

## AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM

### MCQs (1 mark)

1. Who has written the poem Elementary School Classroom in a Slum?
  - A) Kipling
  - B) Wordsworth
  - C) Kamlanath
  - D) Stephen Spender
2. What theme did the poet concentrate on in the poem?
  - A) themes of social injustice and class inequalities.
  - B) theme of children and their happiness
  - C) theme of insecurities
  - D) none
3. What does the poet portray in the poem?
  - A) young minds
  - B) playfulness of the children
  - C) questions of children
  - D) the plight of young children in the slums
4. What kind of life do the children living in slums have?
  - A) full of love
  - B) full of care and warmth
  - C) Hopeless and full of struggle
  - D) all of these
5. The poet compares the colour of walls with?
  - A) rotten fruits
  - B) stale chapatis
  - C) rotten vegetables
  - D) sour cream
6. What are the poetic devices used in the poem?
  - A) alliteration and simile
  - B) metaphor and imagery
  - C) synecdoche, and irony
  - D) all of these
7. What do the words "Their future is painted with fog" convey?
  - A) no love and care
  - B) no warmth
  - C) no hard work
  - D) no hope of improvement
8. What do the faces of children in the slum areas reflect?
  - A) happiness
  - B) their aspirations
  - C) their energy
  - D) sadness and lack of enthusiasm
9. What is ironical about the wall hangings and donations in the classroom?

- A) set up in very clean environment
  - B) completely opposite to the needs of the children in the classroom
  - C) set up in happy environment
  - D) set up in gloomy set up
10. What does paper-seeming boy mean?
- A) had a paper in his hand
  - B) was as thin as a sheet of paper
  - C) was white in colour like a sheet of paper
  - D) all of these
11. What is the Tree Room in the poem?
- A) a tree - shaped room
  - B) a room on a tree where squirrels play
  - C) a room on a tree where rats play
  - D) a room on a tree where pigeons play
12. What do Catacombs signify?
- A) relevance of the map hanging on the wall of the classroom
  - B) confinement to the slums, the maps being irrelevant
  - C) importance of the school
  - D) death
13. Why are the pictures and maps meaningless?
- A) they are fake and show a false thing
  - B) they are old and have faded away
  - C) they show vastness which is opposite to the world and needs of the children in the classroom
  - D) all of these
14. How can powerful people help the poor children?
- A) by fighting with the government
  - B) by fighting with the powerful
  - C) by bridging gaps of inequalities and injustice
  - D) by fighting with the rich
15. "Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.  
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor": what do these words express?
- A) poor state of the classroom
  - B) poor plight of children's homes
  - C) poor plight of teachers
  - D) poor plight of the slum children

### Short answer type questions (2 marks)

1. Why is the head of the tall girl weighed down?
2. Describe the appearance of the children.
3. Why is he called 'unlucky heir'?
4. Who sits at the back of the class, unnoticed? How is he different?
5. Explain: "His eyes live in a dream."

### 3 marks questions

1. Explain "like rootless weeds".
2. "On sour cream walls, donations" explain.
3. What does "Shakespeare's head" suggest?
4. Why does the poet mention 'Tyrolese valley'?

**Long Answer Type Question – 5 marks**

1. Describe the children sitting in An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum
2. Write the central idea of the poem An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum

## An Elementary Classroom in a Slum

### MCQs

MCQs : An Elementary Classroom in a Slum					
1	D	6	D	11	B
2	A	7	D	12	B
3	D	8	D	13	C
4	C	9	B	14	C
5	D	10	B	15	D

### 2 marks questions

1. she is depressed - burden of sad thoughts - burdened by the load of poverty and trial and tribulations of life.
2. Pale with unkempt and untidy hair scattered all over.
3. He will inherit poverty, disease and despair from his parents
4. A sweet young pupil sits at the back of the dimly lit class. He is different from the others because his eyes are gleaming with the dreams of his future. The filth and depravity of his life has still not ruined his hopes.

5. child's eyes are - dream about the bright future. - not sad or morbid like the eyes of others

### 3 marks questions

1. Simile. Unkempt hair of the children are compared to unwanted weeds that lay scattered in the absence of the roots. Their hair cover their weak, under nourished face in a similar manner.
2. Ill maintained infrastructure of the slum. Sour cream walls adds to the pale and sad appearance – walls bear the names of the people who had donated funds to the school – perhaps the funds were either too meagre or were not fully utilized to paint the walls brightly.
3. Irony. Value of education is minimal in slum school – reference to Shakespeare raise false hopes. Primary concern of the children is food to satisfy their hunger not the imaginary world painted by Shakespeare.
4. Natural beauty of Tyrolese valley which is full of flowers—stands for heavenly splendour. –used to draw the attention to the slum children who pass most of their lives raking in garbage and never get chance to enjoy the beauty of mountains and valleys.

### 5 marks questions

Ans. 1.

- The children of the classroom were mostly malnourished.
- The tall girl of the classroom
  - has her head weighed-down.
  - burdened with family pressures and poverty.
- Another boy,
  - is as thin as paper
  - has got twisted bones, inherited from father.
  - eyes are bulged out like that of rats
  - inherited gnarled disease sitting in his desk in spite of his lessons.
- Another sweet and young boy at the back
  - is unnoticed by others, have sparkling eyes with lots of dreams. He is as
  - lively as that of the squirrels
  - not interested in staying inside the classroom.

ANS 2. children who are living in a slum - suffering from malnutrition - In their classroom - many beautiful pictures - an open handed map and the bust of . Shakespeare. The poet wants that these children should be taken out of their slum and they should be shown green fields and be allowed to run freely - he appeals to the officials to do some-thing for the children.

The poet says that only those people can create history who can enjoy anything under the sun. Therefore, the poet wants that these children should also be provided proper facilities so that they can grow into useful citizens.