

Objective Type Questions

I. Multiple choice questions

I. Read the following extracts and answer the questions / complete the sentences that follow:

I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing. The black aeroplane was gone I could not see it anywhere. I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say "Thank you", she looked at me very strangely and then laughed. "Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar." So, who helped me...

1. Select the option that correctly tracks the progression of emotions experienced by the narrator in the given extract.

- a. excited - surprise - relieved - grateful - perplexed
- b. relieved - confused - curious - dejected-panic-stricken
- c. optimistic - lonely - calm - elated - appreciative
- d. triumphant - reassured - inquisitive - thankful - uncertain

2. Why do you think the woman in the control centre laughed?

- a. She found the narrator funny
- b. She thought his question preposterous
- c. She thought he was teasing her
- d. She was relieved the narrator was safe.

3. Filled with questions, the narrator decides to place an advertisement in the local newspaper to look for his "friend"

Read the advertisement given below and select the option that includes the most appropriate solutions for the blanks :

Looking for a pilot of a black aeroplane who (i) _____ an old Dakota out of storm clouds late last night, but (ii) _____ before the Dakota could express his gratitude after landing. Through control centre and radar did not (iii) _____ its presence, the Dakota pilot would

really appreciate if his friend reached out. Please contact the Dakota pilot at 5200100110. In deep gratitude and ear (iv) _____, XXX.

- A. (i) guided; (ii) disappeared ; (iii) register (iv) anticipation
 B. (i) took (ii) landed (iii) acknowledge (iv) appreciation
 C. (i) brought (ii) went away (iii) confirm (iv) expectation
 D. (i) helped (ii) vanish (iii) make note (iv) excitement

4. The narrator exclaimed that he was "safe". Which of the following represented the most immediate threat to the narrator's safety?
 a. The black mountain-like storm cloud
b. The depletion of fuel in the last fuel tank
 c. Being lost due to non-functioning equipment
 d. The old rattling Dakota aeroplane.
5. Choose the option that correctly matched the idioms in Column A to the story's events in Column B.

Column A - Idioms		Column B -Story events	
1.	Every cloud has a silver lining	i.	The narrator really wanted to have a hearty English breakfast, even though he really ought to have turned black.
2.	To be on cloud nine	ii.	The main in the other plane waved at the narrator and asked him to follow closely, drawing him out.
3.	To have your head in the clouds	iii.	The compass and other instruments stopped working. The radio was dead too.
4.	Gathering clouds	iv.	And there it was - the well - lit runway. An airport. The narrator could safely land.

a. 1-(iv); 2-(iii); 3-(ii); 4-(i)

b. 1-(iii); 2-(i); 3-(iv) 4-(ii)

c. 1-(i); 2-(ii); 3-(iii); 4-(iv)

d. 1-(ii); 2-(iv); 3-(i); 4-(iii)

Next Generation School

II. Multiple choice questions

Read the following extracts and answer the questions

Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face - turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.

"Follow me," he was saying "Follow me"


'He knows that I am lost, I thought. He's trying to help me.

He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child. After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more, I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

a. What was the pilot's feeling on seeing another aeroplane?

- i. relief ii. Happiness iii. Elation iv. **All of the above**

b. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s (F) and opinion/s (O) of the students below.

I think the other aeroplane was a figment of the pilot's imagination 1	Let's not forget the pilot could see the other pilot's face 2
	
I feel there was definitely another aeroplane that guided the pilot 3	Oh. Come on! The black aeroplane was leading the Dakota aeroplane for half an hour. 4

i. F - 1, 4 and O-2, 3

ii. **O-1,3 and F-2,4**

iii. F-1,2,3 and O-4

iv. F-1 and 2,3,4

c. Why did the pilot follow the strange black aeroplane like an obedient child?

i. He knew the other pilot

ii. He wanted to reach England for breakfast

iii. **He had no other choice**

iv. The aeroplane was in front of his Dakota

d. The pilot started to feel frightened again because:

- i. the dark clouds were getting thicker
- ii. the aeroplane's fuel tank was getting empty**
- iii. visibility was very poor
- iv. he could not see the strange black aeroplane.

e. The pilot, following the black aeroplane, diligently reveals his sense of

- i. anxiety
- b. fear
- c. trust**
- iv. Confusion

III. Multiple choice questions

1. The woman at the control centre looked at the narrator strangely because.

- i. she could see only one plane on the radar
- ii. the pilot was talking about another aeroplane
- iii. no other planes were flying that night
- iv. all of the above**

2. The moon was coming in the east behind me and stars were shining in the clear sky above me.

Who is 'me' referred to here?

- i. Lencho
- ii. Nelson Mandela
- iii. The pilot of Dakota**
- iv. Anne

3. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. Who is I and where is he?

- i. I am the seagull who is diving towards the sea
- ii. I am the pilot in the Dakota aeroplane**
- iii. I am the pilot of the black aeroplane weathering the storm
- iv. I am the woman sitting in the control tower.

4. "I'll take the risk", What is the risk

- i. to try to fly by jumping from the ledge
- ii to go back and land in Pairs
- iii. to follow the black aeroplane
- iv. To fly the Dakota straight into storm**

5. What did the pilot encounter 150 kilometres from Paris?

- i. black mountains
- ii. Bright lights of a city
- iii. the black aeroplane
- iv. Huge stormy clouds**

6. What are the long straight lines of light?

- i. bright city lights of Paris
- ii. Lights of the runway of the airport**
- iii. lights on both the sides of city road
- iv. Lights of the highway

7. Match the phrases given under column A with their meanings given under Column B

Column A		Column B	
1.	Fly a flag	A	Escape from a place
2.	Fly into rage	B	Be successful.
3.	Fly high	C	Become suddenly very angry.
4.	Fly the coop	D	Display a flag on a long pole

a. 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A

b. 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

c. 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

d. 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A

IV. Multiple choice questions

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

'I ought to go back to Paris,' I thought, but I wanted to get home. I wanted that breakfast 'I'll take the risk. I thought, and flew that old Dakota straight into the storm.

Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes the compass was turning round and round. It was dead.

a. Who is 'I'?

'I' is the narrator, the writer as mentioned in the extract.

b. Why did he think of going back to Paris?

He thought of going back to Paris because he wanted to meet his family and have a good breakfast with them.

c. Why didn't he go there?

He did not go there because flying his old Dakota plane straight into the storm was a great risk.

d. What happened to his compass when he flew into the storm?

When he flew into the storm, his compass was dead.

e. Which word in the passage is the adverb form of 'sudden'?

The adverb form of the word 'sudden' is 'suddenly'.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was the narrator happy and what was he dreaming of?

It was a clear and cloudless night. The moon had come up in the east. Stars were shining above. The narrator was happy. He was flying high up above the flying high up above the sleeping countryside. He was dreaming of his holiday and being with his family.

2. As a reader, do you feel betrayed or let down in the way the story ends? Validate your opinion

'Black Aeroplane' is a mysterious story with an open end. The readers are left free to guess the end. But it does convey a strong message of 'Never say 'die' till the end. Never lose hope in the most hopeless situation.

3. Why did the woman in the control room look at the pilot of Dakota DS 088 strangely?

The woman in the control room looked at the pilot of the Dakota strangely when he was talking about there being another aeroplane.

4. Why and when did he call Paris Control-Room?

It was one thirty in the morning. He wanted to call Paris Control. He switched on the radio and told that Dakota DS 088 was on his way to England. The narrator got the necessary instruction that he needed. He was asked to turn twelve degrees west towards England.

5. What did he find when he checked the map and the compass?

The narrator checked the map and the compass. He switched over to his second and last fuel tank. He turned the Dakota twelve degrees west towards England. He thought that he would be in time for breakfast. Everything was going well and it was an easy flight.

6. Did the narrator meet the pilot of the black aeroplane? How did he and his aeroplane disappear in the sky?

No, the narrator didn't meet his rescuer. When he was out of the storm clouds, he looked back. He found no trace of the aeroplane. Nor did he see the face of the pilot. Only God knows where they disappeared. Even the control room couldn't record their presence.

7. Based on your reading, would you call the narrator a family man? Justify your answer.

Indeed, the narrator is a family man. He was dreaming of his holidays with his family. He was looking forward to be with his family. He wanted to be in time for breakfast for which he

took the risk of moving ahead in the storm. The narrator was a grateful man. He went to the Paris control to ask who was the other pilot who saved his life.

8. James Lane Allen says, "Adversity reveals character". What do you learn about the narrator from the experience? Mention any two traits supported by the textual evidence.

The narrator seemed to lack his professional ethics and responsibility. He was about 150 km away from Paris when the clouds appeared. He didn't have enough fuel to fly. Actually, he ignored his professional wisdom. The narrator was a grateful man. He went to the Paris control to ask who was the other pilot who saved his life.

9. Why did the lady in the control room give the pilot a puzzled look?

- No sensible man flies in such weather.
- Not seen any other plane on the radar.

Detailed Answer:

The lady in the control room gave the pilot a puzzled look when he asked her whereabouts of black aeroplane because she knew that it was not possible for any sensible man to fly in such a bad weather. Moreover, no other plane was seen on the radar.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why didn't he return to Paris when he saw the storm clouds?

Paris was 150 kilometres behind him when he saw the storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains standing in front of him. He could not fly up and over them as he didn't have enough fuel. He thought of going back to Paris but changed his idea. He decided to go to England to be in time for breakfast.

2. The narrator had two options before risking himself entering the storm clouds? Why didn't he choose them?

Definitely, the narrator had two options before him if he didn't want to take the risk of entering the storm cloud, he could turn back and go to Paris which was about 150 kilometers behind him. Another option was to fly up and over the dark clouds. But he didn't choose any of the options. He wanted to be in England to have his breakfast in time, He couldn't fly around the clouds to the north or south as he didn't have enough fuel to fly.

3. What did he do when he was inside the clouds?

The narrator took the risk of entering the black storm clouds. Inside them everything was suddenly black. Nothing could be seen outside. The old plane jumped and twisted in the air. He couldn't believe his eyes when his compass was dead. His other instruments didn't work and were dead too. He tried to contact Paris control on the radio but received no answer.

4. How was the narrator lost in the storm clouds and what did he try to do come out of them?

The narrator had entered the storm clouds. Nothing was seen outside. Everything suddenly turned black. The old plane jumped and twirled in the sky. He looked at the compass. It was dead. He tried other instruments but they also refused to work. He tried the radio to contact Paris control but no answer came from there.

5. Who rescued the narrator when he was hopelessly lost in the storm clouds?

There seemed no hope for the narrator. He was hopelessly lost in the storm clouds. His compass and other instruments were dead. Even Paris control didn't respond. In such a hopeless situation the narrator saw another aeroplane flying next to him. It had no light on its wings but he could see the pilot's face. The pilot came to his help. When he said "Follow me" the narrator followed him like an obedient child.

6. How and when did the narrator feel that he was safe now?

When the pilot of another plane came to the narrator's help, he was extremely happy. When he said "Follow me" the narrator obeyed him like an obedient child. The strange black aeroplane was still guiding him. The narrator got worried as the old Dakota had petrol enough to fly for five or ten minutes. Suddenly when he was going down, he found himself out of clouds. He saw two long straight lines of lights of the runway. There was an airport where he could land safely.

7. Do you agree that the story, 'The Black Aeroplane' is a mystery? Justify your answer.

This story is no doubt a mystery because the writer leaves many questions unanswered which not only puzzle us but also mystify us. We all are extremely eager to know as to who the pilot in the strange plane was and if there was actually a plane that had guided the first plane, or its pilot had imagined it all in distress. All this could just be a figment of the imagination of the first pilot or it could actually be a plane whose pilot had probably crashed in a storm and so his ghost had come to ensure that another pilot did not meet a similar fate. This mystery remains unsolved and we are left guessing if there is indeed a supernatural element in the story. All we can do is make out our own assumptions and let our own imaginations run wild.

8. How did the black aeroplane rescue the first pilot?

The first pilot was stuck in the thick black clouds. The compass, radio and other instruments in his plane were dead. Then in the black clouds quite near to him, suddenly he spotted another aeroplane. Though he could not see the pilot's face, he understood the pilot was signalling with his hand that he understood to (the first pilot) should follow him. He turned his aeroplane slowly towards the black aeroplane and went behind it like an obedient child. After about half an hour, he started going down and suddenly they came out of the clouds and the first pilot saw the runway in front of him but the aeroplane that he had followed just disappeared.

9. Describe the flight of the Dakota aeroplane till it landed safely at the airport.

The Dakota aeroplane took off in a clear sky from France for its journey to England. After flying about 150 kilometres it was suddenly inside thick black clouds and everything was black. The compass, radio and all other instruments of the plane were dead. The aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. Then in the black clouds the pilot saw a black aeroplane. Though he could not see the other pilot's face, he understood that the pilot was signalling with his hand to follow him. The pilot followed the other plane like an obedient child. After half an hour the Dakota aeroplane came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of light of the runway in front. But there was no sign of the black aeroplane.

10. The author asked a question at the end of the lesson 'The Black Aeroplane', "Who was the pilot in the strange black aeroplane?" Answer this question.

It is indeed a mystery as to who the pilot of the strange black aeroplane was. It is quite probable that the pilot was actually a ghost whose plane might have crashed in a storm so he felt it was his moral duty to avert another such disaster. That is the reason the ghost seems to appear out of nowhere just to guide the pilot safely to the airport and once this job was done he just vanished into thin air and was not seen again. Another probability is that the pilot of the old Dakota had imagined it all in his distress. No definite explanation can be given for this mystery as the story has a supernatural element attached to it which is inexplicable.

11. 'Everything was going well – it was an easy flight'. Why was the pilot happy?

The pilot was flying his aeroplane in a clear sky where he could see the moon coming up in the east behind him, and the stars were shining above him. He was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside and was dreaming of his holiday and looking forward to being with his family. He thought that he would be home in time for breakfast and devour a good big

English breakfast. Everything was going pretty well for him. He was getting find signals from the Paris Control Room which was giving him the accurate direction on which he was to proceed. His compass and full tank were also up to the mark. So, all in all, it was an easy flight for him.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Imagine that the narrator shared his story with friends and family once he got home.

One of them, a spiritual leader, decided to incorporate the story as part of his weekly sermon to the congregation. Another friend, a psychologist, worked the story, into his next lecture on survival instinct and crisis management.

Do you think the two interpretations of the story would be different? If so, how? What insights might the narrator get about his mysterious experience, if he were to attend both the sessions?

Yes, two interpretations of the story would be different. Spiritually, a person has deep faith in God and he recalls him in the time of distress he will definitely be answered. God will surely send help through his messengers as done in chapter 1. A letter to god. The postmaster became the messenger of God. Whereas psychologically, it interprets 'Never say die' till the end.

The narrator might also have got the insight of never to lose hope in the most hopeless situation. No one knows who may come to save you. The narrator was hopeless when he was caught in the storm. He lost all contact with Paris control and all his instruments were dead. Then came a help from unknown source in the form of a mysterious pilot of the black aeroplane to guide the narrator to safety.

2. In a parallel world, the pilot of the black aeroplane narrates his adventure in a story titled 'The Old Dakota'. You come across an excerpt from the story, which responds to the ending questions of 'Black Aeroplane' and describes the black aeroplane pilot's decision to fly away after watching the Dakota land. Compose the said excerpt of the story employing relevant details from 'Black Aeroplane'.

The old Dakota

..... I waved the pilot of the old Dakota and gestured him to follow me. Like an obedient child, he started to do so. He followed me until he could see the runaway. I was tensed whether he

would land safely or not. Because he had already made me understand that he was running short of fuel. I saw him landing safely on the runway. I was relaxed. I felt there was no need to wait. The good deed of the day was done. Once again, I had rescued a plane stuck in storm. So, I decided to fly away from there in search of someone else who may be in need of my help. I, as the Marshal of the Air Force, had been using my skills of flying Air planes in the harshest weather since past ten years. Surprising the rescued ones by my mysterious entry and exists.

- 3. A few days after the experience, the narrator sat with his wife and recalled a long conversation he'd had with his young son the day before. The narrator's son had spoken to him about his close friend, Freddie and the many ways Freddie helped him. When the narrator suggested inviting Freddie home for lunch, his wife casually said, "Freddie is like your friend in the black aeroplane!" That night the narrator decided to record his thoughts in his diary to clear his head. As the narrator, write the diary entry. [CBSE-QB, 2021]**

February 28, 20XX

France, 10.00 pm

Who saved me when I had lost all the contacts on the radio with Paris control? Who was the pilot of the black aeroplane who helped me to land safely without a compass, without the radio and without much fuel? These questions had been haunting me since past few days but they still remain unsolved puzzle. Even the lady in the control room couldn't detect any other plane on the stormy night other than my old Dakota on the radar. The mysterious pilot of the black aeroplane was like God's help sent to me to land safely. I was in real trouble before the mysterious black aeroplane appeared before me. I was lost and to make things worse my compass became dead. God knows what would have been my condition, had the pilot of the black aeroplane not guided me out of storm clouds to safety.

- 4. Why and when did the narrator say that 'everything' was going well, it was an easy flight? (Black Aeroplane)**

The story 'Black Aeroplane' is about a pilot who feels happy and contended to fly over a city during night time. He is flying from Paris to London. He is looking forward to enjoy his holiday with his family. As soon as he crosses Paris, he gets a look of dark clouds indicating an upcoming storm. But still his desire to reach his family and have a scrumptious breakfast with

them, made him risk his and his passenger's life. Then the pilot thought of informing the Paris Control Personnel about its presence and for instructions. After receiving the instructions, the pilot geared up and followed them while putting the last fuel tank into operation. He was calm as everything was going as planned. So, he says that 'Everything' was going well, it was an easy flight.

5. Read the extracts given below and comment on the difference in the nature of help both the characters, of these two stories, received. (a) Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane but the sky was empty. [The Black Aeroplane]

(b) All through the night Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God...The following Sunday, at daybreak he began to write a letter... It was nothing less than a letter to God...The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him.... Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence. [A Letter to God]

Competency applied for:

content-

- Required to display understanding of the variation of a common aspect, across the texts.

(Movement of response from common element to the differences.)

- Support of / reference to textual evidence expression
- Applying logical progression, using appropriate linking devices (words/phrases showing comparison/contrast are expected to be a part of this answer- whereas, on the other hand, as opposed to etc. as they impact expression)

cohesion-

- Response relevance and an appropriate conclusion to achieve coherence
- Accuracy in use of grammatical structures, vocabulary and spellings

NOTE—Paragraphing recommended. Just listing of points shall result in deduction of 1 mark allotted for cohesion & coherence.

- Both need help

- In The Black Aeroplane, he is helped by a stranger in a black aeroplane in the storm, without lights

- steered through the dark clouds; was told there

was no other aeroplane in the air other than his - wasn't clear who helped him

- open to interpretation
 - help is not asked for but he receives it.
 - is thankful
 - In A Letter to God-different nature of aid
 - Lencho writes a letter to God asking for money; his conviction in God touches the postmaster
- Both Lencho and the pilot of the Dakota plane needed help and there is no doubt that both of them received the help too. But still there is a lot of difference between the help received by both of them. In 'The Black Aeroplane' the pilot was caught in the storm and it was difficult to come out of it. But suddenly, out of nowhere, a black aeroplane appeared and helped him come out of the storm. The black aeroplane was without lights but it steered the pilot through the dark clouds.

He landed at an airport . He was so happy. He decided to thank the pilot of that mysterious aeroplane but was told by the lady in the control room that there was no other aeroplane in the air other than his. It is a mystery which was not resolved. The only thing was that he received an unexpected help and was thankful for it. On the other hand, in 'A letter to God', Lencho needed help in the form of pesos to look after his family. He wrote a letter to God and asked for hundred pesos. His conviction touched the postmaster who raised money from his staff and sent it to Lencho. In this case, Lencho received help as he had asked for it. The source of his aid has clearly been revealed whereas it was not revealed in the case of pilot unlike the pilot in 'The Black Aeroplane', Lencho is not happy and satisfied with the help that he had received.

- Postmaster raises money and sends it to him.
- He asks for help
- the source of his aid is clearly revealed
- not satisfied.

6. The narrator had two options of avoiding the terrible storm clouds. Why didn't he use them? Was his decision of flying straight into storm clouds a sound decision? Give a reasoned answer.

The narrator could see black mountains clouds all around him. They were storm clouds. He had two options and by using them he could avoid the terrible storm clouds. He could avoid the terrible storm clouds. He could go back to Paris. He wanted to go back but the temptation

of having an early breakfast at home stopped him. He couldn't fly up and above the storm clouds either, He didn't have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south.

It seems that flying back to Paris would have been the best option in those circumstances. He couldn't fly north and above the storm clouds either. He didn't have enough fuel to fly around them to the north and south of the storm as he hadn't enough fuel in the second tank. His decision of flying straight into the storm clouds was motivated by his having an early English breakfast with his family. It was rather a bold but risky decision. He would have been in deep trouble had the pilot of the strange black aeroplane not helped him to safely.

7. Describe the appearance of the strange black aeroplane in the most hopeless situation. How did the pilot of the black aeroplane help the narrator to come out of the storm clouds and land safely?

The narrator was really in deep trouble. The huge mountains of black clouds were around him. The old Dakota aeroplane was jumping and twisting in the air. His compass was dead. The other instruments were dead too. Nothing worked for him. Even his efforts to contact Paris control failed. The radio was dead too. In such a hopeless situation, the sudden appearance of a mysterious black aeroplane was like God sent help for him. There were no lights on the wings of that black aeroplane. The narrator could see the pilot's face. He was saying "Follow me". The narrator was totally lost. He thought that the pilot was trying to help him. So he followed the black aeroplane like an obedient child. He was frightened as he had enough fuel to last for five or ten minutes. Suddenly he came out of the clouds. He saw two long straight lines of lights in front of him. It was a runway. "An airport!" he cried. He was out of danger and could land safely. He turned to look for his rescuer in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty.

8. Who was the rescuer in the strange black aeroplane? Did the lady in the control room help the narrator in knowing anything about the man who helped him to land safely?

Who saved the narrator when he had lost all contacts on the radio with Paris control? Who was the pilot of the black aeroplane who helped the narrator to land safely without a compass, without the radio and without much fuel? These questions remained unsolved puzzles. Even the lady in the control room couldn't detect any other plane on the stormy night other than the old Dakota on the radar. The mysterious pilot of the black aeroplane appeared near him. He was lost among the mountains of black clouds in front of him. To make things worse his compass became dead. The other instruments became dead too. He couldn't contact Paris control as the radio was dead too. God knows what would have been his condition, had the pilot of the black aeroplane not guided him out of storm clouds to safety.