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**INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR**  
**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2017-18**  
**ENGLISH (Core) 301**

**Std: XII**

**Date:04-01-2018**

**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:**

12

1. Giving soothes an individual with the vibration of joy. Unconditional giving is a natural principle and evident everywhere in nature which gives us solids, liquids and minerals. Water gives itself away for our agriculture and other uses. Trees give flowers, fruits and wood. Air gives us the very life-breath and the sun gives us light of life.
2. Even the animals give us milk, egg, meat, skin and various services. But what do we humans contribute to the cosmos in return? Isn't our role predominantly selfish and destructive? We expand civilization to disturb ecological balance, spread pollution in the fresh natural atmosphere, indulge in ruthless deforestation, kill animals even for sport and consume all natural resources for our own selfish interest.
3. It is always great to make donations, but what about giving your own time? It's wonderful to drop off used clothing, books and toys at a shelter for the homeless, but what about spending an hour each week reading and playing with the deprived children? Come face to face with the person you are helping. It will make your giving more meaningful.
4. It is not about just the time that you give to the deprived children, but what you give to your family. Are you there when they need you? Or, is it always you who demand help and cooperation from the rest of your family members? How much do you care for the elderly that live with you or are far away from you? How do you utilize your spare moments? Isn't it that you just sit before the television and keep using precious spare moments making a 'Get well soon' card for your grandmother, or someone dear to you not in good spirits, or send a letter via Internet. Why be on the "Face book" all the time chatting with your friends whom you already meet daily at school.
5. The law of Karma is a natural law whereby we are paid back in the same coin. We have added much for our comforts but we have not been able to attain peace and tranquility. We are constantly hunted by excessive greed for grabbing which is severely disturbing mutual coexistence. We rarely do what we can for preservation of nature and even our own fellowmen. We have not moved much from the primitive selfish mentality where self-preservation was the law for survival.
6. What can we give back to the cosmos? We humans are predominantly gifted with mind and intellect. These are very sharp instruments indeed which can be used as surgeon's knife for healing or an instrument for killing. Instead of nurturing anger, jealousy, hatred, selfishness and animosity, we can spread love, care, kindness and benevolence to all and thereby transform the earthly vibration into a heavenly one. If not anything else, we can at least pray for the happiness and well-being of all. We are here in the image of God. We have divine inheritance of love, to be engaged in divine enjoyment of nature and God's creation with love. Jesus said, "Those that give shall receive."
7. Instead of being always at the receiving end, let us abide by the principle of giving by all means and see how things change for humanity at large.

**1.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.** **3**

1. Unconditional giving is a natural principle which.....

- a) manifests in solids
- b) is seen in nature
- c) gives us light of life
- d) is a component of the sun

2. Expanding civilizations has resulted in.....

- a) Creating sport for animals
- b) Creating ecological system
- c) Disturbing the ecological system
- d) Making man selfish

3. The natural law of karma.....

- a) Pays back all previous debt
- b) Pays back in the same coin
- c) Preserves nature and our fellowmen
- d) Moves from a primitive selfish mentality

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:** **6**

- i. How is the giving principle of nature evidenced?
- ii. What do animals provide man with?
- iii. How do we, according to the writer, utilize our free moments?
- iv. What would 'abiding by the principle of giving' provide us with in return?
- v. What does the writer compare human intellect and mind with?
- vi. What is the law of karma?

**1.3 Find words from the passage which are the opposite of the following:** **3**

- i. irritate (para 1)
- ii. disharmony (para 5)
- iii. amity (para 6)

**2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:** **10**

It was pretty late in the autumn of the year, when the declining sun struggling through the mist which had obscured it all day, looked brightly down upon a little Wiltshire village, within an easy journey of the fair old town of Salisbury.

Like a sudden flash of memory or spirit kindling up the mind of an old man, it shed a glory up on the scene, in which its departed youth and freshness seemed to live again. The wet grass sparkled in the light; the scanty patches of verdure in the hedges- where a few green twigs yet stood together bravely, resisting to the last the tyranny of nipping winds and early frosts- took heart and brightened up; the stream which had been dull and sullen all day long, broke out into a cheerful smile; the birds began to chirp and twitter on the naked boughs, as though the hopeful creatures half believed that winter had gone by, and spring had come already. The vane upon the tapering spire of the old church glistened from its lofty station in sympathy with the general gladness; and from the ivy-shaded windows such gleams of light shone back upon the glowing sky, that it seemed as if the quiet buildings were the hoarding- place of twenty summers, and all their ruddiness and warmth were stored within.

Even those tokens of the season which emphatically whispered of the coming winter, graced the

landscape, and, for the moment, tinged its livelier features with no oppressive air of sadness. The fallen leaves, with which the ground was strewn, gave forth a pleasant fragrance, and subduing all harsh sounds of distant feet and wheels created a repose in gentle unison with the light scattering of seed hither and thither by the distant husbandman, and with the noiseless passage of plough as it turned up the rich brown earth, and wrought a graceful pattern in the stubbled fields. On the motionless branches of some trees, autumn berries hung like clusters of coral beads, as in those fabled orchards where the fruits were jewels; others stripped of all their garniture, stood, each the center of its little heap of bright red leaves, watching their slow decay; others again, still wearing theirs, had them all crunched and crackled up, as though they had been burnt; about the stems of some were piled, in ruddy mounds, the apples they had born that year; while others(hardy evergreens this class) showed somewhat stern and gloomy in their vigour, as charged by nature with the admonition that it is not to her more sensitive and joyous favourites she grants the longest term of life. Still athwart their darker boughs, the sun beams struck out paths of deeper gold; and the red light, mantling in among their swarthy branches, used them as foils to set its brightness off, and aid the luster of the dying day.

A moment, and its glory was no more. The sun went down beneath the long dark lines of hill and cloud which piled up in the west an airy city, wall heaped on wall, and battlement on battlement; the light was all withdrawn; the shining church turned cold and dark; the stream forgot to smile; the birds went ssilent; and the gloom of winter dwelt on everything.

**2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.**

**1x2=2**

a) The day being described is.....

- i. A dull evening in late autumn
- ii. Bright day in early autumn
- iii. A dull evening in late spring
- iv. A dull morning in late autumn

b) The sound of passing footsteps was muffled because.....

- i. Falling leaves had covered the ground
- ii. There was a repose all around
- iii. The road had been ploughed
- iv. The road had not been ploughed

**2.2 Answer the following questions briefly:**

**1x6=6**

- a) What effect did the sun have on the grass and hedges?
- b) What effect did the sunshine create on the windows of buildings?
- c) What reference tells us that there is work ahead for the farmer?
- d) How do the berry bearing trees appear during this season?
- e) How do the fallen leaves create pleasantness around?
- (f) What effect did the setting sun have on the atmosphere?

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

**1x2=2**

- i) fresh, flourishing vegetation (para 2)
- ii) diagonally (para 3)

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

**8**

Memory is what defines our lives, our personalities, and our very existence. The dictionary defines memory as the faculty by which things are recalled or kept in the mind; the recovery of one's knowledge by mental effort.

But for most of us memory is just the ability to recall facts and figures, the faces of people we know and the recollection of things in the past. But memory is far more complex than this. Without memory, as in the case of amnesia, the personality changes and is distorted without any point or reference. Memory is of vital importance in defining our personalities as it enriches our lives with complicated personal remembrances. Without this we turn into walking zombies. As people grow older they often suffer memory loss in some form or other and diseases like Alzheimer's can obliterate memory centers of the brain, making the sufferer into a different, less coherent and less rational personality.

Science has discovered that there are many different types of memory and we can lose one kind and still retain others.

Human beings have a long-term memory and a working memory. Working memory is the ability to recall telephone numbers, addresses and relevant information such as those needed in our daily lives. Many elderly people seem to lose this form of memory while still retaining their long-term memory. Even perfectly normal people may have only one part of the brain active under stress or illness. In addition to long-term memory and working memory, there is also recent memory, semantic memory (the memory of facts) and episodic memory (the memory of something which actually happened), explicit and implicit memory and source memory, which enables us to recall from where we learnt certain facts. A loss of source memory seems to affect most people at some time or the other.

Without memory we become different people. It is what most elderly people fear, but it need not be so. Unless illness is the cause for memory loss, participating fully in life can make a world of difference. Scientists, musicians, writers, doctors, architects, engineers and artists, all use their brains and memory centres to maximum effect. In fact anyone who is absorbed in some sort of work or project, or hobby whereby the mind is stimulated and used, can keep the memory in good working condition. Reading and paying attention to what you are reading, learning poetry by heart and taking a deep interest in the world around you, stimulate memory. We must also learn to breathe deeply.

If the brain does not receive sufficient oxygen for the process of cerebration, hallucination and negative psychic reactions occur. Yoga tells us that for good mental health and emotional stability, we need to be good, deep breathers.

Without memory we are nothing. Our closest family members are nothing to us; we are alone, drifting in a world of which we appear to know nothing. The preservation of dignity, empathy, love, depend almost entirely on the preservation of memory.

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum four) and an appropriate format. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 5

3.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 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**

You are a student of Laxmi Public School, Model Town, Delhi. The School is holding its Annual Function at 5.30 p.m. on 24th Dec. 2016. The Education Minister has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. (Word Limit 50).

5. You are Kavita / Kailash staying at B-101, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi. You find it disturbing that despite a ban on the use of polythene bags, its use is rampant in city. Write a letter to the editor of a National Daily, in not more than 120-150 words, expressing your concern about the apathy of people towards environmental degradation. Also suggest ways to mobilize city dwellers for the cause of safe environment with the help of School Children. **6**

**OR**

You are Sameer/Sabina. You read an advertisement about a course for training and preparing students for public speaking. Write a letter to the Director of the Institute making inquiry about the details of the course, in not more than 120-150 words.

6. You are somewhat perturbed by the changing behavior of society, of youngsters in particular. Write a speech in 150 to 200 words, comparing today's life with that of a decade back. **10**

**OR**

You are Priya /Piyush. You find illiteracy as the biggest impediment to the development of a nation. You strongly believe that education can play a very important role in the progress of a country. Write an article in 150 to 200 words, on "Education The Biggest Tool of Progress".

7. Write a debate in 150 to 200 words, on the topic – 'Are Old Age Homes Necessary?' **10**

**OR**

You are Sanjay / Sanjana, a reporter with. The Hindustan Times. You witnessed a fire accident in a crowded market in Delhi. Write a report in about 150 to 200 words, to be published in the newspaper. Invent necessary details.

### **SECTION C (40Marks)**

#### **Text Books and Long Reading Text:**

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

*A thing of beauty is a joy forever*

*Its loveliness increases, it will never*

*Pass into nothingness; but will keep*

*A bower quiet for us, and a sleep*

*Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.*

a) 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever' Explain.

b) Why does a beautiful thing not pass into nothingness?

c) What does the poet mean by 'a bower quiet for us'?

d) Why do we need sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing in our lives?

**OR**

*but after the airport's*

*security check, standing a few yards*

*away, I looked again at her, wan, pale*

*as a late winter's moon*

a) Who is 'I' and why is she at the airport?

b) Who does 'her' here refer to? How did she look like?

c) Why does the narrator 'look at her again'?

d) Explain: 'wan, pale as a late winter's moon'.

**9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each:**

**3×4=12**

- (a) How did Sophie react when Geoff told her father that she had met Daney Casey?
- (b) Stephen Spenders poem begins with despair and ends with hope. How?
- (c) Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment.
- (d) Describe the events of the last lesson that Mr. Hamel conducted with his class.
- (e) How is keeping still both physically and mentally beneficial for us?
- (f) How does Mr. Lamb keep himself busy when it is a bit cool?

**10. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words:**

**6**

‘See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, Bah! I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’

In the light of the above statement bring out the importance of making the optimum use of their time and not delaying the things that need to be done.

Bring out the fact that time is an important and valuable resource, which if used well will benefit not just the individual but the society as a whole.

**OR**

“Years of mind numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream”. With the reference of the above comment, bring out the need to remember that the youth of today have to carry forward the legacy of the architects of our freedom keeping the ideals of hard work and honesty in all dealings as their guiding spirit .

**11. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words:**

**6**

What rattrap was the peddler trapped in? How did he come out of it?

**OR**

How was Gandhiji's method different in solving the problems of the farmers?

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

**6**

Silas' love for money is merely the result of his spiritual desolation and his hidden capacity for love and sacrifice manifests itself when he takes in and raises Eppie. Throw light on his character based on this statement.

**13. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words:**

**6**

The Cass household moves from slovenly and wifeless under the Squire to inviting under Nancy. Justify.

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