

CBSE Class 12 English Answer Key 2025 for SET 1 Question Paper

SECTION A

Reading Skills (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the rich and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.....

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

Answer:

The writer's tone is appreciative and informative. The passage highlights saffron's rich history, value, and usage in elite foods. The comparison to gold and mention of its medicinal properties show admiration for the spice's importance and uniqueness in the world of cooking and culture.

(ii) Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence?

"Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices."

(A) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.

(B) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.

(C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

(D) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.

Answer:

(C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

This is the correct answer because the passage compares saffron's value in the spice world to gold's value among metals, highlighting its preciousness and rarity rather than physical properties or exact monetary worth.

(iii) List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe.

Paragraphs (2) and (3) [2 marks]

(iv) Fill in the blank from the given options:

In the phrase '*backbone of several iconic dishes*', the word 'iconic' refers to —

- (A) delicately cooked
- (B) widely recognised
- (C) peculiar and rare
- (D) strange and infamous

Paragraph (3) [1 mark]

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately:

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____.

Paragraph (4) [2 marks]

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False:

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran.

Paragraph (5) [1 mark]

(vii) Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value?

- (A) Due to its magical or mystical properties.
- (B) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.
- (C) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.
- (D) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

Paragraph (6) [1 mark]

(viii) Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated.

Paragraph (7) [1 mark]

2. Read the following passage carefully:

1. Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.
2. Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating body temperature and keeping the wearer cool and dry.....

Answer the following questions based on the above passage:

(i) What does the phrase 'luxurious qualities' in paragraph (2) tell you about the silk fabric? Write in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2 marks]

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.

Assertion: Silk production requires careful selection.

Reason: Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance.

- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is **not** the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

[1 mark]

(iii) Justify the following statement:

"Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation."

[1 mark]

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(iv) According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk. **[1 mark]**

(v) "Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves, and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk." State **one inference** that can be drawn from this. **[1 mark]**

(vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text:

"Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is _____." **[1 mark]**

(vii) Based on the given text, mention the **states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk** in India in the year **2021**. **[1 mark]**

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably.

"104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in _____." **[1 mark]**

(ix) With reference to the given passage, **give one reason** why silk production is considered **labour-intensive**. **[1 mark]**

Answers to the Questions

(i) The phrase '**luxurious qualities**' suggests that silk is soft, smooth, and comfortable on the skin. It can **absorb and release moisture**, helping regulate body temperature.

Additionally, silk's long and uniform fibres give it a **lustrous** appearance, adding to its luxury.

(ii) Correct Answer: (A)

Both the assertion and the reason are **true**, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

Silk production requires careful selection because **long and uniform silk fibres contribute to its glossy appearance**.

(iii) Silk is luxurious because its **high price is justified by its rarity and the meticulous labour involved** in its production. The process includes **careful selection of silkworms, feeding them quality mulberry leaves, and harvesting silk threads**, making it expensive.

(iv) The top two silk-producing countries are **China and India**.

(v) **Inference:** The production of silk is **heavily dependent on environmental conditions and the lifecycle of silkworms**, meaning factors like **climate, food availability, and time** play a **crucial role** in its success.

(vi) *Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is **weakened when wet and can be damaged by excessive sunlight**.*

(vii) **Most Silk Production (2021): Karnataka (8483 metric tonnes)**
Least Silk Production (2021): Uttar Pradesh (179 metric tonnes)

(viii) *104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in **1 kg of silk**.*

(ix) Silk production is considered **labour-intensive** because it requires **specialized knowledge and skilled artisans** to carefully **rear silkworms, harvest cocoons, and extract silk fibres** in a delicate process.