

## INSPIRATION COACHING CENTRE

### The Ball Poem – Extract Based MCQ Answers

#### (A) Extract 1

**i. The extract suggests that the poet is**

**Answer:** a) an onlooker observing

**ii. The poet indicates merry bouncing to**

**Answer:** c) contrast with the dejected feeling of the boy

**iii. Emotion behind the exclamation mark**

**Answer:** c) option 3 (*sudden realization/shock — ball lost in water*)

**iv. Speaker begins with a question because he**

**Answer:** d) is thinking to himself

**v. Example of alliteration**

**Answer:** b) who has lost his ball

(*'has' and 'his' – repetition of 'h' sound*)

#### (B) Extract 2

**i. Meaning that DOES NOT fit 'ultimate'**

**Answer:** a) consequent

**ii. As a grown-up he might think his reaction was**

**Answer:** b) 1 & 3

(*Disproportionate to loss + according to his age and experience*)

**iii. Boy's thoughts while standing rigid**

**Answer:** c) option 3 (*deep shock, sadness, realising loss*)

**iv. Why does speaker not intrude?**

**Answer:** b) feels boy must learn important life lesson undisturbed

**v. Meaning of 'harbour'**

**Answer:** a) Option 1

(*place on coast where ships may moor*)

#### Q10 (20–30 words answers)

**i. Toy instead of ball:**

I would use a kite because it also symbolises childhood joy and its loss can represent loss of innocence and growing up.

**ii. 'I' poet or observer?**

The "I" is an observer because he watches the boy silently and reflects on his feelings without directly participating.

**iii. "Out of sight, out of mind"**

By the end, the boy learns to accept loss and move forward. The pain fades with time as he gains maturity and responsibility.

**iv. Responsibility is self-taught**

The boy learns responsibility through personal loss. No one teaches him; experience makes him understand that possessions can be lost and must be accepted.

### **Q11 (40–50 words answers)**

#### **i. Suitable by-line:**

*“Learning to Accept Loss”* — because the poem shows how a child experiences loss and slowly understands responsibility and maturity through it.

#### **ii. Reaction to losing favourite object:**

As a child I felt extremely upset when I lost a toy. Now I realise objects can be replaced and remain calm. Maturity teaches us emotional control and acceptance.

#### **iii. Loss of mobile phone today:**

A youngster may feel panic and frustration due to data and communication loss. Unlike the boy, attachment is more practical and social rather than emotional childhood innocence.

#### **iv. Loss of time:**

Time once lost never returns. People regret wasting it because opportunities, relationships and growth depend on time. Unlike objects, time cannot be replaced or recovered.

#### **v. As elder sibling:**

I don't think you should take this to heart. You see, losing things is part of growing up. You will get many more toys, but this moment teaches you to be careful and strong. It's okay to feel sad, but you will be fine soon.

### **Q12 (100–120 words answers)**

#### **i. Sports teach children to accept loss**

Games and sports help children understand that winning and losing are natural parts of life. When children lose matches, they learn resilience, patience and emotional control. They realise effort matters more than results. Just like the boy in the poem learns from losing his ball, sports teach that failure is temporary and improvement is always possible. This training builds maturity and confidence, preparing them to face real-life losses calmly and responsibly.

#### **ii. Buddha's sermon on The Ball Poem**

If Buddha explained this poem, he would say attachment causes suffering. Material things are temporary and loss is inevitable. True wisdom lies in accepting change calmly. Just as the boy learns from losing his ball, people must understand that life constantly changes. One must develop detachment and inner strength. Happiness comes not from possessions but from understanding reality and controlling emotions. Acceptance of loss leads to peace and maturity.