

Shanti

VISHWA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, DWARKA
I TERM EXAMINATION (2017-18)

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII

TIME: 3HRS

DATE: 13-9-17

MM: 100

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All the questions in each section are compulsory.
2. Attempt questions in sequence as far as practicable.
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
5. Handwriting should be fair and legible. Avoid cutting and overwriting.
6. This paper contains 13 questions and 6 printed pages.

SECTION –A (Reading)

30 Marks

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become more easy and comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop a mind- set to have anything immediately without waiting for – even at the traffic signals.
2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy like, like.....” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of a meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.
3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is that 'instant coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up. Things should be easy. Why should things take long? It is unfair.
4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well – dismissing their achievement as pure luck – or think that they have support, help, and approach.....that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And so we give up.

5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn't solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the 'instant coffee' attitude.
6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread - making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for the hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For endeavour - whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, and physical fitness or even in spirituality - it is a long arduous journey.
7. Only if we are willing to spend time put in pains taking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from being happy and fulfilling. For we may not take that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.
8. I often come across clients who have changed their doctors and do that even after they have spoken to me - because they are on the lookout for a doctor who will instantly give them relief from their problems. One who will ensure that by the time they reach home from the clinic they will have wonderfully fulfilling relationships with their families. No wonder, most of us get bitter and disillusioned with life and ourselves and look for escape routes which seems to promise quick results.
9. The major problem with these 'instant coffee' solutions is that they are invariably short lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing we will realise how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of trading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially.

I. Answer the following questions choosing the most appropriate options:

6

1. Write out the correct option :

- a) Advancement in science and technology has resulted in the mind set to have things at their pace.
- b) Advancement in science and technology has resulted in the mind set to have things slowly and patiently.
- c) Advancement in science and technology has resulted in the mind set to have things instantly and fast.
- d) Advancement in science and technology has resulted in a give-up attitude.

2. The piano teacher believed that

- a) It takes very little time to learn music.
- b) It takes only a little practice to learn music.
- c) It takes only talent to learn music.
- d) It takes a life time of practice to learn music.

3. Write out the correct option :

- a) Real success comes to those who have 'instant coffee' attitude.
- b) Real success comes to those who work hard.
- c) Real success comes to the lucky ones.
- d) Real success comes to those who have a 'bread- making' attitude.

4. The major problem with the 'instant coffee' solutions is that

- a) they are invariably short - lived.
- b) they are not tried and tested.
- c) they are not reliable.
- d) they can harm in the long run.

5. The word in the passage having similar meaning as 'effort' is

- a) trial b) afford
- c) struggle d) endeavour

6. The verb form of 'bitter' is

- a) bite b) bitterly
- c) embitter d) bitterness

II. Answer the following questions briefly:

- a) Why did the young lady who wished to learn piano not go back to her teacher?
- b) What causes a person with 'instant coffee' attitude to get upset or dejected?
- c) What qualities do people with a 'bread-making' attitude have?
- d) What will be the disadvantage if we do not accept the 'difficult – but – true' fact of life?
- e) Pick out a word from the passage which means : *happening immediately* (Para 1)
- f) Pick out the word from the passage which means : *walking* (Para 8)

6

Q2. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:

STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

- 1. Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
- 2 My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
- 3. He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sheep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
- 4. The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

I On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

1X2=2

a) Why does the poet stop in between his journey?

- i) To enjoy the sight iii) to take a break
- ii) To recall the owner of the wood iv) to hear the harness bell

b) Why the horse may be surprised at the unscheduled stoppage ?

- i) It was a very lonely place ii) It was the coldest month of the year
- iii) It was approaching darkness during one of the coldest days iv) there was risk of bandits.

II Answer the following questions:

1 X 6=6

- a) What did the poet do at last?
- b) What can be said about the weather as described in the poem?
- c) Why the poet's act is called strange here?
- d) What message does the poet want to convey?
- e) Why does the horse feel perturbed?
- f) Which sounds are mentioned in the last stanza?

III Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

1X2=2

- a) strange (stanza 2)
- b) falling snow (stanza 3)

Q3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Had it not been for an alert and environmentally conscious judiciary, chances are that we would have literally been swallowing in our own filth. Once again, the Supreme Court has intervened decisively to prevent the further degradation of the Yamuna by asking industries discharging effluents into the river to install treatment plants by November 1 or face closure. The river, once Delhi's lifeline, is now 'dead' for a stretch of around 32 km around the capital. The courts have been forced into this sort of judicial activism time and again in the face of blatant violations of environmental norms both by industries and citizens. Over the last few years, the courts have facilitated the introduction of lead-free petrol, ordered the phasing out of automobiles which are over 15 years old and made pollution checks for all vehicles mandatory. The apex court has been relentless in its opposition to any move which affects the environment adversely. From banning polythene bags in cities to censuring pollution shrimp farms in Tamil Nadu and chemical units in Rajasthan, it has always upheld the principle that pollution prevent is better than control. The courts have laid down rigorous standards for industries right from the inception stage. Indian industry has been particularly indifferent to preserving the environment and the health of those in and around industrial units.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board has come up with a number of positive suggestions on enforcing the green agenda. But the response from industries has been tardy. One was a scheme which sought to pool the resources of industrial units so as to fund a common effluent treatment plant. But, industries find it more convenient to discharge their waste any which way, endangering the lives of those in the vicinity and degrading common resources like land and water. Proposals to levy commercial rates on water supply to industries have been overlooked so far, leaving industries with little incentive to treat and reuse water. Now the government itself has agreed to foot part of the cost to set up effluent treatment plants in the hope that this will motivate industry to take action. The common refrain that the technology required for waste management is expensive is valid, but industries have to realize that they cannot indulge in poisonous practices in the pursuit of profit to the detriment of the greater common good. It is this attitude that the polluter will not pay that has led the courts to step in. An example of the efficacy of judicial activism is the manner in which Agra has been rid of highly polluting industries which were destroying the fabled Taj. The Indian experience has shown that when faced with censure, industries prefer to shut shop rather than invest in clean technology. Many do so in order to cash in on burgeoning real estate prices as in the Mumbai mills story. In this context, the courts' insistence that environmental norms be built into project proposals is

commendable. Denying the permission to set up shop is hitting industry where it hurts the most. This will, in the long run, force it up to stop taking the green agenda quite so lightly.

Q1.1 On the basis of your reading the passage, make notes on the contents. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary (any 4) . Give a suitable title for it. 5

Q1.2 Make a summary of the passage. 3

SECTION –B (Advanced Writing Skills)

30 Marks

Q4. You are Dr Banerjee, M.D. You are looking for an independent house in Chandigarh on a reasonable rent for your residence – cum - clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in a national daily. (Word Limit: 50) 4

Or

You are Dristi / Daman, School Captain of Veer Public School, Chandigarh. Your school has decided to hold remedial classes for the weak students. Write a notice for the school notice board to inform the students of classes VI-XII about the remedial classes in the zero periods.

Q5 Kumar Shanu of Bareilly has purchased a frost- free Samsung refrigerator of 450 lt from Life Style, Civil Lines. Bareilly. After a month of purchase , the freezing section of the refrigerator has failed to function properly. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of the firm complaining about it and requesting for the piece to be replaced, since there is a two year guarantee. 6

Q6. Every day at the traffic lights people are accosted by little children selling pens , pencils, toys and other things or just begging for some money. Aryan, the head boy of Delhi International School, Noida has been thinking of ways and means of dealing with this problem. He writes an article for his school magazine to discuss this problem and gives his viewpoint of the problem and the solutions . Write his Article in 150-200 words 10

Q7. Mohit Sen, the president of the youth forum of his colony, attends a seminar on rampant corruption in social and political life in India. He decides to speak in the monthly meeting on the topic 'Role of Youth in Combating Corruption'. Write the speech in 150-200 words. 10

SECTION –C (Literature & Long Reading Text)

40 Marks

Q8. Read the following the lines given below and answer the questions that follow: 1X4=4

*Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal-
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes*

*From fog to endless night? 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.*

- Why does the poet refer to Shakespeare as 'wicked' and the map 'a bad example'?
- What does 'from fog to endless night' imply?
- What does the poet suggest by saying that these children wear skins 'peeped through by bones'? What are the circumstances in which they live?
- Why does the poet compare skeleton of slum dwelling children with glass pieces?

Q9. Answer any four of the following questions:

3X 4 =12

- How did the dewan help Maharaja achieve his mission?
- Describe the events of the last lesson that M. Hamel conducted with his class.
- What are the thoughts of the poet as she is driving from her parent's home to the airport?
- Why is Jack fatigued by the story telling ritual?
- What is the message of the poem 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda?
- "Garbage to them is Gold". Why does the author say so about the rag pickers?

Q10. Optimism is the key to a fulfilling life. How did Mr Lamb exemplify this statement? (120-150)

Or

(6 marks)

What are the qualities of a good leader ? How did the victory of the Champaran farmers prove to be a victory of Gandhiji's leadership?

Q11. How did William Douglas describe his feelings when he was drowning in the pool? (120-150)

(6 marks)

Or

Describe the ratttrap peddler's meeting with the crofter. How is it important in the story? (120-150)

Q12. Describe the burglary at Vicar's house? (120-150)

(6 marks)

Q13. Attempt a character sketch of Thomas Marvel on the basis of the chapters you have read.

(6 marks)

END