

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, RANCHI REGION
PRE-BOARD - I EXAMINATION, 2024
CLASS: XII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)
SET 2

FULL MARKS: 80.

TIME: 3 HOURS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- This question paper consists of 10 Printed pages.
- This question paper is divided into 3 parts. SECTION A – Reading Skills, SECTION B- Creative Writing Skills, SECTION C – Literature
- All questions are compulsory.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, whenever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions:

1. It was the city's first indoor play park of its kind. Like a good mother, I was sceptical of virtually every aspect of it. How could it succeed? Why should it succeed? How would a set of contraptions in a room hold the attention of today's children? Don't call me paranoid: I stood with dozens of mothers in similar states of quandary while the cheerful staff whisked away the curious kids for an hour. "I thought she blew the whistle after 15 minutes", huffed the pre-teen when she returned.
2. The manager came up to me. "I told you, that child would have a blast," she laughed. And explained, "There are hardly any parks in our cities, "She meant, hardly anywhere children can be themselves and like a Maria in the 'Sound of Music', where they could climb a tree, scrap their knees and tear their dresses. Most of the recreation now is limited to electronic activity and given half a chance, children would jump for something more physically explorative. Even if it is simple stuff like climbing, wheezing down and jumping on a trampoline.
3. Latest research shows that computer games slow down brain development. The 'in' thing till yesterday, they are 'out' today. Says Nandita Sharma, parent of a well adjusted teenager, "Any mother can tell that standing at a console juggling a joy- stick isn't conducive to physical relaxation. I rationed Karan's hours at the video games and made sure he spent evenings with his friends in the little space outside the house". Nandita was also afraid that the bright lights of computer games could hurt young eyes. Nor did she like the topic most of the games are based on. "There is just too much violence and fast activity. I know my kid can't lag behind in today's world and computer games certainly sharpen reflexes, but I wish the games would be more interactive and socially inclusive."

4. Indeed, apart from making a zombie out of the child, research indicates that computer games only stimulate activity in the parts of the brain associated with vision and movement. It can also lead the child to be more violent. The lack of mental calisthenics curbs their agility in controlling their response to an unsavory situation.
5. Moreover, most electronic games isolate the child from the group fun of playing outdoors. Playing with peers and taking a toss or two appreciably strengthens the child's tolerance of others. This behavior is governed by the frontal lobe, which continues to develop in humans till about 20 years. The more this lobe is exercised during moments of restraint, the more the fibers connecting the neurons in this part of the brain thicken, improving the individual's control of reactions. Playing electronic games, research shows does not encourage the development of these lobe.
6. So now parents know what to do - put away the placebos. After school and home assignment hours, the best thing they could do for their kid is invite his friends home and roll the carpet away!

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- I. The author was paranoid about the indoor play park because ---- 1
 - (a) It could never provide the feeling of playing in a real park
 - (b) it would not engage the children
 - (c) she felt that the children may not like it
 - (d) She was worried about her child.
- II. The writer would not agree with the given statements, based on paragraph 4 **except --** 1
 - (a) Computer games aid a child's agility in controlling their response to an unsavory situation.
 - (b) A child becomes a zombie if he or she plays computer games.
 - (c) Computer games make a child more violent.
 - (d) Computer games stimulate activity in the brain associated with vision and movement.
- III. Comment on the writer's reference to computer games in paragraph 3 as a health problem for children answer in about 40 words. 2
- IV. Complete the sentence appropriately: Most computer games isolate a child from the group fun of playing outdoor games as a result the child becomes ____ 1
- V. What is the solution found by the parents to safeguard their children from overindulgence in gadgets? 2
- VI. Give one reasons why parents prefer outdoor physical activity for their children in comparison to video games. 1
- VII. The given passage points that the indoor play park was a hit. Based on your understanding state the reason for this success. Answer in about 40 words. 2

VIII. Read the given words given below:

1

- (1) Quandary
- (2) Aspect
- (3) Paranoid
- (4) Sceptical
- (5) Attention

Select the option that conveys the synonym of 'doubtful' from the words used in paragraph

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 & 5
- (c) Only 4
- (d) 3 & 4

IX. State whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE: In the above passage the parents are completely against the video games.

1

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Time is running out and they are worried. ? how will all the work be completed ? be it the Guptas of Pitampura, Mehtas of kalkaji or Sonia of Ghaziabad, parents in the city are in panic. With just over 20 days left for schools to reopen after the summer vacations, parents are working overtime to finish their children's holiday homework.
2. Vacations are meant for fun and children can't compromise. So, it's the parents who are surfing the Internet, painting charts, writing essays and designing models Sonal Gupta from Pitampura is busy all day. Her son, who studies in class 5 in a Vasantkunj school, is fond of taking frequent breaks while doing the homework - if at all he agrees to do it.
3. Says Sonal, "We started the homework only last week as vacations are going to be over soon. I have to sit all day with his homework, so irritating. He manages to sneak out saying it's his break time or that he is just bored". Sonal finds the Hindi homework most difficult you can't find any information in Hindi on the Internet. I have to think and write the 'anuchhhed' or book reviews on my own, Sonal adds.
4. Vandana Soni from Ghaziabad gets creative too- by coming up with ideas to make her children do their homework. "I promise them ice creams in the evening or a trip to the amusement park. I manage to convince them with attractive efforts", she exclaims. Sony distinctly remembers having made nine scrap books and nine charts for her children last year and is ecstatic that she has just two scrap books to make now.
5. Parents say they have to wrack their brains as most of the homework is usually so high level that students can't do it even if they take it upon themselves. "Last year, as part of my child's homework we had to go to the Akshardham Temple and click pictures inside (which is not allowed) for a project. Can a child do this alone? This year, I am still to start the Homework," says Sunita from Ghaziabad.
6. Take the case of her neighbor Suraj Kaul (name changed), who had to grapple with the writings of Premchand recently to form a gist for his son. Kaul even modified his writing style to make the piece

look genuine and written by a child. “What else could I do? My son is just in. How can he understand the expressions in Premchand’s stories? Kaul asks. And the need to finish the homework first was more pressing as the family has dared to plan a vacation.

7. Parents unanimously say that holiday homework is essentially for them. Even those who don’t get time because of their own work have in place alternatives. The ‘holiday homework special classes’ in the neighbourhood prove to be a lifesaver. Neha Gupta, who holds joint classes for completing the children's homework, says, “I help students of class II to XII from different schools. I look for information on the Internet and lead them to the right website. I also helped them make models. Nearly 15 children come to my joint class these days.”

8. Neha says she charges anything between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000 per child depending on the class and the volume of homework. “Parents don’t have enough time these days. They are ready to pay as long as the work is done,” Neha says. Many schools also give away prizes for the best homework or add the marks in internal assessment. This makes it almost imperative for parents to get the best quality.

9. But is it good for children to escape the work assigned to them? Vinay Kumar, principal DPS, Vasant Kunj, disagrees. “Homework should be fun for children. We provide the facilities. We don’t expect them to do the homework”, says Kumar. Considering the harassment parents go through during their child’s vacation, schools have also been making their homework more child oriented. Amita Mulla Wattal, Principal, Springdale School, Puma road, says “The purpose of homework is that the child remains involved with some creative activity during the holidays. The homework usually includes reading books. We then hold a week long exhibition of their work after the school reopens. So, we find out if a child had not done the homework himself or herself.

10. Ruma C Ailwadi, principle, Salwan Public School, feels the homework should be designed such that parents need to do it. “The holiday homework should help students keep in touch with the curriculum and also give them an opportunity to go beyond books,’ she says.

Based on your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions briefly:

- (I) Why are the parents in panic? 1
- (II) Why is Hindi homework considered the most difficult? 1
- (a) Because there is no information in Hindi on the Internet.
- (b) Because children do not understand the language or expressions.
- (c) Both A&B are correct.
- (d) Only a is correct.
- III) Find out proofs from the passage that efforts are made by the parents to complete the homework of their children. 1
- IV) What makes homework unrealistic for children? 1
- V) What is the main objective of giving homework? 1
- (a) Child remains involved with some creative activities during the holidays.
- (b) To add the marks in internal assessment.
- (c) to give away prizes for the best homework.
- (d) none of the above.

- VI) What proves to be a lifesaver for parents who do not find enough time? 1
- (a) The Internet with almost all the information.
 (b) The holiday homework special classes in the neighbourhood.
 (c) Parents are working overtime to finish their children's holiday homework.
 (d) all of the above.
- VII) Find out the Word from the passage which means the same as 'excited'. 1
- (a) Harassment
 (b) Ecstatic
 (c) Irritating
 (d) Exclaim
- VIII) Suggest a suitable title for the passage. 1
- IX) How much does Neha Gupta charge for helping in homework of the children? 1
- (a) Anything between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000 per child for any kind of homework.
 (b) Anything between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000 per child depending on the class and the volume of homework.
 (c) She charges as per the school.
 (d) None of the above.
- X) How do the parents convince their children to complete the holiday homework even when they become bore? 1

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

- 3. Attempt any one of the two in about 50 words.** 4
- A. You are the owner of a bookshop. Due to insufficient number of customers and low income and profit rates, you have decided to shut down your store. Write a notice informing all customers about the same.
- Or**
- B. As teacher coordinator of the Quiz club of Sunshine Public School, Pune. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the secretary of the club within a week.
- 4. Attempt any one of the two in about 50 words.** 4
- A. You are Riya/ Ratan, residing at 37/A Gandhi Colony, Hyderabad. You have decided to arrange a Dinner Party to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of your grandparents. Draft a formal invitation for all family members to attend the party at your residence.
- Or**
- B. Draft a formal reply declining an invitation to be present on the occasion of wedding of Amrita d/o Mr. and Mrs. Dhawan of 21/C Ganga Nagar, Raipur. You are Vikram/ Vinita of Ashoknagar, Agra.
- 5. Attempt any one of the two in about 120 - 150 words.** 5

A. You are a daily commuter from Noida to New Delhi by bus. Traffic jam is a regular reason for the harassment of the daily passengers. Write a letter to the editor of Times of India drawing the attention of the concerned authority towards the problem. You are Priti/ Prakash, resident of Akash Nagar, Noida.

Or

B. You are Anand /Arti of 14, Model Town, New Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of chief chef in a five star hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio data.

6. Attempt any one of the two in about 120 - 150 words.

5

A. Incessant rain has caused irrevocable damage in your area. As an active participant in the flood relief programme write a report for a local newspaper on the different flood relief measures carried out. You are Ramesh / Raima.

Or

B. Spending time in different social media platforms is now a trend among the young people. Write an article to be published in your school magazine on the pros and cons of the fact. You are Fatima/ Fahim

SECTION C–LITERATURE

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1X6=6

A. ... I looked again at her, wan,
pale
As a late winter's moon and 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. Identify the speaker's emotion in the given extract?

- (a) Empathetic and understanding.
- (b) Nostalgic and longing
- (c) Confused and disoriented
- (d) Fearful and apprehensive

II. State whether the given statement is **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a late winter's moon' is the same to the one used in the line, 'the winter wind wistfully wailed at night.'

III. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the sense of

anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother?

IV. Complete the sentence appropriately: The use of ellipsis at the end of the poem signifies _____.

V. What is the significance of the repetition of the word 'smile' here?

VI. What is the childhood fear of the poetess?

Or,

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.

They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

They pace in the sleek chivalric certainty.

I. Why are Aunt Jennifer's tigers prancing across the screen?

- (a) They are real animals
- (b) They love her
- (c) They are showing their actions
- (d) They are product of imagination

II. Name the poet of the given extract.

III. What is the meaning of the word 'sleek'?

IV. Complete the analogy: pace: stride:: chivalric: ?

V. State whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE: The tigers are the creation of aunt Jennifer's deep longing.

VI. What is the figure of speech used in the line: 'They pace in the sleek chivalric certainty'?

8. Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:

1X4=4

A, on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the end of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of catering celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

I. Complete the sentence appropriately: 'Students on Ice' is a programme offering a unique learning experience to _____.

II. In the given extract, which is NOT an indication for the future of mankind, as per the extract?

- (a) Depletion of ozone layer
- (b) Emission of CO₂ and other poisonous gases
- (c) Global warming

(d) Decreased temperature

III. Students on the Ice programme has been in operation for ---

(a) 6 years

(b) 4 years

(c) 5 years

(d) None of the above

IV. Whom does the author refer to as future generation of policy-makers?

Or

B. In the afternoon the second thing happened. Hana, working harder on unaccustomed labour, saw a messenger come to the door in official uniform. Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. The servants must have told already. She ran to Sadao, gasping unable to utter a word. But by then the messenger had simply followed her to the garden and there he stood. She pointed at him helplessly. Sadao looked up from his book, "what is it?" He asked the messenger and then he rose, seeing the man's uniform, "you are to come to the palace", the man said. "The old general is in pain again." "Oh", Hana breathed, "is that all?"

I. Give reason for the following: The messenger came to Sadao's house.

II. The above extract has been taken from

(a) Lost spring

(b) The Enemy

(c) Going Places

(d) On the Face of it

III. The phrase 'unaccustomed labour' means _____.

IV. What was Hana's fear in the given extract?

9. Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given:

1X6=6

a. "But of course it is you, Nils Olof!" he said, "How you do look!"

The man with the rattrap had never before seen the ironmaster at Ramsjo and did not even know what his name was. But it occurred to him that if the fine gentleman thought he was an old acquaintance, he might perhaps throw him a couple of kronor. Therefore he did not want to undeceive him all at once.

"Yes, God knows things have gone downhill with me," he said.

"You should not have resigned from the regiment," said the ironmaster.

i. Why does the ironmaster call the peddler as Nils Olof?

ii. Why does the rattrap seller not reveal his identity?

(a) He casually he went with the situation.

(b) He hoped for some monetary help from the ironmaster.

(c) He was afraid of not getting food and shelter.

(d) He was hoping to escape getting arrested.

- iii. State whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE: The rattrap seller knew the ironmaster but refused to recognise because of his present condition.
- iv. What does the expression 'things have gone downhill' mean?
- v. The personality traits of the ironmaster can be inferred from the extract are:

- (a) Helpful and friendly
- (b) Helpful and arrogant
- (c) Friendly and miser
- (d) Friendly and dubious

vi. What opportunity for him does the peddler see here?

Or,

b. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a part of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats: he will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. "I will walk," he insists. "Do you also dream of flying an aeroplane?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says, staring at the ground.

- i. What was Mukesh supposed to be if it was not his dream to be a motor mechanic?
- ii. "I will walk". This line shows Mukesh's –

- (a) Disappointment
- (b) Determination
- (c) Shyness
- (d) Helplessness

- iii. With whom was Mukesh sharing his dream?
- iv. Did Mukesh sound unreasonable?

- (a) May be
- (b) No
- (c) Yes
- (d) Can't be determined

v. Why did the writer ask if Mukesh wanted to fly an aeroplane?

vi. What do you understand from the line "and daring is not the part of their growing up?"

10. Answer any FIVE of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words:

2X5=10

- i. What does the title 'Lost Spring' suggest?
- ii. What are we single minded about and what effect do they have on our lives as expressed in the poem 'Keeping Quite'?
- iii. What was Rudyard Kipling's opinion about interview?
- iv. Why were M. Hamel's words like a thunderclap to Franz?
- v. What is the untold sorrow of the owners of the roadside stand? What was their urge to the city people?

- vi. Does Geoff believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey? How do you know that?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words:

2X2=4

- i. How did Hana help the wounded man?
- ii. Write a short note on the whimsicality of the Tiger King.
- iii. Who advised Bama to fight against social injustice and prejudice? How?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words:

5

- a. Roosevelt said, “All we have to fear is fear itself.” Douglas had fear and he overcame it. Imagine yourself to be the school captain of your school, who has to address the students in the morning assembly. Write a speech in about 120-150 words elaborating the given quotation with reference to the occurrences from the text ‘Deep Water’.

Or,

- b. How does humour and satire play a crucial role in enlivening the account of events and personalities at Gemini Studio as portrayed by Ashokamitran in ‘Poets and Pancakes’?

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words:

5

- a. Mr. Lamb showed a different way of life to Derry, still at some points he fell prey to disappointment and loneliness. How does he try to overcome them?

Or,

- b. Do you think escapism is the right way to deal with problems? Illustrate your point of view with reference to the ‘The Third Level’.