

GRAMMAR

ANSWER KEY

Many visitors to Japan limit their sightseeing activities to the urbanised areas between Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima. As a result, many **returns** home with a misconception that Japan is one large, densely **populated** city. This **information** is inaccurate. Over two thirds of Japan are covered by forested mountains **but** hills, and Japan should in fact be known for its **natures**. The Japanese archipelago stretches nearly 3,000 kilometers from north to south, **allowing** visitors to experience a wide range of natural sights, **of** the drift ice in the seas off Hokkaido to the mangrove jungles in Okinawa. In between, there **were** majestic volcanoes, breathtaking coastlines and vast forests inhabited by **monkey**, bears, cranes and **others** wildlife.

- 1 **return**
- 2 **populated**
- 3 **information**
- 4 **and**
- 5 **nature**
- 6 **allowing**
- 7 **from**
- 8 **are**
- 9 **monkeys**
- 10 **other**

COMPREHENSION

ANSWER KEY

1.

| Language from Paragraph 1 | Ideas |
|---|---|
| 'like a record caught in a groove' | It took a long while before he could complete a word. (as he would repeat the same syllable before the next syllable popped out) [1] |
| 'like a wall came down in his throat' [1] | Words were prevented from coming out/ blocked and cannot come out. |
| 'enemies lying in wait' | He was unable read some sounds which he viewed as foes waiting to defeat him. [1] |

Notes to Students:

The writer uses similes and metaphor to show the difficulty her father had in speaking. You are to explain how in each case the language conveys this idea.

2.

| From the passage | Answer |
|---|--|
| (i) A stutter was a terrible thing for a man who so loved words and poetry. | (i) The writer's father enjoyed words and poetry very much/greatly ./took great delight/pleasure in words and poetry. |
| (ii) But it was almost certainly made worse by his father, whose own voice was a soaring instrument that could make words thunder and dance. | (ii) The writer's grandfather is a very eloquent/ an outstanding public speaker/orator. |

Notes to Students:

For reason (i), the words used to replace 'love' must have similar intensity as 'love'. Hence, words like 'very much' and 'greatly' must be present. Similarly, for (ii) the description in the passage suggests that that the grandfather is not merely a good speaker but an outstanding one.

3.

| From the passage | Answer |
|--|----------------------|
| (i) "Spit it out, son!" he'd roar scornfully whenever my father got stuck in the middle of a sentence. | (i) roar scornfully |
| (ii) He was an impatient man at the best of times and would fly into a rage over the smallest thing... | (ii) fly into a rage |

Notes to Students:

Examine the text carefully for the words that have the closest meaning as those in the question.

4a.

| From the passage | Answer |
|--|--|
| (i) It was a long journey by bus, | (i) It was a long journey by bus to visit the holy man. |
| (ii) then an hour's walk up the hill where he lived. | (ii) It was another hour of walk up the hill to reach the holy man's house. |

Notes to Students:

There is no need for paraphrasing since this is a content question.

4b.

| From the passage | Answer |
|--|---|
| he instructed my father to open his mouth and then spat into it. | The father had to allow the holy man to spit into his mouth which is not a pleasant experience./ The father had to receive the saliva of a stranger in his mouth. |

Notes to Students:

Students need to examine the treatment and decide what is the treatment that requires endurance.

Usually something that requires endurance is not pleasant or comfortable.

4c.

| From the passage | Answer |
|--|--------------------------|
| The primitive treatment did not cure the stutter. | The word is 'primitive'. |

Notes to Students:

Students need to know that 'primitive' suggests that something is very unsophisticated or unrefined.

5.

| From the passage | Answer |
|---|--|
| So when my father was thirteen and told my grandfather he was entering a public speaking competition, he stood transfixed momentarily . "How can you?" Rohul Amin asked, laughing, "You take one or two minutes to utter just one sentence." | He was shocked about his son's decision. /He could not believe his son had decided to enter a public speaking competition. |

Notes to Students:

In this context, *transfixed* suggest *stunned/shocked*.

6.

| From the passage | Answer |
|---|--|
| ...he knew my grandfather desperately wanted him to be a doctor, but though he was very bright student and a gifted poet, he was poor at math and science and felt he was a disappointment. That's why he decided he would make his father proud by entering the district's annual public speaking competition. | The writer's father knew he had disappointed his father by not being a doctor [1] so he entered the competition hoping to make his father proud. [1] |

Notes to Students:

Students are required to explain where necessary to answer the question. Paraphrasing is not necessary.

7.

(i) hands shaking and knees knocking [1]

(ii) palms were sweating [1]

Notes to Students:

'so terrified the faces were a blur' and 'mouth was as dry as paper' are also expressions that emphasise the father's fear but these exceed five words.

8.

Paragraph 1 (i)..... **born with an ailment** [1]**Clues from the text:**

'my father had trouble with words...On each side of the family he had an uncle with the same affliction.'

There is a lengthy description about the father's trouble with words which he likely got from his family.

Paragraph 2 **a father's wrath****Clues from the text:**

'The primitive treatment did not cure the stutter. Actually, some people thought it got worse.'

We are told that the trip was difficult and this is followed by a detailed description about the treatment which did not heal the father so it seemed like a wasted trip.

Paragraph 3 (ii) **a wasted trip** [1]**Clues from the text:**

'Everyone thought he was mad. His teachers and friends tried to dissuade him, and his father was reluctant to write the speech for him...which my father practised and practised. He committed every word to memory while walking in the hills, reciting it to the skies and birds, as there was no privacy in their home.'

Despite the dissuasions, the father showed his determination to win through constant practices.

Paragraph 4 (iii) **determined to win** [1]Paragraph 5 (iv) **overcoming fear** [1]**Clues from the text:**

'hands shaking and knees knocking...so terrified the faces were a blur. My palms were sweating and my mouth was as dry as paper.' He tried desperately not to think about the treacherous consonants lying ahead of him, just waiting to trip him up and stick in his throat, but when he spoke,...and as he went on, he gained confidence.

Paragraph 6 **sweet victory**

We are told about the father's fears but he tried hard not to think about his fear, spoke on and persevered in his speech.