

- (A) "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't." Max glanced at Fowler, who was standing stiffly not far from Ausable, and waved the gun with a commanding gesture. "Please sit down," he said. "We have a wait of half an hour, I think." (The Midnight Visitor)

- (a) State any one inference about the balcony spoken at length by Ausable from the given context.

The management promised to block it off. But they haven't.

- (b) State which of the options from (i) to (iv) can be applied to the given question or context? "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." When Ausable said this, what was he relying on?

- (i) A hypothesis: Max had no idea about the balcony.
- (ii) An assumption: Fowler had no idea about the balcony.
- (iii) A premise: Only he knew that there was no balcony.
- (iv) A theory: The waiter had no idea about the balcony.

- (c) 'It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't.'

Why does Ausable explain the existence of a balcony at such great length to Fowler? Elaborate in about 30-40 words, with reference to the extract.

- (d) Max told Fowler that they had to wait for a good thirty minutes for a paper to arrive. The paper here refers to

*An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
All his young days into the harbour where
His ball went.*

(The Ball Poem)

- (a) What themes are explored by the poet John Berryman in the poem 'The Ball Poem'?
- (b) How do words like 'rigid,' 'trembling,' and 'staring' add to the mood and tone of the poem?
- (c) The boy's reaction to the loss of the ball shows that
 - (i) he would never feel happy again
 - (ii) he would never play with another ball
 - (iii) he would ask for a new ball
 - (iv) he was very attached to the lost ball and was very upset about losing it.
- (d) Comment on the poet's use of symbolism in these lines in about 30-40 words.

Or

(B) *But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair.*

(For Anne Gregory)

- (a) What is the objective of the poet in using conjunction 'but' in the given extract?
- (b) What is the significance of the argument "*But I can get a hair-dye/ And set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot*"? What effect will it have on the young men? Answer in about 30-40 words.
- (c) Anne Gregory despite her young age seems to have clarity of thought because she wants
- (i) to dye her hair brown, black, or carrot.
 - (ii) young men to love her for her yellow hair.
 - (iii) to be loved for her internal beauty.
 - (iv) young men to love her desperately.
- (d) Identify the use of consonance in the given lines of the poem.

Or

(B) *The creature that emerged from this sack on to the spacious tiled floor of the Consulate bedroom, resembled most of all a very small mediievally-conceived, dragon. From the head to the tip of the tail he was coated with symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour, between whose tips was visible soft velvet fur like that of a chocolate-brown mole. He shook himself and I half expected a cloud of dust, but in fact, it was not for another month that I managed to remove the last of the mud and see the otter, as it were, in his true colours.*
(Mijbil the Otter)

(a) Pick the option that classifies (F) Fact from (O) opinion.

1. I think the otter was caked with mud, initially.
2. I feel he was a fine pet for the author.
3. Oh come on, his fur was like that of a mole.
4. Let's not forget the otter needed to be cleaned for a month.

- (i) F 1 and 3, O 2 and 4
- (ii) F 2 and 3, O 1 and 4
- (iii) F 1 and 4, O 2 and 3
- (iv) F 1 and 2, O 3 and 4

(b) What do these words reveal about the author's personality?

'But in fact, it was not for another month that I managed to remove the last of the mud and see the otter, as it were, in his true colours.'

(c) Study the statement, *'From the head to the tip of the tail he was coated with symmetrical pointed scales...'* In which of the options given below, the meaning of the word coated as used in the statement has been used?

- (i) Roll the potato wedges in crumbs and fry.
- (ii) His tongue is layered yellow due to long sickness.
- (iii) My shoes were covered with mud after a long walk.
- (iv) The walls were painted bright pink for the baby's arrival.

(d) The meaning of the word armour in, *'From the head to the tip of the tail he was coated with symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour'* is

d the given extracts and answer the questions.