

Pre Board -1 Examination – December 2019

Roll No.

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Series SSR / 1

Code No. 301/ 1 / 2

- Please check that this question paper contains 7 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 10 questions.
- Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.

English Core

Class : XII
Date : 08-12-2019

Time allowed : 3 hrs.
Max marks : 80

General Instructions:

- This question paper is divided into three sections-A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A

READING: 20 Marks

1. Read the passage given below

(12)

1. I was only a year and some months younger than Valodya; we grew up, studied and played together. No distinction of elder and younger was made between us. But just about the time I am speaking of I began to realize that I was no companion for him, either in age, in interests or in ability. It even seemed to me that Valodya himself was aware of his superiority and was proud of it. This idea (it may have been a wrong one) was inspired by my vanity which suffered every time I came in contact with him. He was better than me in everything; at lessons, in arguments and in manners, and all this took me farther from him and caused me moral anguish which I could not understand. When Valodya was given a tucked linen shirt for the first time I was unhappy for not having a shirt like that. I am sure I would have felt happier if I was convinced that every time he arranged his collar it was not done to annoy me.

2. What tormented me most was that it sometimes seemed to me Valodya understood what was going on inside me but tried to hide it. But perhaps my sensitiveness and tendency to analyse deceived me in this case. It may be Valodya did not feel at all as I did. He was impulsive and his enthusiasm in different hobbies did not last long.

3. He would suddenly develop a passion for pictures, himself take up painting, spend all his money buying them and beg them of his drawing- master, of papa and of

grandmamma. Then it would be a craze for curios to decorate his table, collecting them from every room in the house, or a mania for novels which he obtained on the sly and read all day and night. I could not help being impressed by his hobbies but I was too proud to imitate him and too young and not independent enough to choose a hobby for myself. But there was nothing I envied so much as Valodya's happy large heartedness which showed itself most strikingly when we quarreled. I always felt that he was behaving well but I could not do likewise.

4. Once when his passion of ornaments was at its height, I went up to his table and accidentally broke an empty bright-coloured little scent bottle.

"Who asked you to touch my things?" demanded Valodya coming into the room and seeing how I had upset the symmetry of the different treasures on his table. "And where is the scent bottle? You must have....."

5. "I knocked it over by accident and it broke. What does it matter?"

"Do me the favour-never dare touch my things again", he said, putting the pieces of broken flask together and looking at them sorrowfully.

"And you please don't issue orders" I retorted, "that's all." And I smiled, though I did not feel in the least like smiling.

"Yes, its nothing to you but it does matter to me," pursued Valodya, jerking his shoulder, a gesture he had inherited from pap. "He goes and breaks it and then laughs, the nasty little brat!"

"I am a little brat; and you're big but you're stupid."

"I am not going to quarrel with you," said Valodya, giving me a slight push, "go away."

"Don't push!"

"Get away!"

"Don't push, I tell you!"

Valodya took my word and tried to drag me away from the table; but I was beside myself by now; I got hold of the leg of the table and tipped it over. "There now!" And all his china and glass ornaments crashed to the floor. "You disgusting little boy!" cried Valodya, trying to save some of his falling treasures.

"Well, now it is all over between us," I thought as I left the room, "we have quarreled for good."

6. As soon as afternoon lessons were over I left the room. I was too scared, uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with my brother. After our history lesson in the evening I took my exercise books and started towards the door. As I passed Valodya, though I wanted to go up to him and make friends I scowled and put on an angry expression. At that moment Valodya raised his head and, with a meaningful smile, looked me full in the face. Our eyes met and I knew that he understood me; but some irresistible feeling made me turn away.

7. "Nicky!" he said in a most natural voice without a scrap of pathos. "Don't be cross any more. Forgive me if I offended you." And he held out his hand. Something that came

higher and higher seemed to be pressing my chest and stopping my breath but this only lasted a second; tears came to my eyes and I felt better. "Forgive...m-me, Val-dya," I stammered, squeezing his hand. Valodya looked at me as if he could not make out at all why there should be tears in my eyes.

- Leo Tolstoy

(Excerpts from his autobiographical novel 'Boyhood' originally written in Russian, translation by C.J. Haqar)

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) Which of the following is NOT true for Valodaya?

- (i) He was fond of reading.
- (ii) He was inclined towards painting.
- (iii) He was reckless with money.
- (iv) He liked collecting curios and works of art.

(b) "I am a little brat, and you're big but you are stupid." This line highlights that Nicky

- (i) was disrespectful towards his brother
- (ii) was impulsive and volatile, but loved his brother
- (iii) was jealous of his brother
- (iv) was unapologetic towards his brother

(c) Although the narrator was impressed by his brother's hobbies, he was

- (i) reluctant to pursue any hobby himself
- (ii) so busy to preoccupy himself with hobbies
- (iii) too proud to imitate him and felt he was not independent enough to choose a hobby for himself
- (iv) skeptical about choosing a hobby for himself

(d) When the narrator was dragged away from the table, he

- (i) resisted by fighting with the brother
- (ii) flung the curios on the floor
- (iii) got hold of the leg of the table and tipped it over
- (iv) yielded submissively

(e) "Something that came higher and higher seemed to be pressing my chest," implies

- (i) his brother towered over him.
- (ii) he was in a state of confusion.
- (iii) his brother tried to overpower him.
- (iv) he felt choked with emotions.

(f) Which of the following statements aptly describe the theme of the story?

- (i) Vanity, jealousy and anger mars interpersonal relationship
- (ii) Rivalry between siblings are common in families
- (iii) Forgiveness helps take away anger and jealousy, and heal the hurt
- (iv) The importance of accepting one's mistake

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(2X5=10)

- (a) Why did Nicky feel that he was not an apt companion for Valodaya?
- (b) About which aspect of Valodya's personality was Nicky most upset?
- (c) Why did Nicky feel uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with his brother?
- (d) What did Nicky do to show that he was sorry for all that he had done in the morning?
- (e) What does Valodaya's behavior show about his character?

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

(1X2=2)

- (i) pride (para 1)
- (ii) a very annoyed expression (para 6)

2. Read the passage given below:

The Internet is so far one of the greatest inventions of all time. It has made it possible for us to do lots of things. People can shop in online stores, communicate with family and friends via Skype or Facebook, watch the latest videos on YouTube, blog and make money from it, and so much more.

The Internet has proven to be very useful and has come with lots of advantages. It has made it easy for people to communicate with others because it is cheap and convenient. It acts as a common global platform where people explore ideologies and cultures without limitation. It is swamped with information about anything and everything. There are multiple search engines that have made it easier for the Internet users to find information. For example, it is now common for people to look for free advice from the Internet on all sorts of issues. The premise here is that whatever problem you are experiencing, someone somewhere has experienced it and probably solved it.

Today it is possible to carry out financial transactions online. You can transfer funds, pay taxes and utility bills or book movie tickets over the Internet in the comfort of your office or home.

The Internet has undoubtedly tremendous advantages for everyone but it is not an unmixed blessing. It has its own downside.

Unwanted and useless emails are a nuisance. These emails obstruct the recipient endlessly. They are illegal and can cause frustration because they make it hard for people to access their emails accounts. Besides malicious programmes like Trojan, Virus and other malwares attack a computer with the sole intent of causing harm.

The fact that the Internet has become a market place has also seen a rise in fraud cases. Credit/debit card details are particularly vulnerable. This calls for extreme caution when transacting online. Make sure to use a reliable payment processor instead of sending your details directly to an individual or business.

Just like everything else, people also get addicted to the Internet. This may sound bizarre, but some people spend more than their fair amount of time on the Internet. This affects their social interactions a great deal. The Internet addiction has been known to be a major cause of obesity and has, in some cases, led to some diseases like carpal tunnel syndrome.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum 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. Chennai Book Society is going to organise a week-long book fair in the city during the coming autumn vacation. It has requested your school for volunteers to manage various counters. As Secretary, Cultural Club, Chennai Public School, write a notice in about 50 words inviting the names of those who want to help. You are Lalith/Latha

OR (4)

Mr S.K. Sarin's mother passed away recently. His friends and relatives sent him letters of condolence. Draft a reply on behalf of Mr Sarin thanking his close friend Anurag Sibal of 25 Golf Links, New Delhi for sharing his grief during the bereavement and inviting him to attend a gathering at his residence in memory of the departed. (50 words)

4. Sunshine Public School, Pune requires two sports coaches (one male and one female). Each should be a degree holder in Physical education as well as a Sports Authority of India (SAI) certified coach in Athletics. You are Praveen/Parvathy, M-114, Najafgarh, Delhi. Draft a letter including a CV, applying for the advertised post. (120-150 words)

OR

(6)

You are Kunal/Kripa, Vice President, Customer Care, Shopmart Online. You have received a letter of inquiry from a dissatisfied customer seeking information about your company's exchange policy. Write a reply in about 120-150 words to the customer giving information about the same.

5. India is making strides in the field of technology. Technology has made life easier and more comfortable than it used to be earlier. At the same time people are turning to be more and more lazy and disease-prone. Write an article in 150-200 words on the disadvantages of relying too much on technology.

OR

(10)

Incessant rain has caused irrevocable damage in your area. As a press correspondent, write a report for your newspaper on how normal life has been thrown out of gear by landslides and flash floods. (150-200 words)

6. The student council of your school has to select its president. Many students have forwarded their names for the voting process. You, as a nominee, have to motivate the students to vote for you. Write a speech stating the reasons why you should be selected, your positive points, etc. (150-200 words)

OR

(10)

'Celebrities are not responsible for the products they endorse'. Write a debate either for or against the motion in 150-200 words.

SECTION: C (LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS)

(Marks : 30)

7. Read the extracts given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each:

(1x4=4)

a. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We have imagined for the mighty dead;

All lovely tales that we have heard or read;

An endless fountain of immortal drink

1. Who are the mighty dead?

2. What have we done for them?

3. What metaphor has been used for 'lovely tales'?

4. How is the grandeur of the dooms related to the theme of the poem?

b. The official inquiry assembled a crushing mountain of evidence against the big planters, and when they saw this they agreed, in principle, to make refunds to the peasants. (1x4=4)

1. Who appointed an official commission of inquiry?
2. Who all were part of the commission?
3. Why was an official inquiry commission formed?
4. How much was given as refund to the peasants?

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

- a. What are phytoplanktons? How are they important for the earth's survival? What does the parable of phytoplankton teach us?
- b. How does 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' highlight Kamala Das' relationship with her mother?
- c. The order from Berlin aroused a particular zeal in the school. Comment.
- d. Has Sophie met Danny Casey? What details of her meeting with Danny Casey did she narrate to her brother?
- e. How did Charley ascertain that he had reached the 1894 world?
- f. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from Nature?
- g. How did the ten-day-old baby (the future Tiger King) react to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers?

9. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:

The paradoxes of the society that we live in are aptly featured in 'Lost Spring'. Comment.

OR

(6)

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." With reference to the statement given, explain the character traits displayed by William Douglas in conquering his fear.

10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:

Is it right on the part of parents to ask for unquestioned compliance from children? Express your views with reference to the story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?'

OR

(6)

How did the scene she saw in the market place change Bama's life?



