

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2025-2026

Class: VII

Sub: English MCB

Poem: The Secret of Machines

RTC

- A. 1. We' refers to the machines in these lines.
2. They need water, coal, and oil to operate and work for the purpose they are created.
3. 'To give us play' here means to be able to operate in the space assigned for the machine.

Question - Answers

- B. 1. The 'nine-decked city' refers to the ship Mauretania which had nine decks. It is described as monstrous because of its huge size. It was so big that it could be compared to a city.
2. We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive,
We can print and plough and weave and heat and light,
We can run and race and swim and fly and dive,
We can see and hear and count and read and write!
3. The machines are incapable of understanding human feelings such as anger, love, pity, and forgiveness.

4. The lines that tell us that are:

'Some water, coal, and oil is all we ask,
And a thousandth of an inch to give us play:
And now, if you will set us to our task,
We will serve you four and twenty hours a day!'

5. The two opposing claims made by the machine in the poem are:

- a) They claim to be all-powerful and possess the ability to change and alter everything on earth. except the Gods.
- b) The other opposing claim made by the machine that they are invented and controlled by humans, and they still cannot do the work that can only be done by a human being. They will always be dependent on huma

6. Our touch can alter all created things.

We are everything on earth-except The Gods!
Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from your eyes,
It will vanish and the stars will shine again,
Because, for all our power and weight and size.
We are nothing more than children of your brain!