

JET, SET, GOAL!

Wield a pencil, sharpen your mind and get cracking. Try this Times NIE worksheet that is set to keep your brain ticking

YOUR OPINION



Why was Greta Gerwig snubbed by the Oscars?

Though Greta Gerwig's colourful comedy skewering the patriarchy was the biggest blockbuster of last year and set a record for the highest-grossing movie ever directed by a woman, Gerwig failed to receive an Oscar nomination for best director. The snub had many in Hollywood scratching their heads, since the 40-year-old filmmaker had earned best director nominations from the Golden Globes and Directors Guild of America for 'Barbie' and had picked up an Oscar nod for her solo debut, 'Lady Bird', just six years ago. Does the matter come down to simple sexism? Oscar voters have long been accused of ascribing more importance to male-led stories. Still, comedies often struggle to win favour with the Oscars. It's worth noting that though 'Barbie' had no trouble making it into the best picture category, which all members of the academy are permitted to vote on, the Gerwig snub was delivered by the directors branch, which is made up of just 587 voters, about a quarter of which are women. **WR**

Students, tell us your opinion: Prompts: 1. Have you watched 'Barbie'? What's your key takeaway? 2. What do you understand by sexism? Have you ever experienced it? 3. Write a review of 'Barbie'. 4. Do you think awards matter? Does 'Barbie' not getting nominated dim its shine?

Share your thoughts at toinie175@gmail.com
(Please send in a word doc format)

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

'Skill Sift' is a page designed to promote the "21st century skills" or the 3Ls:

- Learning Skills: Critical Thinking, Creativity & Innovation, Collaboration, Communication
- Literacy Skills: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, Technology Literacy
- Life Skills: Flexibility and Adaptability, Leadership and

Responsibility, Initiative and Self-Direction, Productivity & Accountability, Social and Cross-Cultural Interaction

You can use this page daily to:

1. Enhance critical and creative thinking skills
2. Increase news awareness
3. Start a discussion on important current topics
4. Expand worldviews
5. Improve writing skills
6. Enhance visual thinking

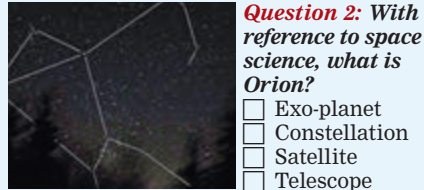
Do give us your feedback and how you found this page useful. Please write to us at toinie175@gmail.com

QUIZ TIME



Question 1: India's Largest Chopper Plant is set to be inaugurated in which state/UT?

- ☐ Tamil Nadu
- ☐ Uttar Pradesh
- ☐ Karnataka
- ☐ Gujarat



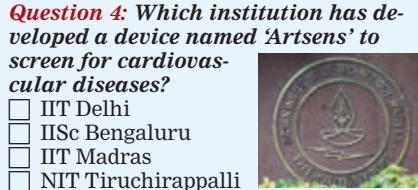
Question 2: With reference to space science, what is Orion?

- ☐ Exo-planet
- ☐ Constellation
- ☐ Satellite
- ☐ Telescope



Question 3: 'TV-D1' is the first test vehicle demonstration of which mission of India?

- ☐ Gaganyaan
- ☐ Samudrayaan
- ☐ Aditya
- ☐ Venus Mission



Question 4: Which institution has developed a device named 'Artsens' to screen for cardiovascular diseases?

- ☐ IIT Delhi
- ☐ IISc Bengaluru
- ☐ IIT Madras
- ☐ NIT Tiruchirappalli

Answers: 1. Karnataka; 2. Constellation; 3. Gaganyaan; 4. IIT Madras

WRITE PRACTICE

HOW TO PEN A PODCAST?

A podcast might sound effortless, but there's a lot of prep work that goes into it before you hit the "record" button. Here are some pointers:

- **Strong intro:** Start with a compelling introduction to grab your listeners' attention. Use an intriguing question, an interesting fact, a relatable story, or a thought-provoking statement.
- **Use conversational language:** Write your script in a conversational tone to make it feel more engaging and relatable. Imagine you're having a friendly conversation. Avoid formal or technical jargon unless necessary.
- **Outro and call to action:** A

message that marks the end of the episode, whether that's a simple "thanks for tuning in" or a catchphrase you've developed. The outro is the conclusion of your podcast. Think of it to summarise or recap what was discussed and how it might help your listeners. Make sure to thank everyone for joining you.

- **Sounds and music:** When creating a script, try to incorporate sound effects and music throughout the episode to enhance the story. But do not forget about copyright laws; seek out royalty-free music to use as background music or use free sound effects libraries where possible.

Prompt: So, ready to craft an engaging script for an entertaining podcast yet?

REASON ASSERTION

In the following questions, the assertions and reasons have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following: a) Both the Assertion and Reason are correct and the Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion; b) The Assertion and Reason are correct but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion; c) The Assertion is true but the Reason is false; d) The Assertion is false but the Reason is true

QUESTION:

Assertion: The aftermath of the war led to the formation of United Nations (UN) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Reason: Horrors witnessed during WWII led



IN THE NEWS FOR: Aid agencies are urging Israel to ease the process of delivering supplies to desperate Palestinians. Israel has embarked on a public campaign to defend its humanitarian record, blaming the UN and Hamas for the crisis

to a universal consensus on minimum standards of living for all human beings.

EXPLAINED: WWII led to the millions of deaths and countless human rights violations including torture, cruelty, starvation, and genocide. The German Nazi forces were defeated by the Allied forces.

The aftermath of WWII led to the world agreeing on the minimum standards of living afforded to all human beings. This minimum standard was called human rights. With an objective to promote international peace and security, the UN was established. Subsequently, in Paris, on December 10, 1948, the UN made a Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR empowers all human beings with civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights.

Answer: A

LEARNING OUTCOME: This section will help you with critical thinking as it encourages you to analyse and evaluate information. It also increases scientific literacy and cognitive flexibility.

GET THE PICTURE

What do you think is happening in the picture?

1. Write a caption. (Less than 20 words)

2. India also saw a widespread farmers' unrest few years ago. Write a sentence on the importance of a farmer?

3. Can you think of two idioms related to farming?



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Trucks queue in line at sunrise as French farmers block access to the SOCAMIL, the purchasing centre for ledecr, as part of their protest over price pressures, taxes and green regulation, grievance shared by farmers across Europe, in Castelnau-d'Aud, south of France. REUTERS/Maxime Borel

WORD OF THE DAY

throng

thrang / verb

The word was in news after the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was opened to the public. Can you use it in a sentence?

WHAT IT MEANS

- (As a verb) (of a crowd) fill or be present in (a place or area).
Eg: "A crowd thronged the station"
- flock or be present in great numbers.
Eg: "Tourists thronged to the village"

USED IN CONTEXT

Over five lakh devotees thronged Ayodhya's Ram temple for a first-day darshan on Tuesday (Jan 23) after its gates were opened to the public. While there was a stampede-like situation early in the day as eager crowds broke through barricades, order was restored by late evening with 8,000 cops being pressed into service.

WRITE SENTENCE HERE

Throng:

LET'S TALK

WHEN SPRING COMES EARLY

Create a chat between Rhea and Ryan



WHAT'S THIS PIC?

Thousands of people pick free tulips on national tulip day which marked the opening of the 2024 tulip season on Museum Square in Amsterdam, Netherlands. **AP**

Prompt: Create a conversation on how flowers can make an ordinary day extraordinary.

Rhea:

Ryan:

Share on toinie175@gmail.com

OUR READER'S VIEWPOINT

LET'S BE CYBER SUPERHEROES!



In our digital world, cybersecurity is like a superhero that keeps our online lives safe. Imagine it as a shield, protecting our personal information, money, and important computer systems from bad people on the internet. There are many threats out there, like sneaky

viruses and hackers who try to steal our stuff.

To stay safe, we need a strong cybersecurity plan. It's like having a superhero team with powers of the web.

Some parts of this team use special codes to lock up our information (that's called encryption). Others act like guards (firewalls), making sure only the good and safe stuff gets through. There are even detectives (intrusion detection systems) watching for any signs of trouble.

But here's the thing: we also need to be smart internet users. Cybersecurity isn't just about fancy technology; it's about knowing how to spot danger. We all play a part in keeping the internet safe by being careful with our passwords, not clicking on strange links, and being aware of what we share online. So, let's all be part of the cybersecurity superhero team and make the digital world a safer place for everyone!



DIVYANSHU SHARMA,
class VIII, Zebar
School for Children,
Ahmedabad

Painters' Gallery



SAISHA MODY, class III, Ryan
International School, Kandivali, Mumbai



L SEREN RAO, class VIII, Sharada
Vidyalaya Public School, Bengaluru

OUR NATION



Diversity is our culture And
unity is our strength,
We are the people of India
With a bright aim.
Whatever caste or religion
We all live here in unison,
With all rivers and sweet

fountains It is
a land of
high mountains.
Compassion in our
heritage In humanity
do we trust,
Leave the casteism
Patriotism should be
our trust.

Our Army is very
strong We are proud
of those fighters,
Who sacrificed their lives To
make our days brighter.

So, let's be thankful for
Sacrifice of brave hearts,
Who lost their souls By leaving
their families apart.



AASTHA AJAYKUMAR ABROL,
class V, DES's New English
Medium School, Pune

THE VIBRANT COMPANIONS



Beneath the sun's warm, golden rays,
A mango tree stands, colours at play,
Its leaves of green, its trunk so bold
A symbol of the great India's
vibrant lore.

Golden mangoes hang, sweet and
mellow, A taste of tradition, an age
old fellow,
Yellow like the sun's smile, In every
bite memories compile.

Besides the tree, a parrot
takes flight, A blaze of red,
a vivid sight,
Green wings shimmer with
emerald grace, A dance of col-
ours in sacred space.

A tapestry woven, red and bold
Stories and legends, timeless
and bold

"Patram Pushpam
Toyam" they say Offerings of leaf,
flower, fruit, and water.

Mangoes yellow, parrot's red
and green, In the landscape of dreams,
they convene,
A symbol of life and love entwined,
In Indian culture, forever enshrined.



**SWARA
GONNALAGADDA,**
class XI,
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