



My Mother at Sixty-six

A	Multiple Choice Questions based on an extract
1	<p><i>Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away...</i></p>
2	<p>Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) a conversation2) an argument3) a piece of advice4) a strategy5) a recollection6) a suggestion <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) 1, 3 & 6b) 2, 4 & 5c) Only 5d) Only 1
3	<p>Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below. Assertion: The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.</p> <p>Reason: The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.b) Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.c) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.d) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.



<p>4</p>	<p>Choose the option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract.</p> <p><i>her face ashen like that of a corpse...</i></p> <p>a) Just as I had I had this thought, she appeared and... b) My thoughts were as heavy as lead that evening when ... c) I think like everyone else who... d) I like to think aloud when ...</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><i>And looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache...</i></p>
<p>6</p>	<p>What is the most likely reason the poet capitalised 'Young Trees'? This was to</p> <p>a) convey a clearer meaning. b) highlight the <i>adj.-noun</i> combination. c) enhance the contrast. d) draw a connection with the title.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Choose the option that appropriately describes the relationship between the two statements given below.</p> <p>Statement 1: The poet knows her mother has aged. Statement 2: The poet feels the pain of separation.</p> <p>a) Beginning – Ending b) Cause – Effect c) Question – Answer</p>
	<p>d) Introduction – Conclusion</p>



8	<p>Choose the option that completes the sentence given below.</p> <p>Just as the brightness of the winter's moon is veiled behind the haze and mist, similarly, _____.</p> <p>a) the pain of separation has shaded mother's expression. b) age has fogged mother's youthful appearance. c) growing up has developed a seasoned maturity in the poet. d) memories warm the heart like the pale moon in winter.</p>
9	<p>The phrase 'old familiar ache' has been used to refer to a fear, in this extract. This phrase can also be used to</p> <p>a) compare physical pain with mental agony. b) elicit someone's unanswered queries. c) substantiate reasons for aches and pains. d) describe a longing one has been aware of.</p>
10	<p>The tone of the poet in the poem is primarily a combination of _____ and _____.</p> <p>1. dauntlessness 2. apprehension 3. dejection 4. disappointment</p> <p>a) 1, 2 b) 2, 3 c) 3, 4 d) 1, 4</p>

B	Answer in 30-40 words
1	The pain of separation is expressed both literally and metaphorically in this poem. Elucidate.
2	Comment on the tone of the poem with references to "My Mother at Sixty Six".
3	Imagery was an effective literary device to bring out the contrast between the "merry children" and mother. Comment.



4	The poet does not directly mention the fear of her mother's death and yet she is successfully able to convey the same through different poetic techniques. Discuss.
C	Answer in 120-150 words
1	<p>Imagine the mother gets to know of the poet persona's fears. Write a letter, as the mother, telling the daughter why she must not dwell on these fears.</p> <p>You may begin this way:</p> <p>Pallipuram Cochin, Kerala</p> <p>22 August '60</p> <p>My dear Kamala I am writing to you because when you left me at the airport, I felt something wasn't right. Judging by how little you spoke that day</p> <p>.....(continue).....</p> <p>..... With love Amma</p>
2	<p>Imagine you are the poet's friend.</p> <p>Write a dialogue exchange between yourself and the poet where the latter confides in you about her fears and asks for your advice.</p> <p>What would your advice be –to face her fears, to ignore them or something else?</p>