



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2015-16
ENGLISH (Core) 301

No. of printed pages: 7

Std: XII

Date: 04-01-2016

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.*
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SECTION A (30 Marks)

READING:

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

(11)

1. My first tryst with Shakespeare several years ago was an enforced one. The *Merchant of Venice* was a prescribed book in class 9 when I was at school. I had read the wonderful Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare and considered myself an authority on the stories. I did not think it is necessary to read the acquainted language or trudge through several seemingly abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point. To spend a whole year to decipher a play when I had understood the story in few pages seemed to be a sheer waste of time. Yet, somewhere along the way, I was drawn into the world of the Merchants of Venice, their portly argosies, the signors and rich burghers and the news on the Rialto. The language yielded its riches slowly, the characters became well drawn, more rounded and the impassioned speeches of Shylock and Portia stirred up a flurry of unexamined questions. Since then, I have read several other plays, have seen a couple of theatrical performances and watched young Leonardo Di Caprio in a modern Romeo and Juliet film. Shakespeare has been around.
2. Shakespeare has shaped the writing and storytelling in the English language like no other writer has. He literally borrowed, bent and brought new words into the English language from addiction, bump critic to worthless and zany. The phrases that he coined roll off our tongues as over-used adages – All that glitters is not gold (*The Merchant of Venice*), Jealousy is a green-eyed monster (*Othello*), and the perennial 'All is well that ends well.' He has influenced several writers and been quoted by many of them. One of my favourite authors PG Wodehouse had the odd Shakespearean phrase popping up in whacky situations like the 'milk of human kindness' sloshing inside someone or references to Banquo and Macbeth explained to Bertie by the estimable Jeeves who knew his Shakespeare. The plays have been translated into most languages including several regional Indian languages. They have lent themselves to film adaptations including the Vishal Bharadwaj's *Maqbool* (*Macbeth*) and *Omkara* (*Othello*).
3. The tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare cover every possible theme, and idea – love, greed, jealousy, racism, friendship, mistaken identities, murder, mutiny, politics, feminism and revenge. Like any other celebrity, he has been the subject of speculation and controversy. There have been several conspiracy theories afloat on the 'real' authorship of the plays including a recent claim by a professor in Sicily that Shakespeare was actually Italian. Despite everything, Shakespeare's appeal

is universal, the stories transcend language and nationalities. However more than 400 years after Shakespeare's birth, I can't help wondering if anyone will read his works in the days to come.

4. The average attention span in front of television channel is about 4 seconds before flicking on the remote to move to another. It is perfectly acceptable to massacre the rules of grammar and syntax b4 u cn say why dis kolaveri di. When you can tell a whole story in 140 characters, reading 14 sentences can be a chore. Who will have the desire or patience to dredge up the treasures that lie within?
5. Shakespeare works have proved to be sturdy, unshakable through the centuries, moving with the times, lending themselves to the newer forms. I hope they don't get relegated to a few die hard literature students or musty libraries. Who knows, we might yet have a different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to the Gen Next, a form that will induce them to approach and original play with a sense of anticipation, of beginning a quest to understand and appreciate a good story, well told.

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

(a) The writer considered himself an authority on Shakespeare after reading

- i. The Merchant of Venice
- ii. Romeo and Juliet
- iii. Lamb's Tales
- iv. Leonardo Di Caprio

(b) The best known Shakespeare quote is

- i. All that glitters is not gold
- ii. All is well that ends well
- iii. Jealousy is a green-eyed monster
- iv. All of the above

(c) The claim of the Italian professor from Sicily was

- i. Shakespeare was an Italian
- ii. That he covers every possible theme and idea
- iii. That there have been several conspiracy theories
- iv. Shakespeare was a subject of speculation

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (5)

- (a) Why was the author's first tryst with Shakespeare an enforced one?
- (b) What did the author like about the play after reading it thoroughly?
- (c) What is Shakespeare's contribution to shaping the English Language?
- (d) What, according to the writer, will make Gen Next read Shakespeare?
- (e) What was the speculation of the author about the Gen Next?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same: (3)

- (a) perplexing (para 1)
- (b) crazy (para 2)
- (c) go beyond the range (para 3)

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

(11)

1. Meet Ervin. He is a friendly robot who can express five basic human emotions. Ervin is a great listener and can be made to respond only when required. He can understand when we are unhappy. Hence he is a warm-hearted robot. He also responds to human touch and that makes Ervin a perfect companion for chaperoning elderly people.
2. His name 'Ervin' is an acronym. It stands for Emotional Robot with Intelligent Networks. He has been declared by scientists as the world's friendliest robot. Ervin means something special to us Indians as he has been built by an Indian student living in the UK. As already stated, Ervin is capable of responding to five basic emotions while interacting with humans.
3. The 'friendly robot' which is now being used in a new study, carried out by PhD student Mriganka Biswas, has been developed by Dr John Murray from the school of Computer Science, University of Lincoln, UK. According to researchers, these durable relationships could be important in case when a robot operates as a personal aid or companion when providing care for elderly, or support for people with autism, Asperger syndrome or attachment disorder. For the present, Ervin is still keeping scientific company. The robot is helping scientist to understand how more realistic long-term relationships might be developed between humans and robots, using the Ervin prototype.
4. PhD student Mriganka Biswas said: "Cognitive biases make humans what they are, fashioning characteristics and personality, complete with errors and imperfections." In other words, what Biswas has found out through his research that when two people interact for the first time, and if the two have different personalities, a relationship forms. But in the case of conventional human-robot interactions, this is not possible. Due to the lack of cognitive biases, the robots' lack of identifiable characteristics and personality, prevents any relationship bond from developing. The key obstacle therefore lies in obsolete processes, which includes certain illogical patterns of thought or cognitive biases. Therefore cognitive biases in a robot's characteristics would make the robot imperfect by nature but also human-like. Based on human reactions and relationships scientists will be able to introduce characteristics and personality to the robot. Thus, if we can explain how human-to-human, long-term relationships begin and develop, then it would be easier to plan the human-robot relationship. A companion robot therefore needs to be friendly and have the ability to recognize users' emotions and needs to form the long-term relationship with its users, which is possible by human interactions and the robot having its own personality and characteristics.
5. Alongside Ervin, scientists are also working on a humanoid robot Keep On. This robot is no prototype of Ervin. By creating this robot, the task before scientist is to assess how people respond to other variety of robot. While Ervin can express five basic emotions when interacting with human, Keep On has no emotions at all. While Ervin in its present state looks like an assemblage of mechanical gear, Keep On is humanized in appearance as he is being constructed as a humanoid.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices: (3)

(a) The robot Ervin is a great listener because he.....

- i. Responds only when required
- ii. Is capable of five basic emotions
- iii. Can look after elderly people
- iv. Is useful to scientists

(b) Ervin, the robot can respond to.....

- i. Scientist and researchers
- ii. Five basic human emotions
- iii. A fixed set of biases
- iv. Friendly gestures

(c) The idea of friendly robot was developed by

- i. Mriganka Biwas
- ii. People with autism
- iii. Dr. John Murray
- iv. The robot Keep On

2.2 Answer the Following questions briefly. (5)

- (a) What does the acronym 'Ervin' stands for?
- (b) For which category of humans can a robot like Ervin prove useful?
- (c) According to Mriganka Biswas, how are human relationships formed at first?
- (d) Mention one characteristic that must be given to a companion robot to help him bond with humans?
- (e) What are the key characteristics of the robot Keep On?

2.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: (3)

- (a) companion (para 1)
- (b) Traditional and ordinary (para 4)
- (c) temperament (para 4)

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

The term dietary fibers is given collectively to indigestible carbohydrates present in plant foods. The importance of these dietary fiber came into picture when it was observed that people having a diet rich in these fibers, had low incidence of coronary heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dental caries and gall stones.

The foodstuffs rich in these dietary fibers are cereal and grains, legumes, fruits with seeds, citrus fruits, carrots, green leafy vegetables, apples, melons, peaches, pears etc. The dietary fibers are not digested by the enzymes produced by the stomach and the small intestine whereas most of other carbohydrates like starch and sugar are digested and absorbed. The dietary fibers have the property of

holding water and because of it, these get swollen and behave like a sponge as these pass through the gastro-intestinal tract. The fiber adds bulk to the waste and increase transit time in the gut. Some of these fibers may undergo fermentation in the colon.

In recent years, it has been considered essential to have some amount of fibers in the diet. Their beneficial effects lie in preventing coronary heart disease, and decreasing cholesterol level. The fiber like gums and pectin are reported to decrease post-prandial (after meals) glucose level in blood. These types of dietary fibers are recommended for the management of certain types of diabetes. Recent studies have shown that the fenugreek (Methi) seeds, which contain 40 per cent gum, are effective in decreasing blood glucose and cholesterol levels as compared to other gum containing vegetables.

Some dietary fibers increase time and decrease the time of release of ingested food in colon. The one having less fibers is associated with colon cancer and the dietary fibers may play a role in decreasing the risk of it.

The dietary fiber may have some adverse effects on nutrition by binding some trace metals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and other metals, therefore preventing their proper absorption. They may pose a possibility of nutritional deficiency especially when diets contain marginal levels of mineral elements. This may become important constraints on increasing dietary fibers. It is suggested that an intake of 40 grams dietary fibers per day is desirable.

3.1 Make notes of the above passage using an appropriate format including abbreviations (minimum 4), with suitable titles. (5)

3.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. (3)

SECTION B (30 Marks)

WRITING:

4. You are Smitha/Sunil, Secretary AVM housing Society. You are going to organize a blood donation camp. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, urging the members of your society to come in large number for this noble cause. Invent all the necessary details. (4)

OR

You are General Manager, Hotel Hilton, Gurgaon. You need a Front Office Assistant (female) with sound knowledge of computers. She must be a graduate and good in communication skills with pleasing manners. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Times of India

5. As a regular commuter by bus from Noida to Delhi, you have been witnessing rash driving by the bus drivers daily, without an exception. Write a letter to the Editor, in not more than 120-150 words, drawing the attention of the General Manager, Delhi Transport Corporation to this problem. You are Priti/Prakash, 15 Udyog Vihar, Noida. (6)

OR

You are awaiting your class 12th results. Meanwhile you would like to do a short term course on personality development. Write a letter to the Director, in not more than 120-150 words, Personal Care, Hyderabad, enquiring about the course details. You are Kailash / Kusum of 148, Model Town, Delhi.

6. Your family has recently shifted from Kota in Rajasthan to Ernakulam in Kerala, where your house is situated in the midst of beautiful flowering plants and fruit-yielding trees. Every minute and every second, you are experiencing the joy of being in the lap of nature. Write an article in 150-200 words on the diversity of nature that you have experienced. You are Latha / Lalith of Class XII. (10)

OR

Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic, 'Poverty is the cause of all evils', to be published in the Young Worlds of 'The Hindu', Chennai.

7. You are Rajendra Kumar, a social worker. You read an article in The Hindu on 'Health Care for Indian Workers'. Write a speech in 150 - 200 words on the importance of health care to be delivered at a public function to create awareness among the workers. (10)

OR

Media has a strong hold on society. Write a speech in 150- 200 words on how media influences public opinion to be delivered in the school assembly.

SECTION C (40Marks)

Text Books and Long Reading Text:

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

*Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.*

- (a) What does the Earth teach us? 1
- (b) What does the poet mean to achieve by counting upto twelve? 1
- (c) What is the significance of 'keeping quiet'? 1
- (d) Explain: 'and you keep quiet and I will go.' 1

OR

*When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.*

- (a) Who is the aunt mentioned here? 1
- (b) Why is she 'ringed with ordeals'? 1
- (c) What is the difference between her and the tigers? 1
- (d) What will happen when the aunt is dead? 1

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

- a) What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'?
- b) Why did Sophie like her brother, Geoff more than any other person?
- c) What sort of hunts did the Maharaja offer to organize for the high ranking British officer? What trait of the officer does it reveal?
- d) What did Jo want the wizard to do when Mommy Shunk approached him?
- e) Why did the peddler derive pleasure from his idea of the world as a rat-trap?

10. Answer the following question in 120 to 150 words:

(6)

Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhiji's campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation?

OR

Sophie was a dreamer. The lesson 'Going Places' reminds us that mere dreams will not help us to accomplish anything. What qualities, do you think, would help Sophie to realize her dreams?

11. Answer any one of the following questions in 120 to 150 words:

(6)

Douglas fully realized the truth of Roosevelt's statement 'All we have to fear is fear itself'. How did this realization help him brush aside his fear and become an expert swimmer?

OR

Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstance? Why / Why not ? Explain with reference to the story, 'The Enemy'.

12. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words:

(6x2=12)

a) What is the significance of Silas Marner's nearsightedness? What can you infer about his character from it?

b) The novel is set up as two parallel narratives that intersect three times. What are they and how do these meetings show a progression in Silas's status as a member of the community?
