

**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION-I (NOVEMBER – 2019)****CLASS: XII****ENGLISH****Time: 3 hrs.****MAX. MARKS : 80****General Guidelines:**

- (i) This paper is divided into three Sections : A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION - A READING - 20 MARKS****1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

1. India has never subscribed to the doctrine of militarism and war in her history. Here war was never treated as an ideal. It was only tolerated as unavoidable and inevitable, and all attempts were made to check it and bring it under control. In spite of the frequency of wars in ancient India, in spite of highly developed military organization, techniques of war and imperialism, and in spite of the open justification of war as national policy, the heart of India loved pacifism as an ideal capable of realization. India's symbolic role was that of a peacemaker and it sincerely pinned its faith on the principle of "Live and let live". At least philosophically, India's intelligence supported the cause of peace not only in national affairs but in international affairs also. All the great seers of the yore visualized the unity of life, permeating all beings, animate or inanimate, which ruled out killing and suicidal wars.
2. This doctrine of philosophical pacifism was practiced by ancient Aryans is, no doubt, a question of controversial nature. Certainly, the great Indian teachers and savants stuck to this doctrine tenaciously and in their personal life they translated it into practice and preached it to masses and even to princes of military classes.
3. Another culture of those times, the existence of which has been proved by the excavations of Mohan- jo-Daro, also enunciated the doctrine of pacifism and friendship to all. Strangely enough, the Indus Valley civilization has revealed no fortification and very few weapons.
4. Ahimsa or the doctrine of non-violence in thought, speech and action assumed a gigantic importance in the Buddhist and Jain period. By a constant practice of this virtue, man becomes unassailable by even wild beasts, who forgot their ferocity the moment they entered the circumference of his magnetic influence. The monks and nuns of these churches were apostles of peace, who reached every nook and corner of the world and delivered the message of love to war-weary humanity. The greatest votary was the royal monk Ashoka, who in reality was responsible for transforming Ahimsa as an act of personal virtue, to Ahimsa as an act of national virtue.
5. Many a historian recounting the causes of the downfall of the Mauryas, hold the pacific policy of Ashoka which had eschewed the aggressive militarism of his predecessors, responsible for an early decay of the military strength of the state and its consequent disintegration, leading to the rise of Sungas, Kanvas and Andhras. But, in reality the fault lies with the weak successors of Ashoka, who could not wield the weapon of non-violence with a skill and efficiency which required the strength of a spiritual giant like Ashoka. They failed due to their subjective weakness: Pacifism itself was no cause of their failure.
6. Besides the foregoing philosophical and religious school of thought, even many political

authorities gave their unqualified support to the cause of pacifisms. They recognized the right of rivals to exist, not mainly as enemies, but as collaborators in the building of a civilization operation. Thus, for centuries, in the pre-Mauryan India, scores of small independent republics existed and flourished without coming in clash with each other.

7. With regard to Kautilya, the much maligned militarist and the so called Machiavelli of India, He thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war.
8. The Mahabharata observes in the connection, “A wise man should be content with what can be obtained by the expedients of conciliation, gift and dissention.” It denounces the warring world of men by comparing it to a dog-kennel. “First there comes the wagging of tails, then turning of one round to other, then the show of teeth, then the roaring and then comes the commencement of the fights. It is the same with men; there is no difference whatever.” Yajnavalkya adds: “War is the last expedient to be used when all others have failed.” Likewise, Sri Krishna who’s Bhagwad-Gita has been styled by some as “a song of the battle”, should not be considered out and out militarist. When all the three expedients were exhausted, then alone the fourth was resorted to.
9. All possible avenues of peace such as negotiation, conciliation through conference, meditation and so on, were explored before the war was resorted to. This proves that the heart of ancient India was sound and it longed for peace, although war also was not treated as an anathema, which was to be avoided as far as possible. (Words– 737)

(Extract from ‘Culture India-Pacifism has been the Ideal’ by Sri Indra)

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**1.1 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:**

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- (i) The heart of India loved \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- a) a highly developed military organization
  - b) techniques of wars and imperialism
  - c) loans
  - d) pacifism
- 
- (ii) Principle of “Live and let live” is \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- a) imperialism
  - b) militarism
  - c) frequency of wars among nations
  - d) role of peace makers
- 
- (iii) Aryans preached and practiced this to the masses 1
- a) non-violence
  - b) freedom of speech and action
  - c) philosophical pacifisms
  - d) practice of military organization
- 
- (iv) Mahabharata compares the warring world with \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- a) wise men
  - b) dog kennel
  - c) song of the battle
  - d) militarist
- 
- (v) Unearthing Mohan-jo-Daro reinforced the following of Pacifism 1
- a) there was no fortification and very few weapons
  - b) they delivered the message of love
  - c) they were apostles of peace
  - d) thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (i) How was war treated in India?
- (ii) Describe India's preparedness for war in spite of their belief in Pacifism.
- (iii) How did the Aryans practice the Doctrine of Pacifism?
- (iv) What is Ahimsa?

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (i) express in definite and clear terms (para 3 ) | 1 |
| (ii) defensive wall (para 3)                      | 1 |
| (iii) the beginning (para 8)                      | 1 |

**2. Read the extract from a novel carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

1. There is a clear dichotomy between Jayashankar Prasad's daily life and the one that found expression in his literature. In his literary formulations, Prasad advocated an escape- from- personality ideal and categorically stated: "An artist's art, and not his person, is the touchstone to assess his work . . . it is only after losing his personality that he emerges in his art as an artist".
2. In Prasad's works – his poems, short stories, novels, dramas etc. – what emerges is life as shaped in the writer's inner self by his emotions, fancies, dreams, reveries . . . His writings are a record not of outer reality, but of the artist's inner world. As such, of a proper appreciation and understanding of his works more emphasis needs to be placed on the working of his mind, than the events of his day-to-day life.
3. Prasad was born in a renowned family of Varansi. His grand-father Shiv Ratan Sahu, a dealer in high quality perfumed tobacco (snuff). Besides being an astute businessman, he was endowed with a marked cultural taste. His home was the meeting place of the local poets, singers, artists, scholars and men of religion. Prasad's father Devi Prasad Sahu carried forward this high tradition of family.  
Prasad, therefore, had a chance to study the various phases of human nature in the light of the business traditions, artistic taste and religious background of his family.
4. When the business had somewhat recovered, Prasad planned the publication of a literary journal. Prasad started the "Indu". The inaugural number appeared in July 1909. By this time Prasad's notions of literature had crystalized into a credo. In the first issue of Indu, he proclaimed, „Literature has no fixed aim; it is not slave to rules; it is free and all-embracing genius, gives birth to genuine literature which is subservient to none. Whatever in the world is true and beautiful is its subjectmatter. By the dealing with the True and Beautiful it establishes the one and affects the full flowering of the others. Its force can be measured by the degree of pleasure it gives to the reader's mind as also by criticism which is free of all prejudice". The words sound like the manifesto of romanticism in literature.
5. Even while recognizing the social relevance of literature, Prasad insisted, "The poet is a creator he is not conditioned by his milieu; rather it is he who moulds it and gives it a new shape; he conjures up a new world of beauty where the reader for the time being, becomes oblivious of the outer world and passes his time in an eternal spring garden where golden lotuses blossom and the air is thick and pollen". Thus, the chief aim of literature according to Prasad is to give joy to the reader and to create a state of bliss in him. Later under the impact of Shaivadvaitism, this faith of Prasad got further strengthened. (word length- 490)

**On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.**

4

**Write a summary of the above in 80 words.**

4

## SECTION – B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS (30 Marks)

3. You are Romi/Rohit, Sports Captain of Sunshine International School. Your school has organised a marathon to promote a cause. Design a visually appealing poster about this in about 50 words. Include all relevant details. 4

**OR**

You are the Dean, Admissions, MNT Professional College, Chandigarh. Draft an advertisement in about 50 words giving information about admission to undergraduate courses offered by your College. Include all relevant details.

4. Your school recently launched a GPRS system in the school buses which will enable the parents to keep track of their children while they are travelling in the bus. The service, however, is not smooth and is facing a lot of problems. As the Transport Incharge of DML Public School, Delhi, write a letter in about 120-150 words to the Manager, Forumloft, 21 Park Street, Delhi, complaining about the same. 6

**OR**

Your school has opened a new activity wing for the kindergarten students for which you require play equipment. Write a letter to the Manager, OK Toys, 21, Daryaganj, Delhi, in about 120-150 words placing an order for educational toys and other play equipment. You are Neera/Naresh, Manager, DML Public School, Delhi

5. Although students have been using cell phones consistently in their daily lives for almost a decade, schools continue to resist allowing the devices into the classroom. Schools generally grapple with new technologies, but cell phones' reputation as a nuisance and a distraction has been hard to dislodge. Using information given below prepare a speech in about 150-200 words in favour of or against the cell phone being allowed in schools. 10

Use the following points

- encourage the non-educational use of devices in school
- they will be a significant distraction for teachers and students
- a potential tool for cheating
- could encourage cyberbullying
- other hand BYOD-Bring Your Own Device is gaining momentum as a learning tool.
- can be cost effective.
- banning any type of technology may foster inequity
- develop rules for how students physically handle the device in the class

**OR**

You are Mukul / Mahima of Tagore International School. Your school has organized a debate on "Social Media and It's Effects" and you will be participating from your school. Prepare your views against or in favour of the motion. (150-200 words)

6. You came across a report about how some students who were out on an adventure trip organised by their institute, drowned in a river as they did not pay heed to repeated warnings. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on the topic, —Discipline and Adventure. You are Ram / Reena. 10

**OR**

Life in some metropolitan cities has become more comfortable with the introduction of Metro Rail Service. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on —Travelling by Metros. You are Aman / Aarti.

## SECTION – C LITERATURE (30 marks)

7. **Read the given lines and answer the questions:**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow 4

.....*On their slag heap, these children*

*Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel*

*With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.*

*All of their time and space are foggy slum.*

*So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.*

- (a) What are the two images used in these lines?
- (b) What do these children wear on their eyes ?
- (c) What other example shows their poverty ?
- (d) Name the figure of speech used in the last line.

8. *I looked again at her, wan, pale* 4

*as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
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 was the poet's childhood fear ?
- (b) Why is the mother compared to a late winter's moon ?
- (c) What were the poet's parting words ?
- (d) What does her smile signify ?

**Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each :** 10

- (a) Was Saheb happy working at the tea stall ? State reasons.
- (b) Why does the poet want to count to twelve ? (Keeping Quiet)
- (c) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water ?
- (d) Where had Dr. Sadao first met his wife ? What had been his initial reaction ?
- (e) What impression of Evan's did the Governor give to the Secretary of the Examination Board ?
- (f) What will happen when Aunt Jennifer is dead ?

10 **Answer the following in 120-150 words each:** 6

How did Edla bring about a change in the peddler ? (The Rattrap)

**OR**

What impression do you form of Sophie and Jansie after reading the story, 'Going Places' ?

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

How does Jo show her independent thinking in the story, 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy' ?

**OR**

How did Tiger King succeed in killing 'hundred' tigers ?