

Section A: Short Stories

Direction: From the TWO SETS of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your responses in your answer sheet. Answer the questions from the CHOSEN SET in this section with reference to the short story, “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber.

Set I

Question 1a.

[5]

Direction: For each question, there are four alternatives: A, B, C and D. Choose the correct alternative and circle it. **DO NOT** circle more than ONE alternative. If there are more than one choice circled, **NO** score will be awarded.

(i) The patient upon whom Dr. Mitty’s is going to display his medical expertise is

- A Wellington McMillan.
- B Pritchard Mitford.
- C Remington.
- D Benbow.

(ii) In his third dream, Walter Mitty is

- A facing a trial.
- B fighting a storm.
- C facing a firing squad.
- D in an operation theatre.

(iii) When Walter Mitty says, “*We only live once, Sergeant,*” he means that people should

- A live meaningful lives.
- B protect their lives.
- C always be happy.
- D fight to live.

(iv) “*I could have killed Gregory Fitzhurst at three hundred feet with my left hand.*” In this line we see Walter Mitty using _____ to make his point.

- A a simile
- B an irony
- C a metaphor
- D a hyperbole

(v) The gloves in the story symbolize

- A Walter Mitty's escape from his mundane life.
- B Walter Mitty's protection against the society.
- C Mrs. Mitty's control over Walter Mitty.
- D Walter Mitty's longing for masculinity.

Question 1b.

[20]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) Walter Mitty is found to be daydreaming most of the time. Can this be regarded as normal? Provide **two** points to support your answer.

(5)

(ii) Would you consider Mr. Mitty a responsible husband? Support your stand with any **two** evidences from the story.

(5)

(iii) If you were Dr. Renshaw, how would you treat Walter Mitty?

(5)

(iv) You are Walter Mitty driving through a crowded street and you cause a heavy traffic jam because of your day dreaming. The traffic policeman and other commuters have gathered around your car and they are furious. What would you do to avoid their wrath and mockery?

(5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) The story ends with Walter Mitty being described as “*undefeated and inscrutable to the last.*” Do you think James Thurber has used appropriate adjectives to describe the character?

(10)

(ii) Imagine that you are Mrs. Mitty and of late you are greatly concerned about your husband's strange behaviour. Write a personal letter to Dr. Renshaw explaining about your husband and your worries.

(15)

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 answers in your answer sheet.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We live in the era of the knowledge revolution, when the power of a nation is determined not by the number of soldiers in its army but the knowledge it possesses. Science, medicine, engineering and business propel nations towards a higher quality of life, but they also require highly qualified and skillful people.

We are now adopting intelligent machines that can capture the expertise of such knowledgeable people and reason in a manner similar to humans. The desire for intelligent machines was just an elusive dream until the first computer was developed. The early computers could manipulate large data bases effectively by following prescribed **algorithms***, but could not reason about the information provided. This gave rise to the question of whether computers could ever think. Alan Turing defined the intelligent behaviour of a computer as the ability to achieve human-level performance in a cognitive task. The Turing test provided a basis for the verification and validation of knowledge-based systems.

In 1956, a summer workshop at Dartmouth College brought together ten researchers interested in the study of machine intelligence, and a new science – artificial intelligence or AI – was born. Since the early 1950s, AI technology has developed from the curiosity of a few researchers to a valuable tool to support humans making decisions.

Artificial intelligence is a science that has defined its goal as making machines do things that would require intelligence as if done by humans. A machine is thought intelligent if it can achieve human-level performance in some cognitive task. To build an intelligent machine, we have to capture, organise and use human expert knowledge in some problem area. This lead to the development of expert systems – computer programs capable of performing at a human-expert level in a narrow problem area. They can also explain their reasoning procedures.

Goals of Artificial Intelligence

The overall research goal of artificial intelligence is to create technology that allows computers and machines to function in an intelligent manner. The general problem of simulating (or creating) intelligence has been broken down into sub-problems. These consist of particular traits or capabilities that researchers expect an intelligent system to display.

Early researchers developed algorithms that imitated step-by-step reasoning that humans use when they solve puzzles or make logical judgements. By the late 1980s and 1990s, AI research had developed methods for dealing with uncertain or incomplete information, employing concepts from probability and economics.

Human beings ordinarily use fast, intuitive judgments rather than step-by-step deduction that early AI research was able to model. However, AI has progressed from using symbol-based problem solving to higher reasoning.

Many of the problems machines are expected to solve will require extensive knowledge about the world. Among the things that AI needs to represent are: objects, properties, categories and relations between objects; situations, events, states and time; causes and effects; knowledge about knowledge; and many other, less well researched domains.

**algorithm (noun): a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer.*

Uses of AI in Our Everyday Life

Virtual Personal Assistants

Siri, Google Now, and Cortana are all intelligent digital personal assistants on various platforms (iOS, Android, and Windows Mobile). In short, they help find useful information when you ask for it using your voice; you can say “Where’s the nearest Chinese restaurant?”, “What’s on my schedule today?”, “Remind me to call my mother at eight o’clock,” and the assistant will respond by finding information, relaying information from your phone, or sending commands to other apps.

Smart Transport Machines

You probably haven’t seen someone reading the newspaper while driving to work yet, but self-driving cars are moving closer and closer to reality; Google’s self-driving car project and Tesla’s “autopilot” feature are two examples that have been in the news lately. Earlier this year, the *Washington Post* reported on an algorithm developed by Google that could potentially let self-driving cars learn to drive in the same way that humans do: through experience.

Google has been investing in a driverless car and has completed over 480000 autonomous-driving miles accident free. Driverless trains carry passengers from city to city in Japan without the need for human help. It is claimed that AI takes away the responsibility from the drivers, and also eliminates that danger of distracted driving and boasts a reaction time much faster than that of any human.



Waymo - driverless car by Google

Security Surveillance

A single person monitoring a number of video cameras isn't a very secure system; people get bored easily, and keeping track of multiple monitors can be difficult even in the best of circumstances. Which is why training computers to monitor those cameras makes a great deal of sense. With supervised training exercises, security algorithms can take input from security cameras and determine whether there may be a threat—if it “sees” a warning sign, it will alert human security officers.

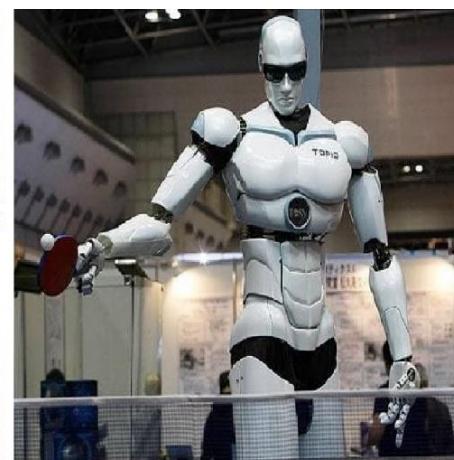
Greater Levels of Individualized Learning

Some of this is already happening through growing numbers of adaptive learning programs, games, and software. These AI based systems respond to the needs of the student, putting greater emphasis on certain topics, repeating things that students haven't mastered, and generally helping students to work at their own pace, whatever that may be. This kind of custom tailored education could be a machine-assisted solution to helping students at different levels work together in one classroom, with teachers facilitating the learning and offering help and support when needed. Adaptive learning has already had a huge impact on education across the nation (especially through programs like Khan Academy), and as AI advances in the coming decades adaptive programs like these will likely only improve and expand.

In Pictures: Flashes of How AI Supported Machines Are In Use Today



Robot-waiters serving food to a restaurant in China (Picture: Reuters)



Topio - a humanoid robot designed to play table tennis

Set I

Question 1a.

[1x5]

Direction: For each question, there are four alternatives: A, B, C and D. Choose the correct alternative and circle it. **DO NOT** circle more than ONE alternative. If there are more than one choice circled, **NO** score will be awarded.

- (i) According to the first paragraph, the power of a nation depends on
 - A its number of AI assisted machines.
 - B high quality life of its people.
 - C knowledge its people have.
 - D the size of its army.

- (ii) The goal of AI research is to
 - A create means to make machines intelligent.
 - B make more machines capable of using AI.
 - C make machines work faster than humans.
 - D store vast knowledge about the world.

- (iii) As per the text, *Siri*, *Google Now* and *Cortana* are some of the intelligent digital personal assistants that we can use in our everyday life. This means that they
 - A can do all our personal work.
 - B are machines which assist us personally.
 - C will be able to represent us in our absence.
 - D help us by giving information and reminders.

- (iv) AI assisted self-driving cars can benefit the society the most by providing
 - A tracking system of security surveillance.
 - B rides to physically challenged people.
 - C means to people to read newspapers.
 - D people their daily schedules.

- (v) The year 1956 is a milestone for the AI research because
 - A researchers interested in AI conducted a workshop.
 - B researchers developed machines to assist humans.
 - C machines were made to function like humans.
 - D its foundation as a new science was laid.

Question1b.

[20]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) Explain in your own words the benefits of using virtual personal assistants.

(5)

(ii) What are the purposes of AI assisted learning? Mention any **two**.

(5)

(iii) As per the statistics given, Google's driverless car has made over 480000 safe rides. Will you feel safe to ride such a car? Explain your stand.

(5)

(iv) Would you choose to use robots or hire humans as waiters if you were a hotel owner? Give **one** explanation.

(5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) Write a summary of the text within a word-range of 100 – 150 words. You must create an appropriate title for the summary.

(10)

(ii) *In future, robots with AI will replace the human work force and people will be jobless. Do you agree with the statement? Support your views with **two** explanations.*

(15)

Section C: Poetry

Direction: Read the poem given below carefully. From the TWO SETS of questions on this poem, choose ONE SET and write your answers in your answer sheet.

The Soldier (Rupert Brooke)

If I should die, think only this of me;
That there's some corner of a foreign field
 That is forever England. There shall be
 In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
 A body of England's breathing English air,
 Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
 A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
 Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
 And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
 In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Set I

Question 1a

[5]

Direction: For each question, there are four alternatives: A, B, C and D. Choose the correct alternative and circle it. **DO NOT** circle more than ONE alternative. If there are more than one choice circled, **NO** score will be awarded.

(i) The speaker in the poem calls _____ 'forever England.'

- A his grave
- B the battlefield
- C a foreign land
- D his birth place

(ii) At the end the speaker wishes to

- A die for his country.
- B come back to his country.
- C show appreciation for his country.
- D give back what his country gave him.

(iii) In the 5th line, “*A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,*” we find the speaker regarding England as his

- A home.
- B heaven.
- C mother.
- D teacher.

(iv) The poem does not fully qualify to be categorized as a Petrarchan sonnet because

- A there is no concluding couplet.
- B of the internal rhyme in the sestet.
- C of the rhyme scheme in the octave.
- D the poem is divided into octave and sestet.

(v) “*In that rich earth a richer dust concealed.*”
The line can be best interpreted to mean that a soldier’s

- A burial increases worth of the place.
- B body is more worthy than the surrounding.
- C worth increases when he dies in a foreign land.
- D body becomes more worthy when it is concealed.

Question 1b

[20]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) Choose any **two** lines from the text to show that the speaker is ready to die for his country.

(5)

(ii) Explain any **two** figures of speech used in the poem.

(5)

(iii) What could be the state of mind of the speaker's family members given the fact that he is in a war?

(5)

(iv) Explain the devastating truth about war that is subtly referred to in the poem.

(5)

Set II

[25]

Question 2.

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country’. If you were to follow this profound words of US President John F Kennedy, how would you show your love for your country in ways different to the one mentioned in the poem? Write any **five** contributions you can make as a student.

(10)

(ii) How is the speaker's quality of being a patriotic person brought out through the poem? Elaborate with a close reference to the text.

(15)

Section D: Drama

Direction: From the TWO SETS of questions under this genre, choose ONE SET and write your answers in your answer sheet.

Set I

Question 1.

[1x5]

Directions: For each question, there are four alternatives: A, B, C and D. Choose the correct alternative and circle it. **DO NOT** circle more than ONE alternative. If there are more than one choice circled, **NO** score will be awarded.

(i) Who breaks the author's status of being anonymous?

A his mother
B Gontran
C Gustave
D Ardele

(ii) According to Madam Bessarabo, the scenario that will make a sensational headline is the one involving

A the housing inspector opening his umbrella and taking notes under the deluge.
B the author's mother rushing about in panic and bellowing with fright.
C the author getting angry and asking Madam Bessarabo to get out.
D Ardele shouting hysterically and shooting aimlessly in the room.

(iii) Ardele's arguments with Gontran, the lady on the phone and her mother-in-law are indicative of her _____ nature.

A humorous
B suspicious
C speculative
D quarrelsome

(iv) *Madame Bessarabo: ... there are journalists who betray. I shall never betray.*
The above line by the character can be best described as containing

A an irony.
B an allusion.
C a metaphor.
D a hyperbole.

(v) La Surrette is minor character in the play but an important one because he

- A triggers the troubles in the author's life.
- B represents the lower segment of the society.
- C symbolizes unlimited desire of human beings.
- D adds enormously to the comic aspect of the play.

Question 1b.

[20]

Direction: Answer the following questions:

(i) How do La Surette and the housing inspector add laughter to the absurd situation in the play?

(5)

(ii) Assuming that you are the housing inspector, write a report of about 80 words on what you have witnessed at the Jacques's house. It should contain a headline, lead sentences and supporting details.

(5)

(iii) *At times even a close friend fails to understand the troubles that we are going through.* Justify how true this statement is for the author and his friend Gustave.

(5)

(iv) Draw a character sketch of the author's mother.

(5)

Set II

Question 2.

[25]

*Direction: Answer **ALL** the following questions:*

(i) Prove that the text is a farcical play by citing at least **four** textual examples.

(10)

(ii) Jean Anouilh has created women who are highly illogical. Justify the statement with references to **any** three characters in the play.

(15)

