

***Read the extracts below then answer the questions.***

**EXTRACT A: from *The Photograph* by Lisa Lange**

Penny placed the coffee and croissant in front of Frank, and he watched a stranger's hand reach for the cup. A thin hand. A bony hand. How had his nails gotten so long? He read somewhere, years ago, when he was young, that cartilaginous features lengthened with age, like chins and noses, while muscles atrophied, and bones shrunk. He looked down at the baggy crotch of his belted khakis. "So true," he said, and he laughed, a laugh that came out as a cough. He could have been choking, but nobody in the place turned to look at him. Not even Sam in the kitchen looked up. How long was it he'd been coming to Sam's? Years.

Frank's arm dragged as he reached for the croissant, and he knocked his fork to the floor. It clamoured the way forks do on ceramic tile, but, again, nobody turned to look. The sound was irrelevant. He was irrelevant. If he had it in him, he'd break wind. Maybe that would give them a start, have the diners turn around to look at him. He gulped air and belched as loud as he could, but no one looked his way. Proof. He was irrelevant.

Frank turned his attention to the fork on the floor and thought he might as well leave it where it was. He didn't need the fork to eat the croissant. But what was that next to the fork? A photograph? It looked like an old photograph.

Frank picked it up. He liked the feel of it in his hand. It was a real photograph on real photo paper, not one of those modern-day printouts. It was creased, like his face, as if someone had carried it for a long time. The girl was alone in a field. She was smiling at someone taking the picture, and Frank smiled back. "I know you, don't I?"

The girl's hair was long and blonde and parted in the middle, and she wore a mini skirt and a short leather vest with a long fringe. A hippie. The word flooded his body with feeling, not a memory, but a visceral flood, everything of his life at that time all at once. Frank flipped the photograph to its backside to see if anything had been written, just as a man hurrying by bumped Frank's hand. The photograph fell to the floor.

Frank tried to stop the kid from stomping on it, tried to push the kid out of the way, but the kid's sticky shoe picked it up.

Oh. He almost had it, almost pulled the corner of the photo off the back of the kid's shoe.

Frank walked too close behind the kid as he followed the photo on the shoe out the door. Almost. He almost got it with his foot. He had it! He had the corner by the tip of his shoe. He bent. He lifted his shoe. He watched the photograph blow down the street faster than Frank's old legs would carry him, until ...

It stopped, held by the windshield of a parked car. The photograph was backside up, and Frank could make out the words, Daisy loves Frankie.

Daisy. He'd been loved by Daisy. Frank reached for the photograph as a memory came close as if coherence waited on the edge of a cliff, but a man jangling keys beat him to it, balling the photograph and shooting it in the trash.

Frank was breathless, not from the activity, but from need. He needed to feel that photograph. He needed to smile at the smiling girl. He needed to remember.

No! He was only inches from reaching into the trash, from having the photo back in his hand. He waved his arms at the mom. He told her to stop. The mom paid no attention to Frank and threw her kid's drippy ice cream into the bin.

Frank scraped the ice cream off the photo with a piece of cardboard from the trash. Daisy smiled and Frank smiled back. Love flooded his body with feeling, not a memory, the memory still stood at the edge, but the visceral parts of love, an everything all at once flood of love that he almost thought might make him cry.

**EXTRACT B: from *Moonlight and Madness* by Suma Jayachandar**

When the news of your family leaving town made no ripples in my family, I knew we were never meant to live together.

I leapt up the staircase to the terrace, to meet you for one last time. You were there. Forlorn. The full moon weighed down on us. You didn't dare to cup him to give me.

You just uttered three words- "Jasmine, forgive me". It made my world crumble around me, slowly, one brick at a time. I didn't say a thing. There was nothing left to say.

You left. With your family. Along with many others. Turning your back to me. Walking away from a new nation that had turned its back on you.

You didn't look back. Till you reached the very edge of the drop from where you could never climb back. Not in the near future.

I hoped you will stay safe. When you walked through the rubble and dodged the murderous mobs baying for blood. When you squeezed into the train. Till you reached Amritsar.

I know it will be a hard life for you. You will have to find a new place to call your home. New job to sustain your family. And a new heart to start making threads. Tying you to new soil, people and life.

I wish you would find someone to give the moon to. If not on a terrace, maybe by the campfire; to laugh with and share your stories before partition. And never stumble at my name when doing so.

I thought I would never go back to the terrace. But you see, that is the thing about the people who get left behind. They have to revisit the terraces, houses, and streets that led to their hearts shattering into a million shards. And smile, even as the shards pierce their soul.

Time will flow. Upstream. For me. But it will flow nevertheless.

A young woman cannot live alone. Not in this town. There will be talks of my nikah. It will be to a good man. There is no escaping it. I hope I will have grown a new heart by then. One that wouldn't beat the syllables of your name- Ra-aj. For his sake.

Seasons will change and I will be a mother to the children of a not-so-new nation. They will be taught about how gruesome the partition was and how the other community turned into traitors and had to be driven away. They will grow with venom in their hearts for the footprints you left behind.

If I grow a voice back, I will tell them- no home is more wrecked than the one where brothers turn into enemies.

I will still have hope in my heart. No, not about ever meeting you again. But the line that ripped us apart will become blurred and the angry little men will be lulled in the vortex of time. Maybe not in our lifetime, but someday.

Till then know this. I never believed the moon could be mine, but I never doubted you wanting to pluck it for me. Some things are beyond the reach of lines drawn by the man- moonlight and madness.

**For questions 1 – 6, choose the option (A, B, C, or D) which you think best answers the question.**

**1 Which extract takes initially place in an establishment that serves food and drinks?**

- A. Extract A
- B. Extract B
- C. Both
- D. Neither

- 2** What is the likely reason why Raaj moved to a new place with his family in Extract B?
- A. Raaj wanted to have economic stability for his family.
  - B. The young woman didn't stop Raaj from leaving.
  - C. Raaj was forced to escape the violence caused by the partition.
  - D. The young woman's parents disapproved of their relationship.
- 3** In Extract A, what is the main reason why Frank keeps on failing to obtain the photograph before it was thrown away?
- A. Frank didn't want others to know that he wanted to take the photograph.
  - B. The people around Frank kept on ignoring him as if he didn't exist.
  - C. Frank was constantly heckled by other people.
  - D. Frank was experiencing fatigue and had difficulty standing up.
- 4** Which extract has a character who might have children in the future?
- A. Extract A
  - B. Extract B
  - C. Both
  - D. Neither
- 5** In Extract B, the young woman talks about revisiting familiar locations and smiling even as shards pierce their soul. What is the likely reason for why this is happening?
- A. The young woman was devastated by Raaj's decision to leave.
  - B. The young woman disliked her family because of their lack of support.
  - C. The young woman was ashamed of the actions of her fellow citizens.
  - D. The young woman was experiencing depression due to personal problems.
- 6** Extract A and Extract B both have characters that...
- A. wish to someday be free to travel and explore the world
  - B. want to live their lives in isolation
  - C. are experiencing intense pain
  - D. love someone deeply but are separated from them

**Read the poem below and then answer the questions**

**Wild Geese by Mary Oliver**

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves. 5

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees, 10  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination, 15  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

**7 What is the main message in lines 6 - 11 of the poem?**

- A. We should not be afraid to tell others about our problems.
- B. No matter how big our problems are, the world will still continue to exist.
- C. The world's beauty has no rival.
- D. The world is made up of different parts that we should appreciate.

**8 What type of verse is utilised in the creation of the poem?**

- A. Free verse
- B. Blank verse
- C. Rhymed verse
- D. Semi-blank verse

**9 The phrase "You do not have to" is repeated in the first two lines of the poem. What literary device is used here?**

- A. Simile

- B. Metaphor
- C. Repetition
- D. Enjambment

**10 What does the poet suggest about how we should live our lives in lines 1-5?**

- A. We should live a life that is immoral.
- B. We should focus on obtaining wealth and power in our lives.
- C. We should learn to be aware of the opportunities in front of us.
- D. We should focus on surviving and thriving instead of worrying about trying to be good.

**11 What is the message of the poet in lines 14 - 18?**

- A. We have a place in nature no matter how alone we might feel.
- B. Loneliness is a necessary part of living life.
- C. The world is an exciting place that we should explore.
- D. We should use our imagination to create beautiful artwork.

***Read the article below and answer the questions that follow.***

### **Video chatting during the pandemic**

**A** Zoom and related technologies were necessary during the COVID-19 shutdowns. At a time when more than 40 percent of the U.S. labour force was working full-time from home, videoconferencing arguably saved the economy from much worse collapse. Even as workplaces have opened back up, these technologies have allowed some workers to increase their productivity and given businesspeople options if they want to avoid the appalling state of commercial air travel.

**B** But these technologies are not costless in quality of work, or in quality of life. Video chatting may promise the benefits of a face-to-face meeting without germs and commuting. But it can provoke burnout for many and even depression. When it comes to human interaction, it is like junk food: filling and convenient, but no substitute for a healthy diet. By now, you have no doubt heard of “Zoom fatigue,” the range of maladies, including exhaustion and headaches, that are associated with hours and hours of virtual meetings.

**C** Before 2020, very few scholars were focused on the effects of virtual interaction, so research on what Zoom life is doing to us—and why—is in its infancy. One review of the emerging literature in the journal *Electronic Markets* found that Zoom fatigue has six root causes: asynchronicity of communication (you aren't quite in rhythm with others, especially when connections are imperfect); lack of body language; lack of eye contact; increased

self-awareness (you are looking at yourself a lot of the time); interaction with multiple faces (you are focusing on many people at once in a small field of view, which is confusing and unnatural); and multitasking opportunities (you check your email and the news while trying to pay attention to the meeting).

**D** Scientists have found that videoconferencing affects many different kinds of brain activity. Among other things, it mutes mirror neurons (which help us understand and empathise with others) and confounds our Global Positioning System neurons (which code our location). In the latter case, virtual interaction creates confusion and burnout by placing the Zoomer simultaneously in one physical space and another—perhaps very distant—virtual space. Think of what happens to your phone battery when it is on Waze trying to figure out where you are. It might feel a lot like what happens to your mental energy when your brain is trying to figure out where you are—and it might help explain why an hour on Zoom can feel like four hours in person.

**E** Although having virtual interactions may be better for well-being than having no social interactions, using video-calling to the point of fatigue has been shown to predict high rates of depression, anxiety, stress, and dissatisfaction with life. Virtual interaction is notably problematic for students, which helps explain the disastrous learning outcomes during the pandemic, especially for at-risk youth. This principle extends to college students: One 2021 study in the journal *NeuroRegulation* found that almost 94 per cent of undergraduates had “moderate to considerable difficulty with online learning.”

**F** At work, virtual interactions appear to cause two main problems (besides basic unpleasantness): lower performance and suppressed creativity. In a 2021 report in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, researchers who monitored 103 virtual workers’ fatigue during meetings found that when workers used their camera (versus having it turned off), they were less engaged during meetings that day and the one after as well. Scholars writing in *Nature* in 2022 found that videoconferencing inhibits the production of creative ideas. Virtual work may also lead to more siloing in the workplace as worker networks become more static. I have heard these complaints constantly in my field of academia, which relies on creativity and sharing ideas. As one friend who started teaching at a new university at the beginning of the pandemic told me, “Even after a million faculty meetings on Zoom, I still couldn’t pick three of my colleagues out of a police lineup.”

**For questions 12 - 17, choose from the paragraphs above (A-F).**

**Which paragraph...**

\_\_\_\_\_ **12** highlights the harmful effects of video conferencing on students?

\_\_\_\_\_ **13** mentions how video conferencing lessened the effect of the pandemic on work?

\_\_\_\_\_ **14** points out the benefit of video conferencing but also its harms?

- \_\_\_\_\_ **15** points out the negative effects of video conferencing on productivity among workers?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **16** contains a study that highlights the various causes of Zoom fatigue?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **17** discusses the neurological effects of videoconferencing?

***You are going to read an article about four descriptions of demigods. For questions 18-25, choose from the descriptions of demigods (A-D).***

**The description of demigods may be chosen more than once.**

<p><b>A.</b></p>	<p>The son of Laertes and Anticlea, Odysseus was a legendary figure in Greek mythology, king of the island of Ithaca, and the major character of Homer's epic poem, "The Odyssey." Among the Greeks, he was renowned for his oratory skills, as well as his skill as a crafty trickster. Odysseus, one of Helen's suitors, was compelled to join the Trojan expedition, despite his desire to remain with his wife, Penelope, and their newborn son, Telemachus, and his knowledge from a prophecy that it would take a long time for him to return home if he went to Troy. He was a key player in the Trojan War, contributing both as a strategist and a warrior. He is credited with coming up with the Trojan Horse, the renowned ploy that determined the outcome of the deadly struggle. After that, he left for Ithaca, but Poseidon was so furious with him for blinding his son, the Cyclops Polyphemus, that he tried all in his power to thwart Odysseus' return to Ithaca. After numerous memorable adventures, Odysseus finally managed to reach Ithaca, ten years after leaving Troy and twenty after joining the Trojan expedition. There, he reunited with Telemachus and Penelope and, after killing all of his wife's Suitors,</p>	<p><b>C.</b></p>	<p>Achilles was the son of Peleus, king of Thessalian Phthia, and Thetis, a sea-goddess. He was the greatest of all Greek heroes who took part in the Trojan War. Thetis bathed Achilles as an infant in the waters of the River Styx, making him all but immortal; only the heel by which she held him remained susceptible. The goddess knew that her child would either die the death of a renowned warrior or live a long life in obscurity. However, as prophesied, this proved costly, because Achilles eventually died from an arrow wound in that heel. Guided by Apollo, the fateful arrow was shot by Paris, the brother of Troy's most celebrated hero Hector, whom Achilles had previously killed in a face-to-face duel, in an attempt to avenge the death of his closest friend, Patroclus. Achilles spent most of his youth on Mount Pelion without his mother, where the wise centaur Chiron raised and schooled him in a variety of skills, from music to hunting. Achilles, needless to say, excelled in each one, and by the time he reached his father's house, it was clear to everybody that the young man was destined for greatness.</p>
------------------	---	------------------	--



	reclaimed his throne.		
<b>B.</b>	<p>Heracles, or Hercules as he is more commonly known, was the greatest of all Greek heroes, "one who surpassed all men of whom memory from the beginning of time has brought down an account." Heracles was a half-god of superhuman strength and violent passions and the most notable protector of the Olympian order, which he steadfastly guarded against various chthonic monsters and earthly villains. He was a demigod sired by Zeus and showed immense promise ever since birth in that he strangled two snakes sent by Hera in his cradle. Even though he and many more innocent mortals suffered because of his irritability and lack of restraint, the magnitude of his labours was of such an order that it earned him the prize of immortality. The protagonist of hundreds of myths – the chronology of which is impossible to figure out – Heracles is undoubtedly one of the most iconic figures in all of Greek mythology. As is generally often the case with heroes, Heracles was born from the union of a god and a mortal woman.</p>	<b>D.</b>	<p>Theseus, the monarch who succeeded in politically uniting Attica under the control of Athens, was widely regarded as the greatest Athenian hero. Theseus was brought up by his mother in the palaces of Troezen as the son of either Poseidon, the sea god, or either Aegeus, the ruler of Athens. When he was an adult and learned who his father was, he left for Athens. Along the way, he was able to outsmart and defeat a number of infamous brigands, including Periphetes, Sinis, Phaea, Sciron, Cercyon, and Procrustes. In Athens, after thwarting Medea's attempts to eliminate him and capturing the Marathonian Bull, he volunteered to be one of the fourteen young Athenians sent to Crete as a sacrifice to the Minotaur so as to be able to kill the monster inside his Labyrinth. With the help of Ariadne who gave him a ball of thread to navigate himself inside the maze, Theseus managed to find and slay the Minotaur, after which he set sail back to Athens.</p>

**Which description...**

<b>18</b>	mentions a demigod who reached his island after being gone for many years?
<b>19</b>	mentions a demigod who was known for being impulsive and bad-tempered?
<b>20</b>	mentions a demigod who received assistance that allowed him to slay a beast?
<b>21</b>	mentions a demigod who possessed numerous skills in his youth?
<b>22</b>	mentions a demigod who was well-known among his peers for his speaking skills?

<b>23</b>	mentions a demigod who defeated numerous enemies while on a journey?
<b>24</b>	mentions a demigod who was awarded a reward that enabled him to live forever?
<b>25</b>	mentions a demigod who died because his enemy targeted his weakness?