

Abraham Tmaga

BLUEBELLS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
KAILASH

CLASS XII

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION

24th AUGUST, 2016

Time allowed: 3 hours

Max Marks: 100

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper is divided in to 3 sections- A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory. You may attempt any one section at a time.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

Section A Reading (30marks)

1 Read the passage given below:

12

The doctors clamouring against reservations for OBCs, have demanded that merit be the sole criteria for admission to medical and engineering colleges. Then, how is it that they haven't objected either to the NRI quota or candidates who procure admission on the basis of capitation fee? Does this not affect quality? Reservation was introduced in the Kolhapur State as early as in 1902 and in the State of Mysore in 1921. In Tamil Nadu, where the human health index is much better than in other states, there is as much as 69 per cent reservation. Let us take for a moment that upper caste doctors are meritorious. But is this of any help to the nation when many of them use elite institutes as springboard to go abroad for higher wages. Nearly 70 per cent of doctors from AIIMS doctors go abroad. How are these elite institutes, under such circumstances, serving the interests of the common people? On the other hand, it has been in Tamil Nadu that a good number of SC/ST/OBC doctors, who procured admission into colleges due to the reservation policy, stick to their state or hometown, resulting in better healthcare services.

Reservation is not a phenomenon exclusive to our country. The American MNC, IBM, voluntarily introduced reservations for Blacks in 1930. In Malaysia there are reservations not just in jobs but also in contracts, licenses and company shares for Malays. Reservation for the depressed and weaker sections exist in many countries like Brazil, South Africa, Japan, Netherland and Ireland. There is 50 per cent reservation for Blacks and women in the medical faculty of Harvard University, and the Whites have never made an issue of being eligible only for 50 per cent of the seats. In fact, it is the handful of anti- reservationist doctors, who talk of disintegration of society on account of reservation, who are really responsible for creating dissension and obstacles in the ways of social justice of the OBCs. The media have, of course, played a negative role. But it is a reality that Indian society is constituted on caste lines. If the anti reservationists are so concerned about the disintegration of society on caste lines, they should first lead the

struggle against social discrimination.

Reservations get a job or admission even if they get less percentage of marks. In one of the cases, a person was in the Indian Revenue Service. He saw that candidates getting high marks in a competition were not necessarily successful in the field. Merit, as it is being presently understood, does not include honesty, hard work and patriotism. In the American school system, besides the syllabus, students have to undergo practical training in social services, etc. and marks are added in the certificate based on performance in this area. The only people talking of merit today are those who have studied in public schools or whose children study in such schools. The expenditure incurred on education in public schools is 50 to 100 times more than those of corporation/ government schools. There is a vast difference in quality between the teachers of public and government schools. Parents who can afford to send their children to public schools are mostly educated. They not only teach the children themselves at home but also provide coaching for them. On the other hand, parents who send their children to corporation/ government schools are mostly uneducated. These children have to lend a helping hand to their parents after schools hours. Under such circumstances, what are wrong if such students ask for concession of a few marks?

Reservation will bring unity and integration in society. Reservation in elite institutes will enable people from different social strata to come together and established bonhomie among them. It is true that reservation is not a permanent solution to the vexed problem of our society. As and when equal and compulsory education is introduced in the country, Dalits and OBCs will not stake their claims to reservation.

Reservation is not a panacea for the economic backwardness of the country. For this purpose, the government has already launched many schemes. Reservation is only a concession given to socially and educationally backward people, so that they may integrate with the mainstream. We have no objection if the poor among the upper caste people too, are the benefit of reservations. But the problem here is that the rich among them start taking advantage of the policy.

1. 1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer each of the questions given below with the help of options that follow.

(1x4= 4)

- a) The so called "elite" institutes do not serve the common people because
- 70% of the students trained there use these as a springboard to emigrate
 - they serve the interest of only upper caste doctors
 - merit is not the only criteria for admission
 - none of the above
- b) 'many of them use elite institutes as a springboard to go abroad for higher wages.'
- "springboard" in the above statement means
- opportunity
 - the impetus or conditions for a beginning, change, or progress

- iii) jumping off point
- iv) a flexible board
- c) Which of the statements given below is not true
 - i) IBM follows the policy of reservations for blacks
 - ii) there is reservation for Blacks and women at Harvard
 - iii) reservation is a phenomenon exclusive to our country
 - iv) Malays have reservations not only in jobs but also in contracts and company shares etc
- d) According to the writer, Dalits and OBCs will not stake their claims to reservation when
 - i) corporation schools and government schools improve their quality
 - ii) equal and compulsory education is introduced in the country
 - iii) expenditure incurred on education in public schools go down
 - iv) when there is bonhomie amongst everyone

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly.

(1x6= 6)

- a) Why were the Indian doctors clamouring against reservation?
- b) What idea do you get about reservations in Malaysia and Harvard University?
- c) How do the Indians and Americans differ in their ideas about merit?
- d) Point out the problems faced by the students in Government schools.
- e) What solutions have been suggested in the passage about reservation?
- f) What is the one idea you would agree whole -heartedly from the whole passage and give reasons for your choice.

1.3. Find words from the passage that mean the same as each of the following: (1x2=2)

- (a) the best possible, exclusive (b) money spent

2 Read the passage given below:

10

For many years now the Government has been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world; plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living.

We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes implementation of these laws

difficult.

Also, there is no ban on child labour in non-hazardous occupations. The act applies to the organized factory sector and not the unorganized sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, and waiters among other forms of unskilled work. This child labour continues because the implementation of the existing laws is lax.

There are industries, which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in UP and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knotted carpets. There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. In Kashmir because of the political unrest, children are forced to work while many schools are shut. Industries like gem cutting and polishing pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children.

The truth is that it is poverty that is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India; a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families, have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights. There is a lobby, which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills. But studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills, as they grow older. In these hell-holes like the sweet shops of the old, there is no hope.

Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases that can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fire works and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious cycle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labor perpetuates its own nightmare.

If at all the Government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory education can eliminate child labour.

Surely, if 380 million children were given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, as the late President Dr. Abdul Kalam used to say, "a second vision".

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer each of the questions given below with the help of options that follow. (1x2=2)

- a) The whole passage revolves around—————
- i) providing a better life for the children
 - ii) eradication of social evils
 - iii) employment of children
 - iv) eradication of child labour

- b) India ranks high in the field of
 - i) unemployment
 - ii) education infrastructure
 - iii) child population
 - iv) basic amenities

2.2 Answer the following briefly: (1x6=6)

- a) Why do the industries prefer child labour?
- b) What are the hazardous effects on children when they work in certain industries?
- c) Give reasons for the Government's inability to eradicate child labour?
- d) What was the Directive laid out by the Supreme Court in 1997?
- e) Children in Jammu & Kashmir are forced to work. Give reasons.
- f) What is the counter argument for the suggestion that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment is conducive to learning new skills?

2.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as each of the following:

(1x2=2)

- a) unfriendly b) intended as punishment

3 Read the passage given below:

8

We face situations of growing unrest and intolerance and this prompts us to wish and pray for our children's happiness, but what are we doing to ensure that? What tools and strategies are we providing our future generations to create a peaceful and positive planet?

The emotion of laughter is unique to human beings, although research suggests animals also sometimes express this emotion, though this is not fully confirmed yet.

Psychologist William James explained that an emotion is the mind's perception of physiological conditions that are a result of some stimuli. For example, if we cry, our bodily functions such as heartbeat and breathing change, creating certain sensations leading to a unique pattern of sensory feedback to the brain producing an emotion of sadness. But if we are sad, we don't have to cry. Similarly, if we laugh the emotional response of response of the body will always be happy. Working on these principles parents and teachers should encourage healthy humour in children creating a less daunting environment and encouraging more giggles and laughter.

Laughter is synonymous with happiness, which triggers the release of endorphins in the body, reducing pain, anxiety and stress. Benefits of laughter are known, but very little is known about the specific brain mechanisms involved in the process of laughing. It happens unconsciously and that's why it is difficult to laugh on demand. Laughter emerges in babies around four months of age and it is used in the same way as crying to communicate with the caregiver.

Research indicates that laughter requires a higher level of cognitive

development, as the child has to recognize incongruity such as understanding the unique actions of peek-a boo and respond by laughing. This emotion also promotes social development of the child as it induces reciprocation from the caregiver.

Children with a happy disposition are better able to cope with their individual limitations and shortcomings. Just like crying is used as a coping mechanism, some children to hide their inabilities or to attract attention also use laughter. A lot of teachers may have encountered class clowns; most of these students may have academic struggles and yet they try to gain teacher and peer recognition through laughter. Humour is a complex mental phenomenon and thus children with these skills can be more creative and look at life happenings with a positive perspective. Experiments show that when someone frowns or looks depressed, people avoid this person. But when someone smiles or laughs, people lower their guard and reciprocate with smiles or with laughter.

Teachers with a sense of humour are able to hold the attention of a student for longer and the outputs are far more productive. Humour can be using jokes, cartoons, mnemonics and other imaginative methods.

Schools should encourage laughter and comedy clubs for promoting healthy humour. The medical profession supports laughter and humour also. Hospitals in America are using 'comedy carts' with funny movies, cartoons and joke books to promote healing. Research indicates that even a fake smile or laughter can fool the hormones and bring about some positive feelings. Just like other therapies, laughter is a very powerful tool and a great strategy to spread cheer and positivity.

- 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 4) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)
- b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words (3)

Section B Writing Skills (30 marks)

- 4 Tanuja Rai, ex student of Gandhi International School, Trilokpuri, has started 4
6 scholarships in memory of her mother Smt. Rajeswari Rai. Draft a notice for the school notice board, inviting deserving students to give their names for consideration for the scholarship (50 words)

OR

Prepare an attractive poster in not more than 50 words urging people to adopt various methods in rain water harvesting in their colonies.

- 5 You are Arjun Sharma/ Arit Sharma, of 14, Navkunj Apartments, New Delhi 6
35. Roadside vendors occupy most of the space on roads and pavements, disturbing the flow of traffic and causing difficulties even to the pedestrians, Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views and suggesting ways and means to curb this problem. (120-150 words)

OR

You are Krishna Iyer / Rani Iyer , 4, Annadurai Apartments , Chennai. You wish to visit Udaipur and two other cities of Rajasthan during the December holidays. Write a letter to the Director, Rajasthan Tourism, Jaipur, enquiring about at least four things that you consider important, before planning your visit. (120-150 words)

- 6 The present day youth are under great stress due to the cut-throat competition and consumerist culture. Write an article in 150-200 words on the causes of the stress on the modern generation and suggest suitable solutions. 10

OR

"Nothing is impossible in this world. It is our will power and action that can turn the impossible into possible." Write an article on the topic for the school magazine in about 200 words.

- 7 "Are we happier than our ancestors?" Prepare a speech on this topic for the morning assembly in your school. (150-200 words) 10

OR

"Social net working is a bane". This is the topic for an inter school debate. Argue either *for* or *against* the topic in about 150-200 words.

Section C: Literature and Long Reading text (40marks)

- 8 Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow: 4

*What I want should not be confused
With total inactivity
Life is what it is about
I want no truck with death*

- What does Neruda imply by "total inactivity"? (1)
- What is 'life' about? (1)
- Explain: I want no truck with death (2)

OR

*On their slag heap, these children
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.
All of their time and space are foggy slum
So blot their maps with slums as big as doom*

- What sort of life do these children lead? (1)
- Which figure of speech is used in the last line? (1)
- What two images are used to describe these slums? (1)
- Is there any hope for these children at all? Give reasons for your answer (1)

- 9 Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words: (3x4=12) 12

- a) Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?
- b) How was the Tiger King brought up?
- c) Why did the messenger come to meet Sadao? What did Hana think about it?
- d) What opinion do you form of Mukesh's sister in law?
- e) Describe Douglas's second downward journey to the bottom of the pool.

10 Answer the following question in 120-150 words:

6

What is "linguistic chauvinism"? Analyze the order from Berlin in this light. How do you justify M. Hamel's views on French and the newfound love of the people towards their language?

OR

Why does Douglas as an adult recount a childhood experience of terror and his conquering of it? What larger meaning does he draw from this experience?

11 Answer the following question in 120-150 words:

6

The story The Tiger King is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story?

OR

Describe how Pearl S. Buck's story 'The Enemy' shows that basic human goodness overpowers all other factors.

12 In the novel 'The Invisible man' one can trace several themes. Elucidate. (120-150 words) 6

13 Attempt a character sketch of Dr. Kemp (120-150 words)

6