



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
FIRST TERM EXAM 2017-18
ENGLISH (Core)

No. of printed pages: 6

Std: XII

Date: 19-09-2017

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:** (10)
1. The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's' and 'don'ts'. The same old favourites recur year in and year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.
 2. Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolutions to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening.
 3. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task. The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable position, I set down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me.
 4. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little, the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th, I was back to where. I had started from.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices: (1 x 2 = 2)

- (a) What is the New Year a time for?**
- (i) enjoying parties
 - (ii) Sending greetings
 - (iii) Making resolutions.
 - (iv) Watching T.V. Programmes.

(b) How did the author's family members treat his resolution:

- (i) they helped him with his exercise.
- (ii) they woke him up regularly.
- (iii) they also did exercise.
- (iv) they made a fun of him.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1 x 6 = 6)

- (a) Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolutions to everybody?
- (b) Why, according to the writer, most of us fail in our efforts for self- improvement?
- (c) Why did the writer not carry out his resolutions on New Year's Day?
- (d) For how long did his physical exercise last?
- (e) Where did the author do his exercise?
- (f) Why do we remain deep –rooted liars?

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

(1 x 2=2)

- a) tedious (para 1)
- b) diligent (para 4)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end:

(12)

1. First, a warning!! The journey is tough, steep and peppered with hairpin bends. If you are not a hardened traveller, by the time you reach Tawang your head is likely to be spinning. Add to it the breeze which pierces through all your protective clothing and you could well be wondering what prompted you to make this arduous trip to such Himalayan heights.

2. To get acclimatized to high altitude, the recipe is simple and strict – take it easy on the first day, lest you find yourself out of breath and panting. Tuck yourself in a warm bed and sip some *thupka* (Tibetan noodle soup) and begin your adventures the following day.

3. In fact when you get up the next morning, you will scarcely believe what you see. The picture postcard beauty of the hill station in Arunachal Pradesh will simply take your breath away. The scenery is pristine and the Himalayan ranges are lush with pine, oak and rhododendron forests. There is also a rich growth of bamboo, which is the favorite food of the red panda found in this part of the Northeast.

4. Located about 10,000 feet above sea level, the Tawang monastery is the second oldest monastery in Asia, which explains the rush of tourists to this remote settlement. The magnificent monastery overlooks the valley and surrounded by mountains that seem to be towering around it like guards. The monastery's enormous yellow roof and white walls stand out like a beacon. The place is completely isolated from the world.

5. One of the biggest attractions of the monastery is the three storey *dukhang* (assembly hall) that has a magnificent eight-meter-high gilded image of Buddha.

6. The ancient library, leading onto the *parkhang* (main courtyard) has an excellent collection of old scriptures, images and *thankas* (traditional paintings and monastery – or *gompa* in local language – is over 350 years old and is an important centre of pilgrimage for Buddhists.

7. The sixth Dalai Lama was born here. Also known as the *Galden Namgyan Lhatse*, the monastery is a repository of Tibetan Buddhist culture.

8. Tawang does not have an airport or railway station of its own. It is connected with other town in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam by road. Reaching Tawang from Kolkata is braving a long but rewarding journey. The drive through the picturesque mountain country is spectacular and can leave you breathless as you wind around steep hill-roads and maneuver sharp hairpin bends. In parts, the road can be rather treacherous. This is definitely not a drive for the faint-hearted.

9. The journey to Tawang starts from Guwahati on a bus or a taxi to Bomdila. Past the Dirang valley with its old *dzong* (fort), the road climbs sharply to Sela Pass at 13,940 feet. This barren, desolate landscape is softened by a serene lake that lies below Sela Pass.

10. Twang has one main street and a warren on alleys to the houses that climb up the hillside towards the towering monastery. It also has one quaint little bazaar which sells products ranging from talismans and prayer wheels to garish sunglasses and transistors. The snack stalls are a plenty offering solja, the yak butter tea, thupka and hot memos, the delicious steamed meat dumpling with chili sauce.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. (4)

(a) To acclimatize to high altitude, one should _____

- i) wear very warm clothes
- ii) take precautionary medicine
- iii) have strong will-power
- iv) be cool about it in the beginning

(b) Which of the following is not correct about Tawang?

- i) a remote settlement
- ii) not connected by air
- iii) offers wonderful spectacles of beauty
- iv) biggest monastery in the world

(c) The biggest attraction in the monastery is..

- i) the gilded image of Budha
- ii) the enormous yellow roof and white walls
- iii) the ancient library
- iv) the panoramic view around

(d) Tawang can be reached by...

- i) Air
- ii) Train
- iii) Road from Sikkim
- iv) Road passing through Assam

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (6)

(a) Why is the journey up Twang so arduous?

(b) Why do people like to visit Tawang?

(c) How can one reach Tawang?

(d) How is Tawang important for Buddhist?

(e) How does a drive to Tawang attract visitors?

(f) What are the food delicacies that visitors can enjoy atop Tawang?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same:

(2)

- (a) Extremely attractive (Para 4)
- (b) Old-fashioned (Para 10)

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

(8)

For many of us, our lives are composed of millions of meaningless moments, all strung together. Perhaps with a sprinkling of sacred moments mixed in. I am sure you can think of a few sacred moments in your own life. May be your marriage, the birth of your child or perhaps a heartfelt moment of connection with good friends. These are the moments when we are consumed with joy and awe. At these moments, we are fully present in the moment. We're not worrying about tomorrow, or trying to rush through the experience to get to the next. We are in the now, and the now is amazing. Why do we wait for major events to honour these sacred moments? Why can't every day be sacred? Every moment? Each moment is sacred, if we decide to make it that way. I stated above that our lives are filled with meaningless moments, but those moments are meaningless only because we don't honour them. We are hurrying along, focused on other things, not stopping to notice them at all. They come and go without any acknowledgment from us. Honoring the sacred means simply choosing to make each moment count. It is a tiny shift in perception that assigns meaning and importance to each moment. It means stopping to notice the beauty and love around us, and within us. It means being fully present in each moment, because only the present moment truly exists.

So many of us worry about the future, hold regrets about the past, and completely ignore the present. When we give the now our full attention even mundane tasks can take on an aura of holiness. Then our lives become millions of meaningful moments. Nothing has changed except our perception, but it makes all the difference.

How do we change our perception to one of sacredness? What does it mean to stay in the present moment? Let's use an example: washing dishes. When most of us wash dishes, we hurry through it, often thinking about the million other things we need to get done that day (or the next day). Our minds are scattered all over the place, focusing on everything but what we are doing. Who can blame us? Washing dishes is not the most exciting experience. However, if we choose to make it a sacred experience, we will want to focus on it.

We want to take our time and really pay attention to how the water feels on our hands, how the soap cleanses away the grease and grime, and the sense of satisfaction we get as each dish moves from the dirty pile to the strainer, now clean and shiny. Maybe that still doesn't sound very thrilling. Let's look at what else is happening. As we give our full attention to washing the dishes, we are not only doing, we are being. Ah, that is the key. It doesn't matter what we're doing or not doing in each moment of our lives, It matters only that we become aware of our own state of Being. In those moments, we are fully alive and conscious. We are connected to everything, and we are one with everything. We are. Have you ever embarked on a walking meditation? This can be great practice to help you honour the sacred in your own life. Many of us walk for health or recreation, but we can also walk for spiritual awareness. A walking meditation is a slow, focused walk where you give your full attention to each step you take, the feel of your muscles working, your breathing, and even your surroundings. Especially if you walk some place in nature, a place with lots of trees and wildlife. The trick is to not let your mind wander, but stay focused on the now. It can take practice, but once you accomplish it, you will return from your walks fully refresh and revitalized.

3.1 Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations (minimum4), with suitable titles. (5)

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

SECTION B (30 Marks)

ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS:

4. Your school is organizing the prestigious KVS National Level Science Exhibition in its premises. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words, giving all essential details. (4)

Or

The students' council of your school has organized an excursion to Goa for students of class XII during the Autumn Break. As President of the council, write a notice in not more than fifty words informing the students about this excursion. Sign yourself as Ravi / Raveena.

5. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter in 120-150 words, applying for the job along with a detailed resume. (6)

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted Post Graduate Teacher in English to teach Senior Secondary Classes in a reputed CBSE affiliated residential school. Working knowledge of computer is preferable. Salary commensurate with experience and expertise.

OR

You are Satish/Sonali, the student prefect in charge of the school library. You have been asked to place an order for children's story books, ages 5- 9 years, 10-13 years, 14- 17 years. Write a letter in 120-150 words to M.S. Book Depot Ramnagar, Bikaner placing an order for the books. Invent the necessary details.

6. India is a country with diverse cultures, traditions, religious and political beliefs. To keep such a country together, to bind the people and take the nation ahead on the path of progress, democracy is the most suitable form of government. Write an article in about 150-200 words. You are Akshay/Asha a class XII student at Rosary Senior Secondary School Lucknow. (10)

OR

You are Amit/Amita a student of class XII at K.N. Senior Secondary School Nagpur. You recently visited a hill station along with your parents. It was an exhilarating, adventurous and joyful experience. Write an article for the school magazine sharing your experience in 150-200 words.

7. Water is very precious. Some scientists even go to the extent of saying that the Third World War may be fought on the issue of water. Write a speech in 150-200 words expressing your views to be delivered in the morning assembly in your school. (10)

OR

“To use the latest technology the right way, is in the hands of the youth today.” Write a speech 150-200 words discouraging the misuse of technological products like cell phones, computers etc and highlighting the need to use them to promote harmony and goodwill in the society.

SECTION C (40Marks)

Text Books and Long Reading Text:

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

And yet, for these

Children, these windows, not this map, their world,

Where all their future's painted with a fog,

A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky

Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words.

- (a) What does the map on the wall signify? 1
- (b) Who are *these* children? What is their world like? 1
- (c) Explain 'A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky.' 1
- (d) What kind of future does the poet foresee for them? 1

Or

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Who can teach us and what? | 1 |
| b) Why does the speaker count up to twelve? | 1 |
| c) Explain- 'you keep quiet and I will go'? | 1 |
| d) How will it 'later prove to be alive.' | 1 |

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

- Why did the poet think of young trees and merry children? How did it connect with her childhood fear?
- The beauty of the bangles of Firozabad is in direct contrast to life of the people who make them. Elaborate.
- On the seventh day after the American soldier was found by Dr. Sadao, two things happened. Why did Hana feel scared of them?
- Why did Gandhi ji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?
- Comment on how Jack justifies the mother Skunk's action?

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

A person with his weaknesses is provoked by the worldly people and falls prey to such flaws in him. The real personality, according to the author, is that which remains unflinching in all sorts of provocations. It's an equanimity. Explain and highlight the message inherent in the lesson, 'The Rattrap'.

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

It is obvious from the lesson 'The Tiger King' that lack of good counselling makes the king autocrat and he arbitrarily ruins the environment by killing tigers of the two kingdoms. Elucidate.

OR

The story 'The Last Lesson', takes the readers back to the Franco- Prussian war and the capture of Alsace and Lorraine by the Prussians. Describe this transition as seen through the eyes of a young boy, Franz

12. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words: (6x2=12)

- Who was Molly Farren? What happens to her on New Year's Eve and how do these events affect Silas?
- "I shall do what I choose and I shall let you know I'm the master....". In the light of these words as a father comment upon Squire Cass' character.
