?

**Ans.** The old school had men as teachers while in new school there were screens. There was a special building where all students went and learned the same thing.

9. Why did Margie's Mother send for the Country Inspector ? What did he do ?

**Ans.** Margie was not performing well in her geography tests. The country Inspector took the teacher apart and put it together again as its geography sector was geared a little too quick.

10. What type of books did Margie and Tommy read? How were they different from a real book?

**Ans.** They read title books. The words came on the screen and kept moving when read. In the real books, the words were printed. They did not move.

11. Why did Margie hate school ?

**Ans.** Because the mechanical teacher always give her test after testing geography and she was doing worse and worse until her mother sent her for the county inspector

12. What type of school Margie's grandfather have?

**Ans.** A normal class teacher teaching all students together in a classroom.

13. How does Tommy describe the old kind of teachers?

**Ans.** They were real men and not Robots, they were quite smart and knowledgeable and gave homework and asked questions.

14. What did the inspector tell Mrs. Jones?

**Ans.** He said it was not the girl's fault. The geography sector was little geared and was quick too. He had slowed it up to her level.

15. How is Margie's school different from a normal school?

**Ans.** She had a room installed with a computer from where she use to learn the lessons. No teachers were there to teach the students and no home works were given to the students. Computer gave them test after test and no one to do corrections and to solve their doubts. She had no classmates.

16. What are the differences stated in the school Margie attended and the one mentioned in the book in the chapter "The Fun They Had".

**Ans.** The earlier school had building where teachers and students gathered to study. They used real books and they had human teachers. Children played, laughed and learnt together in the school. In the present school, the computer tutor was fixed in one room in the house and all teachings were programmed in the computer. It was monotonous and mechanical.

17. Give a detailed description of Margie's school. How was it different than present day school ?

**Ans.** Margie was taught in her home in a special room called the 'schoolroom'. She would sit there on fixed hours throughout the week except Saturday and Sunday. Her questions were flashed on a board and had to answer them in a punch code. Her tutor was a computer.

**NCERT SOLUTIONS**

1. How old are Margie and Tommy?

**Ans.** Margie was eleven and Tommy was thirteen.

2. What did Margie write in her diary?

**Ans.** Margie wrote in her diary : "Today, 17th May, 2157 Tommy found a real book"

3. Had Margie ever seen a book before?

**Ans.** No, Margie had never seen a book before. If she had she could not have written the sentence in her diary.

4. What things about the book did she find strange?

**Ans.** Margie found it strange that the words printed on a book stood still instead of moving the way they did on a screen. She also found it odd that the words on a page always remained the same as the rest time they were read.

5. What do you think a tele-book is?

**Ans.** A telebook is a book that can be read on screen. Words move on the screen for the readers to read.

6. Where was Margie's school? Did she have any classmates?

**Ans.** Margie's school was in her home itself, right next to her bedroom.

No, she did not have any classmates.

7. What subject did Margie and Tommy learn?

**Ans.** Margie learnt geography and mathematics. Tommy learnt history and maths.

**Answer the following with reference to the story.**

1. 'I couldn't throw it away.'

(i) Who says these words?

(ii) What does it refer to?

(iii) What is it compared with?

**Ans.** (i) Margie says these words.

(ii) It refers to the book.

(iii) It is compared with television screen or the tele-book.

2. ' Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher, it was a man'

- (i) Who, thus they refer to?
- (ii) What does regular mean?
- (iii) What is it contrasted with?

**Ans.** (i) The word 'they' refers to the students who studied in the old kind of schools, centuries before the time the story is set in.

(ii) Here, the term 'regular' refers to the mechanical teachers that Tommy and Margie has.

(iii) The mechanical teacher is contrasted with the teacher of the earlier times, who was a man

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe the teachers Margie and Tommy had?

**Ans.** They had Mechanical teachers in the form of television or computer teachers. It was the year 2157. Science had replaced men teachers with computer teachers.

2. Why did Margie's mother send for the County inspector?

**Ans.** Margie had been given many tests in geography by the mechanical teacher, but there was no improvement in her performance. It is for this reason that Margie's mother sent for the County Inspector to find out why this was happening.

3. What did he do ?

**Ans.** He reduces the pace of geography sector to an average 10-years level.

4. Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the county inspector do to help her?

**Ans.** Margie was doing badly in geography because the geography sector of the mechanical teacher had been adjusted at a higher level. The County Inspector slowed down the geography sector of the mechanical teacher to an average ten-year level.

5. What had once happened to Tommy's teacher

**Ans.** The history sector of Tommy's mechanical teacher had blanked out completely. So she took it away for nearly a month. Tommy relaxed for that period without any worry.

6. Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?

**Ans.** Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school. The mechanical teacher always turned on at the same time every day except Saturdays and Sundays. This was because her mother believed that learning at regular hours helped little girls learn better.

7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

**Ans.** They had a teacher, who was a man. This teacher taught in a special building, where all the kids assembled and learned the same things according to their respective ages.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?

**Ans.** They had mechanical teachers and they were basically large black screens on which the lessons were shown and questions were asked. These teachers were adjusted according to the age and potential of the student concerned. They had a slot in which the students had to put their homework and test papers. The mechanical teacher immediately calculated the marks for the answers written in punch codes by the students. However, these teachers were prone to technical and mechanical failure and troubles. Their schools were in their homes itself and so the students did not have classmates. They had regular days and hours for school and the mechanical teacher always turned on at the same time every day except Saturdays and Sundays.

2. Why did Margie hate school? Why did she think the old kind of school must have been fun?

**Ans.** Margie hated school because it was not fun. She hated the large black screen and the way she had to insert the homework and test papers in the slot on the mechanical teacher. She disliked fact that she had to write her answers in a punch code. Margie imagined the old kind of school with kids from the entire neighbourhood coming together, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard and they would sit together in the classroom and go home together at the end of the day. They would learn the same things and could help one another with the homework. Also, the teachers were people, making the learning process more interactive. All these aspects made her believe that the old kind of school must have been fun.

3. Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer?

**Ans.** Yes, it is true that schools today are more fun than the school in the story. This school is nothing but a computer with a screen and a slot. Its instructions flash on its screen. It asks what to do and what not to do. It also tells her how to put the homework. There is no human interaction.

But in the schools today, kids of the same age go to schools in neighbourhood. They go to them laughing and shouting. They play together. They enjoy their stay at school. They go home together at the end of the day. They learn the same thing. Thus, they can help one another on the homework. They can talk about it also. Thus, they do not feel lonely and bored. They play together and enjoy the fun of being together.

