



SECTION TWO

2.1 Song of the Open ROAD

1] Choose the mode of travel that you would like the most for a journey. Give reasons for your preference.

(a) Airways (b) Waterways (c) Railways (d) Roadways

Ans: I would like to prefer Railways because-

- a) It is affordable for everyone than airways and roadways.
- b) For long journey it is very comfortable than roadways.
- c) Well Equipped with many facilities like toilet, catering, AC & sleeper coach.
- d) They are free of traffic jams and other hassles.
- e) They are the most convenient mode of transport for long distance travel.

2] Discuss with your partner, the preparations you would like to make for the journey chosen.

- a) First, I would like to choose the place which I would visit.
- b) I would decide the date, according to the availability of hotel booking and railway reservation.
- c) Make a booking of tickets and lodging of my destination.
- c) Make a well preparation for essential luggage including dresses, medicine kit, money / credit cards, tourist guide, I-card, tickets, water, mobile, charger etc.
- d) Make a planning for visiting places, their best time to see & nearest route of that place.

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3] Discuss the ways in which you would overcome the problems/

hindrances/ difficulties you face during your journey.

Ans: a) I would keep my luggage fasten with the chain to prevent its theft.

b) But if I lose my essential documents/mobile phone/ luggage etc. I will visit the nearest police station and report it.

c) If I suffer from illness, I will visit nearest hospital & follow the doctor's prescription.

d) In case of shortage of cash, I will use my credit cards & prefer online banking.

e) Unfortunately, if the weather changes, I will take shelter to nearest lodge or accommodation.

4] During every journey we have to observe certain rules. Discuss your ideas of the journey without any restrictions. You can begin like this-

I would go alone / with selected friends/

Ans: a) I would go with my selected friends.

b) With my own car, I would like to travel as far as I can, so as to explore new places

c) I would prefer home-stays, so that I could get to know people from different cultures.

d) In my journey I would like to wear different dresses without any kind of restrictions.

e) I would try to live off the land as much as possible.

f) I would use my mobile phone only in case of emergencies during the travel, so that I could enjoy my journey without being distracted by my phone.



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(A1) (i) Pick out the lines showing that the poet is prepared to enjoy every moment of his journey.

1] Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,

2] The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.

3] Strong and content I travel the open road.

4] Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need

nothing,
5] Still here I carry my old delicious burdens.

(ii) By 'old delicious burdens' the poet means-

- (a) the luggage
- (b) the food he carries
- (c) the stress he bears during the travels
- (d) sweet memories of the past

Ans: (c) the stress he bears during the travels

(iii) The poet is a person who is free from all inhibitions (shy or nervous feeling/संकोच). Discuss how the concept of 'freedom' is expressed in the poem.

Ans: The poet has written the poem with an object to create the idea of freedom in the readers. The spirit of freedom is expressed in the poem through the symbolic reference to the open road, where men come together, ignoring their social status. Freedom implies (suggests) the independence to choose one's road.

As the poet **begins** his journey, he is light-hearted and content (**satisfied**) because he has left his ordinary life behind in order to seek adventure. His desire to live a free life is so strong that he doesn't hesitate or postpone setting out on this journey. He has freed himself from the society that surrounded him, as that was not something he desired. However, he does carry the memories of people along the journey, because that satisfies him and makes him complete.

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(A2) (i) Following are the activities of the poet related to his journey on the road. Divide them into two parts as 'activities the poet will practice' and 'activities he will not practice'.

- (a) Walking along the road though he does not know where it reaches
- (b) Complaining about the discomforts during the journey
- (c) Postponing the journey
- (d) Praying for good fortune

- (e) Carrying the fond memories of the good people
- (f) Creating contacts with famous and influential people
- (g) Striving to achieve high and bright success
- (h) Reflecting and developing his own 'self'

Ans: 'The activities the poet will practice'

- (e) Carrying the fond memories of the good people
- (g) Striving to achieve high and bright success
- (h) Reflecting and developing his own 'self'

'The activities the poet will not practice'

- (a) Walking along the road though he does not know where it reaches
- (b) Complaining about the discomforts during the journey
- (c) Postponing the journey
- (d) Praying for good fortune
- (f) Creating contacts with famous and influential people

(ii) Write down the traits (Qualities) the poet exhibit (show) through following lines. One is done for you.

- (a) Henceforth, I ask for no good fortune-I myself am good fortune:

Ans: Self-confidence

- (b) Henceforth, I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing-

Ans: Determination and positivity.

- (c) I do not want the constellations any nearer-

Ans: Self-assured and independent

- (d) I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them-

Ans: Clear thinking and genuineness.

- (e) I am filled with them – I will fill them in return-

Ans: honest and dependence / Promise

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(iii) 'Healthy, free, the world before me'.

Express your views regarding the above line.

Ans: In the line '**Healthy, free, the world before me**'. The poet wants to convey that the world that lies ahead in his journey of his life is democratic, healthy (not narrow minded), liberal and free. Means free from the shackles. He says that there is no tension for making his journey happy. Additionally, the

journey is in his control. He will choose where he wants to go for his self-development.

(iv) What do you think the poet means by 'I myself am good fortune'?

Ans: The poet means that

- 1] he is well contained.
- 2] He does not want anything else.
- 3] He is satisfied with all he has

(iv) Does the poet want to possess the constellations? Why or why not?

Ans: No the poet does not want to possess them because

- 1] He knows that he is capable to do anything also
- 2] They are well where they are and sufficient to those who are belong to them.

(v) Name any one virtue that you can learn from the line I know well where they are and sufficient to those who are belong to them? Give an example of a real-life situation where you can display that virtue?

Ans: One virtue that can be learnt is self-confidence and determination. That is, once you acquire them, they become characteristic of a person. For example person who has developed the virtue of self-confidence and determination is often referred to as bold, active and confident person because he tends to be self-confident and determined in all circumstances.

(v) The poet takes to open road.....



- Afoot
- Lighthearted

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(vi) What are the some of the things that the poet says he is done

with as he takes at the open road?



(vii) What can you say about the poet's state of mind?

Ans: The poet's state of mind is cool, happy, confident, adjustable and satisfied with his life.

(A3) The poet has used many describing words such as 'healthy' in this poem.

Make a list and classify them as -

- (a) For the world – **free , healthy and sufficient**
- (b) For himself - **strong, light hearted, content,**
- (c) For the road - **open, long brown path**

(A4) (i) Read the expression 'old delicious burdens.' A burden cannot be delicious. The poet has used this combination of words to express that he has many sweet memories of the people and places which he would like to remember forever. The poet has used seemingly (apparently/ प्रत्यक्ष स्पष्ट रूप से) contradictory expressions to convey the meaning that his heart is full of sweet memories of good and kind people. Though he wants to be free from any type of attachment, he wants to cherish these sweet memories in his heart forever.

"The expression contains opposite ideas that make it seem absurd (laughable) or unlikely, although it may be true. This is called 'Paradox.'"

(ii) The road in the poem does not mean only the road to travel. The poet

wants to suggest the road of life. Explain the metaphor with the help of the poem.

Ans: The road referred to in the poem has both literal **(word to word)** and figurative **(symbolic)** meanings. It also refers to the journey of life in its figurative sense. The poet uses the word the road to show a space where people come together, **ignoring** their social status. People who travel this road of life are a society. Like the poet, they too have broken the shackles **(chains)** of their daily life and have commenced their journey seeking adventure, because the road is also symbolically a call of adventure.

(iii) Free Verse: Free Verse is a poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm. The features of Free Verse are-

It is a literary device that is free from limitations of regular metre or rhythm, does not rhyme with fixed forms, and still it provides an artistic expression. In this way, the poet can give his own shape to a poem as he desires and can use various poetic devices to create the effect he considers suitable for the piece.

As Free Verse gives greater freedom for choosing words and conveying their meanings to readers, it is free from artificiality of a typical poetic expression. This technique is commonly used in modern poetry.

Remember -

Although Free Verse requires no metre, rhyme or other traditional poetic techniques, it is the use of internal pattern of sounds, the choice of exact words and their chosen places are the factors which attribute the Free Verse, its lyrical or rhythmic beauty.

Free Verse is completely different from 'Blank Verse' which essentially has to occur in **iambic pentameter**. Blank verse is poetry written with regular metrical but unrhymed lines. It is described as 'the most common' form of English poetry which has been influential since the 16th century.

(iv) There are certain words that are repeated in the poem.

For example, 'no more'(Line 7). Find out other similar expressions.

Explain the effect they have created in the poem.

Ans: Such repetition is seen in lines 5 to 8 with words **open road**, **'henceforth'** and **'good-fortune'** and in lines 13 to 20 with the personal pronoun **'I'**. Repetition, as a figure of speech,

(v) The use of personal pronoun 'I' is evident and prominent in this poem. Give reasons.

Ans: The pronoun 'I' of the poem could not be merely the wanderer, it could be Whitman himself, the reader, and everyone or he is "a type of the all human race.

(vi) Find and explain the figures of speech

1) Afoot and light-hearted I take to the **open road**.

Metaphor because here open road is indirectly compared to the road of life.

Symbolism because here open road symbolizes freedom.

2) The **long brown path** **before me** **leading** wherever I choose.....

Ans: Alliteration because 'a letter or a sound of 'L and b' have been repeated for the poetic effect.

3) Henceforth I ask not **good- fortune**, I myself am **good- fortune**.....

Ans: Repetition because the words 'good –fortune' have been repeated for the poetic effect.

3) I **carry** them, men and women, I **carry** them with me wherever I go.....

Ans: Repetition because the word 'carry' has been repeated for the poetic effect.

5) I carry them, **men and women**, I carry them with me wherever I go.....

Ans: Antithesis because the opposite words, men and women have been used

6) Done with indoor complaints, libraries, **querulous criticism**.....

Ans: Alliteration because 'a sound of 'K' has been repeated for the poetic effect.

Tautology because the words ‘**Complaint and Querulous**’ express same meanings.

7) Still here I carry my old **delicious burdens**.....

Ans: **Metaphor** because here burdens (old sweet memories) are indirectly compared to something delicious.

8) Strong and content I travel the open road.

Ans: Inversion because the words are not in a correct prose order. The correct prose order is – **I travel the open road strong and content.**

9) I am fill’d with them, and I will fill them in return

Ans: **Repetition** because the word ‘**fill**’ has been repeated for the poetic effect.

10) Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road.

Ans: Inversion because the words are not in a correct prose order. The correct prose order is – **I take to the open road afoot and light hearted.**

11) Done with indoor complaints, **libraries**, querulous criticisms.

Ans: **Metaphor** because here **libraries** are indirectly compared to education/ Knowledge of books.

Alliteration because’ a sound of ‘c’ has been repeated for the poetic effect.

Climax because the words/ Ideas are arranged in their ascending order of importance.

12) Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,

Ans: **Alliteration** because’ a sound of ‘n’ has been repeated for the poetic effect.

Climax because the words are arranged in their ascending order of importance

13) I know they are very well where they are,

I know they suffice for those who belong to them.

Ans: Anaphora because here I know has been repeated at the beginning of the sentences

7) Still here I carry my old **delicious burdens**.....

Ans: Oxymoron because here two opposite ideas have been put together.

Paradox because here two opposite ideas have been put together which can't be possible.



(A5) (i) Poetic Appreciation

4 Marks

Write a poetic appreciation of the poem 'Song of the Open Road' with the help of the following points.

- About the poem / poet and the title
- The theme
- Poetic Style
- Language /Poetic devices
- Special features
- Message, values, morals in the poem
- Your opinions about the poem

Ans:

About the poem / poet: The poem 'Song of the Open Road' is a classic travel poem written by Walt Whitman. This narrative poem centers on the quest for freedom. It is taken from 'Leaves of Grass' by Walt Whitman. This poem is a beautiful blend of human feelings. It shows the poet's self-realizations about the journey of life. Walt Whitman, an American poet, is often called as 'The Father of free verse'.

Title of the poem: The title of the poem is significant and is appropriate. The road signifies mobility and freedom. The poem is about self-awareness, free will and tenderness of heart.

Poetic Style and theme: The poem is written in free verse, Means it

has no regular rhyme. It has unique arrangements of words and different lengths. Walt Whitman strongly advocates importance of democracy & Freedom. It is an inspirational poem. Major themes of this poem are Freedom, joy of free life and optimism.

Language /Poetic devices: The poem is written in free verse. Simple poetic devices such as Alliteration, Repetition, Antithesis, Inversion, Paradox, Tautology, Metaphors are used. He employs Metaphor comparing road to 'the road of life', He also makes use of symbols.

Special features: The poem is written in very simple and effective language. Which is easy to understand and it creates an impact on the readers. It is written in first person narration. As it is written in free verse, it doesn't have rhyme scheme and meter. The poet uses many phrases like light hearted, querulous criticism etc. He also uses imagery like constellation and brown road. The use of brackets in fourth stanza is a typical feature of the poem that makes the stanza more remarkable.

Message/other: The poem is a didactic poem. It teaches us that we should be optimistic and happy. It motivates and encourages us to enjoy freedom, nature and travelling. I like this poem because it gives us a new attitude to look at life and should not live the routines of ordinary life.

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