



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
SECOND TERM EXAMINATION 2014-15
ENGLISH (Core)

Class: XI

Marks: 80

Date: 29.11.2014

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)**

Fear of examination, anxiety over results and poor marks are driving many teenagers to take that desperate, irreversible step: suicide. During the exam season, anxiety levels peak both for students and parents. Then there is the extended worry of getting into a good college. Exam frenzy, say chemist, pushes sales of memory – aid pills and stimulants to high level.

Is academic excellence a true measure of one success in life? Is there a correlation between successful people and mark they secured in their academic career? Companies are reported to have decided not to take top rankers because they may found to have tunnel vision. It is true that hardly any country is run by rank holders. It is those who dabbled in much more than merry academics that seems to fit the job. So, what is the big deal?

We often forget to tell our youngsters that the achievement of great men and women stood on the foundation of mistakes they made in their formative years. Behind Winston Churchill's perfection lay a history of failures. By making a student walk the tight rope of tough time schedule, stressful assignments and anxiety-ridden counseling sessions they not only Rob them of the fun of childhood but also cause damage to their social, mental and physical well being. The present system leaves them no room to err. However, error is the back yard of perfection for it is by learning from past mistakes that we become better and brighter individuals.

Parent should understand that there are limits to the child's elasticity, it stretches him too far and he could snap. Expecting too much too soon is the bane of our competitive lives, where no room is given for reflection and contentment. 10 years down the line it won't matter which college one went to or how much one scored.

Don't we all know what qualities matter on the stage of life? All that goes in to building one's character or personalities acquired in the course of day to day life and not by scoring high marks in examination.

It is high time youngsters spared sometime to laugh heartily and experience a sense of social, mental and physical wellbeing. Norman Cousins, editor of Saturday Review for over 35 years was diagnosed with a painful and progressively degenerative tissue disease. He was given a one in 500 chance of complete recovery and was told that he did not have long to live. Cousins moved out of the hospital checked in to a hotel and regularly, everyday, watched comedies presented by the likes of Marx Brothers, Laurel and Hardy,

and Charlie Chaplin he also watched episodes of Candid Camera for days together. He slowly recovered and returned to full time work he wrote about how he laughed himself back to health in the “*Anatomy of an illness*”. When he suffered a severe heart attack 15 years later and overdose of laughter saw him through. He related his experiences in “*The Healing Heart*”.

Life is too precious to be taken too seriously. Laugh at life and its twist and turns. A KG student laugh’s 300 times a day against an adult’s 17 times. It is a laughing matter- Don’t laugh it off. But laugh your way to health and happiness.....

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 poem given below and answer the questions that follow. (12 marks)

The Old Familiar Faces

I had playmates, I have had companions,
In my days of childhood, in my joyful school days.
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces
I have been laughing, I have been carousing,

Drinking late, sitting late with my bosom cronies.
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.
I had a love once, fairest among women,
Closed are her doors on me, I must not see her.

All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,
I have a friend, a kinder friend had no man,
Like an ingrate, I left my friend abruptly,
Left him, to muse on the old familiar faces.

Ghost-like I paced round the haunts of my childhood,
Earth seem’d a desert, I was bound to traverse,
Seeking to find the old familiar faces
Friend of my bosom thou more than a brother,
Why were not thou born in my father’s dwelling?
So might we talk of the old familiar faces.

How some they have died, and some they have left me,
And some have taken from me; all are departed
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

- Charles Lamb
(4marks)

2.1. On the basis of your reading of the poem, answer the following questions.

- (i) What type of childhood the narrator had?
- (ii) What happened to his ‘love’?
- (iii) Why does the poet express deep regret about his ‘dearest friend’?
- (iv) Why does the poet haunt his childhood?

2.2. Choose the most appropriate option:

(6 marks)

- (i) **How does the poet seem to pass his time now?**
(a) Going round the world like a ghost seeking happiness of his childhood
(b) Looking desperately for old familiar faces.
(c) Moaning for his lost happy days.
(d) Both (a) and (b)
- (ii) **What is the refrain of the poem and what feelings does it arouse in you?**
(a) “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces” is the refrain and makes us feel sorry for the poet
(b) “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces” is a deeply moving refrain which fills us with sympathy and compassion for the poet.
(c) “All, are gone, the one familiar faces”, is the refrain and it makes us angry because the poet crying over spilt milk
(d) The refrain, “All, all are gone, the old familiar faces”, is a regret for being left alone
- (iii) **Who is the poet calling ‘ungrateful’?**
(a) His friend
(b) All the old familiar faces
(c) His love
(d) Himself
- (iv) **What does the poet need rather than intimacy?**
(a) Support, help, and advice
(b) Relaxation and peace
(c) Depression and sadness
(d) Happiness and fun
- (v) **What does the poet mean by “why wert not thou born in my father’s dwelling?”?**
(a) Why his friend was not born in his family?
(b) Why his father didn’t have him in his home?
(c) Why where not there any friend for his father at his home?
(d) None of the above
- (vi) **“Ghost-like I paced round the haunts of my childhood, Earth seem’d a desert, I was bound to traverse,”what does the poet say here?**
(a) Deep sorrow and despair of the narrator
(b) Happiness and his means of fun
(c) His wish to traveling in a desert
(d) He is tired of his childhood memories.

2.3. Find words in the passage which mean the same as the following.

(2marks)

- (a) Festivities (stanza 1)
(b) Cronies (stanza 3)

SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (30Marks)

3. ‘Today’s Time’, a T.V. company is looking for fresh talent to act in their T.V.Serials. As the secretary of the company Nitish/Nisha, draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for the newspaper inviting young people, between the age group of 18- 22 years, to contact him, with their latest photograph at the chosen venue. (4 marks)

OR

As Secretary of Green Club, Noida, draft a poster to create awareness about the need to conserve water.

(4 marks)

4. Your brother Prakash wishes to join personality development course after his B.Tech. Write a letter in 120-150 words to 'Personna' Personality Centre, enquiring about their terms and conditions. You are Prateek staying at H.No: 45, Sector 15, Mayur Vihar , Delhi. (6 marks)

OR

You went to Agra to visit the famous historical monuments there. You were shocked to see the condition of the monuments, the examples of architecture and a heritage to be proud of. Write a letter to a leading newspaper in 120-150 words about your reactions. (6 marks)

5. You recently visited the forests in Assam during holiday. You were alarmed to see bold patches in forests where once rhinos and elephants had freely moved. The forest cover is fast decreasing. Write a report for your school magazine on the basis of input provided in about 150-200 words. (10 marks)

OR

On the occasion of Teacher's day you have to speak for a few minutes on the role of teachers in student's life in modern times. Taking ideas from the following hints, together with your own ideas, draft your speech in about 150-200 words. (10 marks)

- Traditional role: academic, vocational and spiritual guide, and foster parent
- Role changing with change in times and education
- Now tutor, coach, mentor, facilitator, monitor
- Relationship governed more by economics than emotions
- Increasing learner autonomy and online education undermining face to face interaction and thus the traditional relationship
- Conclusion-relationship continues to be of great importance of all the changes.

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

(a) relaxed / the poet / in / grove / and / a / rested / of / happy thoughts / full

(b) is / impossible / to describe / of / two / architectural structures / the / beauty / it / eye / that / meet / your/ that

7. The following passage is not edited. There is an error in each of the lines against which a blank is given. Write the incorrect word and its correction in the space provided. (4marks)

	Incorrect	Correct
The poet relates an incident who changed his life. It was the season where the leaves turned yellow. He reached a place when the road was forked into two. For he was a single traveler he could not travel on both. His difficulty was whether it was not easy to decide whose road he should take. it was a dilemma, he had to choose one of them when he wanted to have both. Then he took the one who he considered was the better.	eg: who	which
	a) _____	_____
	b) _____	_____
	c) _____	_____
	d) _____	_____
	e) _____	_____
	f) _____	_____
	g) _____	_____
	h) _____	_____

8. Combine the following set of sentences as directed: (4 marks)

- His father would sent him abroad. He was assured of it. (Noun Clause)
- There goes my neighbour. I dislike him most. (Adjective clause)
- He became a Principal. I have not met him since then. (Adverb Clause)
- He is innocent. The police are investigating it. (Noun Clause)

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

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

(3marks)

*When did my childhood go?
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
To use whichever way I choose,
Producing thoughts that were not those of other people
But my own, and mine alone
Was that the day!*

- (a) What is the poet's feelings towards childhood?
- (b) Is independent thinking a step towards adulthood? If so, how?
- (c) "Producing thoughts that were not those of other people", what does the poet mean here?

OR

*Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same,
I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;*

- (a) What happens when the rain washes the earth?
- (b) Why does the rain say it is 'eternal'?
- (c) Name the figure of speech used in the second line of the given extract, mention its effect.

10. Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words each:

(3x3=9marks)

- (a) What ultimatum does Mrs. Pearson give her children?
- (b) How is Crocker Harris different from other's masters?
- (c) The grandmother herself was not educated but was serious about the author's education. How?
- (d) The narrator was initially hesitant of going to 'The Address'. Why?

11. Answer any one of the following in about 120-150 words:

(6marks)

"The story "We're not afraid to die..." is a saga of values like courage and bravery in the faces of adversities of life". Comment.

OR

Man's quest to unravel the mysteries of the past is an ongoing process. No Single person can claim all the credit. Discuss this on the basis of the chapter "Discovering Tut-The Saga Continues".

12. Answer the following in about 120-150 words:

(12marks)

- (a) Show how Oscar Wilde has made the ghost in the novel "The Canterville Ghost" almost human by giving him complex human emotions.
- (b) Describe the conversation that took place between Virginia and the Ghost in the Tapestry Chamber?
