



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2016-17
ENGLISH (Core) 301

No. of printed pages: 6

Std: XII

Date: 04-01-2017

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.*

Marks: 100

Time: 3 hrs

SECTION A (30 Marks)

READING:

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

(12)

1. For four days, I walked through the narrow lanes of the old city, enjoying the romance of being in a city where history still lives — in its cobblestone streets and in its people riding asses, carrying vine leaves and palm as they once did during the time of Christ.

2. This is Jerusalem, home to the sacred sites of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. This is the place that houses the church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place where Jesus was finally laid to rest. This is also the site of Christ's crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

3. Built by the Roman Emperor Constantine at the site of an earlier temple to Aphrodite, it is the most venerated Christian shrine in the world. And justifiably so. Here, within the church, are the last five stations of the cross, the 10th station where Jesus was stripped of his clothes, the 11th where he was nailed to the cross, the 12th where he died on the cross, the 13th where the body was removed from the cross, and the 14th, his tomb.

4. For all this weighty tradition, the approach and entrance to the church is non-descript. You have to ask for directions. Even to the devout Christian pilgrims walking along the Via Dolorosa – the Way of Sorrows – first nine stations look clueless. Then a courtyard appears, hemmed in by other buildings and a doorway to one side. This leads to a vast area of huge stone architecture.

5. Immediately inside the entrance is your first stop. It's the stone of anointing: this is the place, according to Greek tradition, where Christ was removed from the cross. The Roman Catholics, however, believe it to be the spot where Jesus' body was prepared for burial by Joseph.

6. What happened next ? Jesus was buried. He was taken to a place outside the city of Jerusalem where other graves existed and there, he was buried in a cave. However, all that is long gone, destroyed by continued attacks and rebuilding; what remains is the massive — and impressive — Rotunda (a round building with a dome) that Emperor Constantine built. Under this, and right in the centre of the Rotunda, is the structure that contains the Holy Sepulcher.

7. "How do you know that this is Jesus' tomb?" I asked one of the pilgrims standing next to me. He was clueless, more interested, like the rest of them, in the novelty of it all and in photographing it, than in its history or tradition.

8. At the start of the first century, the place was a disused quarry outside the city walls. According to the gospels, Jesus' crucifixion occurred 'at a place outside the city walls with graves nearby.....'. Archaeologists have discovered tombs from that era, so the site is compatible with the biblical period.

9. The structure at the site is a marble tomb built over the original burial chamber. It has two rooms, and you enter four at a time into the first of these, the Chapel of the Angel. Here the angel is supposed to have sat on a stone to recount Christ's resurrection. A low door made of white marble, partly worn away by pilgrims' hands, leads to a smaller chamber inside. This is the 'room of the tomb', the place where Jesus was buried.

10. We entered in single file. On my right was a large marble slab that covered the original rock bench on which the body of Jesus was laid. A woman knelt and prayed. Her eyes were wet with tears. She pressed her face against the slab to hide them, but it only made it worse.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. (1X4=4)

(a) How does Jerusalem still retain the charm of ancient era?

- (i) There are narrow lanes.
- (ii) Roads are paved with cobblestones.
- (iii) People can be seen riding asses
- (iv) All of the above

(b) Holy Sepulcher is sacred to _____.

- (i) Christianity
- (ii) Islam
- (iii) Judaism
- (iv) Both (i) and (iii)

(c) Why does one have to constantly ask for directions to the church?

- (i) Its lanes are narrow.
- (ii) Entrance to the church is non-descript.
- (iii) People are not tourist- friendly.
- (iv) Everyone is lost in enjoying the romance of the place.

(d) Where was, Jesus buried?

- (i) In a cave
- (ii) At a place outside the city
- (iii) In the Holy Sepulcher
- (iv) All of the above

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1 × 6 = 6)

(a) What is the Greek belief about the 'stone of anointing'?

(b) Why did Emperor Constantine build the Rotunda?

(c) What is the general attitude of the pilgrims?

(d) How is the site compatible with the biblical period?

(e) Why did the pilgrims enter the room of the tomb in a single file?

(f) Why did 'a woman' try to hide her tears?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

(1 × 2 = 2)

(a) A large grave (para 3)

(b) Having no interesting features/dull (para 4)

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

(10)

I've always held the belief that rationale or logic has no place in faith. If you have faith in the Supreme then you must also accept that you are not out there to defend your faith based on any scientific evidence. Those who don't share your belief have an equal right to their opinion. What matters is your personal stand. If you feel peaceful and joyous, if you feel inspired to do good deeds by having your faith, then by all means keep it, there is no reason to abandon it.

2. Einstein once got a letter asking if he believed in the Supreme. Einstein sent a telegram in response stating, "I believe in Spinoza's idea of the Supreme who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in someone who concerns himself with the fates and actions of human beings." In case you are not familiar, Baruch Spinoza (1632 – 1677) was a Dutch philosopher (yes, not just brilliant engineers, they have philosophers too). An unorthodox and independent thinker, his views were revolutionary at the time. His philosophy is thought-provoking. So, where does that leave us in regards to faith?

3. To me, faith is a sentiment, it's an emotion. Just like you fall in love and you surrender in love and you find yourself willing to do anything for the person you love, same is with faith. Faith is love. When you have faith, you let go of your worries of the future, you let go of your guilt of the past, because you have surrendered to the divine will. You remain committed to a life of goodness and action. But, you also recognize that there are other bigger forces, of immense scale, in play in the grand scheme of things and it'll do you much good to play along.

4. You gain this courage, zest and zeal to work hard, to excel, to serve. Life looks beautiful and everything looks priceless then, because it truly is. Even our suffering is priceless. It gives you strength; it makes you reflect on you. It is priceless because you appreciate life more, it brings you closer to you, the real you. Don't limit yourself by asking petty things from the Supreme. Trust the immensity of nature. Faith does not mean all your dreams will come true, it simply means you look upon everything that's granted to you as a blessing. Just focus on your deeds and before long, you'll be filled beyond measure.

5. Accepting the transient nature of this world, and its eternal impermanence, is the definitive path to inner peace. Either live in complete surrender or exercise total control. If your boat is neither anchored nor guided, it'll just drift then. It'll drift in the direction of your thoughts, desires and emotions. Here today, there tomorrow.

6. Cosmic intelligence is infinitely more subtle, smart, organized and selfless than individual intelligence. Anchor your ship if you are tired of rowing. Have faith. (499 words)

A Mystic's Viewpoint-Blog by Om Swami

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

(1x2=2)

a) Faith

i. does not depend on rationale and logic

ii. is a personal stand

iii. fills us with joy and peace

iv. All of the above

- b) 'Here today, there tomorrow' (Para 5) refers to
- i. our thoughts
 - ii. our faith
 - iii. our emotions
 - iv. our desires

2.2 Answer the following briefly:

(1x6=6)

- (a) What was Einstein's belief about faith?
- (b) What does one gain from having faith?
- (c) In what way, does suffering become priceless?
- (d) Why does the writer compare life to a birthday party?
- (e) What is the definitive path to inner peace?
- (f) How is cosmic intelligence superior to individual intelligence?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

(1x2=2)

- (a) proof (para 1)
- (b) celestial (para 6)

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

(8)

(1) Medical waste has been a growing concern because of recent incidents of public exposure to discarded blood vials, needles (sharps), empty prescription bottles, and syringes. Medical waste can typically include general refuse, human blood and blood products, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, laboratory animal carcasses, contaminated bedding material, and pathological wastes.

(2) Wastes are generally collected by gravity chutes, carts, or pneumatic tubes, each of which has its own advantages and disadvantages. Chutes are limited to vertical transport, and there is some risk of exhausting contaminants into hallways if a door is left open during use. Carts are primarily for horizontal transport of bagged or containerized wastes. The main risk here is that bags may be broken or torn during transport. Pneumatic tubes offer the best performance for waste transport in a large facility. Advantages include high-speed movement, movement in any direction, and minimal intermediate storage of untreated wastes.

(3) Hydro pulping involves grinding the waste in the presence of an oxidizing fluid, such as hypochlorite solution. One advantage is that waste can be rendered innocuous and reduced in size within the same system. Disadvantages are the added operating burden, difficulty of controlling fugitive emissions, and the difficulty of conducting microbiological tests.

(4) Steam sterilization is limited in the types of medical waste it can treat, but is appropriate for laboratory cultures and/or substances contaminated with infectious organisms. The waste is subjected to steam in a sealed, pressurized chamber. The liquid that may form is drained off to the sewer or sent for processing. The unit is then reopened after a vapor release to the atmosphere, and the solid waste is removed for further processing or disposal. One advantage of steam sterilization is that it has been used for many years in hospitals to sterilize instruments and containers and to treat small quantities of waste. However, since sterilization does not change the appearance of the waste, there could be a problem in gaining acceptance of the waste for landfilling.

(5) A properly designed, maintained, and operated incinerator achieves a relatively high level of organism destruction. Incineration reduces the weight and volume of the waste as much as 95% and is especially appropriate for pathological wastes and sharps. The most common incineration system for medical waste is the controlled-air type. The principal advantage of this type of incinerator is low particulate emissions. Rotary-kiln and grate-type units have been used, but use of grate-type units has been discontinued because of high air emissions. The rotary kiln also puts out high emissions, and the costs have been prohibitive for smaller units.

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 Ashish/Aarti of Hyderabad. You want to let out a house. Write out an advertisement to be published in the classified columns of a newspaper in about 50 words. (4)

OR

Your school has decided to celebrate Golden Jubilee of KVS, by arranging a day long programme. Students are urged to participate actively and co-operate in making the celebrations a grand success. You are Monisha/Manoj, Cultural Secretary of your school. Write a notice in this regard in not more than 50 words to be put up on the school notice board.

5. You are Amit/Amita staying at Sunrise Apartments, Gymkhana Road, Pune. The main road leading to this colony has three open manholes causing frequent accidents at night. The streetlight is also not available. Write a letter in 120 to 150 words, to the Editor of "The Times of India" expressing your concern about the apathy of the authorities towards this situation. Also, suggest ways to mobilize city dwellers, with the help of school children, for the cause for safe roads. (6)

OR

You are Selma /Saleem. You saw an advertisement regarding a course for training & preparing students for TOEFL (Test of English as a foreign Language). You wish to join the course. Write a letter to the Course Director, British Council, Nungambakkam, Chennai-68, enquiring about all the details that you require, in not more than 120-150 words.

6. Owning a car has become a status symbol these days. However an increase in the number of cars has added to the various types of pollution and other problems. Write an article in 150 – 200 words highlighting the urgent need for solving these man-made problems giving suitable suggestions. You are Vinod/ Vidhi. (10)

OR

Rising pollution, fast and competitive lifestyle, lack of nutritious food etc. have caused health woes for a large section of our population. Providing health care used to be a charitable and ethical activity. Today it has become commercialized, a money spinning business. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'How to provide proper health care to the common man'. You are Karan/Karuna.

7. Write a debate on the topic – 'Elections are the best test of a Democracy' in 150 to 200 words. (10)

OR

You are Saran/Saranya, a Senior Consultant (Child Education) in Jaideep School Management and Trust. You organised a seminar on **Right to Education Act** for teachers and students. You invited eminent educationists and sociologists to talk on the topic of *Right to free and compulsory education to children in the age range of 6-14 years*, problems and implications. Write a report in about 150 to 200 words on it for Trust's Magazine.

SECTION C (40Marks)

Text Books and Long Reading Text:

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

*perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.*

- (a) How can we bring about a ‘huge silence’? (1)
(b) Why is silence called ‘huge’? (1)
(c) What do we do for lack of understanding? (1)
(d) What does this lack ultimately lead to? (1)

OR

*familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile... ..*

- (a) What does the phrase, ‘familiar ache’ mean? (1)
(b) What was the poet’s childhood fear? (1)
(c) What do the first two lines tell us about the poet’s feelings for her mother? (1)
(d) What does the repeated use of the word, ‘smile’ mean? (1)

9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each: (3×4=12)

- (a) Why was the peddler amused at the idea of the world being a rattrap?
(b) Why did Gandhi ji agree to a settlement of mere 25 percent?
(c) Aunt Jennifer’s efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment.
(d) How was Bama influenced by the words of her brother, Annan?
(e) How did the ten-day-old baby (the future Tiger King) react to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers?
(f) Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad along with the troops?

10. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words: (6)

Our language is part of our culture and we are proud of it. Describe how regretful M. Hamel and the village elders are for having neglected their native language, French.

OR

Teachers always advise their students to dream big. Yet, the same teachers in your classrooms find fault with Sophie when she dreams. What is wrong with Sophie’s dreams?

11. Answer the following in about 100 words: (6)

Derry sneaked into Mr. Lamb’s garden and it became a turning point in his life. Comment.

OR

In case of a difference of opinion it is generally the adult who has his way. Comment on how Jack justifies the mother Skunk’s action?

12. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words: (6)

Compare Silas Marner’s love of his money to his religious faith. What does this tell you about his character?

13. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words: (6)

Nancy is neither well educated nor particularly curious, and her code marks her as just as much a product of Raveloe’s isolation and rusticity as Dolly Winthrop. Comment.
