



ENGLISH

ASSIGNMENT 2 GRADE – XII

JULY 2026

INDIGO

Theme: The chapter shows how truth and non-violence can bring justice against oppression. It highlights Mahatma Gandhi's courage in fighting for the rights of poor farmers. It teaches that unity, determination, and peaceful protest can bring social change.

Questions:

1. How did Gandhi's handling of the Champaran issue demonstrate the power of moral courage over political authority?
2. Why is Raj Kumar Shukla considered an important character despite being an ordinary farmer?
3. How did the Champaran movement become more than just a fight against the indigo planters?
4. What qualities of leadership displayed by Gandhi in *Indigo* remain relevant in today's society?

POETS AND PANCAKES

Theme: *Poets and Pancakes* explores the contrast between the glamour of the film industry and the realities behind the scenes. It highlights the contributions of ordinary workers who often go unnoticed. Through humour and satire, Asokamitran exposes human ego, hierarchy, and workplace politics. The essay also emphasizes the value of literature, culture, and meaningful communication. Overall, it reminds us to respect every individual's role and look beyond appearances.

Questions:

1. How does Asokamitran use humour to expose the contradictions between the glamorous image of the film industry and its everyday realities?
2. The essay suggests that power does not always come with wisdom. Discuss this idea with examples from the various characters in Gemini Studios.
3. Stephen Spender's visit initially creates confusion rather than inspiration. What does this incident reveal about communication across cultures and professions?
4. Although "Poets and Pancakes" appears to be a collection of unrelated anecdotes, how do these episodes collectively comment on human nature and workplace dynamics?
5. If Gemini Studios were replaced with a modern corporate office or media company, which observations made by Asokamitran would still remain relevant? Justify your answer with examples.

A THING OF BEAUTY

Theme: The poem celebrates the everlasting power of beauty to bring joy, hope, and peace to human life. John Keats believes that true beauty never fades but continues to inspire us. Nature, with its flowers, trees, streams, and the sun, helps us overcome sadness and despair. Beautiful things nourish the human spirit and make life meaningful. The poem conveys that beauty is a source of comfort, strength, and eternal happiness.

Questions:

1. Why does Keats describe beauty as an "endless fountain of immortal drink"? What does this metaphor suggest about its role in human life?

2. How does the poem present nature not merely as something beautiful to admire, but as a source of emotional healing?
3. Keats believes beauty can overcome despair. Do you think beauty alone is enough to help people face life's challenges? Give reasons for your answer.

ON THE FACE OF IT

Theme: *On the Face of It* highlights the importance of looking beyond physical appearance and judging people by their character. Through the friendship between Derry and Mr. Lamb, the play shows how loneliness and prejudice can affect lives. It emphasizes the need for acceptance, self-confidence, and positive thinking. Mr. Lamb teaches Derry to overcome fear and insecurity and to embrace life with courage. The play conveys that true happiness comes from self-acceptance and meaningful human connections.

Questions:

1. How does Mr. Lamb challenge Derry's perception of himself without directly telling him he is wrong? What makes his approach effective?
2. The title *On the Face of It* suggests that first impressions can be misleading. How is this idea reflected in both Derry and Mr. Lamb?
3. Who is more 'disabled' in the play—Derry because of his scar, or the people who judge him? Justify your answer with examples.
4. Imagine Mr. Lamb had never met Derry. How might Derry's future have been different? Support your answer with evidence from the play.
5. The play presents two contrasting attitudes towards life's difficulties. Compare how Derry and Mr. Lamb respond to their challenges and explain which outlook you find more convincing.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Theme: *Memories of Childhood* explores the injustice of discrimination based on caste and race through the experiences of Bama and Zitkala-Sa. Both writers show how prejudice robs individuals of dignity and freedom from an early age. Despite facing humiliation and oppression, they refuse to accept injustice and choose courage over silence. The chapter highlights the importance of equality, self-respect, and education as powerful tools for change. It inspires readers to challenge discrimination and uphold human dignity.

Questions:

1. Although Bama and Zitkala-Sa belong to different countries and cultures, how do their experiences reveal that discrimination is a universal problem?
2. How do both authors transform painful childhood memories into powerful messages for social change?
3. Why is education presented as a means of empowerment in Bama's narrative? Do you think it is still the most effective way to fight discrimination today? Give reasons.
4. Both stories show that children often notice injustice more clearly than adults. Why do you think this is so? Support your answer with examples from the chapter.

5. If Bama and Zitkala-Sa were living in today's society, what forms of discrimination might they still face, and what new opportunities would they have to challenge it?
6. Which act required greater courage—Zitkala-Sa's resistance during the haircut episode or Bama's determination to rise above caste discrimination? Defend your answer with evidence from the text.