

PRE BOARD-II (2017-18)

CLASS: XII

Subject: ENGLISH

Date: 11.01.2018

Time Allowed: 3 Hours.

Maximum Marks: 100

General instructions:

- (a) This question paper has 3 sections.
- (b) You may attempt any section at a time.
- (c) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.
- (d) Marks are indicated against each question.
- (e) Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages only.
- (f) Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions only.

SECTION A- READING SKILLS (30 MARKS)

1. Read the passage given below:

12

1. Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I hadn't done as well as I had expected. My father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well, my dear." "No, I haven't, Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It doesn't really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me. "I've never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I've done quite well." Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I

had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.

2. In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'now that you have a watch, you can't be late.'" That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay the owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! "When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money," he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. 'It was Baba's gift and it ought to remain so,' I told him.

3. Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger - until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he'd even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he'd told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his

passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options: 4

(a) Why was the narrator in tears when her school results came out?

- (i) She did better than she expected.
- (ii) She did not do as expected.
- (iii) Her Baba had not done well.
- (iv) Her Baba had done better than her.

(b) On knowing the result, how did the narrator's father react?

- (i) He scolded her.
- (ii) He beat her.
- (iii) He consoled her.
- (iv) He made fun of her.

(c) Why did the narrator say that she had nothing to complain?

- (i) She had done better than her father.
- (ii) She had done as well as her father.
- (iii) She had topped in her school.
- (iv) She had not worked hard at all.

(d) Choose the option that is not correct:

- (i) Baba was a senior official in the Indian Railway Service.
- (ii) Baba was to become a director with the Railway Board.
- (iii) Baba was the general manager of the Central Railways.
- (iv) Baba had got a second division in high school.

1.2. Answer the following: 6

(a) Why did the narrator's sick father want her to fetch files from his cup-board?

(b) Why did Baba buy Satish a watch?

(c) Why did the caterer not want to take money from the narrator?

- (d) Why were the narrator and her brother surprised on meeting the parking assistant?
- (e) Today years after his passing away what has the narrator realized about her Baba?
- (f) What was the story that Baba had invented on the day the narrator's results were published?

1.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following:2

- (i) tension / anxiety (para 1)
- (ii) servant (para 2)

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

10

1. The youth is a dynamo, an ocean, an inexhaustible reservoir of energy. But this energy cannot be kept in prison. Its basic nature is to flow, to express itself. The youth energy on the basis of the nature of its expression can be divided into four categories.

2. The vast majority of the youth today are with the establishment, whose formula of life is learn, earn, burn, and enjoy. It means learn to operate the modern devices and employ them to earn the maximum amount of wealth to the point of burning the natural resources of the earth, as well as yourself out, and then enjoy your own funeral. This category of youth is intelligent, skillful and hardworking but it lacks insight and foresight. They are self-indulgent and any sense of moral code of conduct is alien to their nature. Neither are they able to see in depth, to find out whether there is a deeper meaning and purpose to their human life, nor have they the capacity to look beyond the tips of their nose to find out the consequences of their way and approach, where it is leading them to. They are the ends unto themselves and enjoyment is the motto of their life.

3. The second category of youth in nature and approach is the same but as it is less privileged and less qualified and skilled; it has lesser opportunities for earning and enjoying. Such youth may be incited to be against the establishment. This opposition takes various forms. When it is well organised and systemic it may take the form of political opposition and even go to the extent of expressing itself in unjust ways. When the opposition is not so intense and organised, it remains content with giving verbal expression to its resentment periodically. The youth of the above

two categories need to be shown the correct path to positively channelize their energy.

4. The third section of youth is a sober and thoughtful class of people, which objectively observes and studies the phenomenon of development of the world. These youth find that man in his insatiable thirst for consumption has become blind and lost the sense of distinction between milk and blood. Today man in his mad rush for exploitation is sucking the blood of Mother Earth; leading to their destruction and is thereby digging his own grave. This responsible category of young people is looking for an alternative mode of development based on co-operation between man and man. This development based on mutual love, friendship and harmony is not only sustainable but leading to endless prosperity mutually. To bring about his natural revolution from death-movement to life-movement is the aim of this group.

5. The fourth and most vital group of youth which is going to usher humanity into the third millennium and act as the pioneer for the future development of planetary life is engaged in evolving a new way of life and releasing a new principle of global consciousness through a fundamental research in the science of life. The science of life is a new branch of knowledge which takes the whole man into account without dividing him into subjective and objective halves of spirituality and physicality and does not treat him either as a refined (thinking) animal or an ethereal entity, having its base in some other non-physical world. It, rather, recognises man as a basic unit of conscious life which has got immense, practically inexhaustible, possibilities and potentialities for evolution, development and growth. As per the Vedic formula, man is the micro-cosmos and his fullest flowering and enfoldment lies in his identification with the cosmos.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate option: 2

- (a) Which trait is lacking in the youth that is dexterous with the modern devices?
- (i) intelligence
 - (ii) perseverance
 - (iii) foresight
 - (iv) skillfulness

(b) Which category of youth supports the view that man's growth lies in his identification with cosmos

(i) the youth that will take us to the third millennium

(ii) that which supports sustainable development

(iii) youth that opposes the establishment

(iv) youth that is self-indulgent and unscrupulous

2.2 Answer the following briefly: **6**

(a) What is the most prominent quality associated with youth?

(b) Explain the formula of majority of youth.

(c) Give the merits and demerits of the pro- establishment youth.

(d) How does the dissatisfied youth express itself?

(e) Explain the attitude of modern man towards the Mother Earth.

(f) How is humanity likely to be ushered in a new millennium?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: **2**

(a) Having special rights, advantages (para3)

(b) A world in miniature (para5)

3. Read the passage given below and answer the following. **8**

Occasional self-medication has always been part of normal living. The making and selling of drugs has a long history and is closely linked, like medical practice itself, with belief in magic. Only during the last hundred years or so, as the development of scientific techniques made it possible diagnosis has become possible. The doctor is now able to follow up the correct diagnosis of many illnesses-with specific treatment of their causes. In many other illnesses of which the causes remain unknown, he is still limited, like the unqualified prescriber, to the treatment of symptoms. The doctor is trained to decide when to treat symptoms only and when to attack the cause. This is the essential difference between medical prescription and self-medication.

The advance of technology has brought about much progress in some fields of medicine, including the development of scientific drug therapy. In many countries public health organization is improving and people's nutritional standards have risen. Parallel with

such beneficial trends are two which have an adverse effect. One is the use of high pressure advertising by the pharmaceutical industry which has tended to influence both patients and doctors and has led to the overuse of drugs generally. The other is emergence of eating, insufficient sleep, excessive smoking and drinking. People with disorders arising from faulty habits such as these, as well as well from unhappy human relationships , often resort to self-medication and so add the taking of pharmaceuticals to the list .Advertisers go to great lengths to catch this market.

Clever advertising, aimed at chronic sufferers who will try anything because doctors have not been able to cure them, can induce such faith in a preparation, particularly if steeply priced, that it will produce-by suggestion-a very real effect in some people. Advertisements are also aimed at people suffering from mild complaints such as simple cold and coughs which clear up by themselves within a short time.

These are the main reasons, why laxatives, indigestion-remedies, painkillers, cough-mixtures, tonics, vitamin and iron tablets, nose drops, ointments and many other preparations are found in many households. It is doubtful whether taking these things ever improves a person's health, it may even make it worse. Worse, because the preparation may contain unsuitable ingredients; worse because the taker may become dependent on them; worse because they might be taken excess; worse because they may cause poisoning , and worst of all because symptoms of some serious underlying cause may be asked and therefore medical help may not be sought. Self-diagnosis is a greater danger than self-medication.

3.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, in points only, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary (Minimum four). Supply an appropriate title to it. 5

3.2. Write a summary of the above passage in about words. 3

SECTION B-ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS (30 MARKS)

4. You are Arnit/ Arnika. You want to sell your car as you are planning to buy a new one. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in the **Vehicles** column of a newspaper. **4**

OR

You are Dr. Amit Gupta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to preside over an Inter Zonal Declamation competition by Nalini, the President of English Literary Club of Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector-20, Chandigarh. Write a reply accepting the invitation.

Q.5. You are Nitin/ Natasha, staying at 20, S.F.S. Flats, Worli, Mumbai. You bought a mobile phone from "Mobile Villa", Mahim, Mumbai. The phone developed a problem within a few days of the purchase. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of the showroom complaining about the defect and seeking immediate replacement. **6**

OR

You are Mallika/Mayank, student of class XII, Modern School, Shimla. You are eager to enter the National Film Academy, Shimla, after your board results. Write a letter to the Director of the film academy seeking information regarding admission procedure, eligibility criteria, fee structure, placement opportunities, etc.

6. Even after sixty-five years of independence we have children who do not go to school, work in inhuman conditions and live in slums. As a nation we have somewhere failed in our duty. Write in about 150-200 words, an article for a newspaper. About the values we need to inculcate among the people of this nation in order to bring back the 'childhood' in the lives of these children. You are Anita/Arnav. **10**

OR

With a view to create awareness regarding pragmatic and realistic aspirations, St. Anne's school organised 'Career Counselling Programme' in the school premises. Various charts, models, equipments were displayed. Lectures, debates, discussions, plays were organised. A workshop on Dream High was also organised. Write a report in 150-200 words for the school magazine. You are Neha/Nikhil.

7. Ryan International School Murder Case is an eye opener to all. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic ' Failures will teach us good lessons' emphasizing that everyone has to undergo that phase with a positive outlook. You are Karan/ Kajal, Head Boy /Head Girl of D.A.V. Public School, Delhi. 10

OR

Blockade has done more good than harm to Qatar. Write a debate in 150-200 words for the motion. You are Shivam/Shivani.

**SECTION C-LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS & LONG READING TEXT
(40 MARKS)**

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1x4=4

*Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
Let's not speak in any language,
let s stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.*

- (a) What is the significance of the number twelve?
- (b) Which two activities does the poet want us to stop?
- (c) What does the poet mean by 'let's not speak in any language'?
- (d) Describe the pun on the word 'arms'.

OR

*..... I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with
pain*

- (a) Who is I?

- (b) What did I realise with pain?
- (c) Why was the realisation painful?
- (d) Identify and name the figure of speech used in these lines.

9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

3x4=12

- (a) What does the reference to chappals in Lost Spring tell us about the economic condition of the rag pickers?
- (b) What do we learn about the crofter's nature from the story, The Rattrap?
- (c) How is Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example for the children of the school in a slum?
- (d) What picture of male chauvinism (tyranny) do we find in the poem, Aunt Jennifer's Tigers?
- (e) How did the Governor, Oxford Prison, describe Evans to the Secretary Examination Board?
- (f) Why did Zitkala-Sa begin to cry at the dining table when others started eating?

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

6

Every teenager has a hero/heroine to admire. So many times they become role models for them. What is wrong if Sophie fantasises about Danny Casey and is ambitious in life?

OR

Our native language is part of our culture and we are proud of it. How does the presence of village elders in the classroom and M. Hamel's last lesson show their love for French?

11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:

6

Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment, but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment.

OR

How did Jack end the Roger Skunk story? How and why did Jo want to change it?

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

What made Cuss interview the stranger? What kind of interview was it and what was its outcome? 120-150 words

6

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

Marvel is the only character in The Invisible Man who interacts with Griffin and gains something. Comment. 120-150 words. **6**
