

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION, JANUARY 2018

ENGLISH CORE (SET -B)

CLASS: XII

DURATION: 3 HRS

DATE: _____

MAX. MARKS: 100

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

(30)

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

(12)

1. We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continuously wages war on them, for they contaminate his food, carry diseases or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation, they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights, or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps, but of quite harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that the industrious ants live in a highly organized society does not prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch.

2. No matter how much we like honey, or how much we have read of the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable, but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating. We enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that like the Praying Mantis, they lead perfectly horrible lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly, or a column of ants triumphantly carrying home an enormous dead beetle?

3. Last summer, I spent many days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prized peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the

house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer I noticed that the leaves of the tree had begun to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphids were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large column of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which, even though it failed to get rid of the ants, kept me fascinated for twenty four hours. I bound the base of the tree with sticky tape, making it impossible for the ants to reach the aphids. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it. For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at midnight with a torch and noted with satisfaction and surprise that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning to find the ants were climbing up the wall of the house and then on to the leaves of the tree. I realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly unscientific methods.

1.1) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. (1x4=4)

a) Insects are considered unnecessary creatures because.....

- i) we are afraid of them
- ii) they devour the crops
- iii) they contaminate food
- iv) they do more harm than good.

b) Knowing about the insects helps man.....

- i) to change his attitude towards insects
- ii) to increase his understanding
- iii) to dispel his fears
- iv) to dispel his revulsion

c) The attitude of man towards insects as described in the passage is

- i) scientific
- ii) based on facts
- iii) unreasonable
- iv) one of fear and revulsion

d) Ants were stopped at the base of the tree, so that.....

- i) they could scurry around in bewilderment.
- ii) they should not cross the tape.
- iii) they should not reach the aphids.
- iv) they should remain where they are.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

(1x6=6)

- a) Why does man try to exterminate insects?
- b) Why does the writer say that knowing about insects does not make man change his attitude towards insects?
- c) Why were the leaves of the tree beginning to wither in summer?
- d) When do we find insects fascinating?
- e) What do you think the writer wanted to prove by the experiment he conducted on ants? Quote words/expressions to support your answer.
- f) How did the ants prove their competency?

1.3 Find words/phrases in the passage which mean the same as:

(1x2=2)

- i) Drive away (Para 1)
- ii) Cleverness (Para 3)

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

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1. Right from childhood, a human being starts enjoying the pleasure of reading. As a child, he learns the ways of life through reading and writing. He is thrilled by going through new little things and learning through them.
2. The pleasure one derives from reading, is indeed recreational as well as instructive. The mental effects of reading create a strange sense of pleasure. Reading provides an ecstasy and intellectual exertion. Reading of novels or interesting literature makes a person forget the worries and cares of life. The reading of a newspaper, periodical, journal, etc. which is light reading, gives the reader knowledge about human life around and solves his curiosity for knowledge about the world. Newspapers and journals give information about the events taking place in the world and happenings in the state and the locality a person lives in. The newspapers also publish important news and views in the field of economics, politics and science. Reading of newspaper is indispensable for even a little educated citizen in modern society.
3. The reading of novels is the most popular pastime of a large number of people. The attraction of novel lies in its ability to create interest, to sustain it and take the reader to the heights of imagination and luxurious fiction. All fiction is somewhat connected with life and gives in words the pictures drawn from real life or from imagination.
4. Next, we come to the books of travel and adventure. The spirit of adventure is in the very blood of man. A man wants glamour full of adventure and the material spirit. Books on travel

and adventure infuse a spirit of fearlessness, which the travellers who are heroes of the books, may inspire us.

5. Whatever type of books one reads, reading is always a source of pleasure and enjoyment. The habit of reading is a sign of good culture. It is a source of knowledge and the best means of making use of one's leisure. Books are, after all, a gold mine of knowledge, art, literature and science. Books are not only useful, instructive but also entertaining and recreational.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices: (1x2=2)

a) How does a child learn the ways of his life?

- i) by imitating his elders
- ii) by observing
- iii) through reading and writing
- iv) through school education

b) Reading of newspapers is absolutely essential for the common man because

- i) it gives local news
- ii) it gives news of economics and science.
- iii) it gives political news
- iv) all the above

2.2 Answer the following briefly: (1x6=6)

- a) How does the reading of a novel capture the interest of the reader?
- b) Why is the reading of books on travel and adventure a source of immense pleasure and thrill?
- c) Why is the habit of reading regarded as a sign of good culture?
- d) How does the reading of newspapers and journals help us?
- e) What are the two salient features of reading?
- f) Which kind of reading can be called 'recreational'?

2.3 Find words in the passage which mean the same as: (1x2=2)

- i) important (Para 2)

ii) physical effort (Para 2)

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

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1. Convenient, inexpensive, good for you and delicious: they have it all! Peanuts are the most popular and consumed nuts in the United States and can be found nearly everywhere. Not only do adults love these healthy treats, but research also shows that kids love the taste of peanuts. Recognized as a great source of protein and fiber, a handful of these nuts provide a highly nutrient food for less than 200 calories.
2. According to the Peanut Institute, the peanut plant originated in South America, probably first domesticated and cultivated in the valleys of Paraguay. Spread by European explorers and traders, the plant eventually reached Asia, Africa and North America. Millions of peanuts are grown and consumed around the world. Peanuts started to be produced in large quantities in the 1900s due to the growing popularity of peanut butter, peanut candies and other peanut products.
3. Although peanuts come in many varieties, four main types can be found in the United States: Virginia Peanuts, Runner Peanuts, Spanish Peanuts and Valencia Peanuts. Peanuts are a wonderful food, rich in nutrients and flavor. Peanuts and peanut butter are part of the daily diet of millions of Americans. The combination of fiber and protein in peanuts satiates hunger. Thus, eating peanut helps manage weight and provide the key nutrients that are important to diet.
4. Peanuts are also natural energy boosters that contain healthy fats, proteins and antioxidants. Research shows that eating peanuts can decrease your risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic health conditions. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that people consuming two tablespoons of nuts or peanut butter at least five days a week can lower the risk of developing diabetes by almost 30 percent. Peanut butter is also full of the good kind of fat also known as monounsaturated fat that is heart-healthy and prevents belly fat that people get from carbohydrates or saturated fat.
5. For centuries, peanuts have been used in many culinary applications, including Chinese, African and Western cooking – in stews, sauces, mixed dishes, boiled or even plain – nourishing various populations with an enjoyable flavor. The great advantages of using peanuts in the kitchen are their availability and affordability. Peanut oil is also becoming a popular option for cooking because of its healthy fats and high cooking temperature. On the sweet side, peanuts are commonly used for ice cream, brownie mix or cake batter. Peanut flour is an asset for pastry chefs because of its ability to act as a fat binder in confectionery products or to add flavor and extend shelf-life.
6. A long-time American favorite, the peanut offers countless healthy properties and natural nutrition to all populations and age groups. Found mainly in four different varieties in the U.S., peanuts enhance the flavor and boost the nutritional value of food dishes from breakfast and

snacks to dinner and dessert. As a nut, oil, flour or butter, peanuts are a very versatile and tasty ingredient.

a) Make notes on the passage given above in any format using recognizable abbreviations. Give a suitable title to the passage. 5

b) Write a summary based on the notes that you have made, in about 80 words. 3

SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS

30 MARKS

4. Your school is leading an awareness campaign against felling of trees and the need to plant trees. Design a poster highlighting the dangers of cutting trees on a large scale and its impact on life. You are the Secretary of the Disaster Management committee. (Word limit -50 words) 4

OR

You are Rohit/ Ritu, Secretary, Welfare Association, ABC Nagar, Chennai. Write a notice in not more than 50 words to be placed on the notice board, informing the residents that there would be no water supply for two days in your colony due to major pipeline repair work. Invent all necessary details.

5. You are Shamina/Shan of 45 Raja Gardens, Mysore. You see the following advertisement in The Hindu and decide to apply for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement.

[Wanted young and dynamic candidates for the post of a Project Engineer. Qualification: a bachelor's degree in engineering from a reputed college. The candidates should have a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary commensurate with qualification and experience. Apply with a detailed Biodata to, The General Manager, Confident Group, sector 4, Pune, within 10 days.]

OR

6

It gives you a good feeling when you read in the newspapers how patients from abroad come to hospitals in India and get themselves treated at a fraction of expenses they would have incurred elsewhere. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily describing the importance of medical tourism for India. You are Karan/ Karuna, M 114, Mall Road, Kanpur.

6. You were travelling by Konark Express from Chennai to New Delhi. Suddenly, 3 bogies of the train got derailed and the train came to a grinding halt when it was nearing New Delhi. All the passengers awakened from their slumber realizing that their lives were in danger. Co-passengers from the other bogies of the train came to their rescue. Draft a report in 150-200 words for a leading newspaper. You are Akash/ Ambika travelling in an unaffected compartment of the same train.

OR

10

The time we spend on watching TV — most of it is spent on watching commercials. Most of the newspaper space is also taken up by advertisements. What is luxury for us is described as a need. We are made to buy things we don't really require. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on 'Advertisements — their role in a common man's life'. You are Navtej/Navita.

7. Games are very important as they strengthen the muscles and are an efficient means to channelize our energy. There was a time when parks in the evening could be seen full of children and streets with those playing cricket, badminton, table tennis etc., but it is not so today. Children prefer to be confined to their four walls, surfing the Internet or chatting on cell phones etc. Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly in 150-200 words on 'Games are Necessary to Keep Our Younger Generation Fit and Strong.'

OR

10

You are Sumil/ Sarita of Sunrise Public School, New Delhi. You have been chosen to participate in a debate competition on the topic 'Community service once in a week should be introduced in all schools and should be graded.' Write the debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION C LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

8. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: (4x1=4)

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- Why is it hard for Aunt Jennifer to pull the ivory needle?
- Which poetic device has been used in line 1?
- Explain: "the massive weight of Uncle's wedding band".
- What does the 'wedding band' signify?

OR

*What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about,
I want no truck with death.*

- What should not be confused with 'total inactivity'?
- Explain: 'Life is what it is about'.

- c) Why does the poet say “I want no truck with death”?
- d) Name the poem and the poet.

9) Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (3x4=12)

- a) How does the poem, ‘An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum’ portray the children?
- b) What did the secretary of the British officer tell the Maharaja? Why did the Maharaja refuse permission?
- c) List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem ‘A Thing of Beauty’ that give joy and happiness to man.
- d) How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?
- e) Why did Sophie say “Damn that Geoff, this was a Geoff thing, not a Jansie thing”? Why didn’t Sophie want Jansie to know anything about her meeting with Danny Casey?
- f) Who is Jo? How does she respond to her father’s story telling?

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

Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran? Which factors helped the fear stricken peasants of Champaran to achieve freedom from the landlords?

OR

Edla’s empathetic and compassionate behavior changed the life of the rattrap seller. Do you think that an act of kindness can change a person’s view of the world?

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

The lesson “On The Face of It” is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of disability. Explain.

OR

What could the Governor have done to securely bring back Evans to prison when he caught him at the Golden Lion? Does the final act of foolishness really prove that “he was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor, that was all?”

12.) Answer the following question in about 120-150 words:

6

Attempt a character sketch of Molly Farren. How does she affect the course of action that takes place in the story?

13.) Answer the following question in about 120-150 words:

6

How does Eppie's existence shape Silas Marner's life?

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