



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
SECOND TERM EXAM: 2015-16
ENGLISH (Core)

Std.: XII

Marks: 100

Date: 22.11.2015

Time: 3Hrs.

Instructions:

- This paper is divided into three sections:

Section A: Reading	(30 Marks)
Section B: Advanced Writing Skills	(30 Marks)
Section C: Literature & Long Reading Text	(40 Marks)
- All sections are compulsory.
- Separate instructions are given for each section and question wherever necessary. Read the instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- Strictly adhere to the prescribed word limit.

SECTION A: READING**(30 Marks)****I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :****(12)**

1. Millions of men and women, thousands of leaders, a succession of social, religious and political movements - it is impossible to draw up a full list of the makers of India even on a limited 1000-year basis. "All that can be attempted here is to present a few representative names, some of them inspirational still. All of them remind us of the course we have traversed, and how we have come to where we are. Let us make a start with the best ever Indian.
2. Implied in Toynbee's assessment was the deduction that Gandhi was not just an Indian phenomenon. No doubt India derived unequalled benefit from his leadership. By fitting the freedom struggle into the framework of a philosophy of justice and fairness, he achieved for India a stature that was denied to other countries, including China, which won independence around the same time. That the stature was quickly lost by the governments that came to power on the labours of Gandhi is a different matter. The decline of India did not amount to any repudiation of Gandhi. Indeed, it was seen as a consequence of the betrayal of Gandhi by his supposed followers.
3. The true measure of his impact on history is that it is not dependent on the successful completion of his mission in India. The others who soldiered on with him in the epic war of independence - Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel included - will be remembered for what they did in India and for India; they were essentially Indian personalities. So, for that matter, was Jinnah whose life's work boiled down to the creation of a state on what rapidly proved to be a dubious preemie.
4. Gandhi soared above them all because he dealt essentially with ideas and theories relevant to all mankind. Like Buddhism, Gandhism lost ground in the land out of which it evolved. But, like Buddhism, it has been embraced by distant peoples who see in its tenets the promise of a meaningful life. It was as though Gandhi's involvement with India was merely incidental to his larger involvement with what he persistently called Truth. Raja Rao put it pithily when he wrote: "For Gandhi India was only the symbol of a universal principle. All countries were, for Gandhi, India." When we look at him in this perspective, we realise that it was his universality the transcendent quality of his life and thought that made Gandhi, a Gandhi.
5. He will be greater than not just Stalin and Hitler - two characters who are rather too one-dimensional to be contrasted with the vastness that was Gandhi. Gandhi personifies the greatness of the time-honoured proposition that Love is superior to Hatred, that Good is better than Evil. Great personages of history, who based their "greatness" on hatred and evil, on conquests and oppression, have all gone under. The

Byzantines and the Ottomans, the Mongols and the Mughals, the British and the Spanish once strode the earth as if they owned it. Today only Britain and Spain survive, and that as second-class entities confined to Europe. Alexander, the first king in history to be called “The Great,” died a lonely death as a disillusioned and defeated man at the incredible age of 33. Nothing of his greatness remains today even in his native Macedonia, which is now but an appendage to the horrible tragedy of Yugoslavia.

6. Greatness built on murder and acquisition passes. Greatness rising out of compassion and service abides. The Buddha abides. Christ abides. The great unknown thinkers of the Upanishads abide. Gandhi carried that tradition through to our times. He might have been let down by the “Gandhians” who, armed with political power, have turned India into a mess. That too is parallel to the way quarrelling Buddhists, exploitative Christians and lately-intolerant Hindus have been letting down their preceptors. But their smallness does not detract from the true greatness of the sages who opened the path of enlightenment for them and for the world. They abide because they gave without taking. They were not men of arms. They were men of ideas. Parithranaya sadhunam, they appear from age to age. They appear to teach us that the world can be conquered, not with force, but with ideas. It was the lesson of this Millennium too - taught by the Man of the Millennium

a. Answer the following questions choosing the most appropriate option from those given below them: (3)

- i. All our leaders remind us
 1. of the course we travelled
 2. how we reached right where we are now
 3. to make a start
 4. both 1 & 2
- ii. Which word in paragraph 4 mean “concisely”?
 1. essentially
 2. pithily
 3. transcendent
 4. persistently
- iii. Why does the author not find it right to contrast Gandhi with Stalin?
 1. He was rather too one dimensional
 2. Gandhi believed that Love is superior to Hatred
 3. Stalin considered that Good is better than Evil
 4. None of the above

b. Answer the following questions briefly: (6)

- i. What did Gandhi achieve through his philosophy of justice and fairness?
- ii. How will Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel be remembered?
- iii. According to Raja Rao, what did Gandhi represent?
- iv. The author talks of two types of greatness. Which one is much appreciated and admired?
- v. What was the lesson of this millennium?
- vi. What is the true measure of the impact of Gandhi?

c. Pick out one word from the passage that means the same as : (3)

- i. continuous decrease/fall (para 2)
- ii. strong effect (para 3)
- iii. rise quickly (para 4)

II. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

(10)

1. The word 'depressed' in common usage means sad, frustrated, fed up, bored up and pessimistic. The mood of a depressed person is much lower at his or her best moments than the mood of normal person at his or her worst. Depression is a state of mind. It is specifically a mental disorder characterized by a lowering of the individual's vitality, his mood, desires, hopes, aspirations and of his self-esteem.
2. Depression arising out of environmental factors is called reactive depression whereas depression arising out of some biochemical changes in the brain is called endogenous depression. If depression is mild or moderate and if the individual is in touch with his surroundings, it is known as neurotic depression. If the individual is severely disturbed and is not able to comprehend what is happening around, such a state is called psychotic depression.
3. Old age is one of the stages of human development, where a person attains wisdom, maturity, social and economic stability with social recognition and emotional fulfillment. Generally, societies show a great respect and consideration for the aged. In ancient times old people were considered as the guiding stars in Indian families, since they were symbols of tradition, respect, wisdom and experience. In primitive, ancient and medieval cultures, old persons had a recognized social role. They were of great value because they could impart knowledge and skill to youngsters. The old people were considered as repositories of wisdom and traditions and were not perceived as problems.
4. At present, social structures and values are undergoing transformation from traditional to modern. There is a rapid stride in urbanization and industrialization leading to the breaking up of joint families and property. This has ultimately weakened the traditional families, social position and status of the aged in the family. From time to time changes in the institutions of marriage and family have diminished the control of parents over their children. It has increased the freedom of children and they view the aged as a useless and nonproductive entity. Modernization has eventually led to the degradation of their status and authority. Consequently the integrity of the family and the existence of the elderly as an integral part of the family are being uprooted. The importance of their functional positions thus declines and consequently their authority and much of the respect and prestige that they enjoyed earlier get faded. The changes generally bring about depression in older people.
5. As old age advance, events at home may also contribute more to their problems. The 'empty nest' feeling arising as a result of the grown up children leaving the home, daughters departing as a result of wedlock and sons leaving station in pursuit of higher education or job may make the aged more lonely. The loneliness also arises because of premature loss of spouse. This would deprive the person of a long standing emotional bond that had provided plenty of emotional succour and security. The loss wherever it might occur in the later years leaves the individual terribly lonely and at the mercy of the sons and daughters-in-law. Added to these, the increasing gap and interactional stress and strain in the family may leave the elderly without peace of mind. The elderly as a result of these developments feel marginalized, alienated and left out of the main stream. The foregoing are the common problems faced by most of the elderly. These either directly or indirectly lead to a state of depression and make ageing of many an unwanted and unpleasant event to be abhorred.
6. Usually, the mild depression which is caused due to environmental factors is temporary. The person reconciles within a short time and tries to forget the loss. Kind words and timely support of friends, relatives and family members help one recover from depression.

a. Answer the following questions choosing the most appropriate option from those given below them: (3)

- i. What does 'depressed' mean in common usage?
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sad and optimistic | 3. Satisfied but sad |
| 2. Sad and pessimistic | 4. Not enthusiastic |
- ii. What is reactive depression?
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Caused by ecological factors | 3. Mild and moderate depression |
| 2. Caused by biochemical changes in brain | 4. Caused by severe mental disturbance |
- iii. What was the status of the old people in ancient India?
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Teachers to children | 3. Guiding stars of families |
| 2. Problem to society | 4. None of the above |

b. Answer the following questions briefly: (7)

- i. How does one recover from mild depression? (1)
- ii. What is meant by "empty nest feeling"? (1)
- iii. Why does the elderly feel marginalized and left out? (1)
- iv. What makes ageing an unwanted and unpleasant event? (1)
- v. What are the causes for disintegration of joint family system? (1)
- vi. What deprives the person of a long standing emotional bond? (1)
- vii. Why do children view the aged as a useless and nonproductive entity? (1)

III. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (8 marks)

Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and concentrate on understanding what has been heard.

Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First, they may drift. Their attention drifts from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter arguments to whatever a speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then, they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit with their own frame of reference. Finally they react. They let personal feelings about speaker or subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

What can a listener do to be more effective? The first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving a message his chances of success are high. It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems, or because of the form in which they send a message. There is then particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on what is being said.

Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side. One useful way for achieving this is intensive note-taking, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub-headings the speaker is referring to.

Note-taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees that listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the patterns of eye-contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's timing is aided- he can see when a note taker is writing hard and can then make effective use of pauses.

Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backwards and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time it is seen by the speaker to be a positive feature amongst his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

- a. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5)
- b. Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (3)

SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS (30 Marks)

- IV. Recent rains have caused havoc in some parts of our country. You are Surya, a member of the social service organization, SEVA MANDIR, Ahmedabad. Draft a poster requesting people to help the and flood afflicted families physically and economically. (4)

OR

You are Raj, son of Mr. and Mrs. Praveen Malhotra. Your sister is getting married and you have been asked to draft a formal invitation. Draft an invitation on behalf of your parents. (4)

- V. You are Apoorva, B 120, Malviya Nagar, Chennai. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter in 120-150 words to the advertiser, applying for the job. (6)

INDIAN PHARMACEUTICALS
20 COAST ROAD, BOMBAY
Requires Trainee Medical Representatives

Candidates should be Science or Pharmacy graduates and below 25 years of age. Fluency in English and any one of the regional languages is essential. Attractive stipend with handsome working allowances will be offered during training period. After successful completion of the training, the candidates will be appointed on regular basis. Please apply with complete resume and a passport size photograph at the above address.

OR

You are Apoorva, Physical Education Teacher of Wisdom Public School, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of Bharat Sports Limited, New Delhi placing an order for sports articles and accessories that you wish to purchase for your school. Also ask for the discount permissible on the purchase. (120-150 words) (6)

- VI. A Joint family system is gradually disintegrating in the country. Many elderly people get neglected because of the nuclear set up of families. It increases the need of homes for the aged. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic entitled "Should there be Homes for the Aged in India." (10)

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Mukesh/ Meena. You decide to write a speech to be delivered in the school on assembly on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games in about 150- 200 words. (10)

- VII. You are Vinod/ Veena, a student of Class XII of SGMS School, Cochin. While watching the reality shows on T.V. you felt that they are harmful for children. Write an article on the negative impact of reality shows on children. (150-200 words) (10)

OR

Your school is organizing a debate contest marking the celebration of World Peace Day. You are Abhijith/Aradhya. Write a speech to be delivered in favour of the topic “Education Alone can Bring World Peace” (10)

SECTION C: LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXT

(40 Marks)

- VIII. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4)

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching:

- What are the flowery bands that bind us to the earth?
- What according to the poet do we try to do every morning? Why?
- What does the expression ‘spite of despondence’ imply?
- What message do the above lines convey?

OR

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.

- Why is Shakespeare wicked?
- Why is the map a bad example?
- What is the condition of these children, as described in these lines?
- Explain “From fog to endless night”.

- IX. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each : (12)

- For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?
- What did Jo want Roger Skunk’s mother to be punished for?
- Mention some of the blunders committed by the prison authorities which make Evans’ escape plan a success
- The crofter can be called as a good host. Why?
- Cultural and social backwardness of the people was Gandhi’s concern. Explain.

X. Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words: (6)

I remember Geoff saying he would never come, and how none of them believed me when I told them. I wonder what will I do, what can I tell them now if he doesn't come? But we know how it was, Danny and me — that's the main thing. How can you help what people choose to believe?

After reading these lines in the lesson "Going Places", you feel pity for Sophie, the protagonist of the story, for her inability to understand that her meeting with Danny Casey was only a figment of her imagination and you decide to write an article for the school magazine on the topic 'Hero worshipping and fantasizing among teenagers'.

OR

Douglas' tremendous effort eventually helped him not only to get over the after-effects of a childhood experience of terror but also helped him draw a larger meaning from the experience. After reading the lesson "Deep Water" you decide to write a letter to your friend who is hesitant to go ahead in life after a defeat. Draft the letter.

XI. Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words: (6)

At one point in the story Derry says: "It ate my face up. It ate me up". In the latter half he says: "if I don't go back there, I'll never go back anywhere in the world ". Between these two statements Derry has travelled a long distance. Explain.

OR

Both the units of 'Memories of Childhood' present autobiographical episode from the lives of two women from marginalized communities. Describe the main issues raised as well as the common features highlighted in them.

XII. Answer the following question in 125-150 words: (6)

The novel, *Silas Marner*, justifies the destiny of its characters, Silas Marner, Godfrey and Eppie. How far do you agree to this? Cite examples from the novel to prove your stand.

XIII. Answer the following question in 125-150 words: (6)

Describe the elements of symbolism introduced in the novel, *Silas Marner*. Explain their significance in the course of the story.
