

CHAPTERWISE QUESTION**Class XII****ENGLISH****Time : 2 hrs****MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX****Marks : 60****SECTION A : READING****1. Read the passage given below.**

Food on the table is a very warm sight, but only few takes preparation of the same as an art. That's why the last room in the darkest corner of the house has always been reserved for the kitchen. Most of the time, compared to other rooms, kitchens would be smaller in size and least furnished. Kitchens used to be women's space, especially in traditional households where the joint family system was the order of the family structure, the women in the houses are supposed to cook and bring the food to the dining area where men and guests usually eat. In some of the cases, women are implicitly expected to have their food in the kitchen itself.

At least 86% of the newly built houses even in urban areas have smaller kitchens than master bedrooms. The percentage of people preferring a well-ventilated kitchen over a well-ventilated bedroom is less than 25%. In rural areas at least 50% of the old generation houses and not less than 30% of the newly built houses have no kitchens inside the walled areas or the preliminary construction. Statistics also show that not even 10% of the people invest in furnishing their kitchens the way they do with their drawing rooms.

As changes happened in all walks of life and gender roles changed elsewhere, in the kitchen as well men's participation increased. In the present world, our greatest chefs are men; this has a whole socio-cultural explication but quite interesting is how architecture and our sense of space management got meddled in, especially in households.

In earlier days, when the joint family system used to be the order, there used to be a lot of people in the house that at the same time when somebody is cooking, there will be enough people to engage the guests as well. And not accidentally, the people in the front used to be men and people in the kitchens used to be women.

Now in the modern nuclear family days, there aren't enough people to allocate to kitchen works and guest entertaining duties separately in individual houses, so only option is for the same people to do both. For this, either one has to take the guest to the kitchen or bring the kitchen to the guest. The second option gets its material form when in modern day architecture; the kitchen is integrated to dining space. The traditional gender roles also got transgressed at some point. When in earlier days cooking remained a women's job and entertaining the guest was the men's job, these days participation is equal from the side of men and women for these activities.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions

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- i) A part of the house which is very important but in providing space it is mostly neglected?
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a) The living room | b) The dark store |
| c) The kitchen | d) The bed room |

- ii) Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.
1. More people prefer larger kitchens than bedrooms in their houses.
 2. A lot of people take preparation of food as an art.
 3. Over the course of time, men's participation in the kitchen has increased.
 4. Kitchen is integrated into the dining space in modern day architecture.
- a) 1 & 2 b) 3 & 4 c) 2 & 3 d) 1 & 4
- iii) Which word has the same meaning as 'intervene', in paragraph 3?
- a) Change b) Participate c) Explicate d) Meddle
- iv) "... in modern day architecture, the kitchen is integrated to dining space." What is the root reason for this?
- a) In individual nuclear families there aren't enough members to separately manage guests and kitchen works.
 - b) The traditional gender roles also got transgressed at some point, so women started revolting for kitchen centered architecture.
 - c) Participation in household works became naturally equal as time passed.
 - d) It happened as a result of architectural innovations which happened in the modern era.
- v) In the earlier days who was in the front and who was in the kitchens?
- a) Men in the front, women in the kitchens
 - b) Women in the front, men in the kitchens
 - c) Both shared front and kitchens
 - d) None of these
- vi) Based on the data given in Para 2, which combination given below is right?
1. Only 14 % of the newly built houses in urban areas have bigger kitchens than master bedrooms.
 2. More than 30% of the newly built houses in rural and urban areas have no kitchens inside the walled areas.
 3. 90% of the people invest in furnishing their kitchens the way they do with their drawing rooms.
 4. The percentage of people preferring a well-ventilated kitchen over a well-ventilated bedroom is less than 25%
- a) 1 & 2 b) 3 & 4 c) 1 & 4 d) 2 & 4
- vii) "In the present world, our greatest chefs are men." What assumption is NOT FALSE based on this statement?
- a) When it comes to professionalism, men are superior to women, even in doing women's jobs.
 - b) This has nothing to do with gender. It must have happened due to preferences of individuals and other favorable situations.

- c) When it comes to doing things at larger levels, women fail to excel.
- d) This is clearly because the world favours men over women, even though any woman can cook food better than any man.
- viii) According to the passage, arrange the given statements in descending order of importance when they are taken as reasons for changing the modern-day architecture of households.
1. Men and women started participating in kitchen work equally.
 2. Transition of family structure from joint family system to nuclear family.
 3. Transgression of the traditional gender roles in society.
 4. Easy to entertain guests with even minimum members in the household.
- a) 1, 3, 4, 2 b) 3, 2, 1, 4 c) 2, 4, 3, 1 d) 4, 1, 2, 3

SECTION B - WRITING

Attempt the following Questions.

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2. You are Rajan / Rachna, the Secretary of the Debating Society of your school, R.S.B.V. Rajgarh Colony, Delhi Write a notice in about 50 words informing students about an inter school debate. The motion for the debate is, 'Co-education does more good than harm'. Mention all pertinent details in the notice.
3. You are Manoj. You are going on a picnic with a group of your classmates to Karna Lake, near Karnal. Write an informal invitation to your friend Mohit to join you on that day. **4**

SECTION - C - LITERATURE

4. **Read the extract and answer the following questions.**

4 × 1 = 4

A I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile

- i) What was the poet's childhood fear?
 - a) loss of mother b) loss of youth
 - c) loss of knowledge d) loss of identity
- ii) What were the poet's parting words?
 - a) goodbye and take care b) see you soon amma
 - c) take care of health d) will soon meet again
- iii) What is the poetic device used in these lines?
 - a) metaphor b) personification
 - c) simile d) alliteration

- iv) Why did the poet smile and smile?
- a) she was trying to hide her real feelings
 - b) was happy to leave
 - c) was happy to see her mother
 - d) was tired

B. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

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.....She
looked but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes,

- i) What did the poet realise? How did she feel?
- a) mother was getting old and weak. It pained her.
 - b) mother was happy and energetic. It made her happy.
 - c) mother was getting old but was healthy. It pained her.
 - d) mother was nagging. It pained her.
- ii) What did the poet do then?
- a) smiled
 - b) dozed off
 - c) looked outside
 - d) called her family
- iii) What did she notice in the world outside?
- a) The young trees sprinting
 - b) The young trees sprinting and children coming out of their houses
 - c) children playing outside
 - d) barren land
- iv) Find words from the passage which mean: "running fast."
- a) ran
 - b) spilling
 - c) sprinting
 - d) merry
- v) What does young trees and merry children symbolise?
- a) They symbolise youth
 - b) They symbolise energy
 - c) They symbolise happiness
 - d) They symbolise youth and energy

C. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

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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, my childhood's fear,

but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,

all I did was smile and smile and smile

- i) What did the poet do after the security check?
 - a) the poet stood a few yards away from her mother and looked at her face again.
 - b) the poet stood a few yards away from her mother and looked for her young son
 - c) the poet stood a few yards away from her mother and looked at the sky outside
 - d) the poet stood a few yards away from her mother and tried to not to look at her face again
- ii) Why did the poet compare her mother's face to a late winter's moon?
 - a) The beautiful face of the mother resembles the late winter moon.
 - b) The pale and colourless face of the mother resembles the late winter moon.
 - c) The pale and colourless face of the mother resembles the flawless moon.
 - d) The beautiful face of the mother was prettier than the late winter moon.
- iii) What is the poet's childhood fear?
 - a) of getting old
 - b) of loss of beauty
 - c) of loss of mother
 - d) of her own death
- iv) How do the parting words of the poet and her smile represent?
 - a) The poet's parting words of assurance and her smiles present the real feelings for mother
 - b) Poet is happy to leave her mother
 - c) Poet would like to go back to her mother's lap once more
 - d) Poet's words and smiles are a deliberate attempt to hide what is going on in the heart of the poet .
- v) Pick out the poetic device used in the last line.
 - a) repetition
 - b) simile
 - c) personification
 - d) metaphor

5. Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words.

10 × 2 = 20

- i) Where was the poet going and who was with her?
- ii) What was the poet's childhood fear?
- iii) What does the poet's mother look like? What kind of images has the poet used to signify her ageing decay?
- iv) What does the poet realise with pain? Why does the poet 'put that thought away' and look outside?

- v) Describe the world inside the car and compare it to the activities taking place outside?
- vi) Why does the poet look outside? What does she see happening outside?
- vii) What does the poet do after the security check-up? What does she notice?
- viii) Why is the poet's mother compared to the late winter's moon?
- ix) What is the poet's familiar ache and why does it return?
- x) With fear and ache inside her heart and words of assurance on lips and smile on the face, the poet presents two opposite and contrasting experiences. Why does the poet put on a smile?

6. Attempt any two of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words. 2 × 5 = 10

- i) Aging is a natural process; have you ever thought about what our elderly parents expect from us?
- ii) What are the main ideas combined in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty- six'?
- iii) In the poem "My Mother at Sixty-six," how does the poet convey the nuance of human relationships?