



**INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR**  
**FINAL EXAM: 2015-16**  
**ENGLISH (Core)**

Std.: XI

Marks: 80

Date: 25.2.2016

Time: 3Hrs.

**Instructions:**

- This paper is divided into three sections:
 

Section A: Reading	(20 Marks)
Section B: Writing Skills & Grammar	(30 Marks)
Section C: Literature & Long Reading Text	(30 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****(20 Marks)****I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:****(12)**

1. Life is an institution. We have a Principal, God, who looks over the entire working of our life. He allots teachers, namely our parents, to guide us through this path. We learn lessons and it is up to us whether we want to pass or fail. Every morning we wake up and give a tick mark to the attendance file of our lives. The only difference in this school of life is that, you cannot play truant even for a day! Though from time to time one may doze off and not pay heed to the message that is being given to us.
2. From the start my parents taught me and my sister to be good human beings first. Life has been kind, sometimes harsh, but mostly fair. We make many mistakes, some of which we admit and others, we conceal. But now that I'm 22 years old, I can review every step taken by me. Think positive. Yes, it's that simple. Thoughts are actions. Imagine if there are a billion good thoughts, the universe will throw back a billion good actions. Something within tells me: 'Forget the world and listen to your heart'. If we all just start listening to our inner soul may be we won't be scratching our heads while taking the final exam. I am not at all close to being perfect but I know I want to get near it, not by mastering the business world, not by buying a perfect self. A perfect self, according to me is kind, compassionate, and empathetic; one who sees the good in people and shares the good within themselves.
3. The true test is for us to examine ourselves, and to be honest to ourselves before we give a tick mark to our answer sheets. I had a lot of questions ready, my doubt all written, point by point. Since I could not get the answer from my teachers, I made an appointment with God. Doubts about life, love, death, fear and sorrow. I was angry. Why can't He guide us? God was there by my side, every minute, every step. Even though I haven't got all the answers, I know I will get there. He will take me there, in my own time, the same way He has got me here, where I am now.
4. Some say one should never pity nor envy anyone else and I am happy to be me. The first important teaching to learn is to count your blessings. We all stand to be a little more aware about what life is really trying to teach us and be aware that life is trying to teach us something. Money is like our grades in school. It helps us move to the next steps but after that, who remembers what we scored in Maths in the third standard? People forget that money does not come along with us when we die. It becomes like our grades; we don't remember how much we earned or how much we lost. Families fight, friendships are ruined; parent child bonds are broken. Isn't that a waste? Why would anyone choose paper over love? Here's a plea for whoever is reading this. Let us all try and be the best pupils in this school called life. Be

true. Love not only others but also yourself. Love God wholeheartedly because that's all He wants, and you know what they say, "Be in His good books and you will go to the head of the class."

**1. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: (3)**

- i. All our questions can be answered by\_\_\_\_\_.
- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| a. parents | c. friends   |
| b. God     | d. ourselves |
- ii. We can be good pupils by \_\_\_\_\_.
- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| a. loving ourselves | c. both a & b |
| b. loving others    | d. only a     |
- iii. True test for us is \_\_\_\_\_.
- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. to find answers for the questions | c. to be honest to ourselves |
| b. to examine ourselves              | d. both b & c                |

**2. Answer the following questions briefly: (6)**

- How is God equal to a Principal?
- What is the difference between life at school and school of life?
- Why are good thoughts compared to good actions?
- 'Money is like our grades in school.' Explain.
- What is perfect self, according to the writer?
- What should we do to be confident during the exam of life?

**3. Find out words from the passage which: (3)**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a. means the same as 'absentee'        | (para 1) |
| b. is opposite in meaning to 'uncover' | (para 2) |
| c. means the same as 'appeal'          | (para 4) |

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

- Money came into existence to answer a need of mankind, but this need did not arise until civilization had grown beyond its earliest stages. Primitive man lived by hunting, each hunting only for himself and his family or tribe. Later, when he had learnt to domesticate wild animals, man lived a nomadic and pastoral life, constantly wandering as he drove his flocks and herds to new pastures. As the road to wealth was then the possession of beasts, money in its modern form was still not necessary, although the beasts themselves were a form of money. It would suit, what few craftsmen there were, to be paid for their wares in cattle and farmers and herdsmen have to pay in that way.
- When human communities began to settle down and cultivate the land, instead of wandering over it with their flocks and herds, the division of labour increased and people specialized in crafts and trades. Most men specialized in growing or producing something of which only a very small portion was necessary for their own wants. So they had to get rid of their surplus. In exchange for it, they wanted something which would give them the power to choose what they wanted from the surpluses of other people. A few transactions might take place in straightforward exchange or barter, but only certain things could be treated in this way. It was unlikely for instance, that a shoe-maker needing supplies of corn for his family from time-to-time would always find that the farmer would take shoes in exchange. It would be more convenient, if there were some other object that would always be useful to both the shoemaker and the farmer.

3. Once the people have agreed what this other object is to be and once they are prepared always to accept it or offer it in payment, then we have money in its primitive form. It is the go-between in all business transactions or as the economists say, 'a medium of exchange'. We have seen that in the pastoral stage of human history, cattle themselves were this generally acceptable commodity; it is therefore not strange that the Latin word for money, 'pecunia' comes from a similar Latin word, 'pecus' meaning cattle. In modern English we still use the adjectives, 'pecuniary' meaning, concerned with money, and 'impecunious' meaning having no money.
4. The trouble about the cattle is that they may become diseased, are easily driven away while their owners are asleep, require a lot of land on which to graze and cannot easily be subdivided without being killed and so losing their value. The precious metals such as gold and silver do not suffer from any of these disadvantages. It can be buried and hidden away easily, it does not rust or lose weight through storage; it can be weighed out into quite small quantities without loss of value. Even some modern communities have used the precious metals by weight as their standard money, although they have used coins for pocket money and small change. For many years the standard money of China was the 'tael' which was not a coin, but a weight of silver, the dollar and the cash were used for small change and minor transactions.
5. There are, however, disadvantages in using weighed quantities of these metals. Dishonest persons may mix them with less valuable metals of the same appearance and weight. In time, so many mixtures might then be passing from hand to hand that every businessman would need to be accompanied by an assayer to test and weigh every piece presented to him. The obvious way out of this difficulty is for the state to make coins a standard shape, weight and fineness which are then called currency.
  - 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: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

(30 Marks)

- III.** You are Principal, Patel Public School, Ashok Vihar, Delhi. Draft **an advertisement** for the post of Maths teacher in your school to be published in the classified columns of a daily newspaper in not more than 50 words. (4)

OR

You are Karan/Kanika, Secretary Cultural club of your school. Your school is organising a Dramatics workshop during the Winter Break for senior students of the school. Draft **a notice** for the school notice board informing the students giving all relevant details. (50 words) (4)

- IV.** You are Sunil / Sunita , B-Block, Mangol Puri, Delhi. Write **a letter to the DCP**, North Delhi, complaining about the poor law and order situation in the area. Suggest measures to make the place safe for all, especially the girls and elderly. (120-150 words) (6)

OR

You are V. Kartik / Kritika, a resident of 15 / 112 Rajiv Nagar, Ananthpur (A. P.). Lately, there have been a number of thefts in your area and some incidents of chain snatching. As a concerned citizen,

write a **letter to the Editor** of a local daily, drawing the attention of the concerned authorities towards the urgent need of safety and security in the locality. (120-150 words) **(6)**

**V.** You are Ajit/Meeta. You are totally disgusted with the way people have begun to copy western culture and forgotten their own tradition and history. Ours is an old culture and has a treasure in terms of art, literature, values and historical monuments. Write **an article** about “Our Rich Cultural Heritage” in about 200 words. **(10)**

OR

You are Sanju/Sanjana, a member of Health club of your school. You are disturbed at the increasing instances of students facing stress due to examinations. Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school on "How to Beat Examination Related Stress". (150-200 words) **(10)**

**VI.** The following passage is not edited. There is a mistake in each line. Find the mistake. Write the correct word and the correction in your answer sheet. **(4)**

	Incorrect	correct
Jonathan Swift has a great English satirist,	(a) .....	.....
born at Dublin, Ireland, on November 30,1667.	(b) .....	.....
He writes some remarkable pieces of literature	(c) .....	.....
and is still remembered by	(d) .....	.....
Gulliver’s Travels. Although which was a satire	(e) .....	.....
on England, it is read by child	(f) .....	.....
as a fairy tale. Unfortunate, in his later	(g) .....	.....
years of life, he turning insane.	(h) .....	.....

**VII.** Re-arrange the following words to make meaningful sentences: **(2)**  
a. nineteen/ only/ was attacked/ old/ she was/ when/ months/ she/ by a/ fever / strange  
b. the fever/ had/ she had/ gone/ become/ when/ it was/ blind,/ found/ deaf and dumb/ that

**VIII.** Read the conversation given below between a grandmother and daughter. Complete the paragraph that follows: **(4)**

Granddaughter: Hi grandma, would you like to join me?

Grandma: Where are you going, my dear?

Granddaughter: My regular aerobics class.

Grandma: Can I do aerobics?

Granddaughter: Why do you think that you can't?

Grandma: My muscles are not so flexible.

Granddaughter: To make them flexible, join my aerobics class.

The granddaughter (a) \_\_\_\_\_. Grandma asked lovingly where she was going. Granddaughter replied that she was going to her regular aerobics class. Grandma enquired (b) \_\_\_\_\_.

Granddaughter asked (c) \_\_\_\_\_. Grandmother replied that her muscles were not so flexible.

Granddaughter told (d) \_\_\_\_\_

IX. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

(3)

“Silence surrounds us. I would have  
Him prodigal, returning to  
His father’s house, the home he knew,  
Rather than see him make and move  
His world. I would forgive him too  
Shaping from sorrow a new love”

- What does the father want his son to do?
- ‘Silence surrounds them’. Explain
- How does the poet make use of allusion in these lines?

OR

Under the arch he lost his crown  
The arch was built too low. A frown  
Appeared upon his placid face.  
The king said, ‘This is a disgrace’

- Why was the arch constructed?
- Why did a frown appear on the King’s face?
- What is the lofty concept that Vikram Seth intends to convey through the poetry?

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

(9)

- “It is a shift in human perceptions as evolutionary as that introduced by Copernicus...” What is the shift? How did it emerge? (The Ailing Planet...)
- “Albert felt the medical certificate almost burning a hole in his pocket.” Why?
- “Somehow we had to make it.” Why does the author say so? (We’re not Afraid .....)
- Human life is transitory and this transience is contrasted to the permanence of nature in the poem, ‘A Photograph’. Explain.

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

(6)

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, the idea of a woman violating her marriage vows and exhibiting a mind of her own by refusing to render unquestioning obedience to her husband was something alien. **Mother’s Day** is a satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family which raises certain issues. What are the issues and how does the play resolve those?

OR

The story **The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse** poignantly brings out the point of intersection between the fading influence of the old country values and the evolving realization of the younger generation. It is the moral fiber of the Garoghlanian tribe which brings the two boys back to the path of righteousness. Elaborate.

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

(12)

- Virginia’s disappearance brings her to the forefront. Explain.
- Sir Simon, the ghost is altogether different from the usual ghosts we come across in a ghost story. Exemplify.

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