

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, ALAKNANDA
MID TERM EXAMINATION 2017-2018
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
CLASS XII

TIME: 3HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

DATE: 19.9.17

NO. OF PAGES: 6

Instructions:

- (i) All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) You may attempt any section at a time.
- (iii) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.
- (iv) Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.

SECTION-A-READING SKILLS (30MARKS)

Q.1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12 marks)

1. Many of us believe that "small" means "insignificant". We believe that small actions and choices donot have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step by step or day by day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day to day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. (When we look at children growing up , we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run.) The same is true in the natural world.) The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day to day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the " Mahatma". In fact there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day , hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.
4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them.. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.

5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedom and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams.. Often when our ideal goal looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

1. On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of given options: (1x4=4)

- a) The main idea in the first paragraph is that
 - (i) big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great
 - (ii) small actions and decisions are important in one's life ✓
 - (iii) overnight success is possible for all of us
 - (iv) personal changes are not important
- b) What does the writer mean by saying "chipped away at their bad habits"?
 - (i) steadily gave up bad habits ✓
 - (ii) slowly produced bad habits
 - (iii) gradually criticised bad habits
 - (iv) did not like bad habits
- c) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third paragraph?
 - (i) Gandhi became great overnight
 - (ii) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself
 - (iii) every day Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way. ✓
 - (iv) Gandhi never made mistakes
- d) What is done by great people to transform their lives?
 - (i) they approach life on day to day basis
 - (ii) they build character in small ways
 - (iii) they believe in performing everyday ✓
 - (iv) all of these ✓

2. Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x6=6)

- a) How do small actions and choices impact our lives?
- b) Describe organic process of growth through an example from the text.
- c) What according to the author is the 'universal law of nature'?
- d) How did Gandhi accomplish the most difficult tasks effortlessly?
- e) Which things about Gandhi's life were not seen by most people?
- f) How can we achieve our "ideal goals"?
- g) Find words from the passage which mean the same as ; (2)
 - (i) intentionally/purposely (para 3)
 - (ii) of deep significance (para 5)

Q.2. Read the passage carefully:

(10marks)

1. We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimage we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfil our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful- it works to find shortcuts in simple and easy ways.
2. Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the supreme.

3. All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on vedic treatises, assets in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.
4. The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude, they have allowed themselves to sink to. Nature is every one's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later corner us and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.
5. Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates.
6. This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with environment. What is worst is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!
7. We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals- this is what translates into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.
8. A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance, and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts.
9. This is the truth!

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

- a) How can a pilgrim keep his body healthy?
- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| i) By travelling light | ii) By eating small amount of food |
| iii) By keeping free from attachments. | iv) Both (i) and (ii) |
- b) How do we satisfy our ego?
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (i) By having a special darshan | (ii) By distributing alms. |
| (iii) By treating it like a picnic | (iv) Both (i) and (ii) |

(1x6=6marks)

2. Answer the following briefly.

- a) What change has taken place in our attitude towards pilgrimages?
- b) What happens when pilgrimages are turned into picnics? 6
- c) Why are we complacent in our spiritual efforts? 4
- d) How does nature respond when we try to be clever with it? 2
- e) In olden days with what attitude did people go on a pilgrimage? 4
- f) What message does the passage convey to the pilgrims? 8
- g) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: (1x2=2marks)
- (i) made/turned (para 3)

(ii) very satisfied (para 4)

Q3. Read the following passage carefully.

(8marks)

It seems that there is never enough time in the day. But , since we all get the same 24 hours, why is it that some people achieve so much more with their time than others? The answer lies in good “Time Management” refers to the way that you organise and plan how long you spend on specific activities. Good time management requires an important shift in focus from activities to results: being busy isn’t the same as being effective. Spending your day in a frenzy of activity often achieves less, because you are dividing your attention between so many different tasks. Good time management lets you work smarter- not harder- so you get more done in less time.

It may seem counter-intuitive to dedicate precious time to learning about time management, instead of using it to get on with your work, but the benefits are enormous. It improves productivity and efficiency. Your reputation as a professional grows. The stress levels dip and a world of opportunities opens up for you. Your career advances and important goals are reached.

Failing to manage your time effectively can have some very undesirable consequences. Deadlines are missed and the work flow is not only inefficient but of poor quality. It dents your reputations a professional and your career is in danger of being stalled. As a result your stress level shoots up

Every day interruptions at work can be a key barrier to managing your time effectively and, ultimately, can be a barrier to your success. Think back to your last work day, and consider for a minute the many interruptions that occurred. There may have been phone calls, emails, half way conversations, colleagues stopping by your office, or anything else that unexpectedly demanded your attention and, in doing so, distracted you from the task at hand. Because your day only has so many hours in it, a handful of small interruptions can rob you of the time you need to achieve your goals and be successful in your work and life. More than this, they can break your focus, meaning that you have to spend time re-engaging with the thought processes needed to successfully complete complex work. The key to controlling interruptions is to know what they are and whether they are necessary, and to plan for them in your daily schedule.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5marks)
- (b) Write a summary of the above in 80 words. (3marks)

SECTION- B- WRITING SKILLS (30MARKS)

Q.4. As secretary of the Alumni Association of Don Bosco School, Alaknanda, New Delhi, Write a notice announcing the meeting of the association to discuss the organization of Annual Alumni's Meet. Request all the members of the executive body to attend. Invent details of date, time, and place. You are Sukhen/ Vipasha. (50 words) (4 marks)

OR

You have a commercial flat suitable for an office/ bank. You wish to rent it out. Draft an advertisement for it to be published in 'The Times of India, New Delhi giving all the details.

Q.5. You are the librarian of LWS Senior Secondary School, Pune. You want to purchase a dictionary, a book on computers, a book for preparing for competitive examinations, and a book for IIT Entrance Examination for use of students and staff of your school. Place an

order with M/S Higginbothams, Mumbai, giving the details regarding the mode of dispatch and the mode of payment. (6marks)

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of a leading daily expressing your concern over the increase in the rate of road accidents, rash driving and overcrowded city transport. You are Sulekha/ Sudarshan of 10, Kamraj Street, Chennai.

Q.6. Bala Vaidyanathan of Hyderabad feels highly disturbed to see that in spite of government legislation against the dowry, cases of bride burning are on the increase as per the news paper reports. She decides to write an article on the immediate need for eradicating this social stigma. Write the article in not more than 200 words. (150-200 words) (10marks)

OR

There has been a mushrooming growth in slums. You feel that it is important that this problem is addressed at the earliest. Write an article in about 150 -200 words discussing the mushrooming slums and the ways to tackle this increasingly common problem. You are Raghav/Radhika a student of class XII of DAV Public School, Jaipur.

Q.7. You are Ahmed/ Adila of Gyan Bharti School. Your school recently celebrated its 25th Annual Day at your school auditorium, New Delhi. As the school Head boy/ Head girl, write a report in 150-200 words for the school magazine. (10marks)

OR

Of late you have read a lot of newspaper reports on the cases of violent behavior by school children. Some instances have been quite injurious and harmful to the victims. You are shocked by these accounts and decide to share your views with your school mates. Write a speech for the morning assembly on the topic, " Growing violence in children" : causes and remedies. You are Tushara/ Tushar.

SECTION-C -LITERATURE & NOVEL (40 MARKS)

Q.8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4)

On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head,
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open handed map
Awarding the world its world.

- What is the condition of the classroom wall?
- What are the two things that show a civilized race?
- What is the speciality of the Tyrolese Valley?
- Explain: 'Awarding the world its world.'

OR

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
An endless fountain of immortal drink
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

- Name the poet and the poem.
- Who does 'the mighty dead' refer to?
- What is the 'endless fountain' that the poet imagines?

d) Explain the figure of speech used in the third line of the stanza.

Q.9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (3x4=12)

a) How is the bangle industry of Firozabad a curse for the bangle makers?

b) How did his experience at the YMCA swimming pool affect Douglas?

c) What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?

d) "But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward."
What was the reward?

e) Why did Roger Skunk go to the wizard?

f) What did the gift of the rat trap signify?

Q.10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words (6marks)

Franz undergoes a dramatic change in emotions towards teaching and learning French from the starting of the day to the end of the day. Justify.

OR

How was the Champaran episode a big success. Elucidate.

Answer the following question in 120-150 words.

Q.11. Reflecting on the story, what did you feel about Evan's having the last laugh. (6marks)

OR

How is Derry's and Lamb's behaviour and attitude different towards people because of their physical impairment?

Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.

Q.12. Who was William Dane? How did he affect the life of Silas Marner? (6marks)

Q.13. Silas Marner lost his hoard of gold. Describe the circumstances under which his 'gold' is restored to him in the form of Eppie. (6marks)

John Keat.