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DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL VINDHYANAGAR
PRE - BOARD EXAMINATION (2017-18)

NAME17/01/2017
ROLL NO.....

CLASS - X
SUBJECT – ENGLISH

Max. Marks: 80
Time: 3 Hrs.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS –

- (1) The paper is divided into three Sections- A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- (2) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (3) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.
- (4) Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer script before attempting

SECTION - A (READING)

20 MARKS

Q1 Read the following passage carefully:

Animals are great builders, using simple materials but employing sound engineering principles. Man has long used suspension bridges made of ropes of steel and concrete, which bear loads in tension. The webs of spiders provide the most vivid examples of animal structures built entirely in tension. Spider-web silk is so strong that many species of birds use it to build their nests. It has a stiffness index which is thirty times less than that of steel, yet has a tensile strength one and a half times as much as that of steel. Unlike steel, silk stretches to more than twice its original length before breaking. These qualities, it is now known, are owing to silk being a protein polymer composed of crystalline regions interspersed with region of randomly arranged chains.

Beavers are natural engineers. They use tree branches to construct dams, the divided end being pressed into the walls: this apparently serves to collect stress from a broad area and to focus it into a single trunk embedded in the substrate of the stream. The dams of the beavers have an angle of 45 degree on the downstream side. This enables the structure to bear not only its own weight acting downward but also resist the lateral pressure of water acting on the upstream side.

Constructing a very thick wall is uneconomical. Strength could also be provided to a thin wall by buttresses or by making the base wide. The nest of termite *Amitemes Meridionalis* is more than two metres high with a wide base which tapers at the top. This ensures greater resistance to shear forces.

Answer the following questions briefly:

8 marks

- 1) Name the three engineers of nature being discussed here.
- 2) What parallel can you draw between man's and spider's structure?
- 3) How can strength be provided to a thin wall?
- 4) Find a word in the passage which means 'scattered at interval'.
- 5) Why are the beavers called natural engineers?
- 6) How is silk more tensile than steel?
- 7) Why do beavers make their dams at 45 degree angle?
- 8) Why do *Amitemes Meridionalis* make more than two metres high nest with wide base?

Q2 Read the following passage carefully:

It is rare to find someone with a good technical and communication skills. You can get far ahead of your colleagues if you combine the two early in your career. People will judge, evaluate, promote or block you based on communication skills. Since habits form by repeating both good and bad forms of communication, learn to observe great communicators and adopt their traits- in writing and verbal forms. The art of listening and learning from each and every interaction, is another secret recipe. Develop the subconscious habit of listening to yourself as you speak and know when to pause.

Learning what not to say is probably more important than learning what to say. As your career develops, you will realize that the wise speak less. Speak when you have value to add, else refrain. Poorly constructed e-mail with grammatical errors are acceptable between friends, but they should be seriously avoided while communicating formally with your seniors. Avoid any communication in emotional state when you might say things you regret later. One unnecessary word uttered at the wrong time or place can ruin a relationship, career or even your life. Such is the power of words. If such a thing happens, you should immediately apologize, else it may haunt you for life.

Another problem to overcome is speaking too fast. Since our minds are working faster than our speech, we are inclined to speak fast. This does not necessarily mean that the person hearing it will get it any faster. On the contrary, it is always the reverse. So slow down, think before you speak. "When I get ready to speak to people" Abraham Lincoln said, "I spent two third of the time thinking what they want to hear and one- third thinking what I want to say." Adding humour and wit is also essential. But realize that not all jokes are funny and observe certain boundaries. Never say anything that could offend. Remember you are not a comedian who must offend as many people as you can, to be witty.

Answer the following questions briefly:

12 marks

- 1) Why is it necessary to have good communication skill? (2)
- 2) How can communication skill be developed? (2)
- 3) What according to the writer should be avoided while communicating? (2)
- 4) Why you should be careful when you tend to be humorous? (2)
- 5) How can we get far ahead of our colleagues? (1)
- 6) What subconscious habit should be developed? (1)
- 7) Find a word which means 'evaluate'. (1)
- 8) Which word in the passage means 'trait'? (1)

SECTION – B (WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR)

30 MARKS

Q3 Recently you bought a new smart phone but the phone developed a fault. Write a complaint letter to the company in about 120 words. **8 marks**

OR

You are Ritesh/ Ritika, Head boy/ Head girl of Tagore Public School, Jaipur. Write a letter to "New Star" Sports company, New Delhi asking him to send Sports materials of some popular sports for the Sports department of your school.

Q4 Complete the story using the given outline in 200-250 words. **10 marks**

Travelling in metro- tunnel- lights went out- general panic- pushing and shoving- screams- phone flashlights switched on- an old man.....

Or

dark rainy night- child alone at home- parents come back late from work – find a man ringing bell.....

Q5 Fill in the blanks with suitable words by choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below. **4 marks**

Millions of people(a).....trouble getting enough sleep. Recent research links lack(b).....sleep to health problems ranging (c)..... hypertension to weight gain.

You may have (d)..... medication.

- (a) (1) has (2) have (3) are (4) is
- (b) (1) of (2) from (3) with (4) in
- (c) (1) with (2) in (3) from (4) as
- (d) (1) try (2) aimed (3) trying (4) tried

Q6 The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect and the correct word in your answer sheet. **4 marks**

A spider spin a web out (a).....
of silk that came from inside their body. (b).....
The silk comes out as very thin liquid (c).....
threads. As soon as a thread touch the air, (d).....
it hardened.

Q7 Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. **4 marks**

- (a) Grandeur/ inside/ it/ was/ the palace/ all/ hall
- (b) The flower garlands/ pearls/ interwoven/ with/ were/ sparkling
- (c) Decorated/ was/ the/ wooden stage/ with a/ painted black cloth
- (d) Was/ like/ it/of/ garden/ looking/ Athens

SECTION - C (LITERATURE AND LONG READING TEXT)

30 MARKS

Q8 Read the extract given below and answer the following questions. **4 marks**

So I went home and sat down before my desk and.... waited, but nothing happened. Pretty soon, my mind began to wander off on to other things.

- (a) Who is 'I'?

- (b) What did I wait for?
- (c) What does the phrase, 'wander off' mean?
- (d) What were the other things the speaker was thinking of?

Or

"cowards die many times before their deaths
The valiant never taste of deaths but once."

- (a) Who is the speaker of the above lines?
- (b) Which characteristic feature of the speaker is revealed in the above line?
- (c) Whom is he speaking to? Why does he say these words?
- (d) Explain the above lines.

Q9 Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.

4x2 = 8 marks

- a) What does the dilapidated state of the statue of King Ozymandias suggest?
- b) Why did Sebastian guide Michael through the game?
- c) The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. Why does the poet experiences conflicting emotions on seeing the snake?
- d) Why did the other creatures of the bog loathe frog's voice? How did they express their disapproval of the frog?

Q10 Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-120 words.

8 marks

"Having a weakness for publicity sometimes leads to humorous consequences." Explain with reference to the chapter 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger'.

Or

"Tough days never last but tough people do." Explain this statement with reference to the chapter 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

Q11 Answer one of the following questions in 200-250 words

10 marks

- a) Write a character sketch of Dr Alexander Graham Bell.

Or

Describe Helen's trip to Washington in 1893. How was the trip fascinating to Helen?

Or

Anne's father was close to her. what did she like about him?

Or

How does Anne feel about the laws that restricted the Jews freedom?