**A Tiger in the Zoo**

**Extract-based Questions (5 Marks each)**

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the**

**correct option.**

**1.** He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

**(a) Who is ‘he’ in the above lines?**

(i) Tiger (ii) Poet (iii) Zoo keeper (iv) Lion

**(b) Where is ‘he’?**

(i) In the jungle (ii) In a small cage (iii) In a circus (iv) None of these

**(c) In which mood is he?**

(i) He is happy. (ii) He is sad. (iii) He is angry. (iv) He is silent.

**(d) How is he walking in the cage?**

(i) Fast (ii) Zigzag (iii) Slowly (iv) Not walking at all

**(e) ‘Pads of velvet’ means:**

(i) tiger’s skin (ii) tiger’s whiskers (iii) tiger’s soft soles (iv) none of these

**Ans.** (a)—(i), (b)—(ii), (c)—(iii), (d)—(iii), (e)—(iii)

**2.** He should be lurking in the shadow,

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where plump deer pass.

**(a) According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be ‘sliding’ through the**

**foliage as this would:**

(i) assist in keeping the prey unsuspecting of the predator’s sound.

(ii) aid in camouflaging the presence of the predator before it rushes in.

(iii) help the predator pounce on the prey comfortably without getting tired.

(iv) support the predator’s vision as it eyes its prey.

**(b) Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger?**

(i) Many tigers chase prey into the water and holds the victim’s head under water until it drowns.

(ii) Prey feed in the water on water-lilies, and often wander into the middle of the water hole, where they were vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill.

(iii) Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.

(iv) Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.

**(c) Pick the option that DOES NOT use ‘lurking’ correctly to fill in the blank.**

(i) The thug was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the alley late evening, for unsuspecting passers-by.

(ii) The hyena was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in its den after a good meal.

(iii) The detective cautioned her team about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ danger likely to impact the case.

(iv) The prejudices \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beneath the surface create misunderstandings.

**(d) ‘Shadow’ here, refers to the shadow of:**

(i) the tiger (ii) long grass (iii) water hole (iv) deer

**(e) Pick the phrase that DOES NOT suggest that the forest in the extract is lush.**

(i) Long grass (ii) The water hole (iii) Plump deer (iv) Lurking in shadow

**Ans.** (a)—(i), (b)—(iii), (c)—(ii), (d)—(ii), (e)—(iv)

He should be snarling around houses

At the jungle’s edge,

Baring his white fangs, his claws,

Terrorising the village!

**(a) What is he doing?**

(i) He is sleeping. (ii) He is terrorising villagers.

(iii) He is hunting for food. (iv) He is walking in the cage.

**(b) Where are these houses situated?**

(i) At the edge of the jungle (ii) In the jungle

(iii) Near the zoo (iv) None of these

**(c) He would terrorise the villagers by:**

(i) showing his fangs (ii) showing his claws (iii) both (i) &(ii) (iv) hiding in long grass

**(d) What is he doing around the houses?**

(i) Snarling (ii) Running (iii) Staring (iv) Eating

**(e) Who does ‘he’ refer to in the stanza?**

(i) Poet (ii) Villager (iii) Tiger (iv) None of these

**Ans.** (a)—(ii), (b)—(i), (c)—(iii), (d)—(i), (e)—(iii)

4. But he’s locked in a concrete cell,

His strength behind bars,

Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors.

(a) He is locked in a:

(i) wooden cell (ii) iron cage (iii) concrete cell (iv) tent

(b) Name the poet of ‘ A Tiger in the Zoo’ from which the extract is taken.

(i) Leslie Norris (ii) Robert Frost (iii) William Blake (iv) John Keats

(c) What is meant by ‘stalking the length of his cage’?

(i) The tiger is locked in a cage.

(ii) The tiger is staring the people.

(iii) The tiger is walking from one end of the cage to another.

(iv) The tiger is waiting to hunt for food.

(d) Who is being ignored?

(i) Visitors (ii) Animals (iii) Tiger (iv) Poet

**(e) Why is the tiger kept in a cell?**

(i) So that he could not hunt (ii) So that he could not kill villagers

(iii) So that he could not escape (iv) So that he could be sold

**Ans.** (a)—(iii), (b)—(i), (c)—(iii), (d)—(i), (e)—(iii)

**5.** He hears the last voice at night,

The patrolling cars,

And stares with his brilliant eyes

At the brilliant stars.

**(a) What sound does the tiger hear at night?**

(i) The sound of hunting animals (ii) The sound of traffic

(iii) The sound of children playing (iv) The sound of the patrolling cars

**(b) How do his eyes look?**

(i) Brilliant (ii) Dull (iii) Weak (iv) Strong

**(c) He looks at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at night.**

(i) animals (ii) visitors (iii) shining stars (iv) poet

**(d) Which word in the stanza means ‘looks intently’?**

(i) Patrolling (ii) Stares (iii) Brilliant (iv) Hears

**(e) Which are the rhyming words in this stanza?**

(i) stars-eyes (ii) night-cars (iii) cars-eyes (iv) stars-cars

**Ans.** (a)—(iv), (b)—(i), (c)—(iii), (d)—(ii), (e)—(iv)

**1. It is said that an animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language. Explain with reference to the tiger.**

**Ans. –**The tiger has brilliant eyes that shine and sparkle. These exceptionally bright eyes show that the animal is very clever and talented. The poet compares the brilliance of the tiger’s eyes to the brilliance of the stars shining in the night sky.

**2. How does the poem point to the cruelty of animals in captivity?**  
**Ans. –** The animals in captivity are subjected to cruelty because they are removed from their natural habitat. The tiger can no longer catch its prey, slide through grass or hide behind bushes. The tiger no longer snarls and cannot terrorize the village. It remains locked behind the cell walls.

**3. The poet celebrates the strength of the tiger in this poem. Counter the statement.**  
**Ans. –**The poet acknowledges that the tiger is a powerful beast but its strength is no longer effective as it is in captivity. Now the tiger strolls within the limits of the cell, hears the siren of the police patrol vehicles and stares at the shining stars. It neither attacks the prey nor does it snarls and terrorize the village.

**4. What do you think the tiger would say to you, as a visitor?**  
**You may begin like this:**  
**Please stop staring. You have no idea………… …(continue) .**  
**Ans –** Please stop staring. You have no idea how sad and lonely it feels to be confined in this cage. I miss my home.  
They have curtailed my freedom. I have been put in a cage. I am not myself anymore.  
The sole purpose of putting me here is your entertainment. You buy tickets and visit this zoo to see me. Please stop coming to the zoo so that it closes down and I return to my natural habitat, the dense forest.

“Freedom is a birth right. It is the most beautiful gift of god. It is valuable for all human beings as well as for creatures,” Discuss with reference to the poem “A Tiger in the Zoo.”.  
Answer:  
Freedom is the most beautiful gift of god. Freedom is a birthright, without freedom all is in vain. Since the man has come on his earth, he tries to enslave the weaker sections for his own selfishness. If a bird lives in a golden cage, it cannot become happy. It loves to fly freely in an open sky. In the same way, if ‘ a man lives in a prison and gets everything, he cannot feel happiness. But if a man lives freely, he will be happy even in poor conditions. In this poem, we find the descriptions of two tigers, one is in a cage and second in an open field/forest. There is a great contrast between their behaviours.

***Short Answer questions***

**Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**1. What do you understand by `His strength behind bars’? What kind of a cage is he locked in?**

**Ans**. The tiger is wretched in its cage. His power is confined behind the bars. He was locked in a small cage where he is devoid of freedom. He feels unhappy, frustrated, restless and angry.

**2. Is it safe to allow tigers to live in their natural habitat these days?**

**Ans**. Although it is ideal for tigers to live in the wild, today, it will mean certain death for them. Fast diminishing jungles and danger posed by poachers have pushed tigers to the brink of extinction, making their natural home unsafe.

**3. The tiger in the poem ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ has some obvious limitations, describe them in contrast to its natural habitat.**

**Ans**. The tiger in the zoo was confined to a small space. He was angry that he couldn’t be free to move, hunt and do what he pleased forced to be a showpiece; and the cage’s bars obstructed his view of the starry night. This was all unlike his natural habitat where he hunted fiercely and slept fitfully.

**4. What is the theme of the poem? Or What message does the poet want to convey through the poem—Tiger in the Zoo’?**

**Ans**. The poet wants to convey that it is cruel to keep the wild animals in small enclosures of the zoo, away from their natural habitat. They feel angry, helpless and unhappy and remember their life and environment in the forest.

**5. Why do you think the tiger was stalking in the cage? What does it show?**

**Ans**. I think the tiger was feeling restless and uneasy in that small cage. He seems to be frustrated and helpless as he could not come out of the cage in the open and enjoy his freedom. He did not want to be a mere showpiece and a source of entertainment for human beings.

**6. Describe the movement of the tiger in the cage and in the wild. Or What difference do you find in the mood of a tiger when he is in a zoo and when he is in a forest?**

**Ans**. In the zoo, in his small cage and devoid of freedom, the tiger feels unhappy rather frustrated, restless and angry. In the forest, he enjoys moving majestically wherever he wants, terrorizes the villagers by displaying his sharp teeth and claws. He is happy in the forest, enjoying his liberty and surroundings, but not in the zoo.

**Q.7. What does the poet say about a tiger in his natural surroundings?**

**Ans**. The poet says that the tiger should be in the jungle. It is his natural habitat. In the jungle, he moves in the long grass near a water hole. He hides in shadow to hunt the deer for his food.

**Q.8. Where is the strength of the tiger and how does he treat the visitors?**

**Ans.** The tiger is imprisoned in a cage. So his strength is behind the bars. He paces to-and-fro the length of the cage. Visitors come to his cage. But he ignores those visitors.

**Q.9. How does the tiger terrify the villagers?**

**Ans.** The tiger prowls around the houses of the villagers. He terrifies them by snarling at them. Their houses are situated near the jungle. He terrifies the villagers by baring his fangs and showing his long claws.

**Q.10. How does the tiger behave at night?**

**Ans.** At night the tiger feels lonely. He hears the sound of the patrolling cars. He looks through the bars at the shining stars. His eyes are also shining.

**Q.11. How does the poet contrast the tiger in the cage with the tiger in the forest?**

**Ans**. The poet says that the caged tiger is imprisoned. He is not free. He is angry. On the other hand. the tiger in the jungle is free. He walks in the tall grass and hunts the deer that pass near the water hole

**Q.12. How does the tiger walk in the cage?**

**Ans**. The tiger walks in the cage in a proud manner. He walks quietly. But his eyes show that he is very angry at having been imprisoned in a cage. But he can’t do anything for his freedom.

**Q13. How does the tiger stalk in the cage?**

**Ans.** The tiger is not in his natural habitat—the jungle. the lie is locked in a cage made up of cement and concrete. He keeps on stalking inside his cage from one side to the other. He is walking in a quiet rage with his heels which are padded like velvet.

**Q14. How does the tiger prepare himself for hunting when he is in his natural habitat — the jungle?**

**Ans.** The mighty tiger roams freely in his natural habitat – the wilds. He knows how to ambush his prey. He waits for his prey lurking unseen in the shadow of trees. He slides through the long grass quite unnoticed. He comes to the water hole where he can find his favourite prey – plump deer.

**Q15. How does the tiger terrorise the villagers? Does he have any intention of killing them?**

**Ans.** Sometimes, the tiger roams around freely and comes near the edge of the jungle. He comes very near to the houses of the villagers which are situated on the outskirts of the jungle. Roaming there, he opens out his white sharp teeth and paws to terrorise the villagers. He has no intention of killing them as he never attacks until he is provoked to do so.

**Q16. How does the tiger feel locked in the concrete cell of the zoo? Why does he ignore the visitors?**

**Ans.** The tiger is basically an animal of the wilds. He is’ a denizen of the forest. Being locked in a concrete cell of the zoo, he feels quite helpless. His immense strength is of no use to him as he is put behind the bars. He only stalks the length of his cage. He ignores the visitors who came to see him after buying their tickets. He doesn’t want to present himself as an object of entertaining others.

**Q17. What does the tiger do at night? What does he feel when he stares at the brilliant stars in the sky?**

**Ans.** The patrolling cars move around and the tiger hears their sound late at night. He is locked in a cage but stares at the brilliant stars shining in the vast and open sky. The vast open sky and the brilliant stars only intensify the feeling of helplessness that he feels inside the cage.

**Q18. Freedom can’t be bargained at any cost. What message does Leslie Norris give to the readers in ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’?**

**Ans.** Not only humans but animals too cherish freedom. Freedom can’t be bargained. In this case, a tiger may be well-fed and protected. However, the curtailment of his freedom keeps him in ‘quiet rage’. He resents being behind the bars. He is a different animal when he is in his natural habitat, the jungle. He roams around the water hole and ambushes his favourite plump deer.

**Q19. He hears the last voice at night, The patrolling cars, Who hears the last voice and of what?**

**Ans.** The tiger hears the last voice Le, the sound of the patrolling cars at night. He is imprisoned in a cage in the zoo. The patrolling cars are making a round of the zoo to see that everything is all right.

**Q 20.***And stares with his brilliant eyes*

*At the brilliant stars.*

**Why are the eyes brilliant? What is common between the eyes and the stars?**

**Ans.** The tiger’s eyes shine brightly in the darkness of night. The stars are also shining in the sky. The common thing between the tiger’s eyes and the stars is that both are brilliant.

**Q21. What message do you get from this poem?**

**Ans.** From this poem, we come to know that animals like to live freely in the forest. The animals do not want to live in the zoo. Their life is pitiable in it.

**Q22.** Baring his white fangs, his claws

Terrorising the village.

**Who bears his fangs and how does he terrorise the village?**

**Ans.** The tiger bares his white fangs. He terrorises the people of the village because he keeps snarling around houses.

**Long Answer Questions- to be answered in about 100 -150 words each**

**1. Animals, big and small, is being used by humans for their selfish ends? What is your opinion regarding the exploitation of animals? Mention some examples that you can see a possible solution to this problem.**

**Ans**. It is true that animals, big and small are being used by humans for their selfish ends. We use them for our own benefits. Animals are killed, poached and captured for commercial benefits. Humans have encroached on their space and sheltered them in zoos which is truly inhuman. In the poem, the poet has shown the plight of a tiger. He is captured and confined in a small cage. He is frustrated, angry and restless. It longs for freedom. Confinement brings bondage and bondage is cruelty.

Every day we see many animals suffering due to humans. Monkeys bear captured and made to dance on roads, Elephants are chained and forced to lift heavy loads. Many animals are sheltered in zoos for the entertainment of human beings. They are kept in poor conditions. They are treated inhumanly. We should learn to respect nature and its inhabitants. After all, these animals to share the earth with us.

**2. Some animals are becoming extinct; the tiger is one such animal. What do you think could be the reason? Should this decrease in number be stopped? Why?**

**Ans**. The primary threats to the survival of tigers are poaching and habitat loss due to intensive development. The Tigers are getting extinct. The Tigers are on the list of endangered species and the reason behind it is human interference. Humans hunt tigers for their commercial benefits. The loss of habitats also leads to a reduction in prey animals, so the area can support fewer tigers. Moreover, tigers are poached for trophies such as teeth and fur and for traditional medicines. The growing population clears the forest areas to make them agricultural land for food. This creates a problem of the tiger’s habitat. Tigers are the backbone of food web and forest, hence should be protected.

**3. And stares with his brilliant eyes, At the brilliant stars.’ We can no longer do that. How do we feel about the ‘tigers in the zoo’? You can even imagine yourself in captivity.**

**Or**

**When there is a natural habitat for tigers and other wild animals, is it justified for humans to shift them from there to other locations? Give a reasonable answer to justify it.**

**Or**

**The tiger in the poem is feeling miserable in a concrete cell. Does it not amount to cruelty? Express your opinion about keeping wild animals in zoos. Is there any lesson for humans?**

**Ans**. The tiger in the poem is wretched in its cage. It longs for freedom. It may be well looked after, but the fact of the matter is that unless one is free, one is not alive. Confinement brings bondage, and bondage is cruelty. One may argue that at least this way they all will not be killed and become extinct. However, taking away one’s freedom to keep one alive kill the desire to live anyhow. Even humans throughout the world oppose the chains of slavery and oppression. How are other living creatures any different? Humans have encroached on their space, and sheltering them in zoos is truly inhuman. Humans must learn to respect nature, for humans exist only due to nature.

**Q4. Give contrasting pictures of the tiger in his natural habitat and in the locked cage of the zoo. How does he feel and behave differently in both places?**

**Ans.** The tiger is a denizen of the forest. He loves to roam around freely in his natural habitat—the jungle. There, he is totally free with no restrictions on his movements and activities. He knows how to ambush his prey. He waits for his prey lurking silently in the shadow of the trees. Then he slides unseen and unnoticed through the long grass. He knows where he can find his favourite hunt—plump deer. It is the water hole where they come for drinking water and become easy victims of the mighty tiger. The tiger knows no boundaries and limits. Sometimes he roams around the houses which are situated on the edge of the jungle. With his open white teeth and powerful paws, he terrorises the villagers. He rarely attacks them until he is provoked.

However, it is a pathetic picture of the same tiger when he is locked in a concrete cell in the zoo. The mighty and ferocious animal is put behind the bars. There he stalks in ‘quiet rage’ the length of his cage. He becomes just a piece of entertainment for visitors. But the proud tiger just ignores them. At night from behind the bars, he keeps on staring at the brilliant stars in the vast sky. The vastness of the sky and the brilliance of stars only intensifies his loss of freedom**.**

**Q5. Freedom is such an essential virtue that is valued not only by human beings but also by animals alike. Justify the statement with reference to Leslie Norris’s poem ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’.**

**Ans.** Freedom is an essential virtue valued by all. Not only humans but even the denizens of the forest value it. No one knows it better than a caged tiger in a zoo. Animals, particularly the animals of the wilds, feel free only in their natural habitats. Any attempt to ‘domesticate’ ferocious and mighty animals like lions or tigers by locking them in concrete cells will be against natural justice. The tiger roams around in the jungle hunting its prey at will. He rarely kills his prey for sport. He kills them only when he is hungry. He knows how to ambush his prey. He lurks unnoticed in the long grass before pouncing upon his prey. He also knows where he can find his favourite plump deer. He may come out of the forest sometimes and terrorise -the villagers living at the outskirts of the jungle. He rarely kills them till he is provoked.

The same tiger feels depressed and low in spirits when he is put behind the bars. He stalks constantly the length of his cage in his ‘quiet rage’. He ignores the visitors and feels helpless. Behind the bars, he keeps on staring at the brilliant stars in the open sky. This sadly reminds him of his loss of freedom and intensifies his grief.