

## 11th English Digest Chapter 2.4 Upon Westminster Bridge Textbook Questions and Answers

Question (i)

A bridge connects people on either side of a river or valleys in cities or villages. Discuss the importance of a bridge to both the cities and the villages.

Answer:

Cities	Villages
1. Transportation	1. Transportation
2. Medical and educational facilities can be used effectively by the people from both sides.	2. Availability of more lands will be possible if two villages are connected.
3. Employment opportunities will increase by locating industries away from the residents to safeguard people's health.	3. Water can be shared and used judiciously by the farmers on both sides of the bridge.

Question (ii)

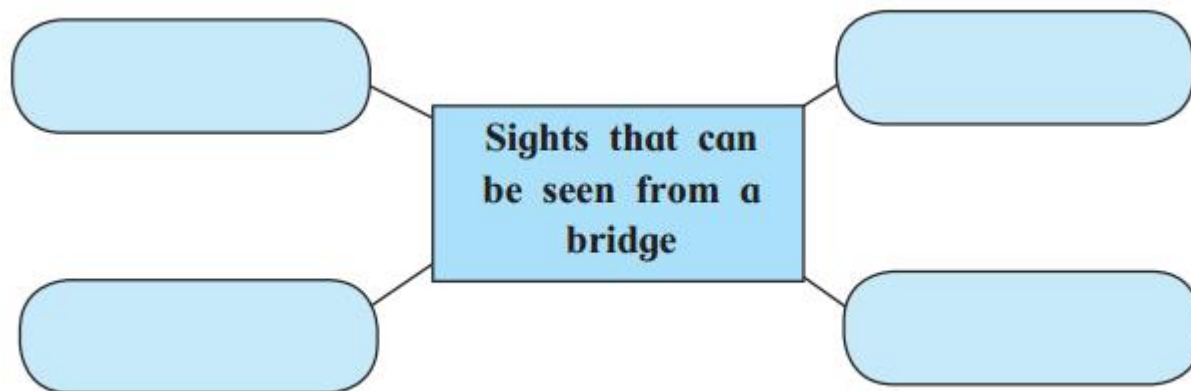
Building a bridge needs careful planning. Think about what goes on before the actual construction begins.

Answer:

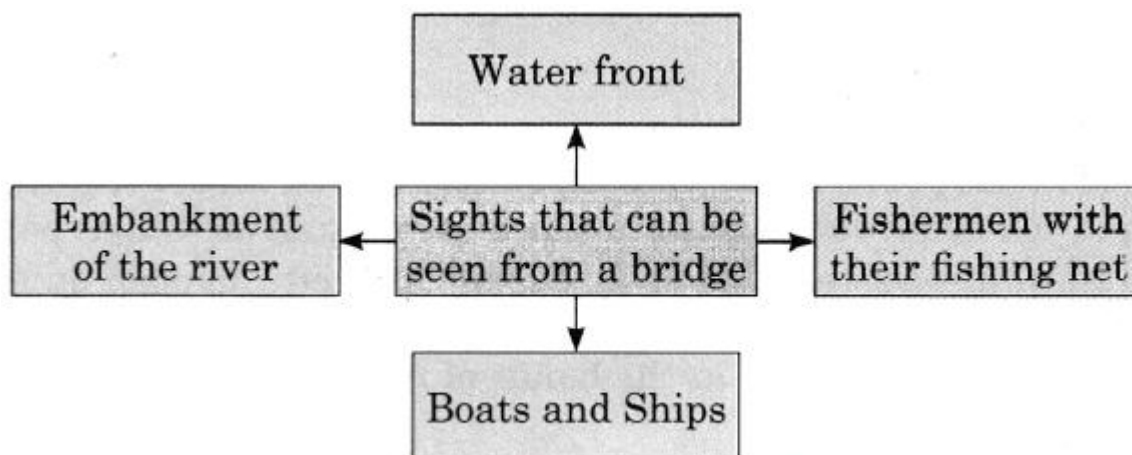
1. Proper planning
2. Get the plan approved by the authority
3. Draw design
4. Selection of a capable and qualified builder
5. Availability of funds

Question (iii)

You might have visited a bridge. Complete the web describing the sights you could see from the bridge.



Answer:



(A1)

Question 1.

For preparing questions based on the poem, overall understanding of the poem is a must. Prepare a set of five questions.

Answer:

- (a) What is the name of the bridge?
- (b) Who is a 'dull' soul?
- (c) What is the time of the day?
- (d) How does London look from Westminster Bridge?
- (e) What are the man-made constructions?
- (f) Why does the sky look bright and glittering?
- (g) How is the river flowing?
- (h) How do the houses appear?

(i) Why does the poet feel so amazed?

(j) Why does the poet address God?

(A2)

(i) Choose the correct alternative for the given lines. Focus on the inference of the poet.

Question (a)

'Earth has not anything to show more fair':

The line means –

1. The poet thinks that the place was not so good.
2. The poet thinks that there is another place which is more beautiful than this.
3. The poet thinks that there is no place on the earth which is as beautiful as this one.

Answer:

The poet thinks that there is no place on the earth which is as beautiful as this one.

Question (b)

'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by'

The line means –

1. One can walk over the bridge and ignore the surrounding beauty.
2. One can halt at the place to enjoy the beauty.
3. Anyone with an appreciative mind would not be able to ignore the beauty.

Answer:

Anyone with an appreciative mind would not be able to ignore the beauty.

Question (ii)

'Earth has not anything to show more fair.'

This line expresses the poet's feelings. The sight he saw from the bridge is beautiful. There are a few more lines similar to the above. Find them and discuss what they express.

Answer:

(a) 'Earth has not anything to show more fair:

Dull would he be of soul who could pass by

A sight so touching in its majesty.'

The poet appreciates the fairness and majestic appearance of the sight he sees in front of him.

(b) 'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by'

The poet is so confident of the beauty of the sight that he feels only a 'dull soul' is capable of missing the splendour of the sight.

(c) 'This city now doth, like a garment, wear.'

This line vividly shows how the poet sees the city as a lady who is constantly changing the attire.

(d) 'All bright and glittering in the smokeless air'

The beauty of the morning, according to the poet, is so breathtaking because pollution has not yet spread its ugly wing over the city.

(e) 'The river glideth at his own sweet will'

The poet personifies the river by giving it its own will to move smoothly to co-operate with the calm nature.

(f) 'Never did sun more beautifully steep

In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;'

The poet feels that the beauty of London early in the morning even surpasses the beauty he has experienced in valley, rock or hill.

Question (iii)

The poem creates a delightful picture of the city, rich in its natural beauty. Pick out the lines from the poem which give the pictorial effect to the poem. Write it in your own words,

Answer:

(a) A sight so touching in its majesty

The grandness of the scene touches the nature lover poet.

(b) 'This city now doth, like a garment, wear'.

The beauty of the city in the morning is so unexpected to the poet that he picturises the city wearing a different attire.

(c) 'The beauty of the morning; silent, bare'

The reader can feel the calmness of the city along with the poet.

(d) 'All bright and glittering in the smokeless air'

The beauty of the morning is so apparent because of the pollution-free air which makes the sun look brighter.

(e) 'The river glideth at his own sweet will'

The smooth flow of the river can be visualized.

(f) 'And all that mighty heart is lying still'

The busy city is lying silent early in the morning.

(A3)

Question 1.

Find out words and phrases which describe the following.

Answer:

sight	touching in it's majesty
air	smokeless
river	glideth at his own sweet will
house	seems asleep
morning	silent, bare
sun	bright, glittering

(A4)

Question 1.

Read the line.

Answer:

1. Simile – 'This city now doth, like a garment wear'.

Direct comparison between the manner in which the beauty of the city in the morning settles over the city to a garment on a body.

2. Metaphor – 'all that mighty heart is lying still'

The city is represented by metaphor of the heart.

'the very houses seem asleep'

Indirect comparison of houses to a creature that sleeps.

'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by'

Indirect reference to a person whose soul has been worn out by time and experience.

3. Inversion – 'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by.'

The order of words are changed for poetic effect.

Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm, so deep!

The order of words are changed for poetic effect.

4. Personification – 'This city now doth, like a garment, wear'

The city is personified.

'Never did sun more beautifully steep / In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill'

The sun is personified

'The river glideth at his own sweet will'

The river is personified

. 'the very houses seem asleep'

The houses are personified.

'all that mighty heart is lying still'

The city is personified by giving it a heart.

5. Hyperbole – "Earth has not anything to show more fair"

No sight is more beautiful than the view from the Westminster bridge — An exaggerated statement 'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by'

The sentence has been exaggerated for poetic effect 'Never did sun more beautifully steep'

The sentence has been exaggerated for poetic effect.

6. Paradox – 'A sight so touching in it's majesty'

A contradictory statement because a touching sight is intimate and personal but a majestic sight is grand and public.

'The beauty of the morning; silent, bare'

A confusing statement since the city is soaked in beauty, but is 'bare'

'all that mighty heart is lying still'

A paradoxical statement of the 'mighty hearts' lying inactive – the poet presents the final image of tranquility and silence.

7. Transferred epithet –

'And all that mighty heart is lying still'

The epithet 'mighty' is transferred from the people to the city.

8. Apostrophe – 'Dear God!...' The poet addresses God, the creator of all beauty upon earth to express his sincere gratitude.

Question (iii)

The poem is a Petrarchan Sonnet. Complete the given table by giving examples from the poem.

Answer:

Features	Examples / Lines
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Objects used	sky, sun, fields, river, air, houses
Praise / blames	bright, glittering, smokeless, calm 'The river glideth at his own sweet will', 'the very houses seem asleep'.
Metaphor	Refer the Poetic Device Section
Simile	Refer the Poetic Device Section
Personification	Refer the Poetic Device Section
Number of Lines	Fourteen
Rhyme-Scheme	abbaabba cdcdd

Question (iv)

Write 5 lines about the place where you reside and what makes you feel proud about it.

Answer:

I stay in Mumbai, the maximum city. My city is always buzzing with activities and that makes it one of the liveliest cities in the world as it is very often said, 'Mumbai never sleeps'. I love everything about Mumbai, but what I enjoy the most is to sit at Marine Drive, watching the majestic Arabian sea. Mumbai street foods like vada pav, pav bhaji, etc., are mouth-watering. Who can ignore Mumbai's Film Industry popularly known as 'Bollywood'. Critics may take about Mumbai traffic, pollution etc., but I am in awe of 'Aamchi Mumbai'.

(A5)

Question (i)

There is a common belief that cities have always flourished only after human intrusion over nature. Write a speech expressing your opinion about it.

Answer:

Respected dignitaries on the dias, the judges and my dear friends, A very good afternoon to all of you. Today, I am going to talk about 'Flourishing of cities because of human intrusion over nature.'

The other day I read a news report about a leopard entering the IIT Campus at Powai and was sitting at the door of an apartment. It is scary indeed! But have we ever thought why this animal has to come out of his natural habitat to enter into human territory? Yes, you have guessed right. We have intruded in the animal's territory. We have built beautiful houses for ourselves amidst a natural surrounding but with all modern amenities. In the process, we have snatched from the wild animals their places for survival.

Friends, I do agree, modern cities have lost to offer. We are making bigger cities but are aware of the fact that we are getting disconnected from nature. And this reduced access to nature is causing enormous amount of problems, the major among them are diseases, mental strain, etc. The kids, who do not have enough time and space to lead a natural life are the worst victims.

Cities are flourishing but friends, how many megacities have been formed without disturbing the nature? This is due to absolute irresponsible in action to environmental problems. You and I are totally unconcerned about the intrusion in the world of nature. But, still there is no reason to lose hope.

Of course there are remedies, but we need to learn to appreciate nature first. Buildings need to have sufficient number of windows to allow fresh air and light, rooftop gardens, creation of spaces within and around the building to touch, smell and nurture plants. But all these require thoughtful planning of the cities where peaceful co-existence with nature is possible. For this we need to be sensitive towards the ecosystem, public health and sympathetic towards animal population.

I hope, in a short span of time, I have been able to make you all think about a serious problem of the modern world. I thank all the authorities for giving me a chance to talk on a topic so close to my heart and I am also grateful to all of you for your patient hearing.

Question (ii)

Compose a poem on an imaginary village. Try to maintain the rhyme-scheme of the first four lines of the poem given to you,

Answer:

Settled on the bank of river,  
Like a queen,  
Is my beautiful village,  
Full of bushes green.  
The river flows,  
In zig zag course.  
The village belles carry water,  
From their only source.  
Their giggle and chat,  
Fill the open air.  
Mix with children chanting numbers,  
In schools, loud and clear.

Question (iii)

Write an appreciation of the sonnet.

Answer:

William Wordsworth, one of the most famous romantic poet, a great lover of nature, wrote the poem 'Upon Westminster Bridge' while crossing over the famous bridge on the Thames river, with his sister, to go out of town.

The title of the poem is significant as it directly takes the readers to the place where the poet is inspired by the beauty of London city early in the morning. It immediately connects the readers with the content of the poem.

The theme of the poem is basically to admire the peace and calmness all around the city of London at dawn before the busy city wakes up to its daily routine activities. The skyline of the city is clearly visible and is glittering in bright sunlight as the morning is absolutely pollution free. To make the impression of the city at that moment clearer to the readers, the poet compares it to a lady who has currently changed her attire. There is a remarkable balance between nature and man-made structures like ships, domes, theatres, temples and co-existence has made the London landscape to be at its best.

The poet is awe-struck as he is not familiar with the scene. So he is confident to make a comment about a dull person who only can think of missing this chance of enjoyment and leave it for some other time. For Wordsworth, he is enjoying to his heart's content the breathtaking beauty which is even more attractive than valley, rock or hill, the natural landscape which he has enjoyed so far. The sleeping city appears majestic as he is not used to seeing London this way. Even the river is flowing on its own will as if there is no one to disturb it's moment.

The poem is a petrarchan sonnet, having fourteen lines which are divided in two sections. Octave, which is first eight lines and sestet, the last six lines. The octave presents in detail the city of London at dawn, its specialty seen by the poet at that time of the day and the co-existence of nature with man-made constructions so beautifully lit up by the bright and glittering sunlight. In sestet, the overflowing emotion of disbelief for the calmness of the sleeping city is expressed with so much of praise that it goes to the extent of exaggeration.

The 9th Line, 'Never did sun more beautifully steep...' is called 'Volta' where the poet gives reason for his – awe and wonder. The poet uses the traditional rhyme-scheme of a petrarchan sonnet — abbaabba, cdcdcd.

The poem is a descriptive one where the poet uses his sense of sight and flair for expression to present a panoramic view of London. The simplicity and frankness of the language that is devoid of any lofty idea, make the poem pleasant.

The poem is a momentary expression of the poet's description of the finer details of what he sees, feels, thinks at particular time of the day. It appears more beautiful because of the clarity in nature. Perhaps, on a gloomy day with overcast sky, this beauty would not have worked wonders for the poet. Fair weather brings out the inspirational awakening to the poet and he could easily pass it on the readers.

Question (iv)

Write a summary of the sonnet. Refer to the earlier poems for the points to be covered for writing the summary.

Answer:

Refer Synopsis.

Question (v)

While building a bridge, a group of people come together. They are architects, designers, engineers, officers, masons, politicians, building material suppliers, carpenters, etc. Write about the qualifications of these people. Choose any career from the list above and complete the table.

Answer:

Your choice of career/careers	Skill / Qualification
1. Architect	(a) 1. Master's degree in Architecture
	2. Drawing design ideas
	3. Imaginative and creative thinking
	4. Ability to assess problems critically.
2. Civil Engineer	(b) 1. Bachelor's degree in civil engineering
	2. Skilled in maths and physics
	3. Map – reading
	4. Reviewing blue print
	5. Design techniques
	6. Computer-aided design software

(A6) Project:

Question 1.

Given below are a few famous bridges in India. Find out more information about them and write in your notebook.

(a) The Howrah Bridge

(b) Laxman Zhula

### Yuvakbharati English 11th Digest Chapter 2.4 Upon Westminster Bridge Additional Important Questions and Answers

Question 1.

The garment is compared with –

Answer:

The garment is compared with the beauty of the city of London early in the morning.

Question 2.

The morning looks beautiful because –

Answer:

The morning looks beautiful because of the calmness and peaceful atmosphere of the dawn in London city which is so soothing to the eye.

Even the man-made structures along with the green fields, valleys and rocks and hills look very bright and glittering with the sunlight that falls directly on them in the absence of fog and smoke in the air. The river also flows smoothly on its own will.

Question 3.

Guess the meaning of 'glideth'.

Answer:

'Glideth' is an archaic word meaning 'moves smoothly'.

Question 4.

Guess what is referred to as 'Mighty Heart.'

Answer:

'Mighty Heart' is a direct reference to the significance of the city of London which is big, powerful and man-made. The city is 'Mighty' when the citizens are active. But, to the poet, it appears to be asleep as it is calm and quiet at dawn. Now it is inactive and the serenity of nature has dominated its busy activities.

#### Comprehension:

#### Global Understanding:

Question 1.

Prepare a set of eight questions needed for the overall understanding of the poem.

Answer:

1. Who is a 'dull' soul?
2. What is the time of the day?
3. How does London look from Westminster Bridge?
4. What are the man-made constructions?
5. Why does the sky look bright and glittering?
6. How is the river flowing?
7. How do the houses appear?
8. Why does the poet address God?

#### Inference / Interpretative / Analysis

Question 1.

Explain 'smokeless air'.

Answer:

The city of London is a busy city with lots of activities going on throughout the day. The poet could not believe the existence of clear sky which is hardly seen in London because of pollution. But he was standing on the Westmi

#### Personal Response:

Question 1.

How does your city/village look early in the morning?

Answer:

I am an early riser and that is why I am familiar with the early morning scenes in my city. Dawn is the only time I can enjoy pollution-free air, breathe deeply and can have a good look at the magnificent skyline with the rising sun peeping out. But the experience is short-lived.

#### Poetic Device:

Question 1.

Pick an example of Inversion from the extract and explain it.

Answer:

1. Example: 'Dull would he be of soul who could pass by.'

Explanation: The order of words are changed for poetic effect.

2. Example: Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm, so deep!

Explanation: The order of words are changed for poetic effect.

### Creativity:

Question 1.

Compose poem of lines on 'Nature' using a rhyme scheme abba.

Answer:

Nature is our well-wisher, our friend.

Love it, enjoy it, protect it,

Be responsible not to pollute it a bit,

Nurture thy nature, all problems will end."

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