

Read the following passage and then answer all the questions which are printed on the Question Paper.

1	<p>“Good luck,” the truck driver waved. The vehicle rumbled away. The man stared after it until it was out of sight. There was a fork in the road and he took the other one. That was hours ago. The sun was in his eyes. The man squinted and peered into the distance. The road ahead seemed to have no end. Now, after months of torment, even the sun did not appear to take his side for it shone mercilessly on him all the time, blinding him for good measure. His throat was parched, his tongue felt pasty and numb. His last ration of water had run out long ago. The hours meant nothing to him now; he had lost all sense of time in the heat.</p>	5
2	<p>He thought of his wife and children. He had left them several months ago in search of a deal promised to him by his cousin, Fazil. “It will be the biggest windfall in your life, Abdul. You would be silly to refuse it,” Fazil had persuaded him slyly. “Go to the town east of your home. Look up this man, Ali.”</p>	10
3	<p>Ali turned out to be entirely different from what Abdul had expected. The deal had involved illegal activities and when Abdul refused to comply with his demands, he was beaten, stripped of what little money he had brought and left in the gutters on Ali’s orders.</p>	15
4	<p>Now, all Abdul had left was the threadbare shirt on his back. Being swindled left him a beaten man, humiliated and too ashamed to face his wife. Not only his wife. In his village, neighbours knew things about you before you did. He had remained in the town for months, scratching out a meagre existence and taking whatever odd jobs he could find. He had even resorted to begging for a living. Months passed and he became used to his wretched state. He lacked all willpower to rise above it. Shame took all of it away. Until one day, he saw a fellow beggar trying to sleep his worries away. He observed the young man; his face betrayed his unease, even in sleep. He saw himself in that man. He could not imagine himself in that same situation for the rest of his life. He decided to make his way back to his village and face up to his misfortune. He did not want to avoid his wife and home any longer. He only hoped she had not given up on him.</p>	20 25 30
5	<p>He found a truck driver willing to give him a lift to the next town. This man was a stocky and cheerful person, and his jokes lifted Abdul’s spirits. Abdul learnt that the man had been orphaned at birth, fending for himself since he was a child. He had taught himself to read and write as he was too poor to afford schooling. Now he could proudly read the papers every day. Abdul was amazed at what storms he had weathered. Abdul was almost sad to take leave of him. The man wished him well and apologized for being unable to take him home, for he was going in a different direction.</p>	35

6	<p>Now he found his ordeal far from over. The wind dried everything out. His rations had run out and there seemed a long way to go. Had he come so far only to succumb to the elements? When he was about to lose all hope, he spotted a familiar landmark in the distance. It was the first house of his village. His house was just past that first house. Staggering towards his home, he was struck by how little it had changed in a year. Almost in tears, he saw a woman tirelessly carrying a loaded bucket. His wife! She, too, had changed little although she looked sadder than the last time he remembered. At the same moment, she caught sight of him. There was a flicker of confusion on her face but that passed almost immediately. She smiled and said, "I have been waiting for you."</p>	40
7	<p>"I lost everything."</p>	45
8	<p>She just shook her head and repeated, "I have been waiting for you and that is all that matters." Tears flowed down Abdul's cheeks and as they embraced each other. He realised his greatest mistake.</p>	50
<p><i>Adapted from: The Blunder</i></p>		

From Paragraph 1:

- 1 Why do you think the driver wished the man good luck? [1]
- 2 'The road ahead seemed to have no end.' What does this suggest about the man's situation? [1]
- 3 Quote a phrase that tells us that the weather was extremely hot [1]
- 4 What other problem did the man have to face besides the hot weather? [1]

From Paragraphs 2 & 3:

- 5 Quote a word that forewarns us of Abdul's misfortune. [1]
- 6 What do you think Ali might have wanted Abdul to do? [1]

From Paragraph 4:

- 7 'Neighbours knew things about you before you did.' What does this phrase tell you about the village? [1]
- 8 'He scratched out a meagre existence'. Explain what this phrase tells you about how Abdul was living in the town. [2]
- 9 Quote a phrase that suggests that Abdul had given up hope on himself. [1]
- 10 Why did Abdul decide to return to his village after seeing the young beggar? [2]

From Paragraph 5:

- 11 Give **two** evidences that the truck driver had been through a lot of hardships. [2]
- 12a Why was Abdul 'almost sad to take leave of him'? [1]
- 12b What made the truck driver different from Abdul? [2]

From Paragraph 6:

- 13a 'Had he come so far only to succumb to the elements?' Explain, in your own words, what this phrase means. [2]
- 13b Why do you think there was 'a flicker of confusion' when Abdul's wife saw him? [1]

From Paragraphs 7 & 8:

- 14 In your opinion, what was Abdul's greatest mistake? [1]

From the whole passage:

- 15 For each of the following words, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than **seven** words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage. [5]

- (1) parched (line 7)
- (2) windfall (line 12)
- (3) comply (line 16)
- (4) beaten (line 20)
- (5) staggering (line 44)

- 16 The passage is all about the ordeal Abdul went through after being deceived by his cousin, and how he eventually decided to face the music. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the difficulties that Abdul faced after believing his cousin.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINE 10 TO LINE 54.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **130** words (not counting the words given to help you begin)

Begin your summary as follows:

When Fazil told him of the promised windfall, Abdul ...

[25]

Solutions

From Paragraph 1:

- 1 Why do you think the driver wished the man good luck? [1]
The journey ahead was tough.
- 2 'The road ahead seemed to have no end.' What does this suggest about the man's situation? [1]
His suffering is far from being over
- 3 Quote a phrase that tells us that the weather was extremely hot [1]
'shone mercilessly on him all the time'
- 4 What other problem did the man have to face besides the hot weather? [1]
His water ration was used up.

From Paragraphs 2 & 3:

- 5 Quote a word that forewarns us of Abdul's misfortune. [1]
'slyly'
- 6 What do you think Ali might have wanted Abdul to do? [1]
Any reasonable answer : Smuggling, stealing, Blackmail, underground casinos, loanshark...

From Paragraph 4:

- 7 'Neighbours knew things about you before you did.' What does this phrase tell you about the village? [1]
There was no secrets.
- 8 'He scratched out a meagre existence'. Explain what this phrase tells you about how Abdul was living in the town. [2]
He survived on very little/ limited money.
- 9 Quote a phrase that suggests that Abdul had given up hope on himself. [1]
'he became used to his wretched state'.
- 10 Why did Abdul decide to return to his village after seeing the young beggar? [2]
He saw himself in that man [1]. He could not imagine himself in that same situation for the rest of his life [1].

From Paragraph 5:

- 11 Give **two** evidences that the truck driver had been through a lot of hardships. [2]
'The man had been orphaned at birth, fending for himself since he was a child.'
'He had taught himself to read and write as he was too poor to afford schooling.'
(Excess denied if the student copies more than this)
- 12a . Why was Abdul 'almost sad to take leave of him'? [1]
He was a cheerful person and his jokes lifted Abdul's spirits.

- 12b What made the truck driver different from Abdul? [2]
When faced with difficulties, the truck driver faced them and overcome them whereas Abdul ran away/ hid.

From Paragraph 6:

- 13a 'Had he come so far only to succumb to the elements?' Explain, in your own words, what this phrase means. [2]
He wondered if he had to give up [1] because of the harsh weather [1].
- 13b Why do you think there was 'a flicker of confusion' when Abdul's wife saw him? [1]
She could not believe her eyes/ She did not know if what she was real or something she imagined.

From Paragraphs 7 & 8:

- 14 In your opinion, what was Abdul's greatest mistake? [1]
It was to doubt his wife's belief in him.

From the whole passage:

- 15 For each of the following words, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than **seven** words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage. [5]
- (1) parched (line 7) ***dry***
 - (2) windfall (line 12) ***godsend/ sudden fortune***
 - (3) comply (line 16) ***obey***
 - (4) beaten (line 20) ***defeated***
 - (5) staggering (line 44) ***walking unsteadily***

- 16 The passage is all about the ordeal Abdul went through after being deceived by his cousin, and how he eventually decided to face the music. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise what happened to Abdul after believing his cousin.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINE 10 TO LINE 50.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **130** words (not counting the words given to help you begin)

Begin your summary as follows:

When Fazil told him of the promised windfall, Abdul...

[25]

1. He left his wife and children in search of a deal promised to him
2. Look up this man, Ali.
3. Ali turned out to be involved in illegal activities and
4. when Abdul refused to **comply** with his demands,
5. he was beaten, stripped of what little money he had brought and left in the gutters on Ali's orders.
6. Being ashamed, he had remained in the town for months
7. scratching out a **meagre** existence and
8. taking whatever odd jobs he could find.
9. He had resorted to begging for a living.
10. After months, he became used to his wretched state.
11. Until one day, he saw a fellow beggar trying to sleep his worries away.
12. He could not imagine himself in that same situation for the rest of his life.
13. He decided to make his way back to his village and face up to his misfortune.
14. He found a truck driver willing to give him a lift to the next town.
15. After alighting, he realised that his rations had run out and there seemed a long way to go.
16. When he was about to lose all hope, he spotted the first house of his village.
17. **Staggering** towards his home,
18. he saw a woman tirelessly carrying a loaded bucket--His wife