

GAYATRI VIDYA PARISHAD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FOR WOMEN

(AUTONOMOUS)

(Affiliated to Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)

I B.Tech I Semester Regular Examinations, Jan 2026

ENGLISH- 24HE11RC01

(Common to CSE & CSC)

SOLUTIONS

1.a. Swami Vivekananda's assertion in "The Secret of Work", that every action, when done selflessly, contributes to one's spiritual progress. The rippling effect of the work done by us is called Samskara, which is our inherent tendency that strengthens our character. Good and bad actions will have their own consequences. Good actions bring good and bad actions lead to bad outcomes. We have to work continuously without any attachment. Every work we do, leaves an impression on subconscious region of the mind. The sum total of such impressions makes our character. We have to do good work without expecting results to build a good character.

Here the writer notes that character is not something a person is born with, but something that is formed over time through samskaras. Every thought, word, and action leaves an impression on the mind and the accumulation of these impressions shapes an individual's habits, tendencies and moral nature. Repeated actions strengthen these impressions and gradually become character.

The writer also says that human beings have the power to change their character. Although past samskaras influence present behaviour, conscious effort, self-discipline and right education can create positive impressions and weaken negative ones. Thus, character formation is an active, continuous process and through right thoughts and actions, a person can build a strong and noble character.

1.b.

- i. merciless, cruelty, brutality
- ii. cheap, inexpensive, economical
- iii. fail, lose, expire
- iv. freedom, liberty, independence

1.c. Krishna says: 'Look at me, Arjuna! If I stop working for one moment, the whole universe will die. I have nothing to gain from work: I am the One Lord, but why do I work? Because I love the world.'

2.a Achieving inner peace enables a person to practise Swami Vivekananda's principle of master's work rather than a slave's work. According to Vivekananda, a master works out of freedom, awareness and inner strength, whereas a slave works under compulsion, fear or external pressure. Inner peace is the foundation that makes this distinction possible.

When the mind is disturbed by anxiety, resentment or uncontrolled desires, work becomes mechanical. Such a person is driven by circumstances not by conscious choice. This condition reflects slave's work, where action is forced and the individual lacks control over thoughts and emotions. Inner peace, on the other hand, brings clarity and self-mastery. A calm and balanced mind allows one to act deliberately and responsibly. With inner peace, a person works not because they are compelled to, but because they choose to. This freedom of choice is the essence of master's work. The individual remains detached from distractions and emotional disturbances, focusing on duty with dignity and confidence.

Moreover, inner peace enables work to be performed with love and dedication rather than fear or reward-seeking. Such work is efficient and meaningful. Thus, by cultivating inner peace, one gains control over the mind and actions.



2.b A dialogue of 5 exchanges without any grammatical errors and using phrases of introducing others.

3.a. In the poem "Where the Mind is Without Fear", the poet Rabindranath Tagore addresses 'thee' as God, the supreme divine power. The poem is written in the form of a prayer to the God, the Almighty for a true freedom for his country.

In the very first line, the poet prays to the Almighty that his countrymen should be free from any fear of oppression or forced compulsion. He wishes that everyone in his country has his head held high in dignity. In other words, according to him, in a truly free country every person should be fearless and should have a sense of self dignity.

Then, the poet dreams of a nation where knowledge would be free. Education should not be restricted to the upper class only but everybody should be allowed to acquire knowledge. Not only that, the children should learn freely from the nature and the world around them. They should not be forced to memorize some predetermined lessons. And this is Tagore's typical concept of education.

He emphasizes on the unity of not only of his countrymen but also of the entire world. He thinks there should be no division among people based on their caste, creed, colour, religion or other baseless superstitions. In other words, prejudices and superstitions should not divide the people in groups and break their unity.

Tagore wants a nation where people are truthful. They should not be superficial and words should come out from the depth of their hearts.

He wants everyone to work hard to reach their goal, and in the long run to reach perfection. He thinks they should not be tired by working. People should not be lazy and ignoring their work.

The poet compares 'reason' or logical thinking to a "clear stream" and in the next line compares 'dead habits' or superstitious beliefs to a 'dreary desert'. He wants the stream of reason not to lose its way into the desert of prejudices. In short, people's thought should be monitored by rational thinking, not by superstition; logic should rule over old baseless beliefs. The poet wishes his countrymen to be progressive and broad-minded. He wants that their minds are "led forward" to "ever-widening thought and action" by the Almighty. In short, we should be open-minded and do something unusual or extraordinary, overcoming the narrowness of mind.

In the final line of the poem, the poet addresses the God as 'Father'. He asks him to awaken his country into such a 'heaven of freedom' where the above conditions meet.

3.b. Format of formal letter (address/station, date, subject, salutation & complimentary close)

Body of the letter relevant to the given question

appropriate use of grammar and vocabulary

4.a. In "The Doll's House" Katherine Mansfield uses Aunt Beryl and the schoolteacher to show how social barriers are enforced and passed on by adults to children.

Aunt Beryl represents upper class. She is obsessed with social status and she treats the poor Kelveys as though they are morally inferior. When Kezia invites the Kelvey sisters to see the doll's house, Aunt Beryl reacts with anger and shouts at them. She fears social judgment and feels powerful only by asserting superiority over those below her. Through Aunt Beryl, Mansfield shows how class barriers are maintained by pride and the need to dominate.

The schoolteacher also reinforces social divisions by treating the Kelveys differently from the other children.

The children especially Kezia do not naturally accept these divisions. Kezia's desire to share the doll's house comes from innocence, empathy and curiosity. Whereas Isabel closely imitates the values of adults especially her aunt. She treats the Doll's house as a symbol of social superiority and uses it to control other children. Isabel also accepts the judgements about the Kelveys and excludes them. This contrast highlights that prejudice is not innate, it is something learned from adults.

4.b.

The meaning of Phrasal verbs changes according to the context.

- i. They called off the picnic because it rained.
- ii. I came across an old book in the library.
- iii. She brought up her idea in class.
- iv. He did not give up and kept trying.
- v. We ran out of milk.
- vi. They put off the game until tomorrow.
- vii. She carried on reading her story.

5.a. In O. Henry's "The Last Leaf," Behrman's actions clearly illustrate the depth of sacrifice and love, showing how human emotions can inspire selfless acts. Behrman, an old, unsuccessful artist, risks his life during a cold, wet night to paint a leaf on the wall outside Johns' window. Johns, a young woman suffering from pneumonia, has become obsessed with the idea that she will die when the last leaf falls. Behrman's decision to paint the leaf in the storm is an act of ultimate compassion; he exposes himself to the cold and rain, which eventually leads to him contracting pneumonia and dying. This event emphasizes the power of human emotions. His care for Johns so much that he sacrifices his own life to give her hope and a reason to live. O. Henry shows that sometimes small, selfless acts can have a profound impact on others. Because of Behrman's courage and devotion, Johns sees the "last leaf" and regains her will to live, proving that empathy, sacrifice and emotional support can literally save lives.

In my opinion, Behrman's sacrifice is the most moving part of the story because it highlights that true love and kindness are not always expressed through words, they are shown through action. O. Henry beautifully captures how human emotions like compassion, hope, and selflessness can influence others in life-changing ways.

5.b. Appropriate format of Note-making.

Content without grammatical mistakes

6.a The poet tells his son that he should keep calm and patient when others do fail and put the blame on him. He should trust himself when all others doubt him. However, he should also make a room for their doubts and try understanding what made them doubt him. The poet says that one should wait patiently for success and should never be tired by waiting because success comes to those who work hard and remain patient.

Next, the poet tells his son that other people will often tell him lies. However, he should never lie in his life and always remain truthful. Others will hate him. But he should never hate them back and rather spread love. The poet advises him to neither look too good, nor talk too wise because if he acts upon all the advises the poet gave above, he (his son) will look too good and wise among the common people.

The poet says that he should dream big but never make the dreams his master. Similarly, he should think good about goals, future, etc. but never make thoughts his aim because in order to succeed in life, one has to work hard. Mere dreaming and thinking will never lead one to the path of success. Hence one should dream of goals and think of a better future and at the same time should work hard to achieve them. The poet says that one should meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same. These are the two extremes of life. The poet calls them impostors i.e. fake. They either make one extremely happy or miserable. However, they are not long-lasting and hence one should not take them seriously.

The poet says that one should only speak the truth and should also have the courage to face it when it is misused by others to mislead others. He should also have the courage to see the things built by him in broken conditions and try rebuilding them with worn-out tools i.e. with what energy or skills you have. The poet says that one should make one heap of all the achievements one has made and then take big risks. In other words, one should never be afraid of doing things that can either make one successful or ruin everything (pitch-and-toss). If one fails after taking big risks, he should start again from the beginning without thinking or saying anything about the loss to others. One should try again and again until one succeeds.

The poet says that one should use his heart and nerve and sinew i.e. courage when one becomes tired or fails. When nothing is left in life, one should have strong will power which may encourage one to "Hold on!"

The poet says that while among the common people one must keep his virtues (and never behave like them) while among the kings i.e. big personalities one should never have pride and ego. In other words, the poet is saying that when one is poor, he should keep his virtues and when he becomes rich, he should never be an egoist. Next, the poet says that neither foes (enemies) nor loving friends can hurt one because of what

principles and ideals one holds. One should never give up them. People will often remain dependent on him but he should never allow them to remain completely dependent on him. The poet may also be saying that one should never give others too much importance or else he will get emotionally attached to them which will hurt him in the future.

According to the poet, time is precious and will never come back. Hence one should start utilizing each and every second of life. Finally, the poet tells his son if he (his son) acts upon all the advice he gave above, he will be able to achieve whatever he likes and he will be a Man i.e. a true human.

6.b.

- i. Something that seems bad or unfortunate at first, but later turns out to have good results.
- ii. It is raining very heavily.
- iii. Something that happens very rarely.

6.c.

- i. If we collaborate on this project, it's a win-win for both teams
- ii. It's too early to say; we need more data first.
- iii. That's a valid concern, we should discuss how to manage it.
- iv. She has been practicing the piano for years, so, naturally, she performed well.

7.a. Francis Bacon's essay "Of Studies" explains the value and purpose of study in shaping a balanced and successful individual. Bacon begins by stating that studies serve three main purposes: delight, ornament, and ability. They give personal pleasure in private moments, enhance conversation and reputation in social life, and improve judgment and practical skills in professional life.

Bacon warns against the misuse of studies. Studying only for enjoyment leads to idleness, studying merely to display knowledge results in affectation, and relying solely on books without practical experience makes a person impractical. He emphasizes that studies should be balanced with real-life experience, as wisdom comes from the proper application of knowledge.



Among his most memorable lines is the statement, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." This vivid metaphor compares reading to the act of eating, suggesting that just as different foods require different ways of consumption, likewise different books require different approaches.

When Bacon says that "some books are to be tasted," he refers to books that are meant to be sampled lightly. These are the kinds of works that do not demand full attention or deep engagement. One may glance through such texts, extract a few ideas or pieces of information, and then move on. These books serve a temporary purpose, often offering entertainment, surface-level knowledge, or momentary interest. In our modern context, this might include light fiction, magazine articles, or general online content works that are read quickly without requiring serious intellectual effort.

The next category, the books that are "to be swallowed," are those that are read more thoroughly, but still without intense analysis. These are books we read from beginning to end, perhaps to understand a topic, follow a narrative, or learn about a subject. However, we do not necessarily stop to evaluate every idea or question every argument. Such books may include popular biographies, textbooks, or novels that provide insight and enjoyment but do not challenge the reader to think critically at every turn. They are to be read with attention but not necessarily with deep scrutiny.

Finally, Bacon speaks of books that are "to be chewed and digested." These are the most valuable texts like books that offer depth, complexity, and enduring wisdom. They require time, patience, and repeated engagement. One must reflect on their meanings, analyse their arguments, and allow their insights to influence the mind and character. These are the kinds of books that shape one's thinking and often remain relevant throughout life. Classic philosophical works, religious scriptures, and timeless literature fall into this category. These books are not just read but are studied, contemplated, and absorbed, becoming part of the reader's intellectual and moral framework.

Bacon concludes by stating that studies help in correcting personal weaknesses and refining character. They cultivate discipline, clarity of thought, and intellectual maturity. Thus, Bacon presents studies as an essential means for personal growth, professional competence, and the development of a well-rounded mind.

7.b. Format of the essay (Introduction, Body & Conclusion)

Content of the essay with unity of thought, coherence and examples relevant to the given topic- Correct usage of grammar & vocabulary

8.a. Toru Dutt's 'Our Casuarina Tree' symbolises nostalgia, longing, and cherished memories. It is a symbol of both the joys of the past and the sorrow of those who are no longer present. The poem explores the poet's childhood memories in India. Her description of the tree expresses her pride in the tree for it remains strong despite the creeper winding around like a python. She has played beneath it many years ago with sweet companions whom she really loved. The tree will always be dear to her for their sake. The tree appears in her memory along with her old companions' images and this makes hot tears fall from the poet's eyes. The tree, blended with the memory of them, gives her the images of the intense love they shared, leaving the poet in tears. The poet mourns for the loss of her loved ones as she thinks down the memory lane. From her description of its appearance, she moves on to describe the activities happening around it. She ensures that the beauty of the tree is no more than an added gift, for her real connection with the tree lies in the numerous happy memories she shared with it. She tells how the tree manifests itself in the foreign land as she has seen it

at her young age. Finally, in the concluding part, she wants to honor the tree, therefore she makes an attempt to write a poem. Also, she seeks Love's support to preserve the tree from the affliction of time.

8.b.

- i. B
- ii. C
- iii. A
- iv. B
- v. C
- vi. C
- vii. B

9.a. The title 'Invictus' is very apt for William Ernest Henley's poem because it means 'unconquered'. Henley shows how important it is to be strong, brave, and in control of ourselves through vivid images and determined language. Invictus encourages readers to face their problems head-on by showing that the human spirit can endure and never give up, even when outside forces cause pain and battle. "Invictus" is a poem about resilience in the face of suffering. This resilience comes from the courage to embrace life and refuse despair. In addition to its proud statement of the speaker's current bravery, the poem is also a balm against any future instances of adversity; it's ultimately an assertion of the boundless strength of the human spirit. The poem has a repetitive structure that emphasizes the recurring nature of adversity and the constancy of inner strength. The poet then closes with an assertion "unconquerable soul." That is, the speaker's resilience remains untouched by life's difficulties. His idea takes a similar form, now turning to physical bludgeoning as a metaphor for life's unpredictable difficulties. Though "bloodied," the speaker doesn't bow to these difficulties and instead faces them head on. However, the speaker remains "unafraid" and self-possessed as he quotes, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul".

9.b. E-mail format with To, cc, bcc and subject line – appropriate introduction, body and conclusion

10.a. The most important life lesson from Mark Twain's short story "Whitewashing the Fence" is that perspective and approach can transform a task from a burden into an opportunity. In other words, the way we view work and its value determines our willingness and even enthusiasm to do it. In the story, Tom Sawyer is assigned the tedious task of whitewashing a fence. Initially, he is reluctant and sees it as punishment. However, when other boys pass by, Tom cleverly pretends that painting the fence is a rare privilege rather than a chore. He acts as if it requires skill and enjoyment, and soon the other boys are eager to take over the work, even offering him small treasures in exchange for a turn.

From this, we can draw several insights:

Attitude shapes experience: Tom's playful and strategic mindset turns a boring job into a fun and desirable activity. If he had approached it begrudgingly, it would have remained an unpleasant duty.

Creativity and persuasion can change outcomes: By using clever thinking, Tom shifts the perception of the task, demonstrating that intelligence and creativity can make life easier and more enjoyable.

Value is often subjective: The fence seemed dull and unwanted to everyone initially, but by framing it as special, Tom made others perceive it as valuable. This shows that how we

present things can influence not only our experience but also how others respond. In essence, Twain teaches that work is not always inherently unpleasant; it's our creativity and ability to influence perception that can turn work into play and opportunity. Life often gives us "fences" we'd rather avoid but approaching them wisely can make them rewarding.

10.b.

- i. None of the members has indicated if he or she will join the committee.
- ii. That was the worst movie I have ever seen in my entire life.
- iii. We decided to go for a walk and enjoy beautiful sunset at beach
- iv. Phani played the veena very well during the musical night last week.
- v. Anil has been living in this apartment for three years now.
- vi. I wanted to go to the bank today but the weather was too hot to go out
- vii. Between you and me, the surprise party is definitely going to be a huge success.

verified

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