

# Reading Comprehension CAT Questions

It is important that candidates know the type of RC Questions for CAT which have been asked. The following questions gives a picture of the types of questions asked:

**Read the poem given below and answer the 4 associated questions:**

Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary Highland Lass!  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain;  
O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.  
No Nightingale did ever chaunt  
More welcome notes to weary bands  
Of travellers in some shady haunt,  
Among Arabian sands:  
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard  
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,  
Breaking the silence of the seas  
Among the farthest Hebrides.  
Will no one tell me what she sings?—  
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow  
For old, unhappy, far-off things,  
And battles long ago:  
Or is it some more humble lay,  
Familiar matter of to-day?  
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,  
That has been, and may be again?

**Question 1)** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza, why does the poet compare the highland lass' voice to that of a nightingale or a cuckoo bird?

- A. Because her voice was as sweet if not sweeter than that of these birds.
- B. Because as nightingales welcome travellers so also was the highland lass welcoming the poet.
- C. Because it was spring, a time when cuckoos sing.
- D. Because her tone of voice was melancholy like that of nightingales or cuckoo birds.
- E. Because her voice rid the poet of weariness just as a nightingale's voice rids a traveller in Arabia of weariness.

**Answer-A**

### Solution

The highland lass' voice has been compared to two birds. Therefore, we can immediately eliminate options B and C. In each of these options only one comparison has been made.

We cannot determine from the passage that the poet was tired. Eliminate option E.

Option D contradicts the poem. The second stanza does not describe the voices of the two birds as being melancholic. Eliminate option D.

Hence, the correct answer is option A.

**Question 2)** Which of the following statements will the poet agree with the MOST?

- A. The Poet was not very receptive to the highland lass's singing and gently passed on.
- B. The Poet was overwhelmed with emotion at hearing the highland lass' voice.
- C. The Poet could comprehend the meaning of her song by the lyrics.
- D. The Poet could figure out that the highland lass' sad tone was due to unrequited love.
- E. The Poet could see that the highland lass' was as pretty as her voice.

**Answer-B**

### Solution

Option A contradicts the entire poem. Eliminate option A.

Refer to the first line of stanza 3, "Will no one tell me what she sings?" Thus, it can be easily inferred that the poet could not understand the lyrics. Eliminate option C.

In the third stanza the poet makes many guesses as to the reason for the highland lass' melancholy tone. That means he does not know the reason for her sad tone. Eliminate option D.

Option E cannot be determined from the passage to be true or not as the poet has not described the highland lass in any detail. Eliminate option E.

Refer to the extract, "O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.  
No Nightingale did ever chaunt  
More welcome notes to weary bands  
Of travellers in some shady haunt,  
Among Arabian sands:  
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard  
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,  
Breaking the silence of the seas  
Among the farthest Hebrides." From this extract, we can safely assume that the poet was overwhelmed with emotion at hearing the highland lass' voice.

Hence, the correct answer is option B.

**Question 3)** Which of the following can be properly ASSUMED from the poem?

- A. On hearing the highland lass' singing, the poet passed on.
- B. The highland lass was alone in the valley.
- C. The Poet did not understand the highland lass' language.
- D. The poet was filled with sadness on hearing the song of the highland lass.
- E. The Poet had never experienced such a sweet and powerful voice before.

**Answer-C**

**Solution**

Refer to the relevant extract, "Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!" We are not sure if the poet stopped or gently passed on.  
Eliminate option A

Refer to the relevant extract, "Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary Highland Lass!" She was alone in the field but we are not sure if she  
was alone in the entire valley. Eliminate option B.

Option D is incorrect as the poet was not filled with sadness but rather filled with  
emotion as the highland lass' song made a big impact on him.

Option E cannot be determined from the passage to be true.

Option C can be safely assumed. Refer to the relevant extract, "Will no one tell me  
what she sings?"

Hence, the correct answer is option C.