

CBSE CLASS XII - ENGLISH

General Instructions:

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

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

1. Millions of men and women, thousands of leaders, a succession of social, religious and political movements - it is impossible to draw up a full list of the makers of India even on a limited 1000-year basis. "All that can be attempted here is to present a few representative names, some of them inspirational still. All of them remind us of the course we have traversed, and how we have come to where we are. Let us make a start with the best ever Indian.
2. Implied in Toynbee's assessment was the deduction that Gandhi was not just an Indian phenomenon. No doubt India derived unequalled benefit from his leadership. By fitting the freedom struggle into the framework of a philosophy of justice and fairness, he achieved for India a stature that was denied to other countries, including China, that won independence around the same time. That the stature was quickly lost by the governments that came to power on the labours of Gandhi is a different matter. The decline of India did not amount to any repudiation of Gandhi. Indeed, it was seen as a consequence of the betrayal of Gandhi by his supposed followers.
3. The true measure of his impact on history is that it is not dependent on the successful completion of his mission in India. The others who soldiered on with him in the epic war of independence - Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel included - will be remembered for what they did in India and for India; they were essentially Indian personalities. So, for that matter, was Jinnah whose life's work boiled down to the creation of a state on what rapidly proved to be a dubious premise.
4. Gandhi soared above them all because he dealt essentially with ideas and theories relevant to all mankind. Like Buddhism, Gandhism lost ground in the land out of which it evolved. But, like Buddhism, it has been embraced by distant peoples who see in its tenets the promise of a meaningful life. It was as though Gandhi's involvement with India was merely incidental to his larger involvement with what he persistently called Truth. Raja Rao put it pithily when he wrote: "For Gandhi India was only the symbol of a universal principle. All countries were, for Gandhi, India." When we look at him in this perspective, we realise that it was his universality, the transcendent quality of his life and thought, that made Gandhi Gandhi.

5. He will be greater than not just Stalin and Hitler - two characters who are rather too one-dimensional to be contrasted with the vastness that was Gandhi. Gandhi personifies the greatness of the time-honoured proposition that Love is superior to Hatred, that Good is better than Evil. Great personages of history who based their "greatness" on Hatred and Evil, on conquests and oppression, have all gone under. The Byzantines and the Ottomans, the Mongols and the Mughals, the British and the Spanish once strode the earth as if they owned it. Today only Britain and Spain survive, and that as second-class entities confined to Europe. Alexander, the first king in history to be called "The Great," died a lonely death as a disillusioned and defeated man at the incredible age of 33. Nothing of his greatness remains today even in his native Macedonia which is now but an appendage to the horrible tragedy of Yugoslavia.
6. Greatness built on murder and acquisition passes. Greatness rising out of compassion and service abides. The Buddha abides. Christ abides. The great unknown thinkers of the Upanishads abide. Gandhi carried that tradition through to our times. He might have been let down by the "Gandhians" who, armed with political power, have turned India into a mess. That too is parallel to the way quarrelling Buddhists, exploitative Christians and lately-intolerant Hindus have been letting down their preceptors. But their smallness does not detract from the true greatness of the sages who opened the path of enlightenment for them and for the world. They abide because they gave without taking. They were not men of arms. They were men of ideas. Parithranaya sadhunam, they appear from age to age. They appear to teach us that the world can be conquered, not with force, but with ideas. It was the lesson of this Millennium too - taught by the Man of the Millennium.

- (a) (i) What did Gandhi achieve through his philosophy of justice and fairness ? 2
(ii) How will Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel be remembered ? 1
(iii) According to Raja Rao, what did Gandhi represent ? 2
(iv) The author talks of two types of greatness. Which one is much appreciated and admired ? 2
(v) What was the lesson of this millennium ? 2

(b) Pick out one word from the passage that means the same as : 3

1. continuous decrease/fall (para 2)
2. strong effect (para 3)
3. rose quickly (para 4)

Q. 2. Read the passage given below :

The tests of life are its plus factors. Overcoming illness and suffering is a plus factor for it moulds character. Steel is iron plus fire, soil is rock plus heat. So let's include the plus factor in our lives.

Sometimes the plus factor is more readily seen by the simple-hearted. Myers tells the story of a mother who brought into her home - as a companion to her own son - a little boy who happened to have a hunchback. She had warned her son to be careful not to refer to his disability, and to go right on playing with him as if he were like any other boy.

The boys were playing and after a few minutes she overheard her son say to his companion : “Do you know what you have got on your back ?” The little boy was embarrassed, but before he could reply, his playmate continued: “It is the box in which your wings are and some day God is going to cut it open and then you will fly away and be an angel”.

Often it takes a third eye, or a change in focus, to see the plus factor. Walking along the corridors of a hospital recently where patients were struggling with fear of pain and tests, I was perturbed. What gave me fresh perspective were the sayings put up everywhere, intended to uplift. One saying made me conscious of the beauty of the universe in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle. The other saying assured me that God was with me when I was in deep water and that no troubles would overwhelm me.

The import of those sayings also made me aware of the nether springs that flow into people’s lives when they touch rock-bottom or lonely, or even deserted. The nether springs make recovery possible, and they bring peace and patience in the midst of pain and distress.

The forces of death and destruction are not so much physical as they are psychic and psychological. When malice, hate and hard-heartedness prevail, they get channelled as forces of destruction. Where openness, peace and good-heartedness prevail, the forces of life gush forth to regenerate hope and joy. The life force is triumphant when love overcomes fear. Both fear and love are deep mysteries, but the effect of love is to build whereas fear tends to destroy. Love is often the plus factor that helps build character. It helps us to accept and to overcome suffering. It creates lasting bonds and its reach is infinite.

It is true that there is no shortage of destructive elements - forces and people who seek to destroy others and in the process, destroy themselves - but at the same time there are signs of love and life everywhere that are constantly enabling us to overcome setbacks. So let’s not look only at gloom and doom - let’s seek out positivity and happiness. For it is when you seek that you will find what is waiting to be discovered.

1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. 5
2. Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3

SECTION B : ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

Q. 3. You plan to sell your two wheeler. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of a local daily, giving all necessary details of the two wheeler. You are Sumit/Sudha, 15, Krishna Nagar, Delhi. 5

Or

Recent rains have caused havoc in some parts of our country. You are Surya, a member of the social service organization, SEVA MANDIR, Ahmedabad. Draft a poster requesting people to help the rain and flood afflicted families physically and economically.

Q. 4. You are Rama of Gandhi Sen. Sec. School, Kolkata. You visited a Science Exhibition organised by the city schools recently. Write a brief report in 100- 125 words for your school magazine on what you saw, the exhibit you liked most and other special features of the exhibition. 10

Or

You are Rama, studying in Sun Public School, Bangalore. Every year your school celebrates the 'World Health Day' that falls on 7th April. Write a report for your school newsletter in 100-125 words on how the day was celebrated this year.

Q. 5. You are Apoorva, B-120, Malviya Nagar, Chennai. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter to the advertiser, applying for the job. 10

**INDIAN PHARMACEUTICALS,
20 Coast Road, Kochi, requires
Trainee Medical Representatives.**

Candidates should be Science or Pharmacy graduates and below 25 years of age. Fluency in English and any one of the regional languages is essential. Attractive stipend with handsome working allowances will be offered during training period. After successful completion of the training, the candidates will be appointed on regular basis. Please apply with complete resume and a passport size photograph at the above address.

Or

You are Apoorva, Physical Education Teacher of Wisdom Public School, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of Bharat Sports Limited, New Delhi placing an order for sports articles and accessories that you wish to purchase for your school. Also ask for the discount permissible on the purchase.

Q. 6. You are Bala, a social worker and freelance writer, much concerned about the discriminatory treatment given to females right from their birth in the Indian society. Write an article in 150-200 words throwing light on this problem and giving suggestions for putting an end to it. 10

Or

You are Bala, a social worker, much concerned about the practice of keeping building materials on roadsides and pavements. Write an article in 150-200 words on how this encroachment not only leads to health and hygiene problems but also endangers life and property. Give suitable suggestions for putting an end to this practice.

SECTION C : LITERATURE

Q. 7. (a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follows :

Freedom from the anarchy of a destiny
whose sails are weakly yielded to the blind uncertain winds,
and the helm to a hand ever rigid and cold as death.

1. Whose freedom is referred to in the above lines ? 1
2. What does the poet mean by the anarchy of a destiny ? 2
3. Describe the simile used in the last line. 1

Or

I heard a thousand blended notes
While in a grove I sat reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

- a. Where was the poet ? 1
- b. What did he hear ? 1
- c. Why did the poet feel sad though he was in a happy mood ? 2

(b) Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each : $3 \times 2 = 6$

- a. Why does the poet call the lily a flower of light ?
- b. In the poem, Once Upon a Time, what does the poet want to relearn ?
- c. Why did the priest give the gold plate to the peasant ?

Q. 8. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each : $5 \times 2 = 10$

- a. Why was it almost impossible for a man to live on the Andaman Islands ?
- b. What was the contribution of the Brahma Samaj towards the emancipation of Indian women ?
- c. What important problems of the Science of Language can be studied in India ?
- d. What, according to Bertrand Russell, is the first requisite of happiness ?
- e. How did Mr. Gupta react when he was asked to gaze into the ring ?
Why ?

Q. 9. Answer the following question in 125-150 words : 10

Humour is the most dominant feature in 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.
Give four instances of humour from the play in support of the statement.

Or

What happened in the Westbury explosion ? How did Markwardt and Mr. Parsons react to the happening ? Who do you appreciate ? Why ?

Q. 10. Answer the following question in 125-150 words : 7
The title, 'The Hour of Truth' is apt. Substantiate.

Or

What should the youth of India realize ? Write on the four dimensions that Dr. Karan Singh suggests to them.

Q. 11. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each : $4 \times 2 = 8$

- a. Mrs. Wang was very humane. Give two examples from the text in support of this statement.
- b. How should one guard oneself while conversing in mixed companies ?
- c. When Barin met C the second time in the train, how did he feel ? Why ?
- d. Who would you call a better person - the lawyer or the banker ? Why ?