



**INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR**  
**PRE-FINAL EXAMINATION 2014-15**  
**ENGLISH (Core)**

Class: XI

Marks: 80

Date: 12. 02. 2015

Time: 3 hrs

**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 – READING (20 Marks)**
**1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8 Marks)**

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 endeavour that is the source of true happiness. Difficult endeavours- such as raising 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, 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 pinnacle of success. Success, after all, has been described as getting what one wants, whereas happiness is liking what one gets.

1.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make note on it, using an appropriate format. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum four) and give a title to your Note-Making. (5 marks)

1.2. Write the summary of the passage in not more than 80 words, using the notes made. (3 mark)

**2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.(12 marks)**

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, atleast, most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's, and dont's. The same old favourites recur year in year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully and take the dog for a walk everyday. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolution on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of the bed eleven minute earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living-room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really upsetting but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spend at exercise gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10<sup>th</sup> I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spend less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect to television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

**2.1. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:(6 marks)**

- (i) According to the writer, past experience of resolutions has taught us:
- (a) Frustration results from failure
  - (b) Certain accomplishments are beyond attainment
  - (c) New year is a time for resolutions
  - (d) Failures are a part of life.

- (ii) Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our schemes are too ambitious
  - We never have time to carry them out
  - We announce our resolution to everybody
  - All of these
- (iii) It is a basic mistake to announce our resolution because \_\_\_\_\_.
- We have no excuse to revert back to our earlier life
  - We can't be nice to people we don't like
  - We look more foolish when we slip back to our old ways
  - None of these
- (iv) The writer did not carry out his resolutions on New Year's Day because \_\_\_\_\_
- He had attended an all night party
  - He was glued to the TV
  - The exercise was only for eleven minutes
  - Everyone was awake and watching him.
- (v) The writer thought of keeping his mind fresh by:
- Watching TV
  - Exercising for eleven minutes
  - Reading
  - Finding more time to play with children
- (vi) This passage is about :
- A very happy beginning of New Year.
  - Resolutions left unattained.
  - Incapability of a poor man.
  - Time management a supreme goal.

**2.2. Find words in the passage which mean the same as the following. (2marks)**

- Alarming/ Difficult(Para 1)
- Eagerness (Para 3)

**2.3. Answer the following questions:**

**(4 marks)**

- Why do most of us fail in our efforts at self improvement?
- Why is announcing our resolution a fundamental error?
- "The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance." What performance is the writer talking about?
- Which book did the writer buy and why?

**SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR(30Marks)**

**3.** Draft a display advertisement for the opening of Hill Top Public School for the next academic session. (4 marks)

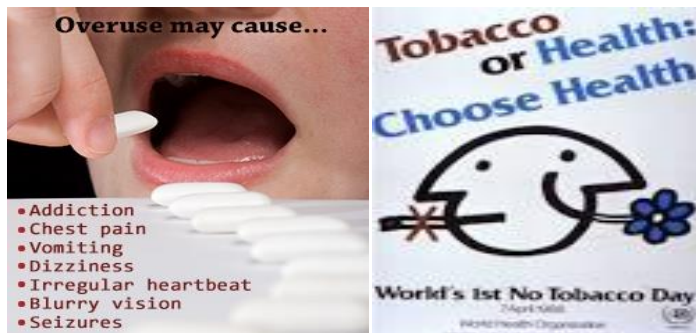
**OR**

Road Safety is something people are taking as granted, being a Traffic Police draft a poster on 'Road Safety' to emphasize the importance of safety rules.

4. Al Shams Business Associates, P O Box no: 365, Al Durrat Street, Sultanate of Oman, advertised regarding the vacancy for the post of accountant. In response to it, apply for the post giving your detailed Resume. You are Shaan / Shaniya of Al-Futur Street, Al Raza. (6 marks)

OR

You are Kiran / Karan Dharmadhikari of 67, M.G.Road, Noida feels that the consumption of tobacco is growing steadily in India despite government's ban on tobacco. With the information given below write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views and suggestions. Write Kiran/ Karan's letter in not more than 150 words. (6 marks)



5. You are Shekar/ Tripti a Student of Oxford Public School. Principals of two schools from Pakistan visited your school as part of a cultural exchange programme. Students of the school put up a cultural show in their honour. Write a report about it for your school magazine in 150-200 words. (10 marks)

OR

Some Colleges conduct entrance test for admission to under-graduate courses like B.A , MBA etc..Do you think that Entrance test is the right method of selecting students? Write an Article in about 150-200 words. You are Rohan/ Ranchita, a student of class XI at Brilliants International School. (10 marks)

6. Look at the following words/phrases. Rearrange them to form a meaningful sentence. (2 marks)

- (a) unique and diverse/bats, one of/misunderstood creatures/the world's most/are wonderful.
- (b) Every country/they are found/except Antarctica/every continent/in virtually/and inhabit.

7. In the following passage ,one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before the word that comes after it in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined>. (4marks)

Children love picnics and outings of with parents though they are equally happy doing things with them in the house. A parent make his child feel special following some simple rituals. Bedtime stories, game of cards or simply talking and laughing together going to bed- some give children wonderful sense of well-being. They hardly ever forget moments and cherish them throughout lives.

with their parents

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Fill in the blanks with modals: (4 marks)

- (a) In a democracy everyone .....obey the laws of the country.
- (b) I doubt, if it .....be of any use telephoning them so late.
- (c) The doctor told me that I..... not smoke any more.
- (d) You .....be rich to be success. Some of the most successful people I know haven't got a penny to their name.

**SECTION C - LITERATURE AND LONG READING TEXT (30Marks)**

**9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:(3marks)**

*The seed I spent or sown it where  
The land is his and none of mine?  
We speak like strangers, there's no sign  
Of understanding in the air.  
This child is build to my design  
Yet what he loves I cannot share.*

- (a) "The seed I spent or sown it where". Name the poetic device used in this line.
- (b) "This child is build to my design" Explain.
- (c) Why do you think they behave and speak like strangers?

**OR**

*All three stood still to smile through their hair  
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,  
My mother's ,that was before I was born.  
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,  
Washed their terribly transient feet.*

- (a) Who are the 'three' referred to in these lines?
- (b) What does the word transient indicates?
- (c) When and why is the narrator recollecting this moment?

**10. Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words each: (3x3=9marks)**

- (a) Why is the earth compared to a patient?
- (b) Why did Aram remark: "A man could be the father of his son's flesh but that did not mean he was also the father of his spirit"?
- (c) Why does the narrator in "Ranga's Marriage" call the Indian flock of sheep?
- (d) Why is the King been described as 'just and placid' in 'The Tale of the Melon City'?

**11. Answer any one of the following in about 120-150 words: (6marks)**

What promise did Dr.Andrew make to Joe Morgan? Was he able to keep it? What does all this show about his professional and personal life?

**OR**

Read the following extract from the play "The Browning Version" and answer the given questions.

TAPLOW: Well,no,Sir. I don't think the play is muck- exactly. I suppose, in a way, it's rather a good plot, really, a wife murdering her husband and all that. I only meant the way it's taught to us- just a lot of greek words strung together and fifty lines if you get them wrong.

What is the matter that has upset Taplow? What values as a student do you think trigger this response? What improvements in education system would you like to suggest to make sure that students like Taplow are not disillusioned with it?

**12. Answer the following in about 120-150 words: (12marks)**

- (a) Attempt a brief character sketch of the Children of Otis family.
- (b) Contrary to the reader's expectations, the story of the Canterville Ghost takes numerous turns that makes the story very gripping. Elaborate.

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