

PRE BOARD EXAMINATION-2 (DECEMBER - 2019)

CLASS: XII

ENGLISH

Time: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 80

SECTION A – READING

1. Read the passage carefully and write the most appropriate answer in your answer sheet against the correct question number.

1. In I went, for the third time, into the sea. The sand was smooth and firm and shelved gradually down so that I could wade out till the water was almost to my neck and the little waves splashed into my face. But at that depth my feet began to leave me and I durst venture in no further. As for the yard, I saw it bobbing very quietly some twenty feet in front of me.
2. I had borne up well until this last disappointment; but at that I came ashore, and flung myself down upon the sands and wept.
3. The time I spent on the island is still horrible a thought to me that I must pass it lightly over. In all the books of people I read cast away, they had either their pockets full of tools or a chest of things would be thrown upon the beach along with them. My case as very different. I had nothing in my pockets but money and Alan's silver button; and being inland bred, I was as much short of knowledge as of means.
4. I knew indeed that shell-fish were counted good to eat; and among the rocks of the isle I found a great plenty of limpets, which at first I could scarcely strike from their places. There were, besides, some of the little shells that we call buckies; I think periwinkle is the English name. Of these two I made my whole diet, devouring them cold and raw as I found them; and so hungry was I, that at first they seemed to me delicious.
5. Perhaps they were out of season, or perhaps there was something wrong in the sea about my island. But at least I had no sooner eaten my first meal than I was seized with giddiness and retching, and lay for a long time no better than dead. A second trial of the same food (indeed I had no other) did better with me and revived my strength. But as long as I was in the island, I never knew what to expect when I had eaten; sometimes all was well, and sometimes I was thrown into a miserable sickness; nor could I ever distinguish what particular fish it was that hurt me.
6. All day it streamed rain; there was no dry spot to be found; and when I lay down that night, between two boulders that made a kind of roof, my feet were in a bog.
7. The second day, I crossed the island to all sides. There was no one part of it better than another; it was all desolate and rocky; nothing living in it but game birds and the gulls which hunted the outlying rocks. But the creek, or straits, that cut off the isle from the main land of the Ross, opened out on the north into a bay, and the bay again opened into the sound of Iona; and it was the neighborhood of this place that I chose to be my home; though if I had thought upon the very name of home in such a spot, I must have burst out weeping.
8. I had good reasons for my choice. There was in this part of the isle a little hut of a house like a pig's hut, where fishers used to sleep when they came there upon their business; but the turf

roof of it had fallen entirely in; so that the hut was of no use to me and gave me less shelter than my rocks. What was more important, the shell-fish on which I lived grew there in great plenty; when the tide was out I could gather a peck at a time; and this was doubtless a convenience. But the other reason went deeper. I had become in no way used to the solitude of the isle, but still looked round me on all sides (like a man that was hunted) between fear and hope that I might see some human creature coming. Now from a little up the hillside over the bay, I could catch a sight of the great, ancient church and the roofs of the people's houses in Iona. And on the other hand, over the low country of the Ross, I saw smoke go up, morning and evening, as if from a homestead in a hollow of the land.

9. I used to watch this smoke, when I was wet and cold and had my head half turned with loneliness; and think of the fireside and the company, till my heart burned. It was the same with the roofs of Iona. Altogether, this sight of men's homes and comfortable lives kept hopes alive and helped me to eat my raw shell-fish and saved me from the sense of horror I had whenever I was quite alone with dead rocks and fowls, and the rain, and the cold sea.
10. I say it kept hope alive; and indeed it seemed impossible that I should be left to die on the shores of my own country, and within view of a church tower and the smoke of men's houses.

1.1 Select any five of the correct option from the ones given below:

- (a) The castaway was upset because (1)
- i. there was no hope of escape
 - ii. the yard was twenty feet away
 - iii. the water was unbearable
 - iv. the sand was sinking beneath his feet
- (b) The major problem that confronted him first was that (1)
- i. there was no hope of escape
 - ii. the yard was twenty feet away
 - iii. the water was unbearable
 - iv. the sand was sinking beneath
- (c) "... home in such a spot, I must have burst out weeping". He wept because (1)
- i. he was alone in hut
 - ii. of the giddiness
 - iii. there were animals around
 - iv. of the loneliness that engulfed him
- (d) The fact that he never lost hope, was because he (1)
- i. had food
 - ii. had place to live
 - iii. could see houses
 - iv. found a boat
- (e) "...I had good reasons for my choice". Because... (1)
- i. house was like a pig's hut
 - ii. fishers used to sleep there
 - iii. shell fish was in plenty
 - iv. he could catch a sight of the great, ancient church

- (f) The main thing that kept him alive was (1)
- i. Shell fish
 - ii. Hope
 - iii. Pig's hut
 - iv. View of church tower

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) How was the narrator unlike the usual castaways? (1)
- (b) Food apparently did not seem to be an issue to the narrator but this was merely an illusion. Why? (1)
- (c) What was the place that the narrator decided would be a good lodge for him? (1)
- (d) What advantages did his dwelling offer? (1)
- (e) What kind of hope kept him alive? (1)

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

- a. undertake (para 1) (1)
- b. eat greedily (para 2) (1)

2. Read the passage carefully and write the most appropriate answer in your answer sheet against the correct question number.

It is popularly known as the miracle tree. It is known as Nimba in India. The Sanskrit name of Neem is 'Arishtha' meaning 'the reliever of the sickness'.

It is a tall evergreen tree with small, bright green leaves. It is up to 100 feet tall. It blossoms in spring with small white flowers. It has a straight trunk. Its bark is hard, rough, scaly and fissured even in small trees. The color of the bark is greyish brown. The leaves are alternate and consist of several leaflets with serrated edges. Its flowers are small and white in color. The Olive-like edible fruit is oval, round and thin skinned.

Neem tree is found throughout India. It is a popular village tree. It is also widely grown in Ranthambore National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Mrugavani National Park, Bannerghata National Park, Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary and Guindy National Park. Neem tree can easily be grown in dry, stony, shallow and clayey soils. It needs very little water and plenty of sunlight. Young Neem trees cannot tolerate excessive cold.

The indigenous people of Nilgiris consume the dried and powdered tubers of the terrestrial orchids as an energizing tonic. Neem also holds medicinal value. Each part of neem is used in medicines. It has been used in Ayurvedic medicines for more than 4000 years. Neem oil extracted from its seeds is used in medicines, pest control, cosmetics etc. Its leaves are used in the treatment of chickenpox. According to the Hindus, it is believed that the Goddess of chickenpox, Sithala, lives in the Neem tree. Neem tea is usually taken to reduce headache and fever. Its flowers are used to cure intestinal problems. Neem bark acts as an analgesic and can cure high fever as of malaria. Skin diseases can also be cured with Neem leaves.

People in India use Neem's twigs to brush their teeth. Neem is considered as a useful tree in rehabilitating the wasteland areas. Neem seed pulp is useful for methane gas production. It is

also useful as carbohydrates which are a rich base for other industrial fermentations. Neem bark contains tannins which are used in tanning and dyeing. In south India, its wood is used to make furniture. The bark of Neem yields the fibre that is woven into ropes. Neem cake is widely used in India as fertilizer for sugarcane, vegetables and other cash crops. Many countries have been consistently growing the Neem tree against global warming. The worldwide Neem Foundation has helped in making people aware about the importance of Neem and its uses globally.

It is said that planting Neem tree in the house is an ensured passage to heaven. Its leaves are strung on the main entrance to keep away the evil spirits. Neem is a wonder tree and finds mention in a number of ancient texts.

- 2.1 Make notes on the passage given above in any format using recognizable abbreviations. Give a suitable title to the passage.** 4
- 2.2 Write a summary based on the notes you have made in about 80 words.** 4

SECTION B – WRITING

- 3. Swami Vidya Niketan, Nagpur is looking for a computer teacher for the school. Write an advertisement on behalf of the administrative officer in the classified columns of the local newspaper giving necessary details. Draft the advertisement in not more than 50 words.** 4

OR

The Principal of DPS Palampur wants to invite the Mayor of the city to flag off the Go-Green Campaign. Draft a formal invitation. (100-120 words)

- 4. You are Satish/Sonali, the students prefect in-charge of the school library. You have been asked to place an order for children's story books (ages 10-13 yrs). Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to M. S. Book Depot, Ramnagar, Bikaner placing an order for the books. Invent the necessary details.** 6

OR

Board examinations bring a lot of stress and anxiety for not only the students but also the parents. Write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times in 120-150 words expressing your views on the system. You are Rohit/Arpita of #42, Sector A, Pocket B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

- 5. Government has banned the use of animals in the laboratories for the purpose of dissection. Write a debate in 150–200 words either for or against this decision. You are Pratap/Pratima.** 10

OR

You recently attended a workshop on creative writing that was conducted by Scholastic India Ltd. Write a report in about 150-200 words for your school magazine giving details. You are Akshay/Akshita of Grahma Public School, Indore.

- 6. You are Prakrit/Prakruti, a student of S P Model School, Kurukshetra. Your school has organized a physical fitness camp for a week. Ten schools from the state are attending the camp. Various fitness experts and sports personalities are here to enlighten the students. As one of these experts you are to deliver a speech on healthy habits. Write a speech in 150-200 words.** 10

OR

To enforce strict discipline in schools and colleges is a great problem nowadays. As Mohan/Mohini, write an article in 150-200 words about the problem and your views on punishment as a corrective measure.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

7.1 ...felt that old

**familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile**

- i. How does the poetess describe her mother's face? (1)
- ii. What did she recall? (1)
- iii. Why did she only smile? (1)
- iv. What is meant by 'familiar ache'? (1)

7.2 Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,

**This map becomes their window and these windows
That shut upon their lives like catacombs,
Break O break open 'till they break the town
And show the children to green fields, and make their world
Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongues
Run naked into books, the white and green leaves open
History is theirs whose language is the sun.**

- i. Who spells hope for these children? (1)
- ii. What does the word 'map' imply in the above lines? (1)
- iii. What will happen when the children will be truly liberated? (1)
- iv. What is the meaning of the word "azure"? (1)

8. Answer any five of the following questions in about 30-40 words each.

- a) Do you see an intersection of time and space in the story 'The Third Level'? (2)
- b) What is suggested by the image 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band'? (2)
- c) What changes did the order from Berlin cause in school that day? (2)
- d) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water? (2)
- e) What made the peddler accept Edla Willmansson's invitation? (2)
- f) What were Gertrude's first memories of the hostel? (2)

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

6

- a. Why is Antarctica the place to go to, to understand the earth's present, past and future?

OR

- b. "Self-reliance, Indian Independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together". Justify.

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

6

- a. Discuss the message of Pearl S. Buck's 'The Enemy'.

OR

- b. Human Beings view nature merely as a 'resource' to be 'exploited' or even an enemy that needs to be vanquished. Comment with reference to 'The Tiger King'.