

CBSE CLASS XI WORKSHEET ANSWERS

Poem: "A Photograph" (Set B) — Easy Language Key

English Core (Hornbill) - Class 11

Time Allowed: 45 Mins

Max Marks: 25 (Simplified Version)

EXTRACT-BASED SOURCE MATERIAL

*Some twenty - thirty years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. "Look at Betty
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they
Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday
Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.*

SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS (OBJECTIVE & VSA) — [8 MARKS]

Q1. Who are 'Betty' and 'Dolly' mentioned in the extract, and what is their relationship to the speaker's mother?

(1 Mark)

Easy Model Answer:

Betty and Dolly are the cousins of the poet's mother. They were younger than the mother and went to the beach with her.

Q2. What does the phrase 'snapshot' imply about the nature of the memory being preserved?

(1 Mark)

Easy Model Answer:

The word 'snapshot' means a quick photograph. It shows that the camera captured a sudden, happy moment of childhood that is now gone forever.

Q3. In the line 'Was her past, mine is her laughter', identify the shifting nature of time and loss experienced by the poet.

(2 Marks)

Easy Model Answer:

This line shows two different times. For the mother, the beach holiday was a thing of the past. For the poet, her mother's beautiful laugh has now become a thing of the past because the mother is dead.

Q4. Identify the tone of the mother when she says, '...and look how they dressed us for the beach.'

(1 Mark)

- (a) Bitter and resentful
- (b) Nostalgic and amused
- (c) Apprehensive and anxious
- (d) Formal and detached

Easy Model Answer:

- (b) Nostalgic and amused

Q5. Based on the extract, match the entity with its corresponding 'past' state:

(1 Mark)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mother's Past | A. The mother's vibrant laughter |
| 2. Poet's Past | B. The childhood beach holiday |

- (a) 1-A, 2-B
- (b) 1-B, 2-A
- (c) 1-B, 2-B
- (d) 1-A, 2-A

Easy Model Answer:

- (b) 1-B, 2-A

Q6. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:

(1 Mark)

The phrase 'Both wry' indicates that both the poet and her mother felt complete satisfaction and unmarred happiness at this stage of their lives.

Easy Model Answer:

FALSE. 'Wry' means sad and twisted. It shows that both of them felt sad because they had lost something precious from their lives.

SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30–40 WORDS) — [9 MARKS]

Q7. How does the camera play a significant role as a silent catalyst in the theme of the poem?

(3 Marks)

Easy Model Answer:

The camera acts as a silent tool that freezes a happy moment forever. While human beings grow old, change, and eventually die, the picture taken by the camera stays exactly the same. This shows how short human life is compared to a permanent photograph.

Q8. What are the specific details of the beach dress mentioned by the mother, and what underlying theme does this recollection bring out?

(3 Marks)

Easy Model Answer:

The mother talks about how funny or old-fashioned their clothes looked on the beach holiday. Their parents had dressed them up that way. This memory highlights the beautiful theme of innocent, simple childhood days when everything was happy and carefree.

Q9. Analyze the significance of the title 'A Photograph'. Why did the poet choose this generic title instead of a personalized one?

(3 Marks)

Easy Model Answer:

The poet chose a common title like 'A Photograph' because this feeling is universal. It shows that any old picture can bring back deep memories. It reminds all readers that losing parents, growing old, and missing the past are things that happen to everyone.

SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION (100–120 WORDS) — [8 MARKS]

Q10. Shirley Toulson utilizes the medium of a static photograph to translate deeply dynamic emotions of love, passing time, and finality. Elaborate how structural transitions in the poem help the reader experience the weight of unresolved silence.

(8 Marks)

Easy Model Answer:

The poem changes from a very happy, lively scene to a completely silent and sad ending. In the beginning, there is a lot of action and noise. We read about the girls playing in the water, their hair blowing in the wind, and the mother laughing happily while looking at the old picture. This shows the lively side of human life.

But in the final part of the poem, everything stops. The mother has been dead for twelve years. There is no more laughter or movement left. The poet is left alone with a silent piece of cardboard. By ending with the words 'its silence silences', the poet shows us how heavy grief can be. Death takes away all words and sounds, leaving behind a quiet, empty feeling that nothing can change.