

CLASS: XII

ENGLISH

Time: 3 hrs.

MAX. MARKS: 100

General Guidelines:

- (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 - 30 MARKS**1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

- A. To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o'clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling concrete walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through the silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do. He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference; he was alone in this world of A.D. 2053, or as good as alone, and with a final decision made, a path selected, he would stride off, sending patterns of frosty air before him like the smoke of a cigar.
- B. Sometimes he would walk for hours and miles and return only at midnight to his house. And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows. Sudden gray phantoms seemed to manifest upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.
- C. Mr. Leonard Mead would pause, cock his head, listen, look, and march on, his feet making no noise on the lumpy walk. For long ago he had wisely changed to sneakers when strolling at night, because the dogs in intermittent squads would parallel his journey with barkings if he wore hard heels, and lights might click on and faces appear and an entire street be startled by the passing of a lone figure, himself, in the early November evening.
- D. "What is it now?" he asked the houses, noticing his wrist watch. "Eight-thirty P.M.? Time for a dozen assorted murders? A quiz? A revue? A comedian falling off the stage?"
- E. Was that a murmur of laughter from within a moon-white house? He hesitated, but went on when nothing more happened. He stumbled over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk. The cement was vanishing under flowers and grass. In ten years of walking by night or day, for thousands of miles, he had never met another person walking, not once in all that time.
- F. He came to a cloverleaf intersection which stood silent where two main highways crossed the town. During the day it was a thunderous surge of cars, the gas stations open, a great insect rustling and a ceaseless jockeying for position as the scarabbeetles, a faint incense pattering from their exhausts, skimmed homeward to the far directions. But now these highways, too, were like streams in a dry season, all stone and bed and moon radiance.
- G. He turned back on a side street, circling around toward his home. He was within a block of his destination when the lone car turned a corner quite suddenly and flashed a fierce white

cone of light upon him. He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it.

A metallic voice called to him:

"Stand still. Stay where you are! Don't move!"

He halted.

"Put up your hands!"

"But-" he said.

"Your hands up! Or we'll Shoot!"

H. The police, of course, but what a rare, incredible thing; in a city of three million, there was only one police car left, wasn't that correct? Ever since a year ago, 2052, the election year, the force had been cut down from three cars to one. Crime was ebbing; there was no need now for the police, save for this one lone car wandering and wandering the empty streets.

"Your name?" said the police car in a metallic whisper. He couldn't see the men in it for the bright light in his eyes.

"Leonard Mead," he said.

"Business or profession?"

"I guess you'd call me a writer."

"No profession," said the police car, as if talking to itself. The light held him fixed, like a museum specimen, needle thrust through chest.

I. "You might say that," said Mr. Mead. He hadn't written in years. Magazines and books didn't sell any more. Everything went on in the tomblike houses at night now, he thought, continuing his fancy. The tombs, ill-lit by television light, where the people sat like the dead, the gray or multicolored lights touching their faces, but never really touching them.

"No profession," said the phonograph voice, hissing. "What are you doing out?"

"Walking," said Leonard Mead.

"Walking!" "Just walking," he said simply, but his face felt cold.

"Walking, just walking, walking?"

"Yes, sir."

"Walking where? For what?" "Walking for air. Walking to see."

"Your address!" "Eleven South Saint James Street."

"And there is air in your house, you have an air conditioner, Mr. Mead?"

"Yes."

"And you have a viewing screen in your house to see with?"

"No."

"No?" There was a crackling quiet that in itself was an accusation.

"Are you married, Mr. Mead?"

"No."

"Just walking, Mr. Mead?"

"Yes."

"But you haven't explained for what purpose."

"I explained; for air, and to see, and just to walk."

"Have you done this often?"

"Every night for years."

The police car sat in the center of the street with its radio throat faintly humming.

"Well, Mr. Mead," it said.

"Is that all?" he asked politely.

"Yes," said the voice. "Here." There was a sigh, a pop. The back door of the police car sprang wide. "Get in."

"Wait a minute, I haven't done anything!"

"Get in."

"I protest!"

"Mr. Mead."

- J. He walked like a man suddenly drunk. As he passed the front window of the car he looked in. As he had expected, there was no one in the front seat, no one in the car at all. "Get in." He put his hand to the door and peered into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars. It smelled of riveted steel. It smelled of harsh antiseptic; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic. There was nothing soft there.

"Now if you had a wife to give you an alibi," said the iron voice.

"But-" "Where are you taking me?"

- K. The car hesitated, or rather gave a faint whirring click, as if information, somewhere, was dropping card by punch-slotted card under electric eyes. "To the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies."

- L. He got in. The door shut with a soft thud. The police car rolled through the night avenues, flashing its dim lights ahead. They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one particular house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.

"That's my house," said Leonard Mead.

No one answered him.

- M. The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no motion all the rest of the chill November night.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

- i) After Leonard tells the police that he does not own a viewing screen, the story states, "There was a crackling quiet that in itself was an accusation." What can you infer from that line of the text? 1
- A. Leonard isn't worried about being honest with the police car
B. The police car finds this information to be interesting and kind of comical
C. The police car is concerned about this information and even views it as wrong
D. Leonard doesn't know what to say next to the police car
- ii) Which of the following words best describes the people living in Leonard's society? 1
- A. Unique
B. Obedient
C. Vengeful
D. Thoughtful
- iii) What is one reason "The Pedestrian" can be classified as soft science fiction? 1
- A. Bradbury didn't consider the story science fiction.
B. It focuses above all on Meade's feelings and personal characteristics.
C. It features only human characters, and no robots.
D. It doesn't meet the standards of science fiction as such.

- iv) Which of the following is a primary conflict in Bradbury's "The Pedestrian?" 1
A. Interpersonal relationships
B. Writers vs. the police
C. Man vs. nature
D. Freedom vs. conformism

- v) V) What kind of setting does Bradbury's "The Pedestrian" take place in? 1
A. A dystopia
B. A utopia
C. A fantasy realm
D. An alternative past

1.2 Answer the following Questions:

- a) What is the setting of The Pedestrian? 1
b) How does the writer represent power in the story Pedestrian? 1
c) What is the significance of the phrase : "Buckling Sidewalk" 1
d) Describe the atmosphere in the city which Leonard is walking through? 1
e) Give two examples of how Bradbury brings present day life into this futuristic setting? 1
f) List details that describe the houses Leonard passes and the evening streets. What mood do these details create? 1

1.3 Answer any three of the following Questions:

- g) How does the author feel about technology? How do you know this? 2
h) What is the implication of the usage of the phrase – "Tomb Houses" 2
i) What exactly does "regressive tendencies" mean in the story? Explain. 2
j) What is the significance of the brightly lit house? 2

1.4 Find words / phrases in the passage that mean:

- k) stopping and starting repeatedly or with periods in between (Para C) 1
l) a connection between two roads consisting of four smaller, curved roads (Para F) 1
m) a sudden and great increase. (Para F) 1

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Why do many problems in life seem to stubbornly stick around, no matter how hard people work to fix them? It turns out that a quirk in the way human brains process information means that when something becomes rare, we sometimes see it in more places than ever.

Think of a "neighborhood watch" made up of volunteers who call the police when they see anything suspicious. Imagine a new volunteer who joins the watch to help lower crime in the area. When they first start volunteering, they raise the alarm when they see signs of serious crimes, like assault or burglary.

Let's assume these efforts help and, over time, assaults and burglaries become rarer in the neighborhood. What would the volunteer do next? One possibility is that they would relax and stop calling the police. After all, the serious crimes they used to worry about are a thing of the past. Instead, they'd start calling things "suspicious" that they would never have cared about back when crime was high, like jaywalking or loitering at night.

You can probably think of many similar situations in which problems never seem to go away, because people keep changing how they define them. This is sometimes called “concept creep,” or “moving the goalposts,” and it can be a frustrating experience. How can you know if you’re making progress solving a problem, when you keep redefining what it means to solve it?

To study how concepts, change when they become less common, volunteers were asked to look at a series of computer-generated faces and decide which ones seem “threatening.” The faces had been carefully designed by researchers to range from very intimidating to very harmless.

As they saw fewer and fewer threatening faces over time, they expanded their definition of “threatening” to include a wider range of faces. In other words, when they ran out of threatening faces to find, they started calling faces threatening that they used to call harmless. Rather than being a consistent category, what people considered “threats” depended on how many threats they had seen lately.

This kind of inconsistency isn’t limited to judgments about threat. In another experiment, people had to make an even simpler decision: whether colored dots on a screen were blue or purple.

As blue dots became rare, people started calling slightly purple dots blue. They even did this when they were told blue dots were going to become rare or offered them cash prizes to stay consistent over time. These results suggest that this behavior isn’t entirely under conscious control – otherwise, people would have been able to be consistent to earn a cash prize.

After looking at the results of the experiments on facial threat and color judgments, the research group wondered if maybe this was just a funny property of the visual system. Would this kind of concept change also happen with non-visual judgments?

To test this, a final experiment in which volunteers were to read about different scientific studies and decide which were ethical and which were unethical.

As people read fewer and fewer unethical studies over time, they started calling a wider range of studies unethical. In other words, just because they were reading about fewer unethical studies, they became harsher judges of what counted as ethical.

Why can’t people help but expand what they call threatening when threats become rare? Research from cognitive psychology and neuroscience suggests that this kind of behavior is a consequence of the basic way that our brains process information – we are constantly comparing what is front of us to its recent context.

Instead of carefully deciding how threatening a face is compared to all other faces, the brain can just store how threatening it is compared to other faces it has seen recently or compare it to some average of recently seen faces, or the most and least threatening faces it has seen. This kind of comparison could lead directly to the pattern my research group saw in our experiments, because when threatening faces are rare, new faces would be judged relative to mostly harmless faces. In a sea of mild faces, even slightly threatening faces might seem scary.

It turns out that for your brain, relative comparisons often use less energy than absolute measurements. To get a sense for why this is, just think about how it’s easier to remember which of your cousins is the tallest than exactly how tall each cousin is. Human brains have likely evolved to use relative comparisons in many situations, because these comparisons often provide enough information to safely navigate our environments and make decisions, all while expending as little effort as possible.

Sometimes, relative judgments work just fine. If you are looking for a fancy restaurant, what you count as “fancy” in Paris, Texas, should be different than in Paris, France.

What once seemed banal can be recategorized as a threat in a new context.

But a neighborhood watcher who makes relative judgments will keep expanding their concept of “crime” to include milder and milder transgressions, long after serious crimes have become rare. As a result, they may never fully appreciate their success in helping to reduce the problem they are worried about. From medical diagnoses to financial investments, modern humans have to make many complicated judgments where being consistent matters.

How can people make more consistent decisions when necessary? The research group is currently doing follow-up research in the lab to develop more effective interventions to help counter the strange consequences of relative judgment.

One potential strategy: When you're making decisions where consistency is important, define your categories as clearly as you can, so if you do join a neighborhood watch, think about writing down a list of what kinds of transgressions to worry about when you start. Otherwise, before you know it, you may find yourself calling the cops on dogs being walked without leashes.

- 2.1 **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.** 5
- 2.2 **Write a summary of the above in 100 words.** 5

SECTION – B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

3. You are Dr. Madhu, M.D. You are looking for an independent house in Ghaziabad, on a reasonable rent for your residence-cum-clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi. Your telephone no. is 12341234. 4

OR

As Librarian of APJ International School, Gwalior, draft a notice in not more than 50 words asking all students and teachers to return the library books they have borrowed, two days before the commencement of the examination.

4. You are Devan/Kusum, living at 1-M.G. Road, Bhopal. You are very much concerned about the frequent and inadequate supply of electricity in the town, which has never happened so badly in the past. Write a letter to the editor of the M.P. Chronicle throwing light on the gravity of the situation, expressing your concern over the problems faced by the people and giving suitable suggestions to solve the problem. 6

OR

You are Ravi Sharma of 59, Sea Road, Bandra, Mumbai, and you saw the following advertisement in The Times of India and decide to apply for the job of a sales executive with a computer company. Write the application to the Personnel Manager, Maharashtra Computers Ltd., Worli, Mumbai Urgently Required SALES EXECUTIVE Dynamic, result-oriented persons having experience in Power/Computer Industry in handling Dealer/Distributor network. Apply within one week to the Personnel Manager, Maharashtra Computers Ltd, Worli, Mumbai.

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 disadvantage of too much technology. 10

OR

India is a country with diverse cultures, traditions, religious and political beliefs. To keep such a country together, to bind the people and take the nation ahead on the path of progress, democracy is the most suitable form of government. A debate was held on the same and you are expected to write a report to your school magazine in about 150-200 words. You are Akshay/Asha.

6. You are Keshav/Karuna, a national freedom fighter. You are the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Celebrations at Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trivandrum. Write a speech in 150-200 words that you would deliver on 'How to Honour our Freedom Fighters', recalling your participation in the freedom struggle, how you cherish freedom and how every citizen should preserve it. 10

OR

Hockey is the national game of India. Today it is in name only. Write a speech in 150-200 words asking the students to play hockey. It is inexpensive, healthy, and short duration game. You are Ajit Pal / Roopa Saini.

SECTION – C 40 MARKS (LITERATURE)

7. **A thing of beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.**
- a) What kind of joy does a beautiful thing provide? 1
- b) Explain: "It's loveliness increases." 1
- c) What is the poetic device used in the above lines? 1
- d) According to Keats, what treasures does a beautiful thing store for us? 1

OR

**With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal....
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?**

- a) Who are 'them' referred to in the first line? 1
- b) What tempts them? 1
- c) What does the poet say about their lives? 1
- d) What do you understand by "from fog to endless night"? 1
- 8 **Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each:**
- a) Why did M. Hamel insist that the people of Alsace should hold on to their language? 3
- b) Saheb wanted to be the master of his own destiny. Comment. 3
- c) How was Gandhiji able to influence lawyers? Give instances. 3
- d) What makes Dr. Sadao comment, "This man must have extraordinary vitality"? 3
- e) "History is theirs whose language is the sun". Explain 3
- f) What makes our days gloomy according to Keats? 3
9. **Answer any one of the following in 120 - 150 words each:** 6
- i) The peddler comes out as a person with a subtle sense of humor. How does this serve in lightening the seriousness of the theme of the story? Does this quality of his make him more acceptable to us? Why? / Why not?
- ii) Jansie is as old as Sophie, but she is very different from her. Bring out the contrast between the two friends, citing relevant instances from the story "Going Places".
- iii) Through the whimsical behavior of the king and the subservient attitude adopted by his officials and subjects, the writer makes a dig at the political setup devoid of the essential noble values in the contemporary times. Discuss.

- 10 **Answer any one of the following in 120 - 150 words each:** 6
- i) Evan's ability to predict the moves of his rivals and the gullibility of the jail officers helped the criminal slip out of their hands and escape right under their noses. Discuss.
 - ii) Justify the title 'Deep Water'. Does it merely refer to the water in the pool and river water or does it have a greater symbolic significance? Support your views with reasons and textual evidence.
 - iii) Why do you think Mr Lamb keeps the gates of the house and garden open?
11. **Answer any one of the following in 120 - 150 words each:** 6
- i) Unseen fear of something strange often leads to puzzle senses of the people. Justify the statement in the light of people at 'Jolly Cricketers' and their handling the invisible man.
 - ii) Why did the invisible man choose Mr. Marvel as his helper and why did Mr. Marvel comply?
 - iii) Attempt a character sketch of Squire
 - iv) How did deceit affect Silas?
- 12 **Answer any one of the following in 120 - 150 words each:** 6
- i) Illustrate whether the ending of the novel justified? What is your reaction when Griffin gets killed and Marvel gets to keep all the stolen money? Are you glad that the invisibility formula is hidden from Kemp, who could use it?
 - ii) Justify the title 'The Strange Man's Arrival'.
 - iii) Attempt a character sketch of Silas Marner.
 - iv) After coming to Raveloe, for fifteen years, earning and hoarding money remained a passion for Silas. Comment.