



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
PRE-BOARD EXAM 2014-15
ENGLISH (Core)

No. of printed pages: 6

Std: XII
Date: 05-01-2015

Marks: 100
Time: 3 hrs

General Instructions:

- *This paper consists of three sections: Section A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.*
- *Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION A - (30 Marks)

READING:

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (11)

Many of the underdeveloped countries will promote the growth of their economies in one way or the other, no matter whether they receive substantial outside aid in the process or not. The character of that development, however, is likely to be strongly influenced by the types of and amounts of aid available. The outcome is much more likely to be favourable, from the standpoint of the objectives for successful development set up previously, if there is substantial international aid than if there is not.

By substantial aid I mean not only large amounts of technical assistance but also of capital. Initially, the capacity of an underdeveloped country to use capital productively may be surprisingly small, limited by lack of organisation, trained personnel, and other social obstacles. At this stage technical assistance is the main need from outside, with comparatively small amounts of capital, much of which may have to be in the form of grants for non-self liquidating projects, in education, health, access to roads to rural areas, and the like, if, at this stage, substantial capital is available from outside to supplement what can be formed internally (and to simulate internal capital formation, for it does that too) the rate of economic growth can be consistently increased, and the strains and frustrations and political risks of the development are likely to be considerably less.

It is possible for underdeveloped economies to modernise themselves with very little capital from outside. Japan imports of capital were small though some of it came at crucial times. The contribution of foreign direct investments to the advancement of technical know-how also was greater than would be indicated merely by the size of the investment. The Soviet Union industrialised its economy with practically no aid from foreign investment capital except for the foreign owned installations confiscated after the revolution, though it imported machinery in the early days on short term or immediate term credits and hired services of foreign experts.

Both Japan and Russia achieved their development in an authoritarian political and social framework. The outcome in both cases from standpoint of the peace of the world and democratic ideals was highly unfavourable.

In the absence of outside aid, the only way to accumulate capital is to increase production without taking much of the benefit in more consumption or even while pushing consumption standards down. Where the people are already near the subsistence level this may mean extreme hardship. Somehow the people

must be motivated to change their accustomed ways quickly, to work hard, and to forgo present consumption so that capital investment can be made.

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

(1 x 3 = 3)

(a) The passage says that

- (i) without foreign aid no underdeveloped country can grow.
- (ii) underdeveloped country must refrain from taking foreign aid.
- (iii) the economies of the underdeveloped countries are more likely to grow faster with substantial foreign aid than without.
- (iv) underdeveloped countries are economically backward because their governments have not got their priorities right.

(b) Substantial aid in this context means

- (i) technical assistance in the form of trained personnel.
- (ii) capital, in the form of bank loans and overdrafts.
- (iii) large amounts of technical assistance and capital.
- (iv) a cheap and plentiful supply of labour.

(c) Which of the following points or statements did the writer actually make?

- (i) in a democratic framework, Japan and Russia achieved their development.
- (ii) in an authoritarian political and social framework, Japan and Russia achieved their development.
- (iii) Japan and Russia would have developed faster if they had relied on democratic methods.
- (iv) Japan and Russia are still among the underdeveloped countries of the world.

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

(1 x 6 = 6)

- (a) How does the availability of substantial capital help?
- (b) How can a nation accumulate capital if it does not get outside aid?
- (c) How did Japan and Russia become developed?
- (d) What problems does an underdeveloped country face?
- (e) What should an underdeveloped nation do to minimize risk?
- (f) What was the contribution of FDI in case of Japan?

C. Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

(1 x 2 = 2)

(a) fundamental (para3)

(b) accrue (para5)

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

(11)

1. As a medium of literary expression, the common language is inadequate. Like the man of letters, the scientist finds it necessary to "give a purer sense to the words of the tribe". But the purity of scientific language is not the same as the purity of literary language. The aim of the scientist is to say only one thing at a time, and to say it unambiguously and with the greatest possible clarity. To achieve this, he simplifies and jargonises. In other words, he uses the vocabulary and syntax of common speech in such a way that each phrase is susceptible to only one interpretation; and when the vocabulary and syntax of common speech are too imprecise for his purpose he invites a new technical language, or jargon

specially designed to express the limited meaning with which he is professionally concerned. At its most perfectly pure form, scientific language ceases the matter of words and terms into mathematics.

2. The literary artist purifies the language of the tribe in a radically different way. The scientist's aim, as we have seen, is to say one thing, and only one thing at a time. This, most emphatically, is not the aim of the literary artist. Human life is lived simultaneously on many levels and has many meanings. Literature is a device for reporting the multifarious facts and expressing their various significance. When the literary artist undertakes to give a pure sense to the words of his tribe, he does so with the express purpose of creating a language capable of conveying, not the single meaning of some particular science, but the multiple significance of human experience, on its most private as well as on its more public levels.

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

(1 x 3 = 3)

(a) The passage highlights the difference between

- (i) the language of science and of literature
- (ii) the language of the tribe and that of a civilized man
- (iii) jargon and the language of a common man
- (iv) the central purpose of science and literature

(b) 'Jargon' in the context of passage means

- (i) difficult language
- (ii) technical language
- (iii) language with limited meaning
- (iv) mathematical language

(c) A literary artist purifies the language of a

- (i) community
- (ii) school
- (iii) family
- (iv) person

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

(1 x 6 = 6)

- (a) What is the purpose of literature according to the writer?
- (b) What kind of a language is used in Science?
- (c) Discuss the similarities between the language of science and that of literature.
- (d) What is the objective of a scientist?
- (e) How does a literary figure use a language?
- (f) Why does a scientist use specific technical words?

C. Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

(1 x 2 = 2)

- (a) explicit
- (b) ardently

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

To date happiness has defied definition. Most people tend to equate happiness with fun, good living, plenty of money. If happiness were synonymous with all this, rich people with all their luxuries and countless parties would be perpetually happy. But in actual fact, they are, frequently, acutely unhappy, despite their riches and ability to indulge in fun activities at will. Fun is what we experience during an act;

happiness is that intangible something we experience after an act. We may have fun watching a movie, going shopping, meeting friends — these are all fun activities that afford us fleeting moments of relaxation and enjoyment. Happiness, on the other hand, is a much stronger, deeper and more abiding emotion.

If we perceive happiness as the ultimate goal, we must also devise a way to reach that goal. The way to happiness, is not a smooth, broad highway along which we can cruise at a comfortable speed. It is a path through rocky and rugged terrain and the going can become very tough at times.

At these times we have to roll up our sleeves and with pitchfork and shovel make our way onwards. This pursuit of happiness lasts a lifetime. Great happiness is earned only by great effort and effort not in spurts but diligent, constant effort.

In this connection we are confronted with another fallacy, that fun and pleasure mean happiness and thus pain, its corollary, must be synonymous with unhappiness. But in fact the truth is quite different. Things that bring us happiness, more often than not, involve some amount of pain. It is because of misconception that people avoid the very endeavor that is the source of true happiness. Difficult 'endeavors' — such as the raising of children, establishing deeper relationships with loved ones, trying to do something worthwhile in life — hold the promise of a world of happiness.

Happiness is not a permanent vacation. Another prevalent belief is that if one were rich enough not to have to work one would be blissfully happy. But a job is more than just a pay cheque. Almost all religions teach us that work is worship. Work holds the key to happiness as doing something which increases confidence and self-worth. It brings on a feeling of satisfaction, of doing something, of contributing. Job satisfaction comes less from how much one earns than from the challenge of the job. Of course the pay-cheques count. It would be unrealistic to suggest that one could be happy without a basic shelter, roaming the streets on an empty stomach.

A secret ingredient of happiness is contentment. Contentment here does not mean apathy or lack of ambition, just as commitment does not mean curtailment of freedom. Commitment teaches us to give so that we may receive and contentment helps us to cherish the gifts we have received. These things are worth a try even if they don't promise access to the pinnacle of success. Success, after all, has been described as getting what one wants, whereas happiness likes what one gets.

- A. Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations, with suitable titles. (5)
- B. Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. (3)

SECTION B - (30 Marks)

ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS:

4. The Counseling Cell of your school is organizing an orientation programme for the parents of class XII in the school auditorium. Draft a notice about it to be displayed on your school notice board, in not more than 50 words, giving information about the same to the parents. You are the school Head Boy/ Head Girl. (4)

OR

Design an attractive Poster on "Say No to Plastic" issued by Sarva Suraksha Samiti, an NGO stationed in Bangalore.

5. Sheena, C-4, Postal Colony, Thrissur, bought an Usha Lexus automatic iron from M/s. Nandillath, Round North, Thrissur. Within a week it started giving problems. She writes a letter to the dealer, complaining about the defects and asks them to replace it. Write the letter for her in 120 words.

OR

You are Anuj/Anita living at #9/2, 5th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore. You are very much pained to know about the current state of affairs with regard to corruption and scandals in the Indian political scene. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Hindu', showing your concern about the falling standards.

6. Write an article in 150 to 200 words on the topic "The Power Crisis and its Impact" with regard to the frequent power break down and load shedding operations in your city and many other cities in India.

OR

A recent survey showed that there are still many communities in India which do not welcome the birth of a girl child. Can a country which does not give equal rights to all its citizens' even dream of becoming great? Write an article in 150-200 words giving your views on the above issue and the steps we should take to solve this problem.

7. "Our Good Earth", an environmental awareness magazine has launched a marathon 'Clean Your City' campaign. As an active participant write a speech to be read out in the morning assembly urging students to participate in the campaign in 150-200 words.

OR

You are Mohan/ Mohini of St. Xavier Senior Secondary School, Dwarka, New Delhi. Your school has arranged a debate contest on the occasion of Republic Day. The topic selected is: Justice delayed is Justice denied. Write the speech in about 200 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION C - (40Marks)

Text Books And Long Reading Text:

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (4)

*Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with
pain
that she was as old as
she looked.....*

- Where is the poet at present? (1)
- How does the poet describe her mother? (1)
- Who does 'she' refer to in the last line? (1)
- Explain the expression 'her face ashen like that of a corpse ...' (1)

OR

*For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our hands so much.*

*It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.*

- a) What does speaking 'any language' imply? (1)
b) Why does the poet feel that it is important to keep quiet and suspend all activity? (1)
c) What 'exotic moment' does the poet refer to? Why do you think he deems it to be exotic? (2)

9. Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each: (4x3=12)

- a) Did Jo approve of the mother's action? What did she want the story to be like and why?
b) What does Derry know about the fairy tale 'Beauty and the Beast'? Why is he not convinced by its moral?
c) How did the Champaran episode end the sufferings of the share-croppers?
d) What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums? How can their lives change?
e) What do the tigers made by the Aunt symbolize?

10. Read the following and answer the question in 120 – 150 words: (6)

"If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain."

"Poverty is a vicious cycle for refugees, slum dwellers and bangle makers."

"All amenities appear to be staying away from the slums. They have no streetlights, regular drinking water supply and proper drainage, even though they were staying there for the last 3 decades."

SOURCE: TIMES OF INDIA 2012-08-19

After reading the lesson *Lost Spring* and the above quote you begin to reflect on the condition of the slum dwellers working in different factories and living in inhuman conditions on the outskirts of the Metro Cities.

Write an article for a national daily on the urgent need to help improve the pitiable condition of the slum dwellers and the need to provide education to their children, if they are to be incorporated into the civilized society and India can call herself a developed nation.

11. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6)

Do you think sincerity of purpose and dogged determination are true pillars of success in life? Answer on the basis of the two episodes in the chapter 'Memories of Childhood'.

OR

What view of war, enmity and nationalism do you form from the story "The Enemy"?

12. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6)

Godfrey appears to have been caught between the women at a high station and the women on the lowest rung of the society. How does it affect the plot? What is the writer trying to show us about the community here?

Q13. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6)

What does Silas Marner's cottage represent?