

MODEL EXAMINATION (DECEMBER – 2017)**CLASS: XII Div: _____****ENGLISH****Time: 3 hrs.****Date.....****SET-II****MAX. MARKS: 100****Name.....****Roll No.....****SECTION A****1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.

2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to be eaten.

3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.

4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.

5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

1.1 **On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.**

- i) **The main idea in the first paragraph is that** 1
a. Big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great
b. Small actions and decisions are important in one's life
c. Overnight success is possible for all of us
d. Personal changes are not important
- ii) **What does the writer mean by saying 'chipped away their bad habits'?** 1
a. Steadily gave up bad habits
b. Slowly produced bad habits
c. Gradually criticized bad habits
d. Did not like bad habits
- iii) **Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third Paragraph?** 1
a. Gandhi became great overnight
b. Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself
c. Every day Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way
d. Gandhi never made mistakes
- iv) **What is done by great people to transform their lives?** 1
a. They approach life on a day-by-day basis
b. They build character in small ways
c. They believe in performing everyday
d. All of these

1.2. **Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words.**

- a. How do small actions and choices impact our lives? 1
b. Describe organic process of growth through an example from the text. 1
c. What according to the author is the 'universal law of nature'? 1
d. How did Gandhi accomplish the most difficult tasks effortlessly? 1
e. What are the things in Gandhi's life that were not seen by most people? 1
f. How can we achieve our 'ideal goals'? 1

1.3 **Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:**

- a. intentionally (Paragraph 3) 1
b. . of deep significance (Paragraph 5) 1

2. **Read the passage and answer the given questions:**

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 Delhities 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 dare devilry. Anuj Wadhwa, a 26-year-old garment exporter learnt to study the 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 his hand.

3. But it's all about barking up the tree right. "It depends on how and where you sit," Khanna points out. "You have to find a cosy nook, maybe a Y-or a V-shaped branch. Find a hook to rest your arm. Or, you can lie down. It can get so comfortable that I have to warn people from falling off to sleep." 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 equipments 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. When climbing a straight trunk (coconut or palm), ascend using both arms in tandem (like in a hug) instead of alternating them. But banyan trees, with thick, low lying branches and vines offer a relatively easy climb.

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 on 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. Details like what kind of fruit and flower it bears, their benefits, the shape and size of leaves, kinds of insects, birds and squirrels living on it, any folk tales associated with it are discussed and shared. Khanna says books, internet and hands-on experience working on farms is the source of his tree knowledge.

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.

2.1. Complete the following:

- a. Verhaen Khanna is on a mission to cure 1
- b. Spending time with nature and climbing trees has become a 1
- c. When climbing a straight trunk use 1
- d. When not scaling trees, NDNS members are busy doing 1

2.2. Answer the following questions:

- a. What do you mean by 'tree blindness'? 1
- b. What education is being imparted to Delhiites by Verhaen Khanna? 1
- c. What is Anuj Wadhwa's opinion about nature and climbing trees? 1
- d. What is the message given to understand from your reading of the passage? 1

- e. Who can join NDNS and what do they teach? 1
- f. What varieties of trees are planted by the NDNS members? 1

3 Read the passage:

1. After a long and arduous struggle to popularize yoga, the world is now waking up to its wonders. Upon my arrival in New York on the evening of June 20, the Art of Living volunteers and the officials at the Permanent Mission of India informed me that the weather forecast predicted heavy rains, even thunderstorms over the next 24 hours. There was concern on their faces as they continued with preparations for the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the United Nations headquarters and Times Square. I remained confident that this momentous day would go well.

2. To the delight of the organizing teams, the sun came out just as we arrived at the venue. The UN Secretary General and his wife, the President of the General Assembly, and many ambassadors participated in the programme. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon even said, "We should do this before every negotiation, so that we can work with a calm mind".

3. WHO has warned that depression will become the biggest killer after HIV/AIDS by 2030? Today, an estimated \$150 billion is spent on mental illness and depression in the US alone. While the remission rate through medical treatments is less than 14 percent, a study has shown that the remission rate will be 64 percent through meditation and yoga. I suggested to the Secretary General that if countries around the world spend 1 percent of their defence budget on peace education and peace-building through yoga and meditation, it would make a significant difference.

4. In terms of the way forward, we cannot have all and sundry teach anything in the name of yoga. We need to bring quality control and standardization in teaching. Like cell phones that have enhanced comfort and connectivity, yoga can take you to a whole new level. It can be used as a powerful tool in conflict resolution and trust building.

5. When we started our efforts to bring this ancient wisdom to the fore, it was not easy. There was a lot of prejudice against yoga and even meditation. Today, meditation posture has become synonymous with relaxation and comfort. Earlier, the younger generation in the western world would often struggle to convince their parents to open up to the benefits of yoga. Perhaps, this declaration by the UN will make their job easier.

- a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes, using suitable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give a suitable title.** 5
- b) **Write a summary of the passage.** 3

Section B

- 4 You are Dr. Madhu, M.D. You are looking for an independent house in Ghaziabad on a reasonable rent for your residence-cum-clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Hindustan Times, New Delhi. Your telephone no. is 12341234. 4

OR

, You have received an invitation to attend the prize giving ceremony on the occasion of the Regional Social Science Exhibition. Respond to the invitation, informing the secretary of 'The World View' (the organiser of the exhibition), about your inability to attend the programme.

- 5 A part of Rajasthan and Delhi recently witnessed violence during a demonstration by a particular class of society over the issue of reservation. Violence has become a routine affair in India. You feel that people resort to violence as a last resort when their basic demands are not addressed. Write a letter to the Editor, The Times of India, expressing your views on the issue. You are Akanksha, living at 106 Maharani Bagh, New Delhi. 6

OR

Read the advertisement given below and write a suitable application in response to it. Sign yourself as Neha/Nitin.

Wanted Office Assistant cum Administrator, preferably a commerce graduate, with minimum two years of experience in a concern of repute. Knowledge of computer is a must. Good communication and command over written and spoken English is desired. Apply within 10 days to the Manager, Tulip India Ltd, Muzaffarabad

- 6 Joint family system is gradually disintegrating in the country. Many elderly people get neglected because of the nuclear setup of families. It increases the need of homes for the aged. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic entitled "Should there be Homes for the Aged in India". 10

OR

Power shortage has become a norm even in the metropolitan cities. One way to face this situation is by preventing the wastage of power. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the importance of power in our daily life and how to save power at school and at home. Imagine that you are the Principal of your school

- 7 Some people feel that electronic media (TV news) will bring about the end of print media (newspapers). What are your views on the issue? Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against this view. 10

OR

"Boarding schools are better than day schools for the all-round education of a child" is the topic of the Inter House Debate to be conducted at your school. Draft a debate expressing your views either for or against the statement.

Section D

- 8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*" Unless, governor, inspector, visitor
This map becomes their window and these windows
That shut upon their lives like catacombs,
Break O break open till they break the town
And show the children to green fields, and make their world
Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongues
Run naked into books the white and green leaves upon
History is theirs whose language is the sun. "*

- a) How can 'this map' become 'their window'? 1
(b) What has shut upon their lives like catacomb? 1
d) What will happen if the children come out of the bonds that bind them? 1
e) Explain: '... till they break the town'. 1

OR

*“Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.”*

- (a) What are we doing every day? 1
(b) Describe “Some shape of beauty moves away the pall” 1
(c) 'In spite of all'. Explain. 1
(d) What removes the pall from our dark spirits? 1

9 **Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words.**

- a How does the poet describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers? 3
b When did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his kingdom? 3
c Why did Roger Skunk go to see the old owl? 3
d If you were to give a different ending to the story, 'On the Face of it' how would you end it? 3
e What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey? 3
f Why did the peddler think that the world was a rattrap? 3

Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words:

10. 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 you learn from Gandhi's campaigns to counter the present-day problems of exploitation? 6

OR

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

11. Good human values are far above any other value system. How did Dr. Sadoa succeed as a doctor as well as a patriot? 6

OR

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.

12. How does the novel “The Invisible Man” show that vaulting ambition brings disaster? 6

OR

Attempt a character sketch of Silas Marner.

13. Sometimes the plan or the intention behind some ambitious innovation is so wicked that the accomplishment of it is either prevented from or if it is done, it is done with irreparable faults. Justify the statement with Griffins plans and intentions. 6

OR

How did Silas's treatment of Sally Oates affect his life at Raveloe?