

# The Road Not Taken

## Extract Based Questions (3 Marks each)

Q.1. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood And looked down one as  
far as I could"

(a) Name the poem and the poet of above extract.

(b) What does the poet mean by 'yellow wood' ?

(c) He could not travel both the roads, why ?

Ans. (a) The poem is 'The Road Not Taken', and the poet is Robert Frost.

(b) 'Yellow wood' means the decomposing leaves and the autumn season.

(c) Being an individual, the poet could not travel two roads at the same time.

Q. 2. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both And by one traveller, long I stood And looked down one as  
far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth";

(a) What does the yellow wood mean ?

(b) Why does the poet stand long ?

(c) What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza ?

Ans. (a) Yellow wood refers to the decomposing leaves and the autumn season.

(b) The poet was in a dilemma about which road to take. Both the roads were equally worn and were covered with leaves.

(c) abaab. (1×3=3)

Q. 3. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.

And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood : And looked down one as  
far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth."

(a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines. 1

(b) Why did the poet look down as far as he could ?

(c) What do the roads represent in these lines ? (Board Term 12012, Set 49)

Ans. (a) The poem is 'The Road Not Taken' and the poet is Robert Frost.

(b) The poet is at a point where he cannot travel on both the roads and has to make a decision.  
He looks down as far as he can to help him make the decision.

(c) The roads represent the choices that one has to take in life. (1×3=3)

Q. 4. "And both that morning equally lay,

In leaves no step had trodden black, .

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way .

I doubted if I should ever come back.”,

(a)Who does 'both' refer to ?

(b)Why does the poet doubt his coming back ?

(c)Why would the poet like to come back ?(Board Term 12012, Set 52)

**Ans.** (a) 'Both' refers to the two roads.

(b)The poet doubts his coming back because one path would lead to another path.

(c)The poet would like to come back to travel on the road not taken. (1×3=3)

## **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q.1. 'The Road Not Taken' is a poem of all times. Comment on it. (Board Term 1,2015 BR7GWHM)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

The poem is relevant for all times as everyone faces dilemmas at every step in life and they have to take decisions.(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

**Detailed Answer:** The poem is relevant for all times as everyone faces dilemmas at every step in life. We have to face the difficulty of making a choice in life. One should move on without looking back or thinking whether it was a right choice or not.

**Q. 2. In the poem "The Road Not Taken", where is the poet and what does he see in front of him ?(Board Term 12015,6S00KQ5)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

The poet was in a forest and he saw a road dividing into two in front of him leading into the forest(CBSEMaflldrtgScheme;2015)

**Detailed Answer:** Robert Frost came across a path which diverged into two roads. One road is less trodden and full of challenges, while the other is a beaten track without any difficulty.

**Q. 3. Which road does Robert Frost choose and why ? (Board Term 12014, NCT-R; 2013, AGRO-91; 2012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** Robert Frost comes across a path which diverges into two roads. One road is less trodden and full of challenges while the other is a beaten track without any difficulties. He chooses the road which is less travelled by the people, because, it is more inviting and the poet is adventurous by nature and loves to take challenges.

**Q. 4. How is a road a metaphor ? Use examples from the poem 'The Road Not Taken' to support your answer.(Board Term 12014, MZPD310)**

**Bring out the symbolism in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12012, Set 72)**

**Ans.** The poem is concerned with a choice made between the two roads. The poet tells himself that he will explore one and then come back and explore the other, but he knows that he will probably be unable to do so. The poem is about something more than the choice of paths in a wood, for that choice might be relatively unimportant. We interpret his choice of a road as a symbol for any choice in life between alternatives that appear almost equally attractive. Through the years, however, we come to find that the choices we make and the paths we choose, will make a difference in our lives.

**Q. 5. The final stanza in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' starts 'with a sigh'. Why ? (Board Term 12013, NVZJUD2)**

**Ans.** The final stanza in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' starts 'with a sigh'. It is a sigh of relief and satisfaction. The poet is satisfied with all that has happened in his life and the position that he is in. It is a sigh of relief that on that day he had taken the 'road less travelled by' and

'that has made all the difference.'

**Q. 6. The title 'The Road Not Taken' is an appropriate title for the poem. Comment. (Board Term 12013, PNZTXU9)**

**Or**

**Justify the title, The Road Not Taken. (Board Term 12012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** The title brings out the theme of the poem in which every person at some stage of his life comes across situation where he has to make a choice. The decision taken to do things differently makes one stand out of the crowd. The title is figurative as the roads symbolize the dilemmas of life. The title "The Road Not Taken" is fully justified.

**Q. 7. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood." What do the two roads indicate here ? What was the poet's dilemma? (Board Term 12012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** The two roads indicate the choices one makes in life. The poet has presented the dilemma that one goes through while taking a decision regarding one's future. Man faces such dilemma as he is afraid of making the wrong choice which could have far reaching consequences. Man, therefore, takes a less risky and acceptable decision.

**Q. 8. What is the theme of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)**

**Ans.** The theme of the poem is that one should accept the challenges in his life. Man should dare to walk on the untrodden path and take risk. Tough challenges have far reaching consequences. They can change a person's life.

**Q. 9. Why did the poet leave the first road ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46)**

**Ans.** The poet leaves the first road that is well trodden and chooses the one that is less travelled by'. It is the second road that is full of challenges. It is this road that would make him stand out and that has 'made all the difference'.

**Q. 10. The poet says, 'I took the one less travelled by and that has made all the difference'.**

**What is the difference that the poet mentions ? (Board Term 12012, Set 56)**

**Ans.** The poet says that it was his choice of that particular road which has shaped his life. The poet adopts the less travelled path and faces problems. But later, he achieved both success and fame as a famous poet in America as well as in his own country, England. He stands out in the crowd today as a result of his tough decision.

**Q. 11. What conflict does the poet face in "The Road Not Taken" ? (Board Term 12012, Set 60)**

**Or**

**What dilemma did the speaker face in the poem "The Road Not Taken" ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** The conflict that the poet faces is to choose one of the two, roads and whether his decision would be the right one.

One road is less trodden, adventurous and full of challenges, while the other road is more trodden upon. It is a beaten track which is easy and without any difficulties.

**Q. 12. In the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', why did the poet feel like travelling both the roads ? (Board Term 12012, Set 62)**

**Ans.** Once, the poet came across a junction when his path diverged into two. One road was well trodden upon while the other road was grassy as less people had travelled on it. He felt like travelling both the roads because he was not sure of the outcome of his choice. He wanted to have an experience of both the situations.

**Q. 13. What do the two roads symbolize in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ? (Board Term 12012, Set 63)**

**Or**

**What does the road symbolize in the poem ? How much important is it to take the right 'road' in life ?(Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** The two roads symbolize the choices that one has to make in life. It is very important to make the right choice because we can never retrace our path and go back. One road would lead on to another and there is no coming back. ,

**Q. 14. The poet kept the other road for another day. Was he able to travel back on that road ? Explain.(Board Term 12012, Set 70)**

**Ans.** The author had kept the other road for some other time. He could never come back as the road he took led to other roads. Each road taken would have something new for him to explore. There was no coming back to that road again. .

**Q. 15. "Robert Frost did not feel dejected and disappointed on choosing the second road." Justify the statement with suitable examples from the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. (Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** The poet leaves a sigh of relief on having made this choice. Repetition of T shows his sense of pride in exercising , his individualism and his saying that it has made all the difference.

**Q. 16. What makes the narrator's choice difficult in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. (Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** One road is frequently travelled by people. It is a known, beaten track which seems to be safe. The second road appears to be a less travelled one and full of challenges. That is why it is a difficult choice.

**Q. 17. What message does Robert Frost give to his readers through his poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** It shows us that one should be ^willing to exercise one's individualism. One should not follow the crowd but be different from others. We should accept challenges and be ready to take risks in order to succeed in life.

**Q. 18. What does the choice made by the poet indicate about his personality in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ?(Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** The poet chose the road less travelled by. This indicates that he believes in charting his own path in life rather than doing what others expect him to do. He is adventurous and loves to take risks in life. He wants to stand out in the crowd.

**Q. 19. Why did the poet doubt his coming back on the same intersection in life ? (Board Term 12010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** The poet is pragmatic enough to know that one way leads to another, meaning that life moves on, retracing one's ] steps is not in the nature of things. The choices made today will mark his life later through the years.

**Q. 20, According to the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', what Robert Frost would tell after a period of time ? Why ?(Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** According to the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', the poet would be telling with a 'sense of sigh', that he took the road 'less travelled by' and that has made all the difference. It is only by taking challenges that one can become successful in life. Following the crowd will not make you stand out.

**Q. 21. What message does the poem 'The Road Not Taken' give us ?**

**Ans.** The poet conveys a very important message in this poem. He tells us that man comes across many situations when he has to take a decision which sometimes can be crucial. We must make the right choice by keeping in mind that 'opportunity knocks only once'.

## Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)

**Q. 1. What would you like to become in life ? Would you follow the crowd or choose a destination which would be exemplary for others. Give reasons for your answer taking hints from the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12013, PNZTXU9)**

**Ans.** I would like to make my individualistic choice that would help me to choose a destination which would be exemplary for others. It is true that every person faces a dilemma in life. He comes across the problem of making choices in life. The important thing is how the decisions are taken. The road is symbolic of the opportunities that come in our life and compel us to take the right decision. The divergence of the-road is symbolic of the dilemma we face in life when one is caught in a problem. The choices have to be made thoughtfully and wisely. Adventurous people take the less travelled path. All these choices decide their future. Their life is affected by these choices as the step once taken cannot be retraced.

**Q. 2. Imagine Robert Frost writes a letter to his friend Tom Hawkins about the factors that helped him to decide on what to do next in life and why he chose to be adventurous and different from others. Write the letter in about 150 words. (Board Term 12012, Set 57)**

**Ans.** Robert house

Washington 23th September, 1957

Dear Tom,

Hope you are in the best of spirits.

A time comes in the life of every man when he has to make a difficult and an important choice. The decision taken can prove to be wrong, but the decision has to be made as the choice made affects one's future prospects. I too came across such a junction in my life when I had to choose between poetry and teaching in school. I gave a serious thought to each road. I was well aware of the fact that my life was affected by the choice I would make because the step once taken cannot be retraced. Finally, I chose the less travelled path as I am adventurous by nature and also because I want to be different horn others. I took the risk of shifting my family to England to promote my professional interest. I am grateful to God that my choice was right. I employed traditional patterns to write poems. Today, I stand out in the crowd. I am among one of tire country's best loved poets. I am a well known and an acknowledged poet today.

With lots of love,

Robert Frost –

**Q. 3. Does the speaker seem happy about his decision ? (Board Term 12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The poet is in an indecisive state. He is assailed by doubts concerning his choice. He is well aware of the fact that if his choice turns out to be misplaced, there will be no going back. He also has a feeling that his choice might be crowned with success. ,

The unknown is not always a risky business. It might open the door to success too, as it happened in the case of the poet himself. Being adventurous by nature, he decides to plunge into the unknown. He seems happy about the decision as taking risk is a part of his nature.

**Q. 4. At every stage of life, man has to make crucial decisions. Keeping in mind Robert Frost's poem,'The Road Not Taken', describe a peculiar situation where you took a decision that changed the course of your life.(Board Term 12012, Set 67)**

**Ans.** Everyone comes across a problem in life in which he has to take a decision which can

change his life. The decision can prove to be wrong as its impact on our future is unpredictable. Consequences of wrong choices will have to be faced by the person himself. Nonetheless, the decision has to be taken. It is not always a risky business. The choice may be crowned with success too as it happened in the case of the poet himself.

The poet, once, came across a junction when his path diverged into two. He wanted to experience both the situations, but the decision had to be made. It was ultimately his choice of that particular road which changed his life. The poet adopted the less travelled path, faced problems but later achieved both success and fame not only in England, but in America too. One cannot get everything in life. He has to take a decision and stick to it. Tough decisions make him stand out in the crowd. We should accept challenges and be ready to take risks in order to succeed in life.

**Q. 5. Based on your understanding of the poem 'The Road Not Taken', write a diary entry of the speaker in the poem about the day he had to make a choice. (Board Term 12010, Set A2)**

**Ans.** Monday, 25th April, 2015

10.30 p.m.

Dear Diary

In every person's life there comes a point of time when he has to make a choice. Such a time came in my life too. I was in a dilemma as to what I should do. People generally take the much travelled path as it is tried and tested. However, there was another path that I could take on which I have not travelled. There would be difficulties and problems and risks. Maybe it would not be the right choice, but it appealed to me more, as if it was waiting to be tried. I decided to keep the first one for another day, knowing well that I might not ever come back. I have made a decision, how it will turn out, nobody knows. In the evening of my life, I will be telling this story to someone. It is difficult to forecast whether I will be happy or full of regret at the choice I have made. Well, only time will decide.

Good night. , ,

**Q. 6. The poem 'The Road Not Taken' revolves around a serious conflict of life. What is this conflict? How is it resolved? (Value Based Question)**

**Ans.** The serious conflict in this poem is the choice that one often comes across in his lifetime. Man gets many opportunities in life. He gets an opportunity to choose between them. The decision that he has to take is important as it can change his whole life. He can't retrace his steps once he starts moving on the path he has taken. So, one must make a choice after weighing the pros and cons of the opportunities that life shows in one's path. It is none the less important to stick to the decision once taken. Risks involved will help him stand out in the crowd. .