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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

## **ENGLISH (Core)**

*Time allowed : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

### **General Instructions :**

- This paper is divided into three Sections : A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**1.** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : **12**

- 1 The effects of plastic bags on the environment are really quite devastating. While there are many objections to the banning of plastic bags based solely on their convenience, the damage to the environment needs to be controlled.
  
- 2 There is no way to strictly limit the effects of plastic bags on the environment because there is no disposal method that will really help eliminate the problem. While reusing them is the first step, most people don't do that. These bags are not durable enough to survive numerous trips to the store. The best that citizens can do is to reuse them.
  
- 3 The biggest problem with this is that once they have been soiled they end up in the trash, which then ends up in the landfill or is burned. Either solution is very poor for the environment. Burning emits toxic gases that harm the atmosphere and increase the level of VOCs in the air while landfills hold them indefinitely as part of the plastic waste problem throughout the globe.
  
- 4 One of the greatest problems is that an estimated 300 million plastic bags end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone. These bags are very dangerous for sea life, especially those of the mammal variety. Any hunting mammal can easily mistake the size, shape and texture of the plastic bag for a meal and find its airway cut off. Needless deaths from plastic bags are increasing every year.

- 5 The environmental balance of the waterways is being thrown off by the rate of plastic bags finding their way into the mouths and intestinal tracts of sea mammals. As one species begins to die off at an abnormal rate, every other living organism in the waterways is impacted.
  
- 6 The indefinite period of time that it takes for the average plastic bag to break down can be literally hundreds of years. Every bag that ends up in the woodlands of the country threatens the natural progression of wildlife. Because the breakdown rate is so slow the chances that the bag will harmlessly go away are extremely slim. Throughout the world plastic bags are responsible for suffocation deaths of woodland animals as well as inhibiting soil nutrients. The land litter that is made up of plastic bags has the potential to kill over and over again. It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to unintentionally kill one animal per every three months due to unintentional digestion or inhalation.
  
- 7 While it's a noble thought to place the plastic bags in the recycling bin every week, studies have proven that there are very few recycling plants that actually recycle them. Most municipalities either burn them or send them off to the landfill after sorting. This is because it can be expensive to recycle this type of plastic. It doesn't melt down easily and is often not fit to be reused in its original form.
  
- 8 The premise of recycling these bags is nice. Yet funding for the upgrading of the recycling units just has not happened and thus less than 1% of all bags are sent to recycling plants worldwide. Most are left to become a pollution problem in one way or another.

9 There are always alternatives to plastic bags and the search for more alternatives continues. Paper bags are a possible option but they also take their toll on the environment. The use of trees to increase the production of paper products will also have a negative environmental effect.

10 Reusable plastic bags are being introduced to regions that want to outlaw the plastic bags altogether. These are stronger and more durable and can be used for three to five trips to the store. Of course, the reusable cloth bag is fast becoming a favourite among environmental supporters. While thus far no bag is without its issues, these are the bags that are currently recommended for use to help protect environmental concerns.

- (a) (i) Why do some people object to the banning of plastic bags ? 1
- (ii) Why is reusing plastic bags not considered practical ? 1
- (iii) Why is the disposal of plastic bags considered damaging to the environment ? 2
- (iv) How do plastic bags endanger the life of animals in the sea and on land ? 2
- (v) What factors discourage recycling of plastic bags ? 2
- (vi) What, according to the writer, is the best possible alternative to plastic bags ? 1
- (b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 3
- (i) remove (para 2)
- (ii) choking (para 6)
- (iii) costly (para 7)

The outcasts were not allowed to mount the platform surrounding the well, because if they were ever to draw water from it, the Hindus of the three upper castes would consider the water polluted. Nor were they allowed access to the nearby brook as their use of it would contaminate the stream. They had no well of their own because it cost a lot of money to dig a well in a hilly town. Perforce they had to collect at the foot of the upper-caste Hindu well and depend on the bounty of some of their superiors to pour water into their pitchers. More often than not there was no upper-caste Hindu present. Most of them were rich enough to get the water-carriers to supply them with plenty of fresh water every morning for their baths and kitchens, and only those came to the well who were either fond of an open-air bath or too poor to pay for the water-carriers' services. So the outcasts had to wait for a chance to bring some upper-caste Hindu to the well, for luck to decide that he was kind, for Fate to ordain that he had time — to get their pitchers filled with water. They crowded round the well, congested the space below its high brick platform, morning, noon and night, joining their hands in servile humility to every passer-by; cursing their fate, and bemoaning their lot, if they were refused the help they wanted; praying, beseeching and blessing, if some generous soul condescended to listen to them, or to help them.

When Sohini reached the well there were already about ten other outcasts waiting. But there was no one to give them water. She had come as fast as she could to the well, full of fear and anxiety that she would have to wait her turn since she could see from a distance that there was already a crowd. She didn't feel disappointed so much as depressed to realise that she would be the eleventh to receive water. She had sensed the feeling in her brother's soul. He was tired. He was thirsty. She had felt like a mother as she issued from her home to fetch water, a mother going out to fetch food and drink for her loved ones at home. Now as she sat in a row with her fellow-sufferers, her heart sank. There was no sign of anyone passing that way who could be a possible benefactor. But she was patient. She had in her an inbred fortitude, obvious in her curious reserve, in her docile and peaceful bearing.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary.

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(b) Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title.

3

3. You are Mohan/Mohini, Secretary, Social Activities Club of A.B.C. School, Gokulpuri. The club has decided to launch a cleanliness drive in a slum colony near your school during the Dussehra holidays. Write a notice, in not more than 50 words, informing Class XII students of your school about the drive and urge them to volunteer their names for the programme. Give all the necessary details.

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**OR**

You are Rameshwaram/Rameshwari, Secretary, Literary Club of A.B.C. School, Vikaspuri. Your schoolmate, Gautam Adhikari, a budding writer, has won the first prize in the State Story Writing Competition. The club has decided to organize a function to felicitate him on his laudable achievement. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, informing all the students of your school about the function and urge them to attend it to make the occasion memorable. Give all the necessary details.

4. You are Anurag/Anjali, a reporter with a national daily. You have heard that a multistorey building near the main railway station has collapsed causing panic in the area. You rush to the site of the accident along with your team. Write a report in 125 – 150 words mentioning the time and place of the accident, number of casualties, the cause of the accident and the rescue operation conducted by the authorities.

10

**OR**

Write a report in 125 – 150 words on the Zonal Cricket Tournament held in the playground of A.B.C. School, Laxmi Nagar last week. Your report should include details such as names of participating teams, exciting, cheerful atmosphere, decorated playground, a large crowd of cheering students and presentation ceremony. You are Gopalan/Gauri, Student Editor of your school magazine.

5. You are Mahesh/Mohita, President, R.W.A., Govindpuri, Bangalore. The main park in your locality which was once a model park lies in a state of utter neglect. It has become a favourite spot for anti-social elements and permanent resting place for stray animals. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner requesting him to instruct the horticulture department to take prompt action and restore the park to its original condition. 10

**OR**

You are Ramesh/Romola of 37, Raj Nagar, Delhi. Write a letter to the General Manager, D.T.C. complaining about inadequate bus service in your area and urging him to take urgent steps in the matter.

6. India is a large country having a very rich cultural tradition. It has the potential to provide great geographical and cultural diversity. Even then we have not been able to attract tourists to the extent that even the small countries have been able to do. Write an article in 125 – 150 words on how to promote tourism in the country. You are Mohan/Mohini. 10

**OR**

Travelling in an overcrowded bus can be very upsetting. Pushing and shoving, suffocation, angry faces and rumpled clothes are facts a traveller has to face. Write an article in 125 – 150 words on “Travelling in an overcrowded bus.” You are Sohan/Sohini.



7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 4

... but soon

put that thought away, and

looked out at young

trees sprinting, the merry children spilling

out of their homes, ...

- (a) What thought did the poet drive away from her mind ? 1
- (b) What did she see when she looked out of the car ? 1
- (c) How do you know that the joyful scene didn't help her drive away the painful thought from her mind ? 2

**OR**

And, yet for these

Children, these windows, not his map, their world,

Where all their future's painted with a fog,

- (a) Which map is the poet talking about in the above lines ? 1
- (b) To what do the words, "these windows, their world", refer ? 2
- (c) What sort of future do the slum children have ? 1

8. Answer any **two** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each : 2×2=4

- (a) To whom does the poet in the poem, “An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum” make an appeal ? What is his appeal ?
- (b) How, according to Neruda, can keeping quiet change our attitude to life ?
- (c) How does Aunt Jennifer express her bitterness and anger against male dominance ?

9. Answer any **six** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :

2×6=12

- (a) Why did Saheb’s parents leave Dhaka and migrate to India ?
- (b) What words did M. Hamel write on the blackboard before dismissing the last class ? What did they mean ?
- (c) Which two incidents in Douglas’ early life made him scared of water ?
- (d) In what sense was the world a big rattrap according to the peddler ?
- (e) How did the Maharaja please a high-ranking British official ?
- (f) How does Jo want the story to end ?
- (g) What is common between Zitkala-Sa and Bama ?

10. Answer **one** of the following questions in 100 – 125 words :

5

Describe how, according to Louis Fischer, Gandhiji succeeded in his Champaran campaign.

**OR**

What conflicting ideas arise in Dr. Sadao's mind after he has brought the wounded American soldier home ? How is the conflict resolved ?

11. Answer the following question in about 100 words :

5

Most of us do not raise our voice against injustice in our society and tend to remain mute spectators. Anees Jung in her article, "Lost Childhood" vividly highlights the miserable life of street children and bangle makers of Firozabad. She wants us to act. Which qualities does she want the children to develop ?

**(Long Reading Text — "The Hound of the Baskervilles")**

12. Answer the following question in about 125 words :

8

What role does the hound play in creating an atmosphere of awe and mystery in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" ?

13. Answer the following question in about 125 words :

7

What do you know about the background of Stapleton ? Why does he move to Devonshire ?