

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION

GRADE: XI | CBSE

TOTAL MARKS:

80

ENGLISH

DATE: 21/01/2020

TIME: 3Hrs

SECTION A — (Reading) 20 marks

1. Read the following passage carefully. (12 Marks)

1 To make our life a meaningful one, we need to mind our thoughts, for our thoughts are the foundation, the inspiration, and the motivating power of our deeds. We create our entire world by the way we think. Thoughts are the causes and the conditions are the effects.

2 Our circumstances and conditions are not dictated by the world outside; it is the world inside us that creates the outside. Self-awareness comes from the mind, which means soul. Mind is the sum total of the states of consciousness grouped under thought, will and feeling. Besides self-consciousness we have the power to choose and think. Krishna says: *“no man rested a moment inactive”*. Even when inactive on the bodily plane, we are all the time acting on the thought plane. Therefore if we observe ourselves, we can easily mould our thoughts. If our thoughts are pure and noble, naturally actions follow the same. If our thoughts are filled with jealousy, hatred and greed, our actions will be the same.

3 Karmically, however, thought or intent is more responsible and dynamic than an act. One may perform a charitable act, but if he does not think charitably and is doing the act just for the sake of gain and glory, it is his thoughts that will determine the result. Theosophy teaches us that every thought, no matter hollering, leaves a seed in the mind of the thinker. These small seeds together go to make up a large thought seed and determine one’s general character. Our thoughts affect the whole body. Each thought once generated and sent out becomes independent of the brain and mind and will live upon its own energy depending upon its intensity.

4 Trying to keep a thought from our mind can produce the very state we are trying to avoid. We can alter our environment to create the mood. When, for instance, we are depressed, if we sit by ourselves trying to think cheerful thoughts, we often do not succeed. But if we mix with people who are cheerful we can bring about a change in our mood and thoughts. Every thought we think, every act we perform, creates in us an impression, like everything else, is subject to cyclic law and becomes repetitive in our mind. So, we alone have the choice to create our thoughts and develop the kind of impressions that make our action more positive.

5 Let us choose the thought seeds of right ideas, noble and courageous aspirations that will be received by minds of the same nature. Right introspection will be required of us to determine what we really desire to effect. Everything in the universe is inter-related and inter-dependent, that we live in one another and by accepting the grand principle of universal brotherhood we shall be in a position to appreciate what a heavy responsibility is ever ours to think right. Let us reflect and send loving and helpful thoughts and lighten the load of the world’s suffering.

495 words

1.1 Answer the following questions:

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| a. How can we make our life meaningful? | 1 |
| b. Why does Krishna say, <i>“No man rested a moment inactive?”</i> | 2 |
| c. How do our thoughts affect the whole body? | 2 |
| d. How can we change our mood when we are depressed? | 2 |
| e. How can we bring about the desired effect? | 2 |

1.2 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

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|------------------------------|---|
| a. Full of activity (Para 3) | 3 |
|------------------------------|---|

- b. Happening in cycles (Para 4)
- c. to look into one's own thoughts and feelings (Para 5)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 8 Marks

The small village of Somnathpur contains an extraordinary temple, built around 1268 A.D. by the Hoyasalas of Karnataka-one of the most prolific templebuilders. Belur and Helebid are among their-better-known works. While these suffered during the invasions of the 14th century, the Somnathpur temple stands more or less intact in near-original condition.

This small temple captivates with the beauty and vitality of its detailed sculpture, covering almost every inch of the walls, pillars, and even ceilings. It has three shikharas and stands on a star-shaped, raised platform with 24 edges. The outer walls have a profusion of detailed carvings: the entire surface run over by carved plaques of stone. There were vertical panels covered by exquisite figures of gods and goddesses. with many incarnations being depicted. There were nymphs too, some carrying an ear of maize (a symbol of plenty and prosperity). The elaborate ornamentation, very characteristic of Hoyasala sculptures, was a remarkable feature. On closer look - and it is worth it - the series of friezes on the outer walls revealed intricately carved caparisoned elephants, charging horsemen, stylized flowers, warriors, musicians, crocodiles, and swans.

The temple was actually commissioned by Soma Dandanayaka or Somnath (he named the village after himself), the minister of the Hoyasala king, Narasimha the Third. The temple was built to house three versions of Krishna. The inner centre of the temple was the kalyana mandapa. Leading from here were three corridors, each ending in a shrine, one for each kind of Krishna-Venugopala, Janardana and Prasanna Keshava, though only two remain in their original form. In the darkness of the sanctum sanctorum, I tried to discern the different images. The temple's sculptural perfection is amazing and it includes the doors of the temple and the three elegantly carved towers.

324 words

- 3.1 Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations, with suitable titles 5
- 3.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. 3

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills 30 marks

- 3. The students' council of your school has organized an excursion to Goa for students of class XII during the Autumn Break. As President of the council, write a notice in not more than fifty words informing the students about this excursion. Sign yourself as Ravi / Raveena. 4

OR

Suman/Suresh has cleared the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental entrance examination. The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get-together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get-together.

- 4. You are Nitin/Natasha a student of Class XII at K.P.N. Public School Faridabad. The student is required to cope with lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways to combat the same. 6

OR

You are Suresh/Smita. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a Nursery teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching tiny-tots. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/she should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, AKS International, Indirapuram, New Delhi within 10 days with detailed resume.

5. Some colleges conduct entrance test for admission to under-graduate courses like English (Hons.) and Journalism (Hons.). Do you think that the entrance test is the right method of selecting students? Write an article in about 150-200 words. You are Rohan/Rachita, a student of class XII at A.P. International School Agra. 10

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Satish/Sakshi. You had the opportunity of playing Hide-n-Seek when you visited your cousins in a small town. You decide to write an article on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games for the school magazine. Write the article in 150-200 words.

6. You are Rahul, the Headboy of Creative Public School, Delhi. Recently your school hosted the Regional Level CBSE Science Exhibition. Write a report of this event for your school newsletter in about 125 words. 10

OR

The International Book Fair was inaugurated by the Chairman of Children's Book Trust, Dr. Kumar. The theme this year was Illustrated Works of Children. You are Akshay/Akanksha a class XII student of A.K. International School Mathura. You visited the exhibition and were impressed with the range of books on display. Write a factual description in about 125 words.

Section C: Literature and Long Reading 30 marks

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow 3marks

*And yet, for these
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,
Where all their future's painted with a fog,
A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky
Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words.*

- i. What does the map on the wall signify? 1
ii. Who are these children? What is their world like? 2

8. Answer any three of the following questions . 3x3=9

- a. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from Nature?
b. Why does Spender call Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example?
c. Why does a beautiful thing 'pass into nothingness'?
d. What is the significance of the parting words of the poet and her smile, in My Mother at Sixty-six?

9. Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words. 3x6=18

- i. The life of bangle makers of Firozabad was full of obstacles which forced them to lead a life of poverty and deprivation. Discuss with reference to Lost Spring.

- ii. Franz's attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the take over of his village by Prussians. Do you agree ? Discuss with reference to the The Last Lesson.
 - iii. Individuals who belong to enemy countries tend to hate each other even if they do not know each other personally. At times it is seen that some of them rise above such prejudices. What makes a human being do so?
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