

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION, JANUARY 2020

ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII

MAX.MARKS:80

DATE: 07.01. 2020

DURATION: 3 HRS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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

SECTION A- READING

(20)

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

(12)

1. All of earth's oceans share one thing in common: plastic pollution. Discarded plastic bags, cups, and bottles make their way into the sea. Today, it seems that no part of the ocean is safe from plastic trash. In recent years, oceanographers have searched in vain for a pristine marine environment. They have found plastic everywhere they have looked. "It is a common global problem; we can't point to a single habitat or location with no plastic.

2. Plastic harms wildlife and introduces dangerous chemicals into marine ecosystems — communities of organisms interacting with their surroundings. Once plastic enters the environment, it lasts for a long time. Scientists are working to prevent plastic pollution from entering the sea.

3. When people litter, or when the trash is not properly disposed of, things like plastic bags, bottles, straws, foam beverage cups get carried to the sea by winds and waterways. About 80 per cent of ocean plastic originates on land. The rest comes from marine industries such as shipping and fishing.

4. In 2015, engineer Jenna Jambeck at the University of Georgia and other researchers calculated that at least 8 million tons of plastic trash is swept into the ocean from coasts every year. That's the equivalent of a full garbage truck of plastic being dumped into the sea every minute. If current trends in plastic production and disposal continue, that figure will double by 2025. A report published by the World Economic Forum last year predicts that by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all the fish in the sea.

5. In today's world, plastic is everywhere. It's found in shoes, clothing, household items, electronics, and more. There are different types of plastics, but one thing they all have in common is that they're made of polymers – large molecules made up of repeating units. Their chemical structure gives them a lot of advantages: they're cheap and easy to manufacture, lightweight, water-resistant, durable, and can be moulded into nearly any shape.
6. Unfortunately, some of the properties that make plastics great for consumer goods also make them a problematic pollutant. Plastic's durability comes in part from the fact that unlike paper or wood, it doesn't biodegrade, or break down naturally. Instead, it just fragments or breaks into tiny pieces over time. These tiny pieces, known as microplastics, can potentially stick around for hundreds or perhaps even thousands of years.
7. Another problem with plastics is the other chemicals they contain, like dyes and flame retardants. When plastic isn't disposed of properly, these additives end up in the environment. Plastic also tends to absorb harmful chemicals from its surroundings. "It's like a sponge for persistent organic pollutants." These long-lasting, toxic substances include pesticides and industrial chemicals. If plastic absorbs the chemicals and marine organisms eat the plastic, they may be exposed to higher concentrations of these contaminants.
8. One of the biggest impacts of plastic pollution is its effect on sea life. Seals, sea turtles, and even whales can become entangled in plastic netting. They can starve to death if the plastic restricts their ability to move or eat. Or the plastic can cut into the animals' skin, causing wounds that develop severe infections.
9. Sea turtles eat plastic bags and soda-can rings, which resemble jellyfish, their favourite food. Seabirds eat bottle caps or chunks of foam cups. Plastic pieces may make an animal feel full, so it doesn't eat enough real food to get the nutrients it needs. Plastic can also block an animal's digestive system making it unable to eat.
10. Plastic and its associated pollutants can even make it into our own food supply. Scientists recently examined fish and shell-fish bought at markets in California and Indonesia. They found plastic in the guts of more than a quarter of samples purchased at both locations. In organisms that people eat whole, such as sardines and oysters, that means we're eating plastic too. In larger fish, chemicals from plastic may seep into their muscles and other tissues that people consume.
11. One way to keep the ocean cleaner and healthier is through cleanup efforts. A lot of plastic waste caught in ocean currents eventually washes up on beaches. Removing it can prevent it from blowing out to sea again. Beach clean-up is ocean clean-up.
12. Cleanup efforts can't reach every corner of the ocean or track down every bit of micro plastic. That means it's critical to cut down on the amount of plastic that reaches the sea in the first place. Scientists are working toward new materials that are safer for the environment. For example, Jambeck and her colleagues are currently testing a new polymer that breaks down more easily in seawater.

13. "Individual actions make a big difference," says Jambeck. Disposing of plastic properly for recycling or trash collection is a key step. "And simple things like reusable water bottles, mugs, and bags really cut down on waste," she says. Skipping straws or using paper ones help too. Ocean pollution can seem overwhelming, but it's something everyone can help address. This is a problem we can really do something about.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any five of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

(a) Plastic is not biodegradable because it is made up of:

- i) low atomic particles
- ii) tiny particles
- iii) strong big particles
- iv) large molecule polymers

(b) Percentage of ocean plastic that originates from land is:

- i) 20%
- ii) 50%
- iii) 80%
- iv) 25%

(c) Plastic is compared to a sponge because

- i) it absorbs harmful chemicals from its surroundings
- ii) it is a problematic pollutant
- iii) it doesn't biodegrade
- iv) none of these

(d) Which property of plastic makes it a problem pollutant?

- i) it breaks down naturally
- ii) its durability
- iii) causing wounds that develop severe infections
- iv) both (i) and (iii)

(e) What has scientist Jambeck suggested for having cleaner and healthier oceans?

- i) proper disposal of plastic
- ii) individual actions
- iii) use of reusable objects
- iv) all of these

f) Scientists bought fish and shell-fish for examination at markets in:

- i) China and Russia
- ii) Pakistan and Afghanistan

- iii) California and Indonesia
- iv) Australia and Brazil

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

- a) How does plastic in oceans harm marine ecosystems?
- b) How are microplastics formed?
- c) What is the biggest impact of plastic pollution on sea life?
- d) How are scientists trying to reduce the plastic pollutants?
- e) How is it true to say that plastic is everywhere in today's world?

1.3 Pick out the words/ phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:

(1x2=2)

- i) reckoned (Para 4)
- ii) difficult to fight against/ very strong (Para 13)

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

(8)

One of the disheartening sights at a wedding venue is the kilos of food scraped off plates and thrown into bins. While there are groups of volunteers working towards food waste management, in weddings, there is an increasing number of couples coming forward to reduce food wastage when they get married. Wedding planners and caterers in the capital say that it has now become an important part of checklist and that they are being asked by clients to include food management as a service and even a mandatory part of the pack. If the wedding planners fail to take care of the leftover food, couples themselves reach out to NGOs that come to the wedding venture, collect the excess food and distribute it among the needy and homeless.

Other couples say that as part of the money spent on the wedding, a part is kept aside on clearing out the trash. Hence while researching out the best caterers, wedding planners and makeup artists, the couples also keep looking out for volunteers and NGOs who could clear up the extra food. Such NGOs exist in Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai. When the wedding guests have left, they arrive at the buffet area to collect the leftover food and distribute it among the homeless. Not confined to the main wedding function, they also arrive for the minor ceremonies such as the Sangeet and the Mehendi and even the post-wedding functions. Also, they put up posters at the wedding site telling people not to waste food.

According to one of the caterers, in around 40% of the weddings, clients are more than happy to come on board when the concept of disposal of extra food is explained to them. Clients also prefer this food disposal system as the venue remains clean and the clients do not have to pay extra to have the food thrown away.

With the increasing demand for such facilities, some caterers are also arranging storage facilities for their clients to be used after the wedding. Caterers concede that such an arrangement means an extra effort on their part as they have to learn new techniques of food preservation, be it summer, winter or the monsoon. Thus even if the caterers do not come across needy people at night; the food can be stored and distributed conveniently later. Clients, on their part, do not just want a distribution of the extra food but also demand quality-wise 100% fitness of the food distributed.

Some caterers are now keeping a separate section where, whatever amount of food is left, is stored. Others coordinate with a few orphanages in advance where the food can be distributed. Clients even ask volunteer organizations to refer them to caterers who have facilities for storage and who will undertake distribution of the leftover food after the feast.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary — a minimum of four) and a format you consider suitable. Also, supply an appropriate title to it. 4
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 4

SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS

30 MARKS

3. You are Rohit/ Ritu, Secretary, Welfare Association, ABC Nagar, Chennai. Design a poster in about 50 words to be displayed in your locality, emphasizing the importance of exercise in maintaining mental and physical fitness. Invent relevant details. 4

OR

You are Dr. Mahesh and you have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, New Delhi to attend a workshop on 'Child Care' on 15th January 2020. Many leading practitioners of the state have been invited to grace the occasion. Write a formal acceptance of invitation in about 50 words.

4. You are Sarath/ Sheela, 126, TT Nagar, Chennai. You would like to apply for the post of the Marketing Manager in a reputable firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chaitanya Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job along with your complete biodata. 6

OR

Lack of job opportunities in rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has a number of slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily on how we can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Shamina/Shan of 45 Raja Gardens, Mysore.

5. The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. As a teenager you want India to achieve certain goals in the next ten years. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'India after ten years'. You are Sumil/ Sarita of Sunrise Public School, New Delhi. Make use of the following clues.

- Education
- Health
- Communication
- Inflation
- employment
- infrastructure

OR

10

Recently you attended a Career Fair organized by the Australian High Commission in which various Australian colleges and universities participated. Write a report on the same in 150-200 words for your school magazine. You are Karan/ Karina, M 114, Mall Road, Kanpur.

6. Consumerism is increasing day by day. Luxuries of yesterday have become necessities of today. The result is that the more we want the more miserable we become. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion - "The Only Way to Minimize Human Suffering and Pain is to Control Our Needs." You are Sunder/ Sandya of Horizon Public School, Cochin. 10

OR

Delhi Metro enjoys a top ranking among the metros of the world. The ride is easy, comfortable, fast and convenient. Some young boys have been seen to violate the rules by jumping the queue, entering the ladies' compartment, playing loud music, etc. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on the need to observe metro manners. You are Albert/Christine.

SECTION C LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS

(30 MARKS)

7. Read the extract given below and briefly answer the questions that follow: (4x1=4)

a) The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead

Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts

At having the landscape marred with the artless puzze

Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

1. What do you mean by 'polished traffic'?
2. What are the usual complaints made by the city men when they stop at the roadside stand?
3. How did the poor people "mar" the landscape?

4. Explain, 'passed with a mind ahead.'

b) "Honoured and noble Miss, "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain — for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers. "The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself."Written with friendship and high regard: "Captain Von Stahle." (4x1=4)

1. What was the sentiment expressed by the tramp in the letter that he left for Edla?
2. Why had he signed himself as Captain Von Stahle?
3. According to the peddler, what was the bait for the poor wanderers?
4. How did the rattrap seller get the power to clear himself?

8) Answer any five of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (2x5=10)

- a) "The battle of Champaran is won!" What led Gandhiji to make this remark?
- b) What was distinctive about Umberto Eco's academic writing style?
- c) Why did Douglas want to overcome his fear of water?
- d) List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' that give joy and happiness to man.
- e) Do you think the third level was a medium of escape for Charlie? Why?
- f) What explanation did Bama's elder brother Annan give her about the elder's funny behaviour?
- g) What are Geoff Green's reasons for including high school students in the Students on Ice expedition?

9.) Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6 marks)

Subbu was tailor- made for films. How did he use his genius in various activities in the Gemini Studios? Write a brief character sketch of Kothamangalam Subbu.

OR

Sophie was a dreamer. The lesson 'Going Places' reminds us that mere dreams will not help us to accomplish anything. What qualities, do you think, would help Sophie to realise her dreams?

10) Answer any one of the following questions in ~~about~~ 120-150 words: (6 marks)

Why did Jo disapprove of Jack's ending of the story of Roger Skunk? How did she want it to end? How did Jack react to her opinion?

OR

Evans and his friends had planned his escape from prison most meticulously, down to the minutest detail. Elucidate.

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