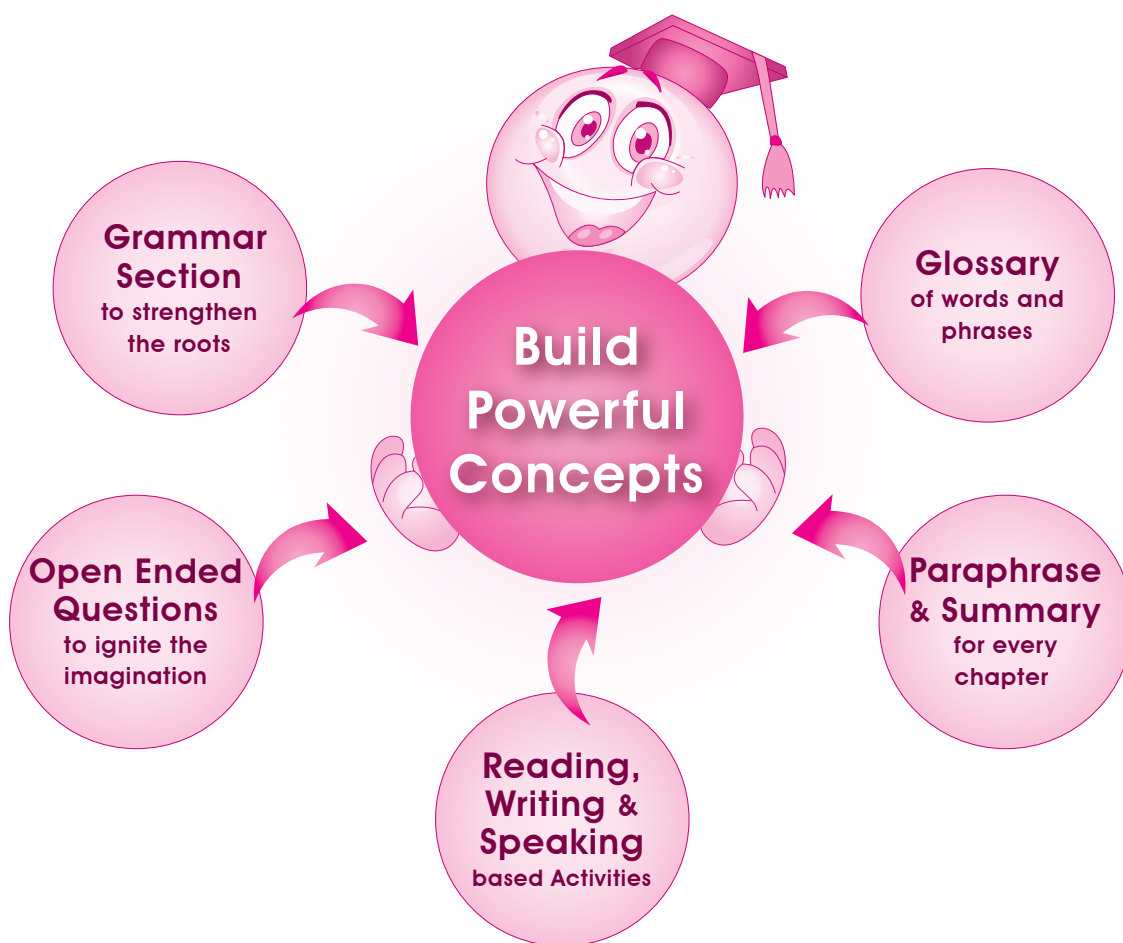


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STD. VII

English Balbharati



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Contents

No.	Topic Name	Page No.
	Unit One	
1.1	Past, Present, Future	1
1.2	Odd One In	4
1.3	In Time of Silver Rain	11
1.4	The King's Choice	15
1.5	Seeing Eyes Helping Hands	23
1.6	A Collage	27
	Unit Two	
2.1	From a Railway Carriage	29
2.2	The Souvenir	33
2.3	Abdul Becomes a Courtier	41
2.4	How doth the little busy bee	48
2.5	Learn Yoga from Animals	52
2.6	Chasing the Sea Monster	59
2.7	Great Scientists	66
	Unit Three	
3.1	Tartary	76
3.2	Compère a Programme	81
3.3	A Crow in the House	87
3.4	The Brook	95
3.5	News Analysis	102
3.6	Think Before You Speak!	109
	Unit Four	
4.1	Under the Greenwood Tree	115
4.2	Unke Munke Timpetoo	118
4.3	The Red-headed League	125
4.4	Home Sweet Home	139
4.5	Seeing Eyes Helping Hands	142
4.6	Papa Panov's Special Christmas	144

	Grammar	
1	Parts of Speech	150
2	Types of Nouns	153
3	Types of Verbs	156
4	Tenses	158
5	Modal Auxiliaries	160
6	Conjunctions and Interjections	162
7	Adverbials	164
8	Prefix and Suffix	165
9	Punctuation	167
10	Phrases	169
11	Subject and Predicate	170
12	Positive and Negative Sentences	172
13	Object of the Verb	174
14	Complement of the Verb	175
	Model Test Paper - I	177
	Model Test Paper - II	179

Note: Textual Questions are represented by * mark.

1.1 Past, Present, Future

Glossary

Words	Meanings
autumn (<i>n</i>)	a season before winter when trees lose their leaves, the season of fall
beneath (<i>prep</i>)	under
dazzling (<i>adj</i>)	something that leaves you in awe, extremely beautiful
glorious (<i>adj</i>)	something that is worthy of receiving praise
infinity (<i>n</i>)	that has no end
mighty (<i>adj</i>)	huge and powerful in an impressive way
mount (<i>v</i>)	to get on something, to climb
mournfully (<i>adv</i>)	in a sad, unhappy manner
sighs (<i>v</i>)	to let out a long breath slowly to express sadness
spray (<i>n</i>)	<i>here</i> , a small branch of a tree bearing flowers
thee (<i>pronoun</i>)	old English word for 'you'



Paraphrase

In the poem 'Past, Present, Future', the poet Emily Bronte asks a child what the past, present and future looks like, to him. In an innocent manner, the child describes the nature that he associates with each of these time frames.

When he is asked about the past, the child who is smiling, says that it is like an autumn evening, where the wind lets out a breath in grief. The past, for the child, is something that he remembers with longing and a little sadness. The falling of leaves and the mournful sigh of the wind convey that the child is unhappy because the past has passed and he cannot go back to it.

When he is asked about the present hour, the child says that it is like springtime, with greenery and flowers around, where a young bird on a branch of a tree is just learning to fly. The present, for the child, is full of possibilities and something that he wants to take chances in. He is gathering his strength and looking forward to head into the world.

When he is asked about the future, the happy child says that it is like the unknown, vast sea that has stretched far and wide under the bright sun. We cannot see the end of a sea and the child associates this imagery with future. According to him, the future is magnificent, exciting and mysterious and he is keen on exploring it.



Summative Assessment

Extract

Read the poem on page 1 of your textbook and answer the following questions.

["Tell me, tell me, smiling child Stretching into infinity."]

*I. Do as directed.

1. Find the meaning of the following words:

- i. thee ii. mournfully iii. spray iv. mighty

Ans: i. you ii. in a sad, unhappy manner
iii. a small branch of a tree bearing flowers iv. huge and powerful in an impressive way

2. Write the adjectives that are used to describe the following:

- i. evening ii. spray iii. sea

Ans: i. soft, mild ii. green, flowery iii. mighty, glorious, dazzling

3. Link the items in the three columns properly.

A	B	C
The past	A sea beneath a cloudless sun	A pleasant time which has ended
The present hour	A soft and mild autumn evening	An exciting, thrilling time which has no end
The future	A green and flowery spray where a young bird sits	A time full of life, in which you gather strength

Ans:

A	B	C
The past	A soft and mild autumn evening	A pleasant time which has ended
The present hour	A green and flowery spray where a young bird sits	A time full of life, in which you gather strength
The future	A sea beneath a cloudless sun	An exciting, thrilling time which has no end

*II. Write one line about each of the following with the help of the extract.

1. wind in the autumn evening

Ans: Wind sighs mournfully in the soft and mild autumn evening.

2. young bird on the spray

Ans: A young bird sits on the spray, gathering its power to mount and fly away.

3. the sea

Ans: The sea is mighty, glorious and dazzling and has stretched into infinity.

III. Answer the following.

1. What is the difference between past, present and future, according to the child?

Ans: According to the child, the past is a pleasant time, but sadly, we cannot go back to it. The present is a time we prepare for and the future is unknown but exciting.

2. How does the child describe the present hour?

Ans: The child says that the present hour is a green and flowery spray, where a young bird is gathering its power so that it can fly into the world of unknown. The child indirectly compares himself to the young bird and describes the present hour as a time when one has to prepare oneself, plan and take action to move forward.

**3. How is the future, according to the child?**

Ans: According to the child, the future is infinite and full of possibilities, like a mighty, glorious and dazzling sea that has no end.

**Language Study****Figures of Speech**

A **Simile** is an imaginative comparison of two different things which have something in common. A simile always includes the words 'as' or 'like'. For example: as tall as a tree, as lovely as a flower.

A **Metaphor** is an imaginative expression that refers to someone/something as another person/thing. It shows that the person or thing has some quality of that other person or thing. The word 'as' or 'like' are not used in a metaphor.

For example: He is a gem of a person. Time is money. Books are our friends.

***1. Find out three metaphors from the poem.**

- Ans:**
- What the past is like to thee?
'An autumn evening soft and mild
With a wind that sighs mournfully.'
 - Tell me, what is the present hour?
A green and flowery spray
 - And what is the future, happy one?
A sea beneath a cloudless sun

**Oral Work****1. Say as many words related to time as you can.**

Ans: past, present, future, yesterday, today, tomorrow, clock, watch, a.m., p.m., day, night, morning, noon, dusk, dawn, afternoon, midnight, hour, minute, seconds...

[**Note:** The above words are given for reference. Students can add more words to the list.]

Formative Assessment**Reading Activity*****1. Read the poem aloud using proper rhythm and intonation.**

[Students are expected to attempt the above activity on their own.]

**Project****1. Draw a picture of the imagery associated with each of the time frames given in the poem—that is, the past, the present hour and the future.**

[Students are expected to attempt the above activity on their own.]