

2nd PUC

English examination

Grammar

Unseen Passage

The story of the domestic cat's relationship with humans is an interesting tale. The cat has been the object of adoration, reverence, hatred and even persecution by humans throughout time.

Cats were first domesticated by the ancient Egyptians as early as 3000 BC. African wild cats started preying upon the mice and rats that filled the Egyptian grain stores and it didn't take long for the Egyptians to become appreciative of the cats' help in eliminating the rodent population. Killing a cat, even when accidental, was punishable by death. Egyptians shaved away their eye-brows as a symbol of grief when their pet passed away; they would even mummify the cat and bury it in a special cemetery, with supplies of mummified rats for the afterlife. From Egypt, cats spread to other parts of the world. They were a great success in the East, where they were again thought to have magical and mystical qualities. Artists in China and Japan celebrated these animals in their art. In Japan, cats are seen as lucky. One of the most known is the beckoning cat, often regarded as good luck charm for both households and businesses.

“The cat spread across Europe during the Roman Empire. The Romans kept the animals to be petted and for companionship, as well as for controlling the rat and mice population. Cats were represented mainly as working animals in Roman art, and there is little indication of reverence or mystical powers given to them.

During the Middle Ages, however, cats became an object of superstition and were associated with evil. They were often believed to be endowed with powers of black magic and suspected of being owned and used by witches. As a result, cats were beaten, killed and driven away from towns and villages. The destruction of cats was so extensive that disease-carrying rats flourished, contributing greatly to the wide spread of epidemics and plagues throughout Europe.

Not surprisingly, the Europeans once more began to realize the value of the cats in eliminating rodents and cats gradually regained acceptance as household pets. In 1871, the very first cat show was held in London. A cat association was formed in 1887 in Britain called ‘the National Cat Club of Great Britain’.

Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

(a) Mention any one of the feelings of a man towards cats.

adoration, reverence, hatred and even persecution

(b) When were cats first domesticated?

Cats were domesticated in early of 3000 B C.

(c) What did the cats eliminate to win the appreciation of Egyptians?

Cats eliminated rats to win the appreciation of Egyptians

(d) Egyptians shaved away their eye-brows when a cat

(i) killed mice. (ii) ~~passed~~ away. (iii) eliminated rats.

(e) Mention one of the qualities that the East attributed to cats.

lucky

(f) Who celebrated cats in their art?

Artists in China and Japan celebrated cats in their art.

(g) In which art were cats represented as working animals?

In Roman art cats were represented as working animals.

(h) Disease-carrying rats (contributing/contributed) to widespread epidemics.

contributed

(i) Name the cat association formed in Britain.

The National Cat Club of Great Britain

(j) Add a prefix to the word 'lucky' to form its antonym.

Unlucky

Over a hundred years ago, the carrying of mail was a hazardous venture; and the mail runner or ‘hirkara’ as he was called, had to be armed with a sword or spear. That was before railways and air services made the delivery of mail a routine affair. Though the first public postal service was introduced in India by Warren Hastings in 1774, the kings and emperors of India had always maintained their own personal postal system. Their rule was effective partly due to excellent means of communication by which dispatches were passed on from hand to hand either by runners or horsemen. When Ibn Batuta was travelling in India, in the middle of the 14th century, he found an organised system of couriers established throughout the country by Mohammed Bin Tughlak.

“There is a foot courier at a distance of every mile”, wrote Ibn Batuta, “and at every three miles there is an inhabited village, and outside it three sentry boxes, where the couriers sit. In the hands of each is a whip about two cubits long, and upon the head of this are small bells. Whenever one of the couriers leaves any city, he takes his dispatches in one hand and the whip, which he keeps constantly shaking, in the other. In this manner he proceeds to the nearest foot-courier and as he approaches, shakes his whip, upon this comes another man who takes the dispatches and proceeds to the next. It is for this reason that the Sultan receives his dispatches in so short a time.” This system was of course established for the convenience of the Emperor and was continued with various innovations by successive Moghul emperors in the 18th century. The East India Company established a postal system of its own to facilitate the conveyance of letters between different offices; but it was only during Warren Hastings’ administration that a Post Master General was appointed and the general public could avail of the service, paying a fee on their letter.

Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

(a) What was the mail runner called as?

The mail runner called as hirkara

(b) Who introduced the first postal service in India?

Warren Hastings introduced first postal service in India.

(c) Whom did the kings and emperors prefer to deliver their dispatches?

Runners or horsemen

(d) When did Ibn Batuta travel in India?

Ibn Batuta travelled in India in the middle of the 14th century.

(e) What did Mohammed Bin Tughlak establish?

Mohammed Bin Tughlaq established an organised system of couriers.

(f) Where do the couriers sit?

The couriers sit in three sentry boxes outside every inhabited village.

(g) Which word in the passage means 'new ideas or techniques'?

Innovations.

(h) As the courier approaches the nearest foot-courier near an inhabited village/city he

(i) shouts out loudly. (ii) shakes the whip. (iii) whistles and sings.

(i) Kings and emperors would successfully (communication/communicate) with each other through couriers.

Communicate.

(j) When was the Post Master General appointed?

The Post Master General was appointed during the administration of Warren Hastings.

If you visit the three pyramids of Giza, you will be surprised to see a colossal statue of a beast with a man's head and a lion's body. This is the great Sphinx that sits in the desert of Egypt, about 12 kms from Cairo. The statue has mysterious eyes and an enigmatic expression. It gazes over the desert with a kind of mystical superiority. It is one of the most historical monuments in the world.

The Sphinx was carved out of the hill rock leftover from the building of the Great Pyramid. It is about 20 m in height and 70 m in length. According to popular belief, it was made some 5000 years ago to resemble the face of Chephren, a king of the fourth dynasty. It was built during the reign of the Egyptian king Khafre.

Why was the Sphinx built? The Sphinx was a mystical monster. The Greeks thought of it as having the head of a woman, and body of a lion with wings. The Egyptians thought of it as a wingless lion with the head and breast of a man. It was believed that the Sphinx would ward off all evils from the cemetery around the pyramids.

Apart from the great Sphinx of Giza, there are many other Sphinxes in Egypt. Their heads represent different kings. In ancient Egypt, kings were considered to be descendants of the Sun God called Ra. When a king died, he himself was supposed to become the Sun God. Kings were also believed to have the strength of various beasts. So the Egyptians sculpted their Gods and kings in the shape of half human and half beast.

There is another Sphinx with a female face. It is made after the queen of Hatshepsut, who had seized the throne and ruled the country. This Sphinx has a beard which represents queen Hatshepsut's masculine powers.

Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

(a) Where can one come across the Sphinx?

One can come across the Sphinx in the desert of Egypt, about 12 kms. from Cairo.

(b) What expression is seen on the face of Sphinx of Giza?

An enigmatic expression is seen on the face of the Sphinx of Giza.

(c) Which leftover rock was used to carve the Sphinx?

The Sphinx was carved out of the hill rock leftover from the building of the Great Pyramid.

(d) Whose face does the Sphinx of Giza resemble?

The Sphinx of Giza resembles the face of Chephren, a king of the fourth dynasty.

(e) Name the Sun God of Egypt mentioned in the passage.

Rio.

(f) Add suitable prefix to the word 'Popular' to make its antonym.

Unpopular.

(g) Whose face does the Sphinx with female face resemble?

The Sphinx with the female face resembles the queen of Hatshepsut.

(h) The Egyptians (believe/belief) that Sphinxes have mystical powers.

Believe.

(i) Why is there a beard on the face of the female Sphinx?

The female Sphinx has a beard which represents queen Hatphepsut's masculine powers.

(j) In what form were the Gods and kings in Egypt sculptured?

The Egyptians sculpted their Gods and kings in the shape of half-human and half-beast.

George Bernard Shaw, one of the greatest playwrights of all time, was born in Dublin on 26th July, 1856. As a young man he was terribly shy and to hide his shyness he developed a very gruff manner and voice which some people mistook as rudeness. However, his close friends understood him better as he was the very essence of kindness to those whom he loved and associated with.

At the early age of fourteen, he obtained employment as a junior clerk and though he was quite good at his work, he hated it. So he quit his job and went to London in search of other employment. Before long a newspaper office hired him and he took up employment as critic of books, music and plays. His duty was to attend the various plays staged and give his opinion on them for publication. It was then that he decided to write his own plays. The plays he wrote and produced were a tremendous success. In no time he became world famous as a playwright. Many film companies approached him to use his plays for making movies, but he never liked the idea and turned them down. Finally, he consented to allow his play 'Pygmalion' to be made into a film. This play depicts the story of a little flower girl, T chneb'-Dy an'Lnghsn professor to speak proper "English. In fact, the professor succeeded in transforming her from an uneducated flower girl into a refined lady. Years later, this play was made into a musical hit – the legendary, 'My Fair Lady'. And it became a worldwide success. Shaw used the huge money earned from this, to worthy causes, such as the enlargement of National Gallery of Ireland, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the British museum. The film 'My Fair Lady' is about how complicated English language is and the difficulties faced by Eliza, the flower girl, to learn and master this language. He lived long enough to see people all over the world enjoy his plays. He died at the ripe old age of ninety-four.

Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

(a) How did Bernard Shaw try to hide his shyness?

Bernard Shaw developed a very gruff manner and voice which some people mistook for rudeness.

(b) How old was Bernard Shaw when he took up his first job?

Bernard Shaw was fourteen years old when he took up his first job.

(c) Where did Bernard Shaw go after quitting his job?

Bernard Shaw went to London after quitting his job.

(d) Which of his plays was made into a film first?

‘Pygmalion’ was the first of his plays to be made into a film.

(e) Name the little flower girl who appears in the musical hit ‘My Fair Lady’.

Eliza.

(f) Add suitable prefix to the word ‘educated’ to form its antonym.

Uneducated.

(g) Mention any one of the causes to which Shaw contributed the money earned by him.

Enlargement of the National Gallery of Ireland.

(h) Who trained the flower girl to become a refined lady?

An English professor trained the flower girl to become a refined lady.

(i) How old was Shaw when he died?

Shaw was ninety-four years old when he died.

(j) English language is full of (complication/complications).

Complications.

Confucius was one of the greatest moral teachers and philosophers of China. He studied ancient Chinese writings with great devotion. These works taught him new ideas about character development. His actual name was 'Kung fu-tzu', the Catholic missionaries called him Confucius.

Confucius was born in the state of Lu, now part of Shandong in China. His family belonged to the lowest level of aristocracy. His parents died when he was still young and he grew up in poverty. Later, he became an official in the government of Lu, and was much respected.

China, during those days, was ruled by an emperor with very little powers. The provinces were controlled by corrupt and greedy feudal lords. The people were poor and neglected. Confucius felt disgusted at this state of affairs and left Lu in 484 BC. He started preaching whatever he had learnt from the ancient Chinese writings. Human behaviour, morality and politics were the main elements of his teaching. At the age of twenty-two he started teaching how to lead a happy life. He said, 'Don't do to others what you would not wish them to do to you'. He taught, 'Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself'. He was very modest and always said, 'I teach nothing new. I only pass on the ancient wisdom'. On returning to Lu, he also held some important positions in the local government of his province. When he was made the Governor of a city, he cleared the state of robbers, reduced taxes, improved people's living conditions and persuaded the ruling classes to lead charitable lives. According to one account, he was also made a minister. He tried his best to improve the evils ingrained in all branches of social life. But soon he realized that they were deep-rooted. So he resigned in disgust at the age of 54. Confucius' own sayings were collected by his disciples and written down much later, in the book 'Lun Yu'. Confucius died in 479 BC. The religion founded by him is known as Confucianism. It includes ancestor worship, belief in supreme God and belief in Nature Spirit. Even today it influences millions of lives.

Answer the following in a word, a phrase or a sentence each.

(a) Which country did Confucius come from?

Confucius came from the state of Lu, now part of Shandong in China.

(b) Who named him Confucius?

The Catholic missionaries called him Confucius.

(c) For which government did he work as official?

Confucius worked as an official in the government of Lu.

(d) By whom were the provinces in China controlled?

The provinces in China were controlled by corrupt and greedy feudal lords.

(e) What did he do after leaving Lu?

Confucius started preaching whatever he had learnt from the ancient Chinese writings after leaving Lu.

(f) Mention any one of the elements of his teaching.

Human behavior.

(g) How old was he when he started teaching?

Confucius started teaching at the age of twenty-two.

(h) Add a prefix to the word 'morality' to form its antonym.

Immorality.

(i) Confucius was very (wise/wisdom) in his thinking.

Wise.

(j) Name the book written by his disciples about the sayings of Confucius.

'Lun Yu'

