

MODEL TEST PAPER 7

ENGLISH (Core)

CLASS XI

(With Answers)

Time Allowed : 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into five Sections A, B, C, D and E. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the question.

SECTION A – READING

(15 Marks)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : (8 marks)

1. Old lady was glad to be back at the block of flats where she lived. Her shopping had tired her and her basket had grown heavier with every step on the way home. In the lift her thoughts were on lunch and a good rest; but when she got out at her own floor, both were forgotten in her sudden discovery that her front door was open. She was thinking that she must reprimand her daily maid the next morning for such a monstrous piece of negligence. When she remembered that she had gone shopping after her maid had left and she had turned both the keys in their locks, she walked slowly into the hall and at once noticed that all the room doors were open, yet following her regular practice she had shut them before going out. Looking into the drawing room, she saw a scene of confusion by her writing desk.

2. It was as clear as daylight then that burglars had forced an entry in her absence. Her first impulse was to go round all the rooms looking for the thieves, but then she decided that at her age it might be more prudent to have someone with her, so she went to fetch the porter from the basement. By this time her legs were beginning to tremble. So she sat down and accepted a cup of very strong tea, while he telephoned the police. Then her composure regained, she was ready to set off with the porter's assistance to search for any intruders who might be still lurking in her flat.

3. They went through the rooms, being careful to touch nothing, as they did not want to hinder the police in their search for fingerprints. The chaos was inconceivable. She had lived in the flat for thirty years and was a veritable magpie at hoarding, and it seemed as though everything she possessed had been tossed out and turned over and over. At least sorting out the things she should have discarded years ago was now being made easier for her. Then a police inspector arrived with a constable and she told them of her discovery of the ransacked flat. The inspector began to look for fingerprints, while the constable checked that the front door locks had not been forced, thereby providing that the burglars had either used skeleton keys or entered over the balcony.

4. There was no trace of fingerprints, but the inspector found a dirty red bundle that contained jewellery which the old lady said was not hers. So their entry into this flat was

apparently not the burglar's first job that day and they must have been disturbed. The inspector then asked the lady to try to check what was missing by the next day and advised her not to stay alone in the flat for a few nights. The old lady thought that he was a fussy creature but since the porter agreed with him, she rang up her daughter and asked for her help in what she described as a little spot of bother.

(A) Questions :

- (a) *Why was the old lady glad to be back at her flat ?* (1)
- (b) *Why did the open front door surprise her ?* (1)
- (c) *Whom did she look for in the basement and why ?* (1)
- (d) *How did the burglars enter the house ?* (1)
- (e) *The inspector advised the old lady _____ . (Complete with the correct option)* (1)

- (i) to leave the flat for two months
- (ii) not to stay alone in the flat for a few nights
- (iii) to continue staying alone in the flat
- (iv) not to leave the flat at all

(f) *The old lady thought that _____ . (Complete with the correct option)* (1)

- (i) the inspector was co-operative
- (ii) the inspector was very gentle
- (iii) the inspector was a furry creature
- (iv) the inspector was very funny

(B) Find words in the above passage which convey meanings similar to the words given below : (2)

- (i) Enormous (para 1)
- (ii) Disorder (para 3)

2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow : (7 marks)

It is an unpretentious structure tucked in a corner of Chandni Chowk. It could be missed by a passer-by but for the chirping which gives away its unique mission. The Charity Birds Hospital is the only one of its kind in the country.

Many people arrive here daily with injured birds which they may have found lying by the roadside. After a quick inspection, an attendant makes a simple entry in the register : name of the person, kind of bird and date and "admits the patient" for treatment free of cost. The bird then becomes the sole responsibility of the hospital.

The ailing bird is administered first aid and then kept in an isolated cage. Often medication and proper care is all that is needed. After the wound heals, the bird is moved to a common section with other birds of its kind. Soon it will be healthy enough to fly away, many keep visiting the terrace for food and water.

The work began way back in 1929 in a small one-room structure. One Lala Lachumal Jain, along with others decided to start a medical facility for birds. Later it became increasingly difficult to treat the large number of birds being brought. In 1957, the present building was inaugurated.

The progress of the hospital has been slow but steady. Till 1968 only ayurvedic treatment was being administered. Allopathy was adopted that year and it was as recently as in 1992 that a laboratory was set up to conduct pathological tests. Though surgery is conducted at times and doctors try their best to save the bird's life, it is often too late. The mortality rate is quite high : around five to six birds die everyday.

The hospital survives only on charity. The trustees proudly claim that there is a steady flow of donations. Rich businessmen, visitors and even tourists donate generously. Till date they have never approached the government for funds.

However, the hospital has drawbacks. It does not accept carnivorous birds and does not admit pet birds. Moreover, the bird is subjected to a lot of stress as, being in old Delhi, the place is not easily accessible. Since it survives on charity, it is unable to take up research work.

But work goes on. The staff says, they have received as many as 50-60 cases a day. The hospital has an emergency ward and stays open round the clock. It spends approximately ₹ 6 lakhs to ₹ 7 lakhs annually and at any given time looks after 4000 to 5000 birds.

(a) *On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.* (5)

(b) *Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.* (2)

SECTION B – WRITING

(20 Marks)

3. You are the Secretary of the Environment Club of your school (A.B.C. School, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi). Your school is organising a Tree Plantation Drive on the Vana Mahotsava Day. Write a notice, inviting all the students to participate in the drive. Sign yourself as Geeta/Geet. (5 marks)

Or

You are the General Manager of a leading industrial concern. You need a Chartered Accountant for your office. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Times of India, New Delhi, under the classified columns.

4. Write an article titled 'Joint Family– A Boon to the Growing Child', to be published in your school magazine in about 150 words. Sign yourself as Shan/Shashi. (8 marks)

Or

You are Rama/Ram of Gandhi Sen. Sec. School, Kolkata. You visited a Science Exhibition organised by the city schools recently. Write a brief report in 150 words for your school magazine on what you saw, the exhibit you liked most and other special features of the exhibition.

5. You are Rakesh/Rani, the Secretary of the Historical Society of your School, Delhi. You want to take a group of forty students of your school on a trip from Delhi to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer by a deluxe bus. Write a letter to Global Travels, Delhi, enquiring about conditions for package tour. You can ask about the duration of the trip, boarding and lodging charges, mode of payment and discount available, if any. (7 marks)

Or

You are Vivek/Vandana living at A-83, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi. You have, of late, been very disturbed by the news of road accidents writ large on the newspapers every morning. Write a letter to the editor, The Indian Express, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, drawing the attention of the authorities to the rising number of road accidents. Write your letter in about 150 words.

SECTION C – GRAMMAR**(10 Marks)**

6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Underline the error and write the correct word in front of it in your answersheet. The first one has been done for you as an example. ($\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4$ marks)

	<i>Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>
Kut Kut was an hardworking squirrel. She lived on a tree-hole.	e.g., <u>an</u>	a
She was over the impression that she has enough food in store for the bad days, until she find that	(a) _____	_____
someone had been stealing his nuts she go to the old owl to	(b) _____	_____
find an solution to her problem.	(c) _____	_____
The old owl listen to her problem patiently.	(d) _____	_____
	(e) _____	_____
	(f) _____	_____
	(g) _____	_____
	(h) _____	_____

7. Correct errors in the following sentences and rewrite the correct sentences. (4 marks)

- (a) *Women by high societies can enjoy the luxury of no work.*
- (b) *The horse and carriage are at the door.*
- (c) *The news are true.*
- (d) *Each of the suspected men were arrested.*

8. Reorder the words or phrases given below to make meaningful sentences. (2 marks)

- (a) *has a / range / Hyde Park / wide / of / facilities*
- (b) *lake / is / for / the / popular / boating / and swimming*

SECTION D – TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS**(20 Marks)**

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : (3 marks)

A sweet face,
 My mother's, that was before I was born.
 And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
 Washed their terribly transient feet.

Questions :

- (a) *Where are these lines from and who is the poet ?*
- (b) *What does the poetess say about her mother ?*
- (c) *What is peculiar about the sea in the photograph ?*

Or

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

When did my childhood go ?
 Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
 To use whichever way I choose,
 Producing thoughts that were not those of other people
 But my own, and mine alone
 Was that the day!

Questions :

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) When did the poet feel that his mind was really his ?
- (c) What happened to his thoughts earlier ?

10. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 30-40 words :

(2 × 3 = 6 marks)

- (a) What does the rain do to its own self and what has the poet compared it to ?
- (b) What has happened between the father and son and what is the father's design ?
- (c) What attracted the tourists to see Tut's tomb ?
- (d) How does Millie Crocker-Harris make Taplow leave ?
- (e) The author was in a way a little afraid of the 'stored stuff' at Mrs Dorling's house, after the War. Why ?
- (f) Why was Albert nervous when he met the doctor ? What does it show about him ?

VALUE BASED QUESTION

11. The play 'The Browning Version' makes you think about teachers in general as you read about Andrew Crocker-Harris with all his eccentricities and qualities. Write an article in about 100 words on 'An Idealist Portrait of the Teacher'. (8 marks)

12. Answer the following questions in about 150 words : (6 marks)

How did the grandmother of the author, breathe her last and what did the sparrows do ?

Or

Give a description of the ride both Aram and Mourad had in that summer morning.

SECTION E – LONG READING TEXT – NOVEL (15 Marks)
THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

13. Discuss the use of humour found in the story 'The Canterville Ghost'. What devices does the writer use to create humour ? Write your answer in about 150 words. (8 marks)

14. How did Virginia accompany the ghost to the Garden of Death ? Could she seek mercy for the ghost successfully ? Write your answer in about 130 words. (7 marks)

UP FROM SLAVERY

13. Discuss in about 150 words Booker's struggle to overcome obstacles to reach what he wanted to achieve in life. Give evidence from the text. (8 marks)

14. What was Booker's third wife's contribution to the work that was being undertaken at Tuskegee Institute ? How far did it help Booker ? Answer in about 130 words. (7 marks)

MODEL TEST PAPER 7
SECTION A – READING

1. (A) (a) The old lady was glad to be back at her flat because her shopping bag had tired her and it was getting heavier with every step she took.

(b) The old lady was surprised to find her front door open. She remembered that after her maid left she had locked the door and then gone for shopping. So, seeing it open, she was surprised.

(c) She felt that she must try to find out if the thieves were still hiding in the house. But at her age she felt it would be more practical to take the porter along with her. So she went to the basement to look for a porter.

(d) After investigating and doing a thorough examination of the house, the inspector concluded that the burglars had entered by using skeleton keys or over the balcony.

(e) (ii) not to stay alone in the flat for a few nights

(f) (iii) the inspector was a furry creature

(B) (i) Monstrous

(ii) Chaos

2. (a) Notes :

1. Charity Birds Hospital.

(a) Estd. – 1929 by few like-minded people

(b) Present bldg. inaug. – 1957

2. Main features :

(a) Free treatment to birds

(b) 24 hrs. service

3. Facilities

(a) Equipped with path. lab.

(b) Surg. facilities

4. Sources of fund

(a) charity

(b) exp. – ₹ 6-7 lakhs annually.

5. Drawbacks

(a) high morality rate.

(b) carnivorous birds, pets not allowed.

(c) lack of funds for research work.

Key to Abbreviations and Symbols

1. estd. — established	5. path. — pathological
2. bldg. — building	6. lab. — laboratory
3. inaug. — inaugurated	7. surg. — surgical
4. hrs. — hours	8. exp. — expenditure

Title : The Charity Birds' Hospital

(b) **Summary** — The Charity Birds Hospital in Delhi, established in 1929 by Lala Lachumal Jain and a few likeminded people, was housed in its present building in Chandni Chowk in 1957. In this unique hospital which gives free treatment to injured birds, 24-hours service is available. It is equipped with a pathological laboratory and surgical facilities. Its sources of fund are charity and expenditure is ₹ 6-7 lakhs annually. Its drawbacks are that it has high mortality rate, carnivorous and pet birds are not allowed and there is lack of funds for research work.

SECTION B – WRITING

3.

A.B.C. School, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi

NOTICE

9th September,.....

The environment Club of our school is organising a Tree Plantation Drive on the Vana Mahotsava Day. Under this drive 500 new tree saplings will be planted in the campus. Free seeds and saplings will also be distributed. All the students are invited to take part in the drive which will be inaugurated by the Principal on 15th September... at 8:30 a.m. in the lawns of the school.

Geeta

Secretary

(Environment Club)

Or

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED Chartered Accountant for a leading industrial concern BMTT, age limit 40, with MCA degree, good professional qualifications, at least 3 years experience, preference given to computer trained candidate. Remuneration – no bar to suitable candidate. Apply to The General Manager, BMTT, Industrial Development Area, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh-210021. Fax No. 021-5692, Mobile 9562905212; Last Date – 15.10.20....

4.

'Joint Family – A Boon to the Growing Child'

by Shan

With the urbanisation and nuclear families gaining more ground, we don't get to realise what we and our children must have been missing by not following our traditional practice of a joint family. A joint family system may have its drawbacks but it is surely a boon to the growing child.

In a house, full of close ones like parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts etc. a small child gets the opportunity to enjoy and cherish the love and affection of so many around. He or she gets to share things with his cousins and thus grows into a person who learns to live with the fact that there are other people in the world besides himself or his parents. Thus he grows more sensitive, well-balanced, less self-centered and more social. It is surely healthy for a child to have company whereby he finds various channels of communication. He gets to relate to people of all age-groups. If he needs a piece of good advice he can look up to so many. He doesn't have to depend just on maid-servants for physical care.

A joint family, living in harmony, is undoubtedly a heavenly option for a growing child, specially in our times of stress and struggle for adults. It is a boon for him/her and there can't be two opinions on this.

Or

A Unique Science Exhibition

– A Report

By Rama (Gandhi Sen. Sec. School, Kolkata)

10th November,

A science exhibition was organised by the city schools on the ground floor of FICCI Hall on the 7th November. The exhibition was inaugurated by the State Education Minister. The students of classes VII to XII from different schools participated in the exhibition. They had put

up working models, illustrative charts and interesting projects. Each school was given a stall, with a long table and a projector to present its creations.

Some of the students had prepared the models on the theme 'Science in the Service of Man'. One of the models, made by the students of classes XI & XII of a school, could help in purifying the air in a room. Quite a few of the models were made from low cost or waste material which had been used thoughtfully and creatively. Some toys were created out of the waste material which could explain the principles of science and thus were meant to be used as teaching aids in the primary classes.

The students' efforts were lauded and appreciated by the chief guest in his speech at the end of the exhibition which was one of its kind, indeed.

5.

Govt. Senior Secondary School No.2.

West Patel Nagar,

New Delhi -110008

5th October,

The Manager,

Global Travels,

17, Bara Khamba Road,

New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject : Package Tour

I, Rakesh, the Secretary of the Historical Society of the school, would like to take a group of forty students on a trip from Delhi to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer to visit the historical sites by a deluxe bus.

I would like to know about the package tour that you offer and about your terms and conditions. I would appreciate if you could send me information as underheads :

- (i) Duration of the trip (the package tour)
- (ii) Boarding and lodging charges.
- (iii) Transport charges etc.
- (iv) Mode of payment (cheque or cash)
- (v) Discount offered to the students in groups.

Please respond to my queries at your earliest convenience at the above stated address or call 9812246920.

Thanking you,

Your sincerely,

Rakesh

(The Secretary, Historical Society)

Or

A-83, Kalkaji Extension,

New Delhi.

5th August,

The Editor,

The Indian Express,

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,

New Delhi - 110002.

Sir/Ma'm

Subject : Road Accidents – A Concern

Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to the rising number of road accidents in Delhi.

It is a well-known fact, confirmed by the newspaper everyday, that the road accidents have been on the increase. As a result, a number of unnatural deaths take place almost everyday. The reasons for these accidents and mishaps are obvious enough.

The main cause of such a state is the reckless driving. People in their hurry don't care to follow the traffic signals. The pedestrians tend to cross the roads from anywhere they want and some of them are hit by the speeding vehicles. The truck drivers, generally drunk, the young rash scooterists – all add to the number of accidents on the roads.

A few strict steps like imposing heavy fines and forfeiting the license of the offenders could stop the people from going wild on the road.

I hope the concerned authorities and the general public will see the gravity of the matter and some measures will be adopted to save people from falling victims to the terror on the road.

Yours truly,

Vivek

SECTION C – GRAMMAR

6. Incorrect

(a) on

(b) over

(c) has

(d) find

(e) his

(f) go

(g) an

(h) listen

Correct

in

under

had

found

her

went

a

listened

7. (a) Women from high societies can enjoy the luxury of no work.

(b) The horse and carriage is at the door.

(c) The news is true.

(d) Each of the suspected men was arrested.

8. (a) Hyde Park has a wide range of facilities.

(b) The lake is popular for boating and swimming.

SECTION D – TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

9. (a) These lines are from the poem 'A Photograph', written by Shirley Toulson.

(b) The poetess's mother was a pretty girl when she was young and had a sweet face. This was before the poetess was born.

(c) The peculiar thing which is mentioned about the sea is that it has an 'unchangeable' quality about it. From the past, it has not changed much in the present.

Or

(a) 'Childhood'. Markus Natten.

(b) The poet felt that his mind was really his when he left his childhood behind and stepped into adolescence.

(c) Earlier he was producing thoughts of other people. It means he was not doing the thinking for himself and others made major decisions for him.

10. (a) The rain issues forth from the seas and the earth, without being perceived. Then it goes to the heaven to form clouds. It comes down as rain and gives life to the thirsty earth. Seeds sprout with water. Thus, after enlivening the earth, the rain goes back to its own origin. The poet has compared the rain to a song.

(b) As suggested in the poem, 'Father to Son', a father and his son have had some misunderstanding. As a result, the son has left his home and they both are not on talking terms. Apparently, the son is wasteful and a spend-thrift and his father probably had objections to it. But now, many years have gone. Therefore, he wants to forgive him.

(c) The tourists from around the world descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects. They gazed at the murals on the walls of the burial chamber and peered at Tut's gilded face, the most striking feature of his mummy-shaped outer coffin lid. Some visitors read from guide books in a whisper. Others stood silently, perhaps pondering over Tut's untimely death in his late teens or wondering with a shiver if the pharaoh's curse would befall those who disturbed him.

(d) Upon knowing from Taplow that he was waiting for Crocker-Harris, Millie Crocker tells him that he was at the Bursar's and might be there quite a time. She suggests that he may leave.

Taplow is hesitant as Mr Crocker-Harris had asked him to meet him, Millie tells him to go away for a quarter of an hour and then return. She further assures him that she would take the blame if Mr Harris is back before Taplow's return. She takes a prescription out of the basket and asks him to do a job for Mr Harris by going to the chemist. Taplow leaves happily.

(e) After the War got over, the author was afraid and was not very much interested in the 'stored' things at Mrs Dorling's house because they belonged to a person, i.e., her mother, who no more existed. Looking at those objects the author would get reminded of her mother and she, thus, would become sad recalling her lovely memories of happy times.

(f) Albert had been wondering as to what he would tell the doctor from whom he needed a certificate. Saying that, he had a nervous breakdown. As a matter of fact, it had been worrying him so much that when it was time to meet the doctor, he was actually in a nervous condition. His getting so nervous and worried shows that he was inherently honest and truthful and therefore was hesitant about getting a false certificate.

11. 'An Idealist Portrait of the Teacher'

Teachers are of all kinds and shades. But an idealist portrait of the teacher suggests that good teachers have some common qualities which may call upon all the other teachers to emulate these qualities of head and heart and thus leave an impact.

A good teacher has a natural talent for leading students towards learning. He/she is able to dream up fascinating learning activities for his students to engage in. He/she looks for the best in students and communicates clearly that each one has untold potential. The most expressive of all the types, a teacher is remarkably good with language, especially when communicating in speech, face to face. He likes things organised and is specially trustworthy in honouring commitments. He is extraordinarily tolerant of others and is easy to get along with. A typically ideal teacher is highly sensitive and intuitive. His insight into himself and others is unparalleled. He also identifies with others quite easily and slips almost unconsciously into other people's skin. He feels connected with those around and thus shows interest in the joys and problems of their colleagues, students and loved ones.

All this apart from his command on the subject he/she teaches, a high sense of general awareness, an optimistic outlook and a good sense of humour constitute the essential being of an ideal teacher.

12. The grandmother was extremely happy at the arrival of the author from abroad. She excitedly went around the colony to call the women to play the drums and sing songs. She herself, began to play the drums and sing full-throated about the home coming of the warriors. She danced so much that she had to be told to stop. This singing and dancing caused a lot of strain to the grandmother. She fell sick the next morning. She lay on the bed praying and telling the beads of the rosary. While muttering her prayers, she almost silently, breathed her last. Her dead body was laid on the ground and it was covered with a red shroud. The sparrows came to eat the bread crumbs but they did not chirrup at all. As sensitive creatures, they had realised that their dear friend, the grandmother was no more.

Or

Aram was taken by surprise by Mourad, one fine morning. He rode on a beautiful white horse and invited him to join him for a ride. Initially, he felt that Mourad was of an adventurous nature and can do a crazy thing like stealing but then he tells himself that it would be stealing, only if he sold it off to someone. However, they both sat upon the horse and came upon the Olive Avenue.

The horse trotted initially and then began to run. Aram and Mourad enjoyed the sensation of sitting on a graceful animal. Mourad sat on it for sometime and then he asked Aram to ride it. Aram felt extreme thrill sitting on a magnificent horse. The horse began to run across the fields, then into the vineyard of Dikran Halabian where it began to leap over the vines. It made Aram fall down but it continued to run.

SECTION E – LONG READING TEXT – NOVEL THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

13. 'The Canterville Ghost' is a humorous tale. Wit and humour is found in abundance in the story. Humour is the magic wand, used by Oscar Wilde to transform a horror atmosphere in a comical ghost story. Phantoms, apparitions, blood stains, the ghost haunting the corridors— all are treated with humour. The blood stain is wiped with Pinkerton's Stain Remover; Mrs Umney's fainting fits are to be charged like 'breakages'. When the ghost appears for the first time, Mr Otis talks quietly to the ghost without getting scared. Instead, he offers Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his heavy chains. Or when Mrs Otis offers the ghost a bottle of tincture, saying that he doesn't look very well and it could be indigestion he must be suffering from.

Oscar Wilde treats even murder lightly. Sir Simon murders his wife because she was not a good cook or she couldn't do repair work. It is also funny to see the ghost getting frustrated because the Otises don't recognise the value and power of apparitions, astral bodies and they give a damn to the ghost's duty to haunt the castle. The tricks played by the twins on the ghost are also funny, the funniest being his encounter with another ghost which frightens and shocks the Canterville ghost who finds himself clutching only a white sheet which the twins had used to play a trick on the ghost.

The humorous situations are created in the story while Oscar Wilde uses all possible devices to make it look like a comical tale. He does so by reversing situations into their opposites as Otises gain the upper hand and succeed in terrorizing the ghost rather than be terrorized by him. Besides, some expressions or words are used for sheer amusement like 'enterprising impresario', 'Sanguineous stains', 'the existence of phastasmata' etc. These humorous devices ultimately make the book a mix of horror and comic though not without an important moral message.

14. Virginia happened to meet the Canterville ghost in one of the rooms. The ghost, during the conversation, confided in her about his life as to how he killed his wife, how he had been

starved and how lonely and miserable he was. Finding a compassionate listener in Virginia, the repentant ghost pleaded desperately for her to weep for his sins and pray for him so that the Angel of Death could show mercy on him.

Virginia agreed to pray for the ghost and promised to ask the angel to have mercy on him. A thankful ghost led her across the room to the Garden of Death. Virginia saw the wall fading like a mist and a bitter cold wind was blowing around. They went past the animals, strange creatures and did not halt. In a moment the wall closed behind them and the tapestry chamber was empty.

Thus finally Virginia, the harbinger of mercy and peace, helped Sir Simon to be laid to rest in the end.

UP FROM SLAVERY

13. Booker T. Washington valued difficulties and obstacles that constitute the process of any achievement more than the finished product. He believed that success is measured by the obstacles we have to overcome to reach it and not what we have actually achieved.

For Booker the path to success was very long, uncertain, painful and tiring but it never made him give up. Booker faced many problems in going to a day-school at Malden. Later entering Hampton Institute was once again a struggle of sorts, involving physical hassles and acute mental tension. The way he handled these stumbling blocks speaks volumes of his courage, perseverance and fortitude. His constant hope kept his spirit alive and body undefeated. More was yet to come.

The numerous difficulties in setting up Tuskegee Institute involved raising funds, going door-to-door to convince people, travelling, motivating people etc. Fired by the desire to uplift the fate of the Negroes, he took all the hurdles in his stride and carried on with his mind focussed on his aim. Stiff opposition from both whites and blacks didn't weaken his will power. He took to public speaking to impress upon the people the serious need to create a society that is free from prejudices and animosity of any kind.

His worthwhile efforts didn't go fruitless. They received the attention of the media. Tuskegee was known the world over. General Armstrong was so impressed that he requested Booker to set up a school for the poor whites also. Thus, every setback made Booker look for a new door to open. The obstacles in his way paved the way towards an incredible achievement which continues to be an inspiration for many.

14. In 1893, Booker married for the third time. His wife, Margaret James Murray, had graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. After having worked as a teacher at Tuskegee several years before, at the time they were married she was filling the position of Lady Principal. She was one with Booker in the work connected with the school, which relieved Booker of many burdens and problems. Besides her work in the school, she carried on mothers' meetings in the town of Tuskegee and a plantation work among the people who lived in a settlement connected with a large plantation about eight miles from Tuskegee.

Apart from these two enterprises, Mrs Washington was also largely responsible for a women's club at the school which brought together the women (who lived on the school grounds or close by) for the discussion of some important topic. She was also the President of the Federation of Southern Coloured Women's Clubs and was the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Coloured Women's Clubs.

Thus, Margaret's contribution to Booker's work was immense and it gave Booker not only a great relief but also gave a boost to his mission.