Name __Kirti Nagpal__ Class & Section __XII-A__ Roll No. __5__

FIRST TERMINAL EXAMINATION–2015-2016
Class–XII
Subject–English

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.   M.M. : 100

Please check the total marks

Do not write any answers on the question paper.

General Instructions:

1.   The paper is divided into three sections – Section A (Reading), Section B (Advanced Writing Skills) and Section C (Literature).

2.   All questions are compulsory.

3.   Please attempt all the questions in one section before proceeding to the next section.

4.   Untidy work and exceeding the word limit will invite penalty of marks.

SECTION A (READING)

I.   Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (1x12=12)

1.   I ask a teenage girl, how often do you text? "250 times a day, or something," she tells me. The digital lives of teenagers have become the target of attacks, with critics arguing that it is creating a uniquely shallow and trivial culture, making kids unable to socialise face to face. Writer Susan Greenfield warns, "We could be raising a hedonistic generation who live only in the thrill of the computer-generated moment and are in distinct danger of detaching themselves from what the rest of us would consider the real world." But even when these accounts touch on real concerns, they do not really reflect the great mass of everyday teenage social behavior. The online chat, the texting, the surfing- that trend is real. But is it true?

2.   I don't think so. Let's go back to that girl who texts 250 times a day. The truth is, she was an extreme case because when I interviewed her, she was in a group of friends with a much wider range of experiences. Two others said they text only 10 times a day. One rarely visited Facebook and a few were devotees of Snapchat. As it turns out, the diversity of use in this group of friends is confirmed by research. Fewer than 20% of kids send more than 200 texts a day; 31% send barely 20 or fewer.

3. New technologies always provoke generational panic, which usually has more to do with adult fears than with the lives of teenagers. In the 1930s, parents fretted that radio was gaining "an invincible hold on their children". In the 80s, the great danger was the Sony Walkman – producing the teenager who "throbs with rhythms". When you look at today's digital activity, the facts are much more positive than you might expect.

4. Indeed, social scientists have found that their digital use can be inventive and even beneficial. It was found that the most avid texters are also the kids most likely to spend time with friends in person. One form of socialising doesn't replace the other. It augments it. Indeed, as they get older and are given more freedom, they often ease up on social networking.

5. Parents are wrong to worry that kids don't care about privacy. In fact, they spend hours tweaking Facebook settings or using quick-delete sharing tools, such as Snapchat, to minimise their traces. Or they post a photograph on Instaram, have a pleasant conversation with friends and then delete it so that no traces remain.

6. This is not to say that kids always use good judgment. Like everyone else, they make mistakes – sometimes serious ones. But working out how to behave online is a new social skill. While there's plenty of drama and messiness online, it is not, for most teens, a cycle of non-stop abuse: a study found only 15% of teens said someone had been mean or cruel to them online in the last 12 months. As wrenching as the worst-case scenarios of bullying are, and as urgently as those need to be addressed, they are not, thankfully, a daily occurrence for most kids. Even online sexual abuse may be rarer than expected- only 4% of teenagers had sent a "sext" and only 15% had received one – less of an epidemic than you would imagine.

7. But surely all this short-form writing is eroding literacy? Certainly, teachers worry. They say that kids use overly casual language and text speak in writing, and don't have as much patience for long, immersive reading and complex arguments. Yet studies of first-year college papers suggest these anxieties may be misguided. But even as error rates stayed stable, student essays have blossomed in size and complexity. They are now six times longer and offer arguments buttressed by evidence. Why? Computers have vastly increased the ability of students to gather information, sample different points of view and write more fluidly. In fact, the online world offers kids remarkable opportunities to become literate and creative because young people can now publish ideas not just to their friends, but to the world. This type of interaction online with strangers can make kids more community-minded. Teachers who understand this insight have begun to transform their classrooms.

8. Few would deny that too much time online can be harmful. Some of the dangers are emotional: hurting someone from a distance is not the same as hurting them face to face. Distraction is also a serious issue. And studies show that pupils don't check the veracity of information online – "smart searching" is a skill schools need to teach urgently. Too much social networking and game playing can cut into schoolwork and sleep. This is precisely why parents still need to set firm boundaries around it, as with any other distraction.

1. Adult fears regarding teenage online behavior are misguided because

   a. They don't have time to spend with their kids

   b. They are overprotective

   c. They are suspicious of new technology

   d. They have no control over their child's online activity

2. Which one of these statements is not true?

   a. Kids care about their privacy online

   b. Computers have improved the writing skills of children.

   c. Pupils don't check the veracity of information online

   d. Publishing ideas online makes kids vulnerable.

3. Texting has changed the way we write because

   a. Kids text speak in writing

   b. Their essays have blossomed in size and complexity

   c. Their arguments are supported by evidence

   d. They rely heavily on information gathered from a computer

4. The author is suggesting that

   a. Texters have better inter-personal relationships

   b. Hurting someone from a distance is safer for the victim

   c. Addiction to social networking sites is only a phase

   d. Increased online activity has made children casual

5. Why are the digital lives of our children a target of criticism? Give two reasons.

6. Why is it important for parents to monitor the online activity of their children?

7. In what way do teachers need to redefine the way they teach?

8. In what way, do you think, does online computer interaction make kids more community minded?

9. What kind of opportunities does the online world offer to the children to better themselves?

10. What is the health hazard of too much online activity for kids?

Locate words in the passage which mean the same as

11. Self-indulgent (para 1)

12. Reinforced (para 7)

II. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (1x10=10)

1. "Swachh Bharat", or Clean India, is a slogan that most Indians today associate with the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his first nation-wide campaign launched soon after taking office in 2014. The call has definitely awakened popular consciousness on cleanliness but whether citizens follow it or not is another matter. In fact, it is commonplace to find people calling out "Swachh Bharat" as they toss garbage onto the street. However, while the campaign may not have brought about the change it was aimed to usher in, a dialogue has started and it is a watershed moment for all those working in this area to capitalise on its momentum.

2. The idea of cleaning India up is not new, and neither is the term "Swachh Bharat" which has been used by many in the past and has now been "patented" by Modi. For decades, there has been concern with instilling an awareness of the need for cleanliness among citizens, many of whom even defecate in the open. The current initiative by the government may address the issue of cleanliness at citizens' level, but activists in the field of sustainable development argue that it should also cover issues related to water, energy and sewage disposal cleanliness.

3. Access to clean water is one of the main problems that the country faces. According to a report by UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), every year around 37.7 million Indians are affected by waterborne diseases, 1.5 million children die of diarrhoea alone and 73 million working days are lost due to waterborne diseases.

4. The problem does not appear to lie in the lack of availability of water treatment methods, but rather in the unwillingness of people to adopt these methods.

5. "From the field, we observed that the lack of adoption of water purification techniques is not due to low awareness levels and it was not even illiteracy, as is often assumed," said Kavneet Kaur, field manager for Development Alternatives. "There was an evident lack of effort and prioritisation of safety among people to undertake one or more options consistently that made drinking water safe," she added. Most slum dwellers, for example, "opted for methods that did not cost their pocket a penny. Those who did have access to cheaper methods of treatment, like chlorination and solar water disinfection (SODIS), avoided adopting these methods because they were time consuming."

6. For the last 30 years, DA, which works primarily in Bundelkhand in central India, has been addressing the behaviour change necessary for people to adopt water treatment methods. According to Dr K. Vijaya Lakshmi, DA Vice President, "hygiene behaviour has been shown to have the biggest impact on community health. However, despite its merit as the most cost effective public health intervention, ironically there was no global target to improve hygiene during the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era. It has become evident that the MDG framework has fallen short of addressing quality, sustainability and equity issues."

7. Apart from advocating the adoption of simple water purification methods, such as boiling, sieving and chlorinating, DA has also come up with innovations like the Jal-TARA Water Filter, which removes arsenic, pathogenic bacteria and excess iron from contaminated water, TARA Aqua+ (a sodium hypochlorite solution for purifying water), and TARA Aquacheck Vial, a device that tests for the presence of pathogenic bacteria. Nevertheless, these innovations are not destined to go very far unless there is a major change in the mindset of the Indian people, and this extends to the "Swachh Bharat" campaign, not just in terms of clean water but also of a cleaner environment.

1. Failure to adopt water purification techniques can be attributed to

    a. Low awareness levels

    b. Illiteracy

    c. Indifference

    d. Lack of prioritization of safety among people.

2. The 'Swachh Bharat' campaign focused primarily on

    a. Citizens' initiative for cleanliness

    b. Adopting innovative water purification methods

c. Issues related to energy and sewage disposal

d. Improving hygiene

3. Mention any two innovative water purification methods promoted by DA.

4. To what extent has the 'Swachh Bharat' campaign been successful?

5. Why is the report by the UNICEF and FAO alarming?

6. Why is there a reluctance among the slum dwellers in adopting water purification methods?

7. Has the global initiative of MDG been successful in improving the quality of life?

8. What is the opinion of the activists on the comprehensiveness of the 'Swachh Bharat' campaign?

Locate the words in the passage which mean the same as

9. Benefit (para 1)

10. Causing disease (para 7)

III. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (8)

Visiting one of our popular, relatively well-protected wildlife reserves, it is easy to convince oneself that all is well with India's wildlife. The truth is, our wild spaces have never been under greater threat. "Development" projects, mining, increasing market demand for forest products, poaching, pressure from agriculture and grazing, unregulated tourism and diminishing political will for nature conservation, are all taking a heavy toll. Unless everyone who professes to "love" nature resolves to give something back, the future could be quite bleak for our forests and wildlife.

Many people sincerely believe that by visiting wildlife reserves, taking beautiful photographs and posting them on the Internet, they are somehow contributing to conservation. Unfortunately, such is not the case. To photograph nature, one has to travel to various locations, burning tons of carbon in the process, stay in a lodge or resort that negatively impacts the environment and traverse the jungle in a vehicle that spews exhaust into the atmosphere, causing pollution. Other negative impacts include overcrowding of popular reserves, noise, littering, insensitivity towards wildlife, harassing of animals and, sometimes, violation of park rules. Without an active commitment to put one's photographs to use for the benefit of nature, the wildlife photographer is no different than a casual tourist, albeit, with a better camera.

While pictures of nature and wildlife are valuable when contributed to conservation causes, images that depict the destruction of nature are vital for creating change. Unfortunately, most nature photographers in India do not even consider taking "conservation photographs" such as road kills, mined slopes, deforested hillsides, ugly constructions within forests, or other manmade disasters inflicted on nature. Yet, pictures like these, with a record of the location, date and time, can help conservation immensely.

This doesn't mean there's no room for beautiful pictures, in fact we need beautiful images just as much as the issues. It does mean that the images exist for a reason; to save the Earth while we still can."

If you've only been photographing nature so far, taking "conservation pictures" will definitely require venturing outside your comfort zone. However, in the interests of India's wildlife, it's time for all nature photographers to add this genre of photography to their repertoire. The good news is, nature and conservation photography are not mutually exclusive and can be practiced side-by-side. The advantage with conservation photography is that, unlike nature photography, it is not dependent on sophisticated and expensive equipment, or great technical skill.

a. Make notes on the passage, using suitable abbreviations. Give your notes a suitable title.   (5)

b. Write a summary of your notes in about 80 words.   (3)

SECTION B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

IV. Cyberbullying among school children has seen an alarming rise in the past few years. Keeping this in mind, your school has decided to hold a series of workshops once a week on 'Gadgets and Value Education' for a month. As head boy/ head girl of Affinity Public school, Rohini, draft a notice for the students of classes VI-X, informing them about the same. Give all relevant details. You are Aman/ Aparna.   (4)

Or

On the occasion of the completion of 25 years, your school is organizing a grand Foundation Day Programme, which will include a felicitation of the meritorious students and a cultural show. Draft a suitable invitation to be sent to parents, requesting them to be a part of the celebrations. You are the head boy/head girl of Blossoms world school, Pune.

V. You are Rajat/ Rajni of 22/ 6, Officers' Colony, Mehrauli, New Delhi. You came across an advertisement for the post of a graphics designer at Idea Graphics, 4A/ 177, Daryaganj, Delhi, in a leading daily. Respond to the advertisement, giving necessary details.   (6)

Or

Your neighborhood park has been taken over by hawkers, idlers and families of workers at a construction site nearby. It also suffers neglect and has become a place for dumping waste as well as a parking lot. Write a letter to Mr. Manoj Arora, the President of the Resident Welfare Association, requesting him to restore your play area. You are Kshitij, student and resident of B block, Saket.

VI. You recently participated in an inter school debate on the topic 'Children below 12 should not be allowed to use smartphones' and won the first prize. Write your debate for or against the topic in about 125 words. You are Karan/ Komal of ShikshaVidyalaya, Meerut. (10)

Or

You were saddened by the death of the country's former president, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and were asked to speak in the special assembly at school on the necessity of effective role models for our youth today. Write you speech in not more than 125 words.

VII. Childhood obesity is a growing epidemic. It is the cause of many lifestyle diseases in children. The junk food industry is the fastest growing industry in the world today, thanks to ease of access and clever marketing strategies by fast food companies. Express your views on how the media and food regulatory bodies can play an effective role in helping children make healthy food choices in the form of an article in not more than 200 words. You are Samarth/ Sakshi. (10)

Or

According to a recent survey, a major reason for the rise in spinal disorders and back pain among young children can be attributed to the heavy school bags they are forced to carry every day. Many children also carry additional bags for co-curricular or sports activities, thus adding to the burden. Write an article on the need to free children from the heavy burden of school bags, in not more than 200 words. You are Saksham/ Sakshi.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

VIII. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4)

And yet, for these

Children, these windows, not this map, their world,

Where all their future's painted with a fog,

A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky

1. Who are 'these children'?

2. What image is used in the poem to describe the windows of the slum school?

3. Explain the phrase 'painted with a fog' with reference to the future of these children.

4. What is the map referred to in the poem and why is it not 'their world'?

Or

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,

1. What does the poet mean by the phrase 'a flowery band'?

2. Why do we need to wreathe a flowery band?

3. Explain the phrase 'inhuman dearth of noble natures'.

4. Give two examples from the poem of what constitutes a flowery band.

IX. Answer any four of the following questions in about 40 words each: (3x4=12)

1. What happened when Gandhiji tried to gather the facts about the sharecropping problem upon arriving at Champaran?

2. What happened when Douglas started to sink in the water the third time?

3. Describe the feelings of little Franz when the lesson in writing was in progress.

4. How is the public image of General Takima different from the rumours that circulated about him?

5. What did Jack do to make his stories interesting for Jo?

6. How were the fake phone calls important in Evans' plan of escape?

X. Discuss the following question in about 125 words: (6)

The alienation of people with physical deformities or disabilities by the society does more harm to them than the disability itself. Discuss with reference to the chapter 'On the Face of it', focusing on the values that are necessary to bridge this gap.

Or

What are the values which enable the rattrap seller to get out of the rattrap and clear himself? Discuss.

XI.   Answer the following question in about 125 words: (6)

How was Gandhiji's politics linked with the everyday lives of the people?

Or

What was the happy news that dispelled the Maharaja's gloom? How was this responsible for the king's frustration?

XII.   What were the various rumours about the invisible man that circulated in Iping village? Why was it so?   (6)

XII.   Discuss the character of Mrs. Hall.   (6)