



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
UNIT TEST 2015-16
ENGLISH(Core) 301

No. of printed pages: 3

Std: XII
Date:13-05-2015

Marks: 50
Time: 2 Hours

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.*
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SECTION A (10 Marks)

READING:

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:(10)

1. The world's first bookless library has been set up in the state of Texas in the US. Unlike the rows upon rows of books that are found in a conventional library anywhere in the world, at the bookless library, there are high-tech gadgets that have replaced the books as found in other libraries.
2. The borrowers of books from this high-tech bookless library have a different set of rules to follow when borrowing books. Instead of taking home books for reading, the members of the library, who are registered residents of the south Texas county of Bexar, cannot access their choice of reading matters from e-reader. Also, instead of having to pay the fees of membership of the library and for borrowing books and other facilities, the members can borrow reading matter from the bookless library for free.
3. That the services of the library have found favour with its readers is clearly visible from the growing readership numbers at this library. Since its start in the September, the country's 1.7 million residents have been able to check out and take home the machines for reading purposes and accessing the catalogue. They are also able to use their own devices to check out and access the catalogue of the library. This BiblioTech of 1.5 million books currently has 600 e-readers, 200 pre-loaded enhanced e-readers for children and 48 computer stations for use by its readers. In addition, there are ten laptops and 40 tablets available on the premises, for use by the readers.
4. Not satisfied with simply providing e-readers services, the BiblioTech has created a list of higher ambitions for itself. The most prominent of these include their ambitions to give county's residents the necessary tools 'to thrive as citizens of the 21st century.' For them a well connected citizen of this century is one who strives for enhancing his education and literacy and 'promoting reading as a recreation'.
5. As a part of reader services at the BiblioTech, its Special Project Coordinator, Laura Cole comments that the library authorities wanted to create the best and the most cost-effective way of providing library services. This was especially suitable for the Texas country's residents as the population here is geographically distanced from existing services. In fact, prior to the arrival of this digitalized service, there has never been a public library or a book store in the area. Thus, a digital alternative in their midst was an obvious and necessary choice. 'Geography doesn't matter

if your library is in the clouds.’ Adds Laura Cole, referring to the ‘cloud’ system where the books of the library are stored online.

6. Answering queries about readers’ concerns that library users may feel put off by technology, Cole is proud to concur that her staff are willing to dedicate their time to help readers and visitors, who find it difficult to handle the system on their own. Hence, readers do not feel intimidated by the gadgetry and feel empowered to be able to access books according to this novel system of procuring reading matter.
7. Even replacements costs for damages or breakdowns have been factored into the working system of the library. Thus, readers are not turned away from library doors simply because the system is not functioning on any particular day. To prevent thefts from depleting their stocks, the devices are geared in such a way that users cannot access its internet once they leave the premises of the library.

1.1 On the basis of reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. (3)

(a) The browsers in a high-tech library have to follow.....

- (i) an unusual set of rules
- (ii) the same set of rules
- (iii) absolutely no rules
- (iv) rules of their own making

(b) The bookless library is located in.....

- (i) the Texas country of BiblioTech
- (ii) the Texas company of Bexar
- (iii) the city of middle USA
- (iv) the Texas county of Bexar

(c) The bookless library is highly suitable to this country because.....

- (i) the public library is not functioning well
- (ii) the people here are avid readers
- (iii) there is plenty of reading matter in this library
- (iv) it is geographically distanced from existing library services

1.2 Answer the following questions with reference to the above passage:(4)

- (a) What is the amount of reading material currently available at the BiblioTech library?
- (b) What is the system of accessing reading matter from the library?
- (c) What is Laura Cole’s opinion about the presence of the library?
- (d) How does the library help the readers who are not able to handle digital methodology easily?

1.3 Find words/phrases in the passage that mean the same as the following:(3)

- (a) predictable (para 1)
- (b) full of power (para 6)
- (c) refused entry (para 7)

SECTION B (15 Marks)

ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS:

2. You are Rakesh / Raveena, Head Boy /Head Girl of Oasis Public School, Bareilly. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, asking the students to give their names for taking part in the Inter-House Swimming Competition. (5)

3. You are Reena/Ramesh, personal assistant to the G. M. in a private company. You come across an advertisement for a secretary in a reputed multinational company, offering attractive packages. Since your qualifications and experience match the required ones, you decide to write a letter of application in response to it. Write your letter in not more than 150 words, using the appropriate format. (10)

SECTION C (25 Marks)

Text Books and Long Reading Text:

4. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (1x3= 3)

*Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,
This map becomes their windows and these windows
That shut upon their lives like catacombs*

- (a) What is the ambience of an elementary school in a slum? (1)
- (b) What does the reference to the 'governor, inspector, visitor' imply? (1)
- (c) What does the word 'windows' symbolize? (1)

5. Answer the following in 30-40 words each: (2x5=10)

- (a) How does the poetess try to dispel the thought of losing her mother? What are the poetic devices used to convey this idea?
- (b) How and why did Franz's feelings about M. Hamel and school change?
- (c) What was the unforeseen hurdle that brought the Maharaja's tiger hunts to a halt?
- (d) "Mukesh is a rebel." Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.
- (e) 'History is theirs whose language is the sun.' Explain.

6. Answer the following in about 100 words: (4x2=8)

- (a) With the uncanny death of the Maharaja, it seemed that fate had cursed the Maharaja for his brutality. Justify.
- (b) Describe the mental state of Dr. Sadao during the three nights when he was waiting for the private assassins of the General. Do you approve of his restlessness during the period?

7. Answer the following in about 100 words: (4)

Who was Squire Cass? What do you think about his family and house?
