

FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2019 – 2020)

CLASS: XII

Subject: ENGLISH (CORE)

Date: 02.12.2019

Time Allowed: 3 Hours.

Maximum Marks: 80

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General instructions:

- (1) All questions are **compulsory**.
- (2) Marks are indicated against each question.
- (3) Please check that this question paper contains **9** printed pages only.
- (4) Please check that this question paper contains **10** questions.

SECTION-A

(READING: 20 Marks)

**Q1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below:**

**12**

**My first ever rollercoaster ride**

1. I have come to a theme park to meet rollercoaster enthusiast Jay Murray, to find out what makes these rides so popular. Jay estimates he has been on 700 rides in the past 10 years, and is surprised that I have never been on one. He says that one of the attractions of these rides is that you feel out of control, but safe. Jay really wanted to emphasize the importance of safety. "All rides are tested for 1,000 hours before they open to the public," he said. "They also do a test run on every ride each morning, and there's a thorough annual inspection too."
2. Rollercoasters first appeared in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Russia. These were sloping structures up to 15 metres high, built of wood, with a layer of ice on the surface which people would slide down. Rollercoasters with wheeled sledges were developed soon afterwards. Later, in Pennsylvania, in the USA, a train that had been used to deliver coal was converted to carry passengers on day trips. This gave a man called LaMarcus Thompson the idea to open a park with pleasure rides at Coney Island, New York. A school teacher by profession, he had the eye of a designer, and the mind of a businessman. In just three weeks, he raised enough money from the rides to pay for the cost of building the park.

3. By 1888, Thompson had built nearly 50 rollercoasters around the USA and Europe. He introduced new technologies such as cables to pull trains uphill, but it was another man, John Miller, who came up with a design for an under-friction wheel, which kept trains firmly attached to the rails. This meant that they could go faster and on steeper tracks, without falling off. This invention appeared in 1912.
4. The introduction of steel tracks meant that the structures were significantly stronger, making rides safer. This also enabled engineers to be more ambitious in their designs, with the knowledge that the rides would still feel smoother. The tracks became quieter too, which was another bonus. Modern rides have a range of features, including floorless trains, free-fall drops, rolls and loops – all of which mean that if you go on a ride these days, the experience is so intense. “That’s why I love them,” said Jay. “You forget who you are for a minute.” The names of some famous rides reflect these features – Tower of Terror, Formula Rossa and Steel Dragon are just some examples.
5. However, there are limits to the physical forces that a person can tolerate on a ride. People can cope more easily with the positive vertical – the feeling of being pressed into their seat – than the negative vertical, which pushes them out of it. Interestingly, Jay points out that the desire to make rollercoaster rides higher and faster is slowly being replaced by a trend towards more complex rides, which offer a more lasting experience. Jay explains: “A world-famous ride such as Kingda Ka (in the USA) is over in less than ten seconds. Although such a ride is thrilling, and gives you a rush of adrenaline, there is an alternative. You can try a ride like Helix (in Sweden), which lasts for two minutes – it’s my number one at the moment.” All the same, Jay was eager for me to experience ‘air time’ – the moment when you reach the top and hang, weightless, before plunging down the other side. And when I finally did, I had to admit that it was fantastic!
6. Enjoying roller coasters is linked to sensation seeking – the tendency to enjoy varied, novel and intense physical experiences such as rock climbing and parachute jumping. But what sensation do roller coasters provide that is so alluring? At first glance, it may seem to be down to the experience of speed. But the evidence for linking sensation seeking to

speed is not compelling. For example, when it comes to driving at speeds above the legal limit, many people do it, not just sensation seekers.

7. The Irish Sun reports that a new study has revealed that the rush of riding rollercoasters has the ability to reduce stress and enhance memory. The research, which was carried out by Thorpe Park in England, suggested that spending even an afternoon going on rollercoasters could have “astonishing” health benefits.
8. Well, obviously some would say that they make their living off people going on rollercoasters, but apparently there is actually some truth in this. “The euphoric buzz generated by the flood of feel-good chemicals into the rider’s brain and body can often fade fairly rapidly,” said Dr. David Lewis, a leading neuropsychologist who headed up the Thorpe Park study.

**1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:** **1x5=5**

- a. Theme parks ensure the safety of the ride every day by
  - i. testing all rides for 1,000 hours.
  - ii. a thorough annual inspection.
  - iii. keeping them open to the public.
  - iv. a test run on every ride each morning.
  
- b. The earliest rollercoasters were covered in
  - i. wood.
  - ii. wheeled sledges .
  - iii. layers of ice.
  - iv. coal.
  
- c. The railway in Pennsylvania originally transported
  - i. passengers.
  - ii. coal.
  - iii. pleasure riders.
  - iv. ice

d. Jay Murray believes rollercoaster rides in the future will be

- i. complex and with more lasting experience.
- ii. on steeper tracks.
- iii. higher and faster.
- iv. on floorless trains.

e. Jay Murray's current favourite ride is

- i. Tower of Terror
- ii. Helix
- iii. Formula Rossa
- iv. Kingda Ka

1x5=5

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:**

a. How did the use of steel tracks change a person's experience of going on a rollercoaster ride? Give two details.

b. How does the range of features of modern rides affect the experience?

c. What did Jay want the author to experience?

d. What evidence does the article give to show that linking 'sensation seeking' to speed is not compelling?

e. What are the two benefits of riding rollercoaster as per the report of the Irish Sun?

1x2=2

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

a. considerably (para 4)

b. diverse (para 6)

**Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

8

High blood pressure, or hypertension, occurs when your blood pressure increases to unhealthy levels. Your blood pressure measurement takes into account how much blood is passing through your blood vessels and the amount of resistance the blood meets while the heart is pumping. Narrow arteries increase resistance. The narrower your arteries are, the higher your blood pressure will be. Over the long term, increased

pressure can cause health issues, including heart disease. Hypertension is quite common.

Hypertension is generally a silent condition. Even then, these symptoms may be attributed to other issues. Symptoms of severe hypertension can include headache, shortness of breath, nosebleeds, chest pain, dizziness, etc. They don't occur in everyone with hypertension, but waiting for a symptom of this condition to appear could be fatal. For example, if you have a family history of heart disease or have risk factors for developing the condition, your doctor may recommend that you have your blood pressure checked twice a year. This helps you and your doctor stay on top of any possible issues before they become problematic.

Hypertension is of two types – primary and secondary hypertension. Primary hypertension is also called essential hypertension which develops over time with no identifiable cause. Most people have this type of high blood pressure. The factors which play a major role include genes, physical changes and environment. Secondary hypertension often occurs quickly and can become more severe than primary hypertension. Several conditions that may cause secondary hypertension include side effects of medications, consumption of some drugs and alcohol, adrenal gland problems, etc.

Diagnosing hypertension is as simple as taking a blood pressure reading. Most doctors' offices check blood pressure as part of a routine visit. If your blood pressure is elevated, your doctor may request you to have more readings over the course of a few days or weeks. That's because your environment can contribute to increased blood pressure, such as the stress you may feel by being at the doctor's office. If your blood pressure remains high, your doctor will likely conduct more tests to rule out underlying conditions. These tests can include urine test, cholesterol screening and other blood tests, ECG (electrocardiogram) test and ultrasound of your heart and kidney. These tests can help your doctor identify any secondary issues causing your elevated blood pressure. They can also look at the effects high blood pressure may have had on your organs. During this time, your doctor may begin treating your hypertension. Early treatment may reduce your risk of lasting damage.

Complications of the hypertension may result in damaging of arteries, heart (cardiac arrest, heart failure, arrhythmias, etc.) and brain.

Healthy lifestyle changes can help you control the factors that cause hypertension. A heart-healthy diet is vital for helping to reduce high

blood pressure. It's also important for managing hypertension that is under control and reducing the risk of complications. A heart-healthy diet emphasizes foods that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean sources of proteins, also reducing dietary sodium, eating more veggies and cut back on sweets. Reaching a healthy weight should include being physically more active. In addition, exercise can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure naturally, and strengthen your cardiovascular system. Other activities can also be helpful. These include meditation, deep breathing, and yoga or tai chi. These are all proven stress-reducing techniques. Getting adequate sleep can also help reduce stress levels.

- (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.** 4
- (b) **Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.** 4

### SECTION: B

#### (WRITING SKILLS : 30 Marks)

- Q3.** You are Mrs. Patel. Your son is getting married. You are throwing a party to celebrate the occasion. On behalf of your husband and yourself draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words inviting friends and relatives to attend the function. 4

**OR**

Mr. Virat Kohli, who was to deliver a talk to help the cricket players of your school to motivate them in the game, is not able to come on the given day. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the new date on which he is coming. You are Gopal/Garima, Secretary Sports Club, Uday School, Green Park, Kanpur.

- Q4.** You placed an order with Regent Computer House for the supply of computers, computer tables and computer stationery. However, you felt disappointed when you opened the consignment. Eight of the fifteen computers were not the brand you ordered and two out of the eight tables ordered had wobbly legs. Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to the manager requesting him to replace the defective supplies. You are Sudha/Sudhir Chandran, Computer in Charge, New Valley School, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. 6

**OR**

New Horizon Public School, Port Blair, urgently requires a Physical Education Teacher to teach the senior classes. The instructor should also be able to teach swimming. The school places an advertisement in 'The National Express'. You are Arush/Arushi Sharma, from 21, First Cross Street, Chennai. Draft a letter in 120 - 150 words along with your bio-data for the advertised post.

- Q5.** Your school has recently organized a TEDx event. Renowned writer and dancer, Tishani Doshi, was one of the main speakers. She shared her experiences during "Student on Ice" programme which she took part in 2006. As Student Editor, write a report on the event in 150 - 200 words for the school magazine. You are Laxman/Lata. **10**

**OR**

'Bullying in Schools' is still a serious worldwide issue. Write a speech in 150 - 200 words about the topic, which you will deliver in the school assembly on the occasion of Children's Day.

- Q6.** Friends are an inseparable part of one's life. As the counselor of the school, write an article in 150 - 200 words on, "How to have and maintain healthy friendship." You are Rakesh/Reena. **10**

**OR**

Write a debate in 150 - 200 words either for or against the motion: "Examinations should be abolished as they are the most inefficient way of assessment."

**SECTION: C**  
**(LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS)**

**(Marks : 30)**

- Q7. Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly: **1x4=4****

**a. But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.  
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead ...**

1. How does the "flower of cities" flourish?
2. Who is referred to as the "flower of cities"?
3. What does the poet mean by "polished traffic" and why?
4. Identify the figure of speech used in the second line?

OR

b. It was the perfect place, she had always thought so, for a meeting of this kind. For those who wished not to be observed. She knew he would approve. 1x4=4

1. Who is the 'he' referred to here?
2. Why does she think he would approve?
3. Where is the speaker now?
4. Name the lesson and the author.

Q8. Answer any five of the following questions in 30 - 40 words each: 2x5=10

- (a) How did Franz's feeling about M. Hamel and school change?
- (b) What kind of life did the ragpickers live in Seemapuri?
- (c) When did the peddler feel being victim of his own line of thought?
- (d) Why doesn't the poet want 'doing nothing' to be associated with death?  
(Keeping Quiet)
- (e) What were the things that Jack disliked about women?
- (f) Why did Zitkala Sa feel like sinking to the floor?
- (g) What is a first-day cover? How did it help to solve the mystery of Sam's disappearance?

Q9. Answer the following question in 120 - 150 words: 6

"At last I felt released." How did Douglas overcome his fear?

OR

What did Gandhiji do to resolve the cultural and social backwardness in Champaran?

Q10. Answer the following question in 120 - 150 words: 6

"It was sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helped Evans to escape." Comment.

OR

How did Lamb make Derry gain confidence and come out of his shell?