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| Class: X AB | 184 - English Language and Literature | Ref. Book: First Flight |
| Question Bank - 1 | **Topic: The Letter to God** | Type: MCQ, SAQ, LAQ |
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| I | **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS** |
| 1 | *The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. “God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho.”*(i) When is Lencho thinking about the money?(a) While writing the second letter.(b) While writing about crop failure.(c) While writing his first letter.(d) While stamping the letter.(ii) Choose the options that list the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.1. Lencho realised the sacrifices made on his behalf.2. Lencho trusted in God to send him 100 pesos.3. Lencho wrote letters to God for help.4. He was confident about getting a sure answer.5. Lencho does not sound greedy when he collects the 70 pesos.6. Lencho liked the post office employees.7. Lencho was not happy with the money he got.(a) 1, 2, 4(b) 1, 2, 3(c) 1, 5, 6(d) 3, 5, 7(iii) Why does he address the post office employees as crooks?(a) Because he received less money.(b) Because he was cheated of money.(c) Because they had charged money.(d) Because they owed him money.(iv) Why is Lencho asking for money from God?(a) He is poor.(b) He lost his money.(c) He was duped of his money.(d) His crops were ruined.**Ans. (i) (a) While writing the second letter.****(ii) (c) 1, 5, 6****(iii) (a) Because he received less money.****(iv) (d) His crops were ruined.** |
| 2 | *The house—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height, one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a good downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho—who knew his fields intimately—had done nothing else but see the sky towards the northeast.*(i) Based on the detail of the house’s location, how can it best be described?(a) majestic(b) imposing(c) solitary(d) unique(ii) The field of corn dotted with flowers means that:(a) not a single flower was bigger than a dot.(b) the flowers were scattered across.(c) the flowers were shaped like dots.(d) the flowers had shrunk in size.(iii) Lencho wished for a downpour or a heavy shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for kinds of rain.

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| 1. Heavy rain
 | (i) Light rain that falls in very fine drops. |
| 1. Thunderstorm
 | (ii) Very heavy rain, tropical rain |
| 1. Drizzle
 | (iii) It comes down quite strongly and a person gets wet very quickly. |
| 1. Torrential rain
 | (iv) Really heavy drenching rain that comes very suddenly. |
|  5. Downpour | (v) Is a violent, short-lived weather disturbance associated with lightning thunder and strong, gusty winds. |

(a) 1-(ii), 2-(iv), 3-(v), 4-(i), 5-(iii)(b) 1-(iv), 2-(i), 3-(iii), 4-(v), 5-(i)(c) 1-(v), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(ii), 5-(i)(d) 1-(iii), 2-(v), 3-(i), 4-(ii), 5-(iv)(iv) Which quote supports the idea in the given extract?(a) “Farming is a profession of hope.”(b) “I would rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world.”(c) “Farming looks mighty easy when your plough is a pencil, andyou’re a thousand miles from the corn field.”(d) “Those too lazy to plough in the right season will have no food atthe harvest.”**Ans. (i) (c) solitary****(ii) (b) the flowers were scattered across.****(iii) (d) 1-(iii), 2-(v), 3-(i), 4-(ii), 5-(iv)****(iv) (a) “Farming is a profession of hope.”** |
| 3 | With a satisfied expression, he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.(i) What happened to the rain suddenly?(a) It stopped.(b) It turned into acid rain.(c) It changed into hailstones.(d) It started raining more heavily.(ii) With what did hailstones resemble in the extract?(a) Silver coins(b) Ice creams(c) Flowers(d) Snow peaks(iii) Find a word in the given extract which means the same as ‘contented’.(a) Regarded(b) Draped(c) Exposed(d) Satisfied(iv) What does the word ‘exposing’ mean in the extract?(a) Hiding(b) Coming out in open(c) Preventing(d) Influencing(v) Who is ‘he’ and why was he satisfied?(a) ‘He’ is Lencho. The rains had a good effect on his crops.(b) ‘He’ is the postman. He felt satisfied that Lencho will have a good harvest.(c) ‘He’ is Lencho. His predictions for rains which ought to have a good effect on his crops came true.(d) ‘He’ is the Postmaster. He was much satisfied with the response he received from his subordinates.**Ans. (i) (c) It changed into hailstones.****(ii) (a) Silver coins****(iii) (d) Satisfied****(iv) (b) Coming out in open****(v) (c) ‘He’ is Lencho. His predictions for rains which ought to have a good effect on his crops came true.** |
| 4 | When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: “God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho.”(i) What did the man finish?(a) He finished the formalities of posting a letter.(b) He finished writing the letter.(c) He finished arranging the papers for handing out to customers.(d) Both (b) and (c)(ii) Why was the postmaster interested in the letter?(a) The postmaster had a nasty habit of reading letters that fell into the box.(b) The postmaster was especially interested in everything that Lencho would do.(c) The postmaster had seen that the letter was addressed to God.(d) The postmaster was eager to know his reaction and what he could write to God after receiving the money.(iii) Why did Lencho form a low opinion of the post office employees?(a) They had stolen his money.(b) Lencho received 40 pesos less from the post office.(c) Lencho’s appeal to God was heard, but part of the money received was lost.(d) The envelope Lencho received was delivered from the post office.(iv) What is ironic about Lencho’s impression of the post office employees?(a) Lencho called the post office employees ‘a bunch of crooks’, but he was unaware that they were the ones who collected the money for him.(b) Lencho did not know that God disliked those who had a low opinion towards other fellow beings.(c) Lencho had no idea that the post office was visited not just by its employees but many other people(d) Lencho did not know that the envelope containing money that reached him belonged to someone else.(v) Which of the following reactions must have been of the Post master’s when he read Lencho’s letter?(a) Angry(b) Regretted his philanthropic actions(c) Smiled at Lencho’s innocence(d) No reaction**Ans. (i) (b) He finished writing the letter.****(ii) (d) The postmaster was eager to know his reaction and what could he write to God after receiving the money.****(iii) (c) Lencho’s appeal to God was heard, but part of the money received was lost.****(iv) (a) Lencho called the post office employees ‘a bunch of crooks’, but he was unaware that they were the ones who collected the money for him.****(v) (c) Smiled at Lencho’s innocence** |
| II | **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**  |
| 1 | Who was Lencho? What were his main problems?Ans. Lencho was a hardworking farmer who lived on the top of a low hill with his family. Lencho's main problems were rainfall and locusts (insects). If rain turned into hail or did not fall when required, his crop would fail. Further, if a plague of locusts attacked his crops, he would not be able to earn enough to feed his family. |
| 2 | What did Lencho compare the raindrops to and why? Ans. Lencho compared the raindrops to new coins. He felt that the big drops were ten cents pieces and the little ones were fives. The reason was that the rain would give him a good harvest which would get him money in the form of coins. |
| 3 | Why had Lencho been looking at the sky towards the northeast?Ans. Lencho’s fields were ready and all that was needed was rain. In anticipation of rain, Lencho had been looking towards the northeast from where the rain clouds would approach. |
| 4 | What were Lencho‘s feelings when the hail stopped?Ans. After the hail stopped, Lencho’s soul was filled with sadness. He could see a bleak future for himself and his family. He was worried about the lack of food for the coming year. |
| 5 | What did Lencho write in his letter to God?Ans. Lencho wrote that because of the hailstorm, his crops had been destroyed and he needed a hundred pesos to live until the next crop was harvested. He wrote that if God did not help him, he and his family would die out of hunger. |
| 6 | How did the postmaster collect the money? Was he able tocollect the full amount?Ans. The postmaster asked for money from his employees, hegave a part of his salary and several friends of his were obliged to give something ‘for an act of charity. But still, he was not able to collect the full amount of a hundred pesos. |
| 7 | “So, in order not to shake the writer’s faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter.” Why did the postmaster help Lencho and how?Ans. Lencho was a poor but dedicated farmer who had lost the entire year’s harvest to a hailstorm. He wrote a letter to God seeking the aid of a hundred pesos. When the postmaster got the letter he was moved by the great faith of the farmer in God. So the postmaster decided to respect Lencho's faith and help him. But to his dismay, the postmaster was able to assemble only seventy pesos from his salary and from his colleagues and friends who willingly contributed to an act of charity. Then he wrapped it in an envelope to make it seem like a reply from God. |
| 8 | “But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks." Why did Lencho call the post-office employees "a bunch of crooks"?Ans. On receiving the reply to his letter, Lencho was not at all shocked but rather got angry on finding that the amount was less than what he had expected. So he again wrote a letter to God calling the post office employees " a bunch of crooks" as he doubted the employees had stolen the remaining amount. |
| 9 | Why and how did the postmaster help Lencho? Ans. The postmaster helped Lencho because he did not want to break Lencho's faith in God. The postmaster helped Lencho by collecting money from the post office employees and his friends. The postmaster himself also gave part of his salary. Then, he sent the collected money to Lencho through a letter. It appeared that God had sent the money to Lencho. |
| 10 | How much money did Lencho need? How much did he get?Ans. Lencho needed one hundred pesos to sow a new crop and support his family till the next harvest. Lencho got only seventy pesos in the letter which was less than he had requested from God. |
| 11 | Why did Lencho not want the money to be sent through the mail? Ans. Lencho did not want the money to be sent through the mail because he suspected the post office employees of stealing some of the money that God had sent him through the letter. |
| 12 | Do you think that Lencho was right to call the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks'? Why or why not?Ans. I think Lencho was not right in calling the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks'. The reason is that the post office employees did not steal money from the letter. They had contributed whatever they could and then sent the money to Lencho. |
| 13 | Lencho waited eagerly for a reply to his letter to God. Do you think the postmaster was also very keen to know Lencho's reaction upon receiving the 'reply'?Ans: Yes, I think the postmaster was also to know Lencho's reaction upon receiving the 'reply' as he thought that Lencho would be extremely ecstatic and surprised to receive the money that he asked from God. The postmaster was expecting to see a great amount of happiness on Lencho's face upon receiving the 'reply'. |
| 14 | Why did Lencho write a letter to God?Ans. When Lencho's crops were destroyed by the hailstorm, he wrote a letter to God in despair. He had a firm belief in God's help. So, he asked God to send him hundred pesos to sow his field again and feed his family for the year. |
| 15 | Why and how did the postmaster help Lencho?Ans. The postmaster was determined to help Lencho after witnessing his faith in God. He did not want Lencho's firm belief in God to be shaken. So, he gave a part of his salary and asked his fellow employees to help Lencho by donating some amount in this 'act of charity'. |
| 16 | Justify Lencho's act to call the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks'.Ans. Lencho was not right to call the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks' because they had not stolen the money and in fact, they contributed their money to help Lencho on behalf of God. |
| 17 | Comment on Lencho not being surprised on seeing the money.Ans. Lencho had an unquestionable trust in God. He had a firm belief that God will reach out to help him. Thus, he was not a bit surprised on seeing the money as he was sure that God will send him the money. |
| 18 | Lencho did not bother exploring any other means to resolve his situation but just turned to God. Do you feel that his approach was justified? Why/Why not?Ans. Lencho was filled with dejection and despair after the hailstorm stopped. He and his family had to suffer a huge loss as they had nothing to sell. In that moment of despair, he did not explore any other means to resolve his problem but just turned to God. He believed that God would help him in his plight. Yes, I feel that Lencho's approach was justified as God never disappoints a person at the time of predicament. If a person has extreme faith in God, God helps him through his messengers on Earth. |
| 19 | Lencho became angry when he counted the money. Explain with reference to the chapter 'A Letter to God.Ans. In the chapter 'A Letter to God', Lencho had to suffer a huge loss as all of his crops were destroyed by the hailstorm. As his last hope, he wrote a letter to God and asked him to send hundred pesos for him to survive till the next harvest. But to his distress, he received only seventy pesos. This made him angry and frustrated. |
| 20 | Briefly state the qualities of the post office employees.Ans. The people at the post office were kind and considerate. They were the epitome of humanity. When they saw Lencho's deep faith in God, they wanted to help him on behalf of God. For this act of charity, they contributed their share of the money. This proves that they had empathy and compassion for Lencho. |
| 21 | How did Lencho's family members try to console him after thecrops were damaged?Ans: Though the family members were also heartbroken after the crops were damaged, still they tried to console Lencho by telling him that no one died of hunger. They comforted him by asking him not to get upset even though it seemed like a total loss. |
| 22 | How did the postmaster react to seeing Lencho's first letter to God?The postmaster was deeply moved to see a letter addressed to God. He marvelled at the sensitivity of the idea to start up a correspondence with God. So, in order not to shake the writer's strong faith in God, he decided to answer it. |
| III | **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**  |
| 1 | Who was Lencho? Why did he write a letter to God? Ans: Lencho was a simple, God-fearing farmer who was an 'ox of a man. He worked very hard in his fields and took delight in his work. He was as committed to his family as he was to his fields. He worked hard to provide for them and rejoiced in fulfilling his responsibilities. His mode of livelihood depended on the mercy of nature which unfortunately once turned unfavourable. A hail storm completely devastated his crops. However, he had unshakeable faith in the generosity of God. So, he wrote a letter to God explaining that the failure of the crop would result in the starvation of his family that year. He asked God to help him by sending a hundred pesos to sow his field again and to live till the crop was ready. He had child-like confidence in God that prompted him to turn to Him for help and his unshakeable faith led him to start a correspondence with the Almighty. |
| 2 | Why did the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why did he sign the letter as 'God'? Ans: One day, one of the post office employees brought a strange letter to the postmaster. This letter was addressed to God seeking the help of a hundred pesos. Initially, amused at the innocence of the writer of this letter, the postmaster was soon touched by the depth of the man's steadfast faith in God. He did not want this faith to be shaken at any cost. So, this kind-hearted man took upon himself the task of assuring Lencho, the writer of the letter, that God existed and helped those who believed in Him. He then collected seventy pesos by contributing a part of his salary and raising the rest with the help of his friends and post office employees. He enclosed this money with a letter that was to be sent as God's response. So, the postmaster simply wrote a single word 'God' in this letter. He did so because he wanted Lencho to believe that the letter with which the money was enclosed was written by God himself. |
| 3 | Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/ Why not? Ans: No, Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him because he was confident that it had been sent to him by God. Lencho was a simple farmer who had firm faith in the power of God. He believed that God can see everything, even the innermost thoughts of a person. This made his faith in God strong and complete. Besides, God was his only hope and he did not know who else to approach in his trying times. Thus, he did not doubt even once that the seventy pesos could have been sent by anyone else. In addition, perhaps his experience with human help had not been good. This becomes evident from the fact that even his family talks of hope only from God. Quite likely, Lencho had distrust for human beings with regard to money matters. That's why when he writes to God the second time, he tells Him not to send the remaining money through the dishonest post office employees. |
| 4 | What do you think was the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's second letter? Ans: After having mailed seventy pesos to Lencho in the name of God, the postmaster experienced the contentment of a man who had performed a good deed. So, he must have expected the farmer to express his gratitude and appreciation in his second letter to God. He eagerly opened this letter, the moment Lencho dropped it in the mailbox. However, contrary to his expectations, the postmaster found that Lencho had expressed dissatisfaction at not having received the complete amount. In addition, he had doubted the integrity of the post office employees and had called them ‘a bunch of crooks'. This must have come as a rude shock to the postmaster and might have left him heartbroken and dejected. He might also have felt that his efforts had been a waste. However, since he is projected as a sensible man, later he might have felt relieved that his purpose of having been able to restore Lencho's faith in God had been achieved. The eventual truth was that Lencho had not doubted even once that the help was not sent by God. |
| 5 | The story "A Letter to God" contains three letters. Which one of these does the title refer to? Ans: The story "A Letter to God" contains three letters. Two are written to God and the third is supposed to have been written by God. The title refers to the first letter that Lencho writes to God as it is this letter that starts up a correspondence with God. This letter depicts the faith of a simple farmer in the only help that he can depend on. It is this first letter that arouses humane sentiments in the postmaster and motivates him to help Lencho. Again, it is the first letter that reveals the fact that humanity is still bound together by its common faith in God. The second letter that Lencho writes to God also brings to light an aspect of human psychology which indicates that people have more faith in the unseen than in what is visible. Still, the title is about the first letter that Lencho writes to God.  |
| 6 | Based on the story, illustrate Lencho’s faith and attitude towards God and man.Ans. Lencho has great faith in God. When his crop is destroyed and he faces complete ruin and starvation, he writes a letter to God asking for his help. When a reply comes back, he is not surprised as he believes that God himself has responded to his plea for help. On the other hand, when he gets only a part of the money he had asked God to give him, he instantly believes that the post office employees have stolen some of it. He has no faith in the men at the post office. Lencho has never seen God and still, he has great faith in him but he has the least amount of trust in the humans who lived around him. This shows his narrow belief and twisted manner of thinking. |
| 7 | In 'A Letter to God, Lencho writes a letter to God in despair, asking him to send the required money. He goes to the post office himself to drop the letter in the mailbox. Based on your understanding of the story and the characters, develop a conversation between the postmaster and the post office employees after reading Lencho's letter to 'God'.Ans. **Postman:** Look what I found for the first time in my whole career! A letter addressed to 'God'. **Office Employees:** What do you mean? This is so funny. (Everybody laughing heartily)**Postmaster:** Show it to me. Ah! What a faith! I wish I had half of it. He seems to be such a naïve person. I don't want to shake his deep faith in God. Let's help him.**Office employees:** But how can we do that? What if he comes to know that we did it and it eventually breaks his faith in 'God'?**Postmaster**: It won't. We will donate as much money as we all can and send it in a letter signed as 'God'.**Office employees:** That's great. It will keep his faith in God intact. |
| 8 | Read the extracts given below and evaluate the difference in the nature of faith in both the characters.(A) "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"(B) "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because of the hailstorm...."Ans. On one hand, we have the postmaster who was quite elated to witness such an unquestionable faith of a person in God and on the other, we have Lencho who had that faith.(A) The postmaster was a person of deep faith in humanity. He appreciated that Lencho had such a strong faith in God that he had written a letter addressed to 'God' to ask him for help. The postmaster wished to emulate the same faith in himself. He decided to help Lencho to keep his belief in God intact. He didn't want Lencho's faith to be shaken.(B) Lencho on the other hand, had a deep faith in God but no faith in humanity. When in despair of the destruction caused to his crops by the hailstorm, his only ray of hope was God. So, he asked God to send him hundred pesos. But his faith in God was so blind that due to it, he blamed the post office employees who helped him like God's messengers. |
| 9 | Lencho says, "These aren't raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins. The big drops are ten-cent pieces and the little ones are fives." Examine the given comparison based on your reading of the story 'A Letter to God'.Ans. Lencho was a poor hard-working farmer who had worked in his corn field like an ox of a man. He feared that all of his hard work will go void if it doesn't rain as the rain was necessary for his crops to yield a good harvest for the year. When he saw big black clouds in the sky, Lencho got very happy. His hope for a good rainfall increased. So, when the rain started, Lencho compared the raindrops to the new coins as the rain would ensure a good harvest for him which would, in turn, mean money for him. He compared the big raindrops with the ten cents pieces and the little ones with the five-cent pieces as the more it would rain, the more money he would get and vice-versa. He did the comparison in enthusiasm, hoping to make a good fortune. |
| 10 | Describe Lencho's qualities in light of his faith in God. Do you have faith in God like Lencho? Was Lencho's reaction towards post office employees, right?Ans. Lencho was a destitute peasant whose crops were destroyed due to the heavy hailstorm. He had to suffer a huge loss due to it. He was petrified of the fact that he and his family would have to spend the entire year hungry as they had nothing to survive on. In the moment of despair, his only ray of hope was God. He believed that God would help him in this plight. He had firm faith in God and believed that God would not let him and his family die of hunger. Yes, I do have a strong belief in God like Lencho. I believe that God is the only one who never disappoints a person at the time of predicament. Lencho's reaction towards the post office employees was not right. He doubted them to be the 'crooks' who have stolen the money but in fact, it was the post office employees only who had helped Lencho by donating their share of money for him. |
| 11 | Describe Lencho's qualities in light of his faith in God. Do you have faith in God like Lencho? Was Lencho's reaction towards post office employees, right?Ans. Lencho was a destitute peasant whose crops were destroyed due to the heavy hailstorm. He had to suffer a huge loss due to it. He was petrified of the fact that he and his family would have to spend the entire year hungry as they had nothing to survive on. In the moment of despair, his only ray of hope was God. He believed that God would help him in this plight. He had firm faith in God and believed that God would not let him and his family die of hunger. Yes, I do have a strong belief in God like Lencho. I believe that God is the only one who never disappoints a person at the time of predicament. Lencho's reaction towards the post office employees was not right. He doubted them to be the 'crooks' who have stolen the money but in fact, it was the post office employees only who had helped Lencho by donating their share of money for him. |
| 12 | The postmaster was a representative of God. Critically examine this statement in the context of your understanding of 'A Letter to God". Ans. The Postmaster was a representative of God. He was the epitome of humanity. At first, when he saw the letter addressed to 'God', he laughed at it but then after reading it, he was amazed by Lencho's deep faith in God. So, he decided to help him on behalf of God. He decided to collect some money by asking his fellow post office employees and his friends to contribute their share to it. He donated a part of his salary to the cause. He wanted to help Lencho to keep his belief in God intact. He didn't want Lencho's faith to be shaken. Lencho's unshakeable faith in God made the postmaster, a representative of God. God ultimately helped Lencho through the postmaster. |
| 13 | How does the character of Lencho inspire us to have faith in God and remain calm in a difficult situation?Ans. The character of Lencho inspires us to have faith in God. It also inspires us to remain calm in difficult situations. Lencho is a hardworking and poor farmer. He worked very hard to support his family and fulfil their needs. When his crops were destroyed by the hailstones, he became worried about his family. But he believed that God would help him in this difficult situation. His true faith in God made him angry when he found only seventy pesos in the envelope. So he called the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks'. He believed that they had stolen some of his money because God could not make such a mistake. This all shows his blind but firm faith in God, which gives him hope in his despair. |