

**FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2017-2018)**

**CLASS: XII**

**Subject: ENGLISH (CORE)**

**Date: 23.12.2017**

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

General instructions:

- (1) All questions are **compulsory**.
- (2) Marks are indicated against each question.
- (3) Please check this question paper contains 11 printed pages only.
- (4) Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- (5) You may attempt any section at a time.
- (6) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

**Section A-Reading (30 Marks)**

**1. Read the passage carefully:**

1. Subhas Chandra Bose fulfilled a promise to his father that he would sit for the Indian Civil Service examination in London. He secured the fourth position in 1920 but then went on to fulfill his own wish. He resigned from the coveted service the following year, saying "only on the soil of sacrifice and suffering can we raise our national edifice". Returning to India, he plunged into the national struggle and by 1923, was secretary of the Bengal State Congress and President of All India Youth Congress.

2. By 1927, he emerged, along with Jawaharlal Nehru, as leader of the new youth movement, which came into its own by playing a major role in the anti-Simon Commission agitation which swept India that year. He was also the chief organizer of the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress (INC) in December 1928, which demanded that the goal of the congress be changed to 'PurnaSwaraj' or 'Complete Independence'.

3. Imprisonment in the Civil Disobedience movement followed by bad health in 1932 took him to Europe where he observed European politics, particularly Fascism under Mussolini and Communism in the Soviet Union. He was impressed by both and believed that authoritarian rule was essential for achieving radical social goals.

4. In fact, it is in this period that political views of Nehru and Bose begin to diverge sharply, especially on the issue of Fascism and Nazism. Nehru was so vehemently opposed to Fascism that he refused to meet Mussolini even when the latter sought him out, whereas Bose not only met Mussolini but was impressed by him. Nehru was sharply critical of the growing danger to the world from the rise of Hitler. Bose, on the other hand, never expressed that kind of aversion to Fascism, and was quite willing to seek the support of Germany and later Japan against Britain. However, he was not happy with the German attack on Soviet Union in 1941, and that was one reason why he left Germany for Japan. For Bose, Socialism and Fascism were not polar opposites, as they were for Nehru.

5. In 1938, Bose was unanimously elected, with the full support of Gandhiji, as Congress president for the Haripura session. But the next year, he decided to stand again, this time as a representative of militant and radical groups. An election ensued which Bose won by 1,580 to 1,377 votes, but the battle lines were drawn. The challenge he threw by calling Gandhian leaders rightists who were working for a compromise with the British government was answered by 12 members of the working committee resigning and asking Bose to choose his own committee. Nehru did not resign with other members but he was unhappy with Bose's casting of aspersions on senior leaders. He tried his best to mediate and persuade Bose not to resign.

6. The crisis came to a head at Tripuri in March 1939, with Bose refusing to nominate a new working Committee and ultimately resigning. The clash was of policy and tactics. Bose wanted an immediate struggle led by Gandhiji, whereas Gandhiji felt the time was not ripe for struggle.

7. Having burnt his boats with the Congress, Bose went and then to Japan in 1943 to seek help in the struggle against their common enemy, Britain. He finally went to Singapore to take charge of the Indian National Army (INA) which had been formed by Mohan Singh in 1941 from Indian prisoners of war captured by the Japanese. The INA was clear that it would go into action only on the invitation of the INC; it was not set up as a rival Centre of power. Bose made this more explicit when on July 6, 1944, in a broadcast on Azad Hind Radio addressed to Gandhiji, he said, "Father of our Nation! In this holy war of India's liberation, we ask for your blessing and good wishes".

- **Mridula Mukherjee**

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: 1X4=4

(a) Subhas Chandra Bose was secretary of the

- (i) Bengal State Congress
- (ii) All India Youth Congress
- (iii) Central India Youth Congress
- (iv) None of the above

(b) In which year was Subhas Chandra Bose imprisoned in the Civil Disobedience Movement

- (i) 1928
- (ii) 1930
- (iii) 1932
- (iv) 1934

(c) Subhas Chandra Bose was not happy with the

- (i) Soviet Union attack on German in 1941
- (ii) German attack on Soviet Union in 1941
- (iii) Soviet Union attack on Japan in 1941
- (iv) Japan attack on Soviet Union in 1941

(d) Indian National Army (INA) was formed by

- (i) Mohan Singh
- (ii) Subhash Chandra Bose
- (iii) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (iv) Mahatma Gandhi

Answer the following question briefly:

1x6=6

(e) Why did Subhash Chandra Bose resign from the Indian Civil Services?

(f) Who all played a major role in the Anti-Simon Commission agitation?

(g) What was the demand of Indian National Congress in December 1928?

(h) What were the issues which lead to differences in political views of Nehru and Bose?

(i) When was Subhash Chandra Bose elected as Congress President and with whose support?

(j) What was the address by Bose to Gandhiji on Azad Hind Radio?

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

1 x2=2

- (i) captivity (Para 3)
- (ii) poll (Para 5)

## **2. Read the passage carefully:**

1. Twenty-six-year-old Verhaen Khanna is not your garden variety green crusader. He's on a mission to cure 'tree blindness'- the habit of not looking at trees. "People just walk past them," he complains, at his New Friends Colony residence office, clad in Batman pyjamas and bathroom slippers. Khanna, as part of New Delhi Nature Society which he set up last year, is educating Delhiites about trees in a unique way- by teaching them how to climb them.

2. A generation ago, the practice was commonplace but with today's increasingly indoor living, learning to scale the neem next door sounds like a spot of daredevilry. Anuj Wadhwa, a 26 year old garment exporter learnt to shimmy up trees a few months ago. "Spending time with nature and climbing trees become a spiritual exercise for me. Once you're in a tree, you become part of its ecosystem, which includes birds, insects, fruits and flowers, " says Wadhwa who can spend 40-45 minutes hanging out on tree branches, sometimes with a cup of green tea in hand.

3. A trained commercial pilot, Khanna organizes periodic campouts around Delhi - Jahanpanah city forest near GK-II, Asola Sanctuary, Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, colony parks in New Friends Colony, Maharani Bagh, GK-I etc.- where he not only teaches members how to climb trees, but also to make a fire, count GPS satellites and stars.

4. While Khanna provides tents and other equipment on these free jaunts, participants have to bring their own food. The tree-lover funds his woody ambitions with his day job as business developer, and as a light painting artist at OLE India- a collaborative of professionals and free thinkers. He has also uploaded tree-climbing tutorials on YouTube.

5. Anyone can join NDNS and it's free. The year-old society has been attracting members through word of mouth and sight- the image of men and women sitting atop trees in various city parks. Khanna has organized six outdoor camps in the past year and has taught around 30 people to climb trees. Once up, he briefs participants about the tree and its ecosystem.

6. Tarun Mal, an agriculturist who lives in Gurgaon and runs a farm in Alwar, says the first time he climbed, he was scared of falling. "But once you're inside the canopy, it's a different world and you don't want to come

down," he says. For Masrat Khan, a communication expert, the experience brings out the child in her. When not scaling trees, NDNS members are busy doing "guerilla gardening"-planting hardy local tree varieties like neem, babul and jamun wherever possible and often without permission. Their mission to cure tree blindness continues.

- Shobhita Dhar

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: 1X4=4

(a) Verhaen Khanna is on a mission to cure

- (i) Night blindness
- (ii) Tree blindness
- (iii) Colour blindness
- (iv) None of the above

(b) Spending time with nature and climbing trees has become a

- (i) spiritual exercise
- (ii) physical exercise
- (iii) aerobic exercise
- (iv) All the above

Answer the following question briefly:

1x6=6

- (c) What do you mean by 'tree blindness'?
- (d) What education is being imparted to Delhiites by Verhaen Khanna?
- (e) What is Anuj Wadhwa's opinion about nature and climbing trees?
- (f) Describe Wadhwa's experience once he is in a tree.
- (g) How does Wadhwa fund his campouts?
- (h) State the alternate activity done by NDNS members when not climbing trees.

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

1 x2=2

- a. Biological Environment (Para 2)
- b. Excursion (Para 4)

### 3. Read the passage carefully.

Although stupidity is commonly defined as 'a lack of normal intelligence', stupid behaviour is not the behaviour of a person lacking in intelligence but the behaviour of a person not using good judgement or sense. In fact,

stupidity comes from the Latin word that means 'senseless'. Therefore, stupidity can be defined as the behaviour of a person of normal intelligence who acts in a particular situation as if he or she isn't very bright. Stupidity exists at three levels of seriousness.

First is the simple, relatively harmless level. Behaviour at this level is often amusing. It is humorous when someone places the food from a fast food restaurant on the roof of the car while unlocking the door and then drives away with the food still on the roof. We call this absent-minded. The person's good sense or intelligence was temporarily absent. At this level, other than passing inconvenience or embarrassment, no one is injured by the stupid behaviour.

The next type-serious stupidity-is more dangerous. Practical jokes such as putting sugar in the salt shakers are at this level. The intention is humorous, but there is a chance of harm. Irresponsible advice given to others is also serious stupidity. An example is the person who plays psychiatrist on the basis of an introductory psychology course or doing a TV program on psychiatry. The intention may be to help, but if the victim really needs psychiatric help an amateur will only worsen the situation.

Even worse is the third kind of stupidity. Kind people, who would never injure another living being, stupidly throw away a box of six-week-old kittens along a country road. Lacking the heart to kill the poor things, they sentence them to almost certain death from wild animals, infections, exposure or the wheels of a passing vehicle. Yet they are able to tell themselves that they will find nice homes' or 'animals can get along in the wild'. Another example of this kind of stupidity is the successful local businessman who tries to have as many office affairs as he can get away with. He risks the loss of his business and his home. He fails to see that what he is doing is wrong. His is the true moral stupidity of a person not willing to think about the results of his actions or take responsibility for them. The common defence of a person guilty of stupidity is - 'But I didn't think.....' This, however, is not a proper excuse, especially when serious or harmful stupidity is involved.

**(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.

(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-Advanced Writing Skills (30 Marks)**

4. You are Rahul/Reshma, Secretary, Social Service Club, Sun Public School, Nagpur. Your club is organizing a book fair for your school students. Draft a notice for your school notice board giving all relevant information about the event, in not more than 50 words. 4

**OR**

You are Rahul/Reshma. Draft a classified advertisement, in not more than 50 words, to be published in India Times for the sale of a used motor car giving all the necessary details. You can be contacted at 12345679.

5. You are Ravikant, sports teacher of Sunshine Public School, Karol Bagh, Delhi. A month ago you placed an order for the supply of a few sports goods. So far you have not received the goods. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Sales Manager, Olympic Sports F-12 Darya Ganj, Delhi requesting a speedy delivery of the goods.

**OR**

You are Sahil / Sneha of 63, Civil Lines, Delhi. You saw an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of an Accountant in a reputed firm. Write an application in 120-150 words to the manager of Gayatri Consultants, 2, M.G. Road, New Delhi, giving your detailed biodata.

6. On the threshold of being a world super power, India does have a large young workforce but unfortunately not many in this force are employable for want of necessary skills. Write in about 150-200 words, an article for a newspaper on the topic 'Skill Development is the need of the hour'. You are Anita/Arnav. 10

**OR**

With a view to create awareness regarding health, St. Anne's school organised 'Health Mela' in the school premises. Various charts, models, fitness equipment were displayed. Lectures, debates, discussions, plays were organised. A workshop on low calorie cooking was also organised. Write a report in 150-200 words on the 'Health Mela' for the school magazine. You are Neha/Nikhil, Secretary of the Health Club of school.

7. You are Anil/ Anjana, an academic counsellor. You have been invited to speak on the topic, 'Books are Our Best Friends'. Prepare a speech in 150-200 words, giving your views on books, how they can be our best friends and how they happen to be better than real human friends and how they can lead us to the great hobby of reading. 10

**OR**

You are Anil/Anjana, participating in a debate. Write a debate either for or against the motion: 'Hard work, and not just good luck, is the key to success in life'.

**Section-C- Literature and Long Reading Texts (40 Marks)**

**8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: 1×4=4**

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

- (a) Who are the 'mighty dead' referred to here?
- (b) What is the endless fountain of immortal drink?
- (c) What does the word, 'brink' mean?
- (d) Identify the poetic device in line 4.

**OR**

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree,  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty

- (a) How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers described?
- (b) Why are they described as denizens of a world of green?
- (c) Why are they not afraid of the men?
- (d) What are her tigers symbolic of?

**9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words:    3 x4=12**

- a. 'Garbage to them is gold' Why does the author say so about the rag pickers?
- b. Why did Douglas prefer to go to YMCA swimming pool to learn swimming?
- c. Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster?
- d. How are Jansie and Sophie different from each other?

e. How did Dr Sadao ensure that the American sailor left his house but he himself remained safe and secure?

f. Why has the mother been compared to 'late winter's moon' by Kamala Das?

**10. Answer the following question in 120-150 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's problem of exploitation?

**OR**

'It was their way of thanking their master for his 40 years of faithful service and of showing respect for the country that was their no more.'

Do you think we acknowledge the service of good teachers/educationists?

What values should students develop towards their elders especially teachers?

**11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6**

How did the scene she saw at the market place change Bama's life?

**OR**

What change took place in Derry when he met Mr. Lamb?

**12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6**

How did the people at the 'Jolly Cricketers' react when Mr. Marvel came running to them asking for refuge?

**13. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:**

6

Give pen portrait of Dr. Kemp and contrast it with that of Griffin.

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