

BVN

Name Bhawini Kapur Class & Section XII B Roll No. 23

## FIRST TERMINAL EXAMINATION-2014-2015

Class-XII

Subject-English

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

M.M. : 100

Please Check the Total Marks

*Do not write any answers on the questions paper. Check the total marks.*

### INSTRUCTIONS :

General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into three sections; A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- (iii) Attempt all questions in each section before going to the next section.
- (iv) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

### SECTION A - READING (30 MARKS)

1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow: 12

① Along the wide octagon at Delhi's India Gate where King George's statue once stood, the government has given its approval for a Rs 100-crore war memorial. On the occasion of the Kargil Vijay Divas, a vast open stretch of land was identified by the minister of defence Arun Jaitley and Narendra Modi himself proposed that an international consortium of architects be invited to design the structure.

Questions are now being raised on both the location, as well as the need for such a memorial. Why does India's volunteer army require a national commemoration, ask critics. Aren't soldiers who join the army, aware of the dangers of their tasks? Isn't death the unfortunate but inevitable by-product of war. Should there then also be memorials to fire fighters, police, private investigators, and others who face constant threat of death? What about politicians who die while serving the country or engineers who are killed for exposing fraud and graft? Death in the line of duty opens up a whole chasm of possibilities.

Obviously the soldiers who lost their lives in battle need to be remembered. But wouldn't their memory be better served in their own regiments or on their own home ground? A large contingent of soldiers from the Kumaon Regiment was killed in the Kargil War. On one of the largest parade grounds in Ranikhet, a granite memorial was erected and every year there is a sombre commemoration ceremony with full military honours. Because of the presence of family and friends from the soldier's village, it is a touching, heartfelt ceremony. ②

A repeat of their names on yet another plaque in the Capital is an odd method to perpetuate remembrance. The tendency amongst ministers and military to inflate every event to national significance is not an act of magnanimity, but one in which the government and the army itself come to be seen as heroes. When Kargil, other Pakistani wars and the China debacle are all clumped into a singular setting, the memorial becomes a national act of charity; meaningless and expensive, it gives an awkward stamp of anonymity to the event, and the person being recalled is made all the more remote by the sheer scale of the effort.

(Most of the recent memorials in the West are in fact places that invoke peace, Memories are too bitter, and the idea of war is a burden hard enough to bear, certainly not celebrate. So the Vietnam Memorial, though diligently noting all the names, buries the structure below ground, making a more effective statement about the futility of war itself. The names of the dead from the 9/11 tragedy are similarly carved in tombstones washed in water.)

para 6

If the Indian army is so desperate for a public proclamation, it should perhaps consider an easier option: India Gate is itself a war memorial honouring 90,000 Indian soldiers who died during World War I and the Afghan wars. Designed as a triumphal arch, its shape is precisely in tune with the army's wish to demonstrate a soldier's ultimate sacrifice. (What then if the names of the war dead after Independence were carved alongside others already commemorated on India Gate?)

para 6

Just as the Indian President moved into the house of the English Viceroy and converted Rashtrapati Bhawan to indigenous memory, (a structure of such architectural and historic as India Gate could become the rightful and longstanding insingnia of the Indian army.)

The meticulous use of its surface for all recent—and future—wars would effectively quash the irrelevant debate on the new memorial's location and to which foreign architect its design should be entrusted.

(2)  
At a time when history books are being subverted, funds being directed to statues of community icons, a growing political divide and a sense of unease between religions, the government must direct its most public and visible actions to serious forms of collective appeasement. Certainly, the defence of the country is a monumental act of territorial integrity and requires remembering. But in the wide open arena of nationalism and at its centre of focus around India Gate, any large-scale structures would go against the gain of Indian eulogies. India Gate as open space still remains the most effective memorial. (703 words)

Tick the correct answer

1 The author's objection to building new war memorial is:

(12X1)

a. A consortium of foreign and not Indian architects will be honoured

- b. The government proposal is a gimmick, not a heartfelt gesture
- c. Death in the line of duty does not need special commemoration at the national level

2. The memorials in the west symbolise:

- a. a plea for peace
- b. provoking bitterness
- c. celebration of sacrifice

3. The author's attitude can be summed up as:

- a. rational, arguments against government inflating every act to national level
- b. anti-soldier
- c. anti-government appeasement policies

4. The author's suggestion is:

- a. King George's statue should be reinstated
- b. India Gate is the right insignia for the army
- c. Memorials should be built around India gate

1. What triggered a controversy?

2. Mention one argument levelled by the critics of the proposal.

3. What sort of honour to perpetuate remembrance of soldiers makes it meaningful?

4. Exemplify how the memorials abroad show the futility of wars/ acts of violence.

5. How according to the author can the irrelevant debate on location of a new memorial be effectively quashed?

6. Do you think the author is biased in his views?

Find a word from the passage that means the same as the word given below

- 1. local (para6)
- 2. threatened/challenged (para 8)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (10)

1. He was a small, thin boy with a mole on his face. But what he told our seventh standard class many years ago still bothers me.

The moral science teacher had given us homework. We had been asked to pen an essay on 'happiness'. We all thought it was easy. But when we started writing it, we realised our limitations. Some of us wrote about the happy moments surrounding birthdays; some spoke of the emotional highs on getting a first in class; others remembered kites and whoops of joy. But the small, thin boy saw nothing in the events that excited us. Nothing at all. He was uninterested.

2. Yes, he was an oddity. He was often lost in his own thoughts though he appeared calm. He asked too many questions, and he answered them himself. He seemed to be searching for a friend and had found one in himself. His essay on 'happiness' was strange—at least it appeared so at that time. I did not know how to respond to it. Here is what I can recollect from his singular essay: "I do not know what happiness is. I can't define it. Is it a mood? Is it a thought? Is it about innocence? It's difficult. But I did feel happy last Wednesday when I opened my window."

3. "The atmosphere was right, there was a light breeze. Just across the window was a cashew tree, it was swaying gently. Something was building within me. And, then, a bright yellow leaf started falling. It circled and circled and fell. I don't know what happened, but I felt nice. It was a positive feeling. I smiled. Yes, you could say, I felt happy. I had never felt like that before."

The class of 1977 was certainly dazed. Happiness? Leaf? Small, thin boy with an attitude? If there were any doubts about the eccentricity of the small, thin boy, the essay had put them to rest.

4. Years have gone by and I still think about the falling leaf and my classmates. Are we taking our lives for granted? Do we see magic in the ordinary? Or are we wasting our time chasing the extraordinary? Are we searching for something that is right in our midst in our very selves? Have we found it? )

Just imagine what the lonely leaf has set off. It is a symbol of life itself, a friend tells me when I recount the incident of the small, tiny boy. Another interprets it as childlike innocence. The falling leaf, like life, is serendipity, says another friend. "It's everything—and nothing."

5. Indeed, the small, thin boy was explaining cosmic serendipity in his own way. If life is an accident, then let's view it as such. Let living itself be a moment of happiness, however small or large that instant is. At the end of the seventh standard term. I had numerous meetings with the small, thin boy. One day he was franker than ever: "I have often wondered what it's to experience a world without life. I have tried it and found it extremely disturbing. Even as there is a moment of happiness in seeing a leaf, there is sadness in experiencing a world without a leaf. And I am just beginning to understand it. "Reasoning, intelligence, wisdom, experience, imagination are fine. But they will never help you experience a falling leaf. It has to do with awareness," the boy said. I realise now that he was referring in his own way to consciousness.

6. It's an inner voyage that he had undertaken at a very young age. He had realised then that a leaf is not a leaf; that we must understand ourselves to understand what's beyond us; that awareness delimits our mind; and that awareness, Unlike memory, is self-effacing. For there can never be individual awareness. )

Yet, many years later, I only remember one cosmic individual and a falling leaf. (652)

Tick the correct answer:

1m×2

- ✓ 1. The passage is about:
  - a. The odd behaviour of the small boy
  - b. Movement of a floating leaf
  - ✓ c. Experiencing happiness and magic in the ordinary
  - d. An anecdote from a moral science lesson
- ✓ 2. What does 'cosmic serendipity' refer to here?
  - a. A serene cosmos
  - ✓ b. Chancing upon happiness through inner awareness
  - c. A cosmic flight
  - d. Search for cosmos
- ✓ 3. Why was the thin boy seen as odd? 1m
- ✓ 4. What marked the little boy as different from others? 1m
- ✓ 5. Briefly mention how he described happiness in his essay. 1m
- ✓ 6. What does the author mean when he questions; Are we taking our lives for granted? 1m
- ✓ 7. What did the leaf symbolise? 1m
- ✓ 8. How according to the author does awareness delimit the mind? 1m
9. Find synonyms from the given passage: 1m×2
  - a. Chance
  - b. Unassertive

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the given questions .

Last week, an IITian committed suicide. People who commit suicide do it when they feel there's no future. But wait, isn't IIT the one place where a bright and shining future is a foregone conclusion? It just doesn't add up, does it? Why would a young, hardworking, bright student who has the world ahead of him do something like this ?

But the answer is this-in our constant reverence for the great institution (and I do believe IITs are great), we forget the dark side. And the dark side is that the IITs are afflicted by the quintessential Indian phenomenon of academic pressure, probably the highest in the world.

I can rant about the educational system and how it requires serious fixing, or I can address the immediate-try my best to prevent such suicides. For this column I have chosen the latter, and I do so with a personal story.

News of suicide always brings back one particular childhood memory. I was 14 years old when I first seriously contemplated suicide. I had done badly in chemistry in the Class X half yearly exam. I was an IIT aspirant, and 68% was nowhere near what an IIT candidate should be getting. I don't know what had made me screw up the exam, but I did know this, I was going to kill myself. The only debate was about method.

Ironically, chemistry offered a way. I had read about copper sulphate, and that it was both cheap and poisonous. Copper sulphate was available at the kirana store. I had it all worked out.

My rationale for killing myself was simple-nobody loved me, my chemistry score was awful, I had no future and what difference would it make to the world if I was not there. I bought the copper sulphate for two rupees-probably the cheapest exit strategy in the world.

I didn't do it for two reasons. One, I had a casual chat with the aunty next door about copper sulphate, and my knowledgeable aunty knew about a woman who had died that way. She said it was the most painful death possible, all your veins burst and you suffer for hours. This tale made my insides shudder. Second, on the day I was to do it, I noticed a street dog outside my house being teased by the neighbourhood kids as he hunted for scraps of food. Nobody loved him. It would make no difference to the world if the dog wasn't there. And I was pretty sure that my chemistry score would be awful. Yet, the dog wasn't trotting off to the kirana store. He was only interested in figuring out a strategy for his next meal. And when he was full, he merely curled up in a corner with one eye open, clearly content and not giving a damn about the world. If he wasn't planning to die anytime soon what the hell was I ranting about? I threw the copper sulphate in the bin. It was the best two bucks I ever wasted.

So why did I tell you this story? Because sometimes the pressure gets too much; like it did for the IITian who couldn't take it no more. On the day he took that dreadful decision, his family and friends were shattered, and India lost a wonderful, bright child. And as the silly but true copper sulphate story tells you-it could happen to any of us or those around us. So please be on the lookout, if you see a distressed young soul, lend a supportive, non-judgmental ear. When I look back, I thank that aunt and that dog for unwittingly saving my life. If God wanted us to take our own life, he would have provided a power off button. He didn't, so have faith and let his plan for you unfold. Because no matter how tough life gets and how much it hurts, if street dogs don't give up, there is no reason why we, the smart species, should. Makes sense right? 673 words.

- CHETAN BHAGAT
- (IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad)

*no more  
anymore*

## SECTION B WRITING

4. You are Gaurav/Garima sports captain of SRM Sr. Sec. School Udaipur. Your school is going to host a friendly football match against the boys of a neighbouring school. Draft a suitable poster inviting students to be there as spectators and to cheer the players. (50 marks)

OR

You are the Head boy/Girl of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya Ahmedabad. Your Principal has proposed starting of an afternoon school for the underprivileged children where classes would be taken by students of class XII, Prepare a suitable notice giving all relevant details. (4)

5. You are Karan/Kritika Head boy/Girl of Sri Ram School, Gurgaon. Your Principal has asked you to make enquiries from Sai Tours & Travels, Gurgaon for an all expenses paid trip to Lakshadweep Islands during your up coming autumn break.

OR

The fatal Landslide at Malin Maharashtra saw hundreds of people dead and several other hundreds injured and rendered homeless. Making up all other details. Write a letter to the editor of a National newspaper, holding man responsible for all such Man-made tragedies, destroying the balance of nature. (6)

6. Teenage is perceived to be an exciting and joyful stage of an individual's life. Tara/Tarun feels that the pressure of the competitive world they live in has made teen years less thrilling and more stressful. Write an article titled 'on being a teenager' in 150-200 words. (10)

OR

'Capital Punishment' should be banned in India as it does not serve the purpose. Write your views in the form of a debate in 150-200 words on the above topic.

7. "What people read is what people believe". You are concerned about media's role in sensation alising news, moulding public opinion and moral policing. Write an article emphasising the responsibility of media. (150-200 words)

OR

There have been numerous cases medical world where patients have lost their lives for the lack of availability of healthy organs, even though their family members would have readily compensated the donor, if the rules permitted it.

Write a debate on "Organ donation" should be legalised in India'. (10)

8. Read the following lines and answer the questions with reference to the context
- ... of the inhuman dearth.  
of noble natures of the gloomy days  
of all the unhealthy and O'erdarkened ways

made for our searching : Yes, in spite of all some shape of beauty moves away the pall.

- (1) What is meant by "inhuman dearth of noble natures"?
- (2) What is 'gloomy days' ?
- (3) What is meant by 'unhealthy and O'erdarkened ways'?
- (4) 'What is pall ? What is the shape of beauty' the poet refers to ?

OR

- Perhaps the earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve and you keep quiet and I will go.

- (1) What is the lesson earth can teach ?
- (2) Why does everything seem dead ?
- (3) Explain "later proves to be alive"
- (4) What is the lesson poet would want us to learn ? (4)

9. Answer any four in following questions in about 40 words each : (4×3=12)

- (i) • What are the 'green wars' that the poet talks about ? How would the green wars affect our lives ?
- (ii) Why did the landlords agree to the idea of refunding the peasants money ?
- (iii) • The tiger king was unreasonable, fickle minded and short sighted. Give instances to support the statement.
- (iv) • Dr. Sadao Hokis servants did not approve of the American fugitive getting care and shelter at their master's house. What were their specific views on this issue ?
- (v) • How does Jo want the story to end and why ?

10. How did the instructor 'build of a swimmer out of Douglas' (125-150 words)

OR

- There are numerous instances of unexpected reactions from the characters to others' behaviour in 'Rattrap'. Elucidate. (6)

11. The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the disabled. What is the kind of behaviour they expect from others ? Answer keeping in mind 'On the face of it'. (6)

12. What unusual occurrences did Mrs. and Mr. Hall notice in the strangers room in early hours of Whit-Monday (150 words) (6)

13. Describe the episode of the chase between Mr. Marvel and the two Labourers. (150 words) (6)