

CBSE CLASS XI WORKSHEET (SET B)

Poem: "The Laburnum Top" by Ted Hughes

English Core (Hornbill)

Time Allowed: 45 Mins

Max Marks: 25 (with Solution)

EXTRACT-BASED SOURCE MATERIAL

*Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty.*

SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS — [8 MARKS]

Q1. What does the phrase "the infinite" refer to in this extract? (1 Mark)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

"The infinite" refers to the vast, endless blue sky into which the bird flies away.

Q2. What happens to the Laburnum tree after the bird flies away? (1 Mark)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

The Laburnum tree immediately becomes completely quiet, empty, and silent again, returning to its original state.

Q3. Which word in the extract suggests something strange, mysterious, or ghostly? (1 Mark)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

Eerie.

Q4. Describe the manner in which the bird leaves the tree branch. (2 Marks)

Q5. Choose the correct option that matches the sound described: "whistle-chirrup whisperings" (1 Mark)

- (a) Loud and threatening
- (b) Soft, gentle, and strange
- (c) Harsh and irritating
- (d) Heavy and metallic

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

(b) Soft, gentle, and strange

Q6. Write the antonym of "infinite" based on general poetic context. (1 Mark)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

Finite or limited.

SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS — [12 MARKS]

Q7. What kind of sounds start inside the tree when the bird enters the thickness? (3 Marks)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

When the bird enters the thick branches, a machine of sounds starts up. The tree fills with the chittering of chicks, the shaking of wings, and quick trilling sounds.

Q8. How does the poet describe the tree becoming alive? Use words from the text. (3 Marks)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

The poet states that the "whole tree trembles and thrills." This means that the arrival of the bird fills the entire tree with active motion, vibrations, and lively energy.

Q9. Explain the use of yellow color imagery throughout the poem. (3 Marks)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

The color yellow is central to the poem. The poet mentions "yellow sunlight," "yellowing leaves," and the yellow feathers of the goldfinch bird. This imagery links the tree and the bird together, creating a warm, quiet, and beautiful autumn mood.

Q10. Why is the Laburnum tree chosen specifically by the bird for its nest? (3 Marks)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

The bird chooses the Laburnum tree because its thick yellow leaves and yellow flowers provide perfect camouflage (hiding capability). This keeps her nest and young chicks safe from dangerous predators.

SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION — [5 MARKS]

Q11. How does the poem "The Laburnum Top" describe the contrast between life and death, or sound and silence? Explain with examples from the text. (5 Marks)

EASY MODEL ANSWER:

The poem creates a sharp contrast between sound and silence. At the beginning and end, the tree is quiet and still, representing a lifeless state. However, when the bird is present, the tree shakes with sounds and energy, representing dynamic life. Through this change, Ted Hughes shows how life comes and goes in nature.