

Objective Type Questions

I. Multiple choice questions

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

Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

1. Choose the **CORRECT** statement about the given poem.

- a. Fire and ice are images — they help the readers visualise the power of nature over man.
- b. Fire and ice are symbols — **not of natural disasters, but of humanity's ability to create disasters of its own.**
- c. Fire and ice are elements — not of Nature but man-made and possess the ability to create havoc for mankind.
- d. Fire and ice are agents — they change the thinking of mankind from negative to positive and bring harmony.

2. Select the option that correctly classifies the connotations for fire and ice, as suggested in the poem.

- (1) rage                      (2) violence      (3) indifference      (4) hate      (5) greed
- a. Fire- 3, 4; Ice- 1, 2, 5
  - b. Fire - 2, 5; Ice -1, 3, 4
  - c. Fire - 1, 3, 5; Ice - 2, 4
  - d. **Fire - 1, 2, 4; Ice - 3, 5**

3. The poem is a \_\_\_\_\_, put across by the poet.

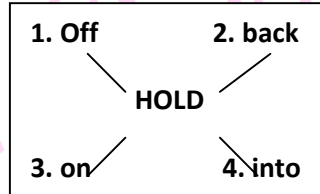
a. Powerful warning

b. heart-felt apology

c. earnest appeal

d. earnest appeal

4. The poet uses the phrasal verb - hold with. Choose the option that DOES NOT indicate a valid phrasal verb.



a. Option 1

b. Option 2

c. Option 3

d. Option 4

5. Pick the option that is NOT TRUE about the poet according to the extract.

The poet.

a. is inclined to believe that the world would most likely end with fire.

b. has heard divided opinions about the way the world would end in all likelihood.

c. preaches love and kindness to combat the spread of hate among all.

d. declares the power of ice to be as destructive as that of fire.

6. Identify the most likely tone of the poet in the lines.

'To say that for destruction ice/Is also great.

a. sarcastic

b. serious

c. amused

d. celebratory

## II. Multiple choice questions

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice

I think I know enough of hate

to say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

1. The people of the world think that the world will end in \_\_\_\_\_ .

a. fire and tsunami

b. earthquake and cyclone

c. melting of glaciers

d. fire and ice

2. The poet's opinion is that the world will end in \_\_\_\_\_ .

a. fire

b. ice

c. earthquake

d. tsunami

3. Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'endless greed'.

- a. favour                      b. avarice                      c. perish                      d. destruction

4. Who is the poet of this poem?

- a. R. L. Stevenson                      b. Sarojini Naidu  
c. William Wordsworth                      d. Robert Frost

5. The rhyme scheme of the given line is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. abab; abab                      b. abba;                      c. abaa ; abab                      d. aabb ; aabb

### III. Multiple choice questions

Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow :

But if it had to perish twice

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice

1. What does 'It' here refer to?

- a. Fire                      b. Ice                      c. Earth                      d. World

2. The word 'perish' means \_\_\_\_\_

- a. decay                      b. loose one's life  
c. appear                      d. improve

3. Here the rhyming scheme used by the poet is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. abcab                      b. ababc                      c. ababa                      d. aabb

4. What does the poet want to convey through this poem?

- a. We should not be greedy.  
b. All humans should check their desires and hatred.  
c. We should restrain our desires and love fellow beings.  
d. Both (A) and (C)

5. The word 'suffice' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. sufficient                      b. insufficient                      c. unhappy                      d. courageous

#### IV. Multiple choice questions

1. What do fire and ice stand for?
  - a. They stand for hot and cold
  - b. Fire and ice stand for desires for a person.
  - c. Fire stands for lust and endless desires, cruelty and fury and ice stands for hatred, insensitivity and coldness and intolerance.**
  - d. Fire and ice stand for destruction and coldness.
2. What does Robert Frost confess in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?
  - a. He has experienced injustice
  - b. He has written the poem without any agenda.
  - c. He has himself tasted desire.**
  - d. He could have written a better poem.
3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?
  - a. ab ab
  - b. aba abc bcb**
  - c. ababa
  - d. abc ab
4. What is the underlying theme of the poem?
  - a. The theme is goodness and virtues in the world
  - b. The poem revolves around the peace and serenity in the world
  - c. The poem revolves around the theme that human emotions are destructive and will bring the world to an end.**
  - d. The theme of the poem is the difference between the elements of fire and ice.
5. How does Robert Frost caution the common man?
  - a. He cautions the common man that the world will burn
  - b. He cautions the common man that the world will drown in desires
  - c. He cautions him that everything in the world is transitory and that death is inevitable.**
  - d. He cautions by saying that the world is permanent in nature.
6. Given meaning of the word "suffice".
  - a. complete
  - b. appropriate**
  - c. abundant
  - d. sufficient**

7. For the poet what does 'ice stand for'?

- a. **For the poet nature of ice stands for the hatred of humans**
- b. For the poet ice stands for cold weather
- c. Ice stands for cold icy winds
- d. Ice stands for odd behaviour

8. Explain the word perish

- a. to flourish
- b. to sustain
- c. **to die**
- d. to love

9. Why does Robert Frost 'hold with those who favour fire'?

- a. fire spreads rapidly
- b. it cannot be controlled
- c. **greed and avarice completely engulf one's life**
- d. all of the above

10. 'Fire and Ice' symbolise:

- a. the hot and cold contrast
- b. **self - destructive human emotions**
- c. difference between good and bad
- d. dissatisfied people

11. Why does the poet think that the world will end in 'ice'?

- a. effect of global warming
- b. people have become sad and sorrowful
- c. due to the greed of people
- d. **people have become cold and insensitive**

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Will this world come to an end? What does the poet say in this regard?

Everything that has a beginning or origin does have an end. It is the eternal law of nature. The existing world will come to an end some day. The poet believes as many people believe that either 'fire' or 'ice' will be the cause of the end of the world.

2. What do people think about the end of the world? Who does the poet side with and why?

People are divided over the cause of the end of this world. Some people think that 'fire' symbolised by unbridled passions, desires and fury will destroy this world. Others believe that 'ice' symbolised by cold reasoning, indifference and hatred will be the cause of destruction.

The poet sides with those who believe that 'fire' or unbridled passions and desires will result in the destruction of the world. He has himself experienced the fire of passions.

**3. Why does the poet say, 'I've tasted of desire/I hold with those who favour fire'?**

The poet is familiar with the fire of passions and desires in love. He knows it quite well that are uncontrolled desires passions and fury lead to our destruction. Similarly, he sides with those people who believe that 'fire' symbolised by unbridled passions and desires will be the real cause of the end of the world.

**4. What will be the cause of the end of the world if it has to perish twice?**

This world is not eternal. Its end is certain. The poet sides with those people who think that 'fire' will cause the end of the existing world. But if this world has to perish twice then 'ice' is as strong to bring the end of the world as 'fire' Icy reasoning devoid of human love a sympathy and hatred are sufficient bring an end of this world.

**5. How does the poet 'know enough hate'? Where will this 'hate' lead to?**

'Icy or cold reasoning can lead rigidity, indifference and insensitiveness. This can take away all warmth of human feelings, love and sympathy. The result can be disastrous. Hatred born out of cold and 'Icy' reasoning can lead to the destruction of the world.

**6. How will 'ice' be as 'great' and 'suffice for causing the end of this existing world? Do you agree with the poet?**

There is no need of 'fire' to destroy the world. Even 'ice' is sufficient and 'strong' enough to cause the destruction of this world. If this world has to "perish twice, then there is no need of fire to destroy it twice. 'Ice' is as 'strong' and 'great' a cause that can cause the end of this world.

**7. What is the message of the poem 'Fire and Ice'?**

The metaphors of 'fire' and 'ice' are reused very effectively to convey a definite message to the readers. 'Fire' here stands for our unbridled, uncontrolled and unchecked passions, desires, lust and fury. Such passions are disastrous to human beings. Similarly cold



reasoning devoid of all human warmth, love, sympathy will bring insensitivity, cruelty and rigidity. This hatred will lead to the end of this world.

**8. From when I have tasted of desire**

**I hold with those who favour fire**

**Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire?**

The poet sides with those who believe that the world will be destroyed by fire. Fire is a symbol of desire. The poet has already experienced desire. On the basis of his experience he knows that excessive desire will destroy the world. That is why he holds with those who favour fire.

**9. But if it has to perish twice**

**I think I know enough of hate.**

**What does 'it' refer to? How will it perish twice?**

'It' here refers to the world. The poet says that people hold different opinions about the end of the world. Some say 'fire'. Which stands for 'desire', will destroy the world. Secondly, 'ice', which stands for 'hatred' can also destroy the world.

**10. To say that for destruction ice is also great In the poem what does 'ice' stand for?**

**How is it sufficient to bring destruction?**

'Ice' stands for 'hatred' born out of cold reasoning. This itself is enough to destroy this world. Hatred may be religious, communal or of any other type. According to the poet, there is enough hatred in the world which will destroy the external, physical world one day.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**1. The tone of the speaker contrasts with the seriousness of the subject matter. Justify.**

'Fire and Ice' is a symbolic poem by Robert Frost. The poet wants to aware the humanity that everything will end one day as a result human misdeeds. His aim is aphorism-brevity for Frost truth remains ambiguous. That's why the tone contrasts with the seriousness of the subject matter.

**2. Evaluate the line- Some say the world will end in fire/Some say in ice- in the context of volcanic eruptions, forest fires, meteor collisions, melting ice caps etc.**

In the poem 'Fire and Ice' the poet considers the age-old question of whether the world will end in fire or in ice. This is similar to another age-old whether it will be preferable to freeze to death or burn to death. The either option would achieve its purpose sufficiently may be in storm of volcanic eruptions, forest fires or melting ice cap

**3. Fire and Ice projects a pessimistic outlook. Comment.**

According to me, 'Fire and Ice' projects a realistic outlook rather than a pessimistic one. The poet brings forth the view that the world will soon end. It can be either by fire or ice. He mentions that he has tasted everything in life after the World War I. So, it would soon end either with greed or indifference.

**4. The use of symbolism in the poem 'Fire and Ice'**

The use of symbolism in the poem 'Fire and Ice' conveys the poems, the poet has compared fire to the dark side of humanity i.e., hatredness and lust. According to the poet lust is a greater evil. Desire or lust is the cause of war. Hatredness is also harmful. So, the poem 'Fire and Ice' represents the two evils hatredness and lust which lead to the destruction of the world. According to the poet fire stands for desire, greed and avarice. The more you try to satisfy them, the more they grow. There is no end to it. They spread rapidly like fire and ruin your whole life. On the other hand, 'ice' according to the poet, stands for hatred, coldness and rigidity.

One becomes insensitive and indifferent towards the feelings of others. One becomes selfish and sometimes cruel also. The poet says that both fire and ice are growing with such a rapid speed that the world would soon perish either way, in fire or in ice.

**5. "Fire and Ice" was first published in 1920. Briefly explain how the WWI might have influenced the theme of the poem.**

Fire stands for fury, desire, lust, anger, avarice, cruelty and greed. Ice is symbolic of hatred, coldness, rigidity, insensitivity and intolerance. The general opinion regarding the world is that the two reasons contrast each other and are equally opposite to each other. People who favour fire believe that it will be the heat and passion which will end the world. On the other hand, some people think that it will be the ice which will freeze the world.



## 6. What is the message of the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

The metaphors of 'Fire and Ice' are used very effectively to convey a definite message to the readers. 'Fire' stands for our uncontrolled passions which are disastrous for human beings. Similarly cold reasoning devoid of human love will bring insensitivity. This hatred will lead to the end of this world.

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Imagine that Nelson Mandela read 'Fire and Ice'. As Mandela, write a diary entry associating the impact of the troubled history of South Africa with the idea expressed in the poem. You may begin like this:

10 May 1994, Tuesday 10 p.m.

Today, when I am the President of South Africa, I can't help recalling Robert Frost's 'Fire and Ice'..... (Continue).....

10 May 1994, Tuesday 10 p. m. Today, when I am the president of South Africa, I can't help recalling Robert Frost's 'Fire and Ice' The poem talks about Fire, symbol of the dark side of humanity i.e., hatredness and lust, and ice stands for coldness and rigidity. Humans have become insensitive and indifferent towards the feelings of others. They have become selfish and sometimes cruel also.

The day, I read the poem 'Fire and Ice' in one of my events. The reaction of the audience to it was spectacular. Given to the history of South Africa and its recent troubles, the poem actually reflects the sufferings of the black people. The Africans have been treated terribly by the ruling governments.

It would take many years to recover from that profound hurt. The racial discrimination unleashed a reign of terror, oppression and brutality on us.

We needed freedom from the white people and their tyranny. Hope the efforts of my people will change the entire dynamic of Africa.

2. What deep meaning does the poem 'Fire and Ice' carry in it ?

The poet has compared fire to the dark side of humanity i.e., hatredness and lust. According to the poet, lust is a greater evil. Desire or lust is the cause of war. Hatred is also harmful. So, the poem 'Fire and Ice' represents the two evils hatred and lust which lead to the destruction of the world.

According to the poet, fire stands for desire, greed and avarice. The more you try to satisfy

them, the more they grow. There is no end to it. They spread rapidly like fire and ruin your whole life. On the other hand, 'ice' according to the poet, stands for hatred, coldness and rigidity. One becomes insensitive and indifferent towards the feelings of others. One becomes selfish and sometimes cruel also. The poet has used fire and ice as symbols - not of natural disasters, but of human's ability to create disasters, of its own due to their inner evil/feelings. The poet says that both fire and ice are growing with such a rapid speed that the world would soon perish either way, in fire or in ice.

**3. There are many ideas about how this world will come to an 'end'. What are they? Do you agree with the poet and his understanding of the poet and his understanding of the issue in this regard?**

Almost all think that this world will end at one time or the other. It is true that everything that has a beginning or origin will come to an end too. There are many ideas about how this world will come to an end. Some think that 'fire' will be the cause of the 'end' of the world. Others that 'ice' will bring the end of the world. Both of these ideas have their valid reasons. The poet sides and stands with those who believe that 'fire' will be the cause of the 'end'. The poet is well aware how the 'fire' of unbridled passions, desires, lust and fury can lead to the destruction of humanity and the world. But the other view is equally convincing Cold and icy' reasoning can create insensitiveness, rigidity, frigidity, and indifference in man. Ultimately, it breeds 'hatred' and contempt. This kind of 'icy' reasoning which is devoid of all human warmth, sympathy, love and understanding will only bring destruction and death of this world. I believe that both 'fire' and 'ice' have strong potentialities to bring disasters and destruction to the world.

**4. What do the metaphors of 'ice' and 'fire' convey to the readers? Don't they represent the two extremes of human behaviour that can lead to the destruction and death of this world? What is the message that the poet wants to give to the readers?**

The poet has touched the universal issue of the ending of this existing world. He gives a message as well as warning to human beings. Man is swaying between two extremes - 'fire' and 'ice'. Sometimes he is torn by his unbridled fire of passions, desires, lusts, longing and fury. This results in greed, avarice and passionate love. All such extremes can lead to unavoidable conflicts and disasters. If not controlled, they can help in bringing an early end of this world.

The other extreme behaviour of human beings is born out of cold and 'icy' reasoning. When our cold reasoning becomes completely devoid of human warmth, feelings, love and sympathy, it breeds hatred. Hatred born out of cold indifference, insensitivity and rigidity is strong enough to cause the end of this world. Humanity can redeem itself and possibly save or delay the end of the world by giving up such extremes of thinking and behaviour.

