

SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2019-20)

CLASS: X

Subject: ENGLISH

Date: 07.01.2020

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General instructions:

- (1) All questions are **compulsory**.
- (2) Marks are indicated against each question.
- (3) Please check that this question paper contains 11 printed pages only.
- (4) Please check that this question paper contains 11 questions only.

Section A - Reading: 20 Marks

Q1. Read the passage given below carefully:

I had just finished my studies at Oxford, and was taking a brief holiday from work before assuming definitely the management of the estate. My father died when I was yet a child; my mother followed him within a year. The house as well as the family was of some antiquity. It contained a fine library, whose growth began before the invention of printing, and had continued to my own time. The library, although duly considered in many alterations of the house and additions to it, had nevertheless, like **an encroaching state**, absorbed one room after another until it occupied the greater part of the ground floor. In the evening of a gloomy day of August, I was sitting in my usual place, my back to one of the windows, reading. I cannot tell what made me turn and cast a glance to the farther end of the room, when I saw, or seemed to see, a tall figure reaching up a hand to a bookshelf. The next instant, my vision apparently **rectified** by the comparative dusk, I saw no one, and concluded that my optic nerves had been momentarily affected from within. I resumed my reading, and would doubtless have forgotten the vague, evanescent impression, had it not been the moment to consult a certain volume, I found but a gap in the row where it ought to have stood, and the same instant remembered that just there I had seen, or fancied I saw, the old man in search of a book. I looked all about the spot but in vain. The next morning, however, there it was, just where I had thought to find it! I knew of no one in the house

likely to be interested in such a book. I rang the bell; the butler came; I told him all I had seen, and he told me all he knew. He had hoped, he said, that the old gentleman was going to be forgotten; it was well no one but myself had seen him. He had heard a good deal about him when first he served in the house, but by degrees he had ceased to be mentioned, and he had been very careful not to allude to him. "The place was haunted by an old gentleman, was it?" I said. He answered that at one time everybody believed it, but had never seen him, he said, although he had been in the house from the day my father was eight years old. My grandfather would never hear a word on the matter, declaring that whoever alluded to it should be dismissed without a moment's warning, as old Sir Ralph believed in nothing he could not see or lay hold of. Not one of the maids ever said she had seen the apparition, but a footman had left the place because of it. "I hope it was but a friendly call on the part of the old gentleman!" he concluded, with a troubled smile.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage given above, answer the following questions **1x8=8**

a. Why has the narrator returned to his estate?

- i. He has agreed to help his aging grandfather manage the estate's affairs.
- ii. He is taking a brief holiday from school and hoping to relax.
- iii. He needs to oversee his parents' funerals after finishing his studies.
- iv. He is preparing to take over management of the estate.

b. The author's use of the phrase "encroaching state" is primarily meant to convey that the library

- i. has been reduced to a smaller and smaller portion of the house.
- ii. was originally built to extend over almost the entire bottom half of the house.
- iii. is growing in haphazard and irritating ways.
- iv. is slowly expanding to encompass more of the downstairs.

c. Which of the following clues leads the narrator to reconsider the presence of the old gentleman?

- i. He spotted the old gentleman again when his optic nerves had adjusted to the dark.
- ii. He has a vague impression of another man's presence with him.
- iii. He found the book he saw the old gentleman had his hand on missing from the library.
- iv. He hears of a footman who just left his service after spotting the old gentleman.

d. The word "rectified" most nearly means

- i. corrected.
- ii. resolved.
- iii. settled.
- iv. repaired.

e. Why did the narrator's grandfather insist that whoever alluded to the old gentleman should be dismissed without warning?

- i. He was a religious man and disapproved of superstition.
- ii. He feared the wrath of the ghost if spoken of.
- iii. He worried servants would quit if they heard about the ghost.
- iv. He refused to entertain the possibility that there was an apparition.

f. When the narrator brings up the old gentleman, the butler's attitude may best be described as

- i. bemused

- ii. skeptical
- iii. uneasy
- iv. none of these

- g. When the narrator first sees the figure of the old gentleman, he thinks it is _____
- h. The butler had been working in the narrator's house since he was eight years old.(True/False)

Q2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Needless to say that water will perhaps be the scarcest commodity of the 21st century. On global scale it is assessed that over the next two decades, water use by human beings will increase by 40% and that 17% more water will be needed to grow more food for the increasing population. Water is finite in nature and the quantum of water cannot be increased. The World Water Vision Commission drew attention to the 'gloomy arithmetic of water', as water demand will outstrip its availability. As such state-of-the-art and innovative technologies have to be developed for reducing wastage of water and recycling waste water. There is need for a Water Secure World and to achieve this objective 5000 experts had gathered in Hague in March 2000 to prepare a policy document on this subject. And they have indeed provided very useful guidelines.

2. The scenario of water in India is equally gloomy. Against our requirement of about 2788 billion cu. metres of water annually by 2050, availability of water will only be about 2300 billion cu. metres including that from the ground water sources. The problem is further compounded by the fact that only 15-16% of water resources have been developed thus leaving a very large gap thereby, emphasizing the need for conservation and preservation of water.

3. With regards to the drinking water scenario although it is claimed that 83% of urban population and 90% of rural population is covered, the sustainable availability, coverage and quality of water carry a big question mark.

4. The situation on the sanitation front is far worse, so much so that even Metro cities have not been fully covered with underground sewerage. My visit to several cities and towns as a consultant to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revealed that even though the water supply and sanitation facilities are available, these are either not working or operating at very low efficiency. The main reasons are lack of skills and shortage of funds. This has resulted in untreated wastewater flowing into drains and rivers and other water bodies. We have before us a really grim scenario of polluted rivers and water bodies. The problem is further compounded due to discharge of untreated wastewater from industries and dumping of solid waste. These issues need to be addressed more effectively and at the earliest.

5. The Government of India and State Governments are addressing these serious problems. The World Bank, ADB and other funding agencies are also supporting several schemes in the fields of agriculture and water supply and sanitation to cities and towns. But the magnitude of funds required for outstrips the funds available. In the Ninth Five Year Plan alone, there was a gap to the tune of about ₹39,000 crores in this field. A time has come when the private sector should start playing an active role. There is a need to induct private investment and management in the sector and to improve the efficiency. There is a huge scope for such private involvement in the water industry. Privatization is not the panacea of all ills but this could be a way for change and improvement. As a safeguard against any abuse and misuse, there is a need to build necessary checks and balances.

2.1. On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each :- 2x4=8

- (a) How would water be the scarcest commodity of the 21st century?
- (b) How, according to the article, the scenario of water in India is overcast?
- (c) How is the situation on the sanitation front in India? What are the reasons behind this grievous situation?
- (d) How can the private sector help to overcome water shortage?

2.2. On the basis of your reading of the above extract, answer the following: 4

- (a) The synonym of 'surpass' as given in paragraph 1 is _____

(i) increase (ii) outstrip (iii) demand (iv) quantum

(b) The synonym of 'adjustment' as given in paragraph 5 is _____

(c) The antonym of 'ineffective' as given in paragraph 5 is _____

(i) improve (ii) active (iii) efficiency (iv) necessary

(d) The antonym of 'predicament' as given in Paragraph 5 is _____

Section B - Writing & Grammar: 30 Marks

Q3. Each year witnesses soaring cut-offs for university admissions. Many a deserving student is left without a seat causing frustration. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 100 -150 words highlighting the plight of students and suggest measures that the Government could take to provide enough avenues for the youth. 8

OR

Every city or town produces a lot of waste which poses a serious threat to the environment. Although most of the waste is recyclable, recycling has not become a mass movement because we mix up all kinds of waste. Segregating them makes it impossible and is not cost-effective. It is the need of the hour to popularize this campaign and spread awareness. Write an article for a local newspaper on the topic 'Segregating Disposal is a Sensible Proposal'. (100-150 words) 8

Q4. Complete the following story using the cue given (150-200 words) 10

Charlie's dream – do something brave – win recognition far and wide – be famous in the world – one fine day, he saw this opportunity when.....

OR



Taking cue from the picture given above, write a story in 150-200 words 10

Q5. Complete the paragraph given below by filling in the blanks choosing the correct option from those that follow- 1x4=4

Thu, May 20 Iraq war -veteran Indian -American doctor Manan Trivedi (a) _____ the Democratic Party nomination to contest the November elections to the US House of Representatives from Pennsylvania Congressional district. A doctor-turned war-veteran, Trivedi, 35, (b)_____ Dough Pike, a former local journalist,(c)_____ margin of 672 votes; thus earning the right to challenge Republican incumbent Jim Gernalch in the November polls for Pennsylvania seat for the US House of Representatives. Conceding his defeat, Pike in a statement supported Trivedi. The elections(d)_____ Tuesday.

- (a) (i) won (ii) had won
(iii) has won (iv) was won
- (b) (i) had defeated (ii) was defeated
(iii) defeated (iv) was being defeated
- (c) (i) through a narrow (ii) with a narrow
(iii) by a narrow (iv) to a narrow

(d) (i) was held on
(iii) was being held on

(ii) had been held on
(iv) were held on

Q6. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. 1x4=4

	Error	Correction
Contrary by popular belief, the dreaded Aedes	by	to
mosquito, the carrier of the many feared Dengue	(a) _____	_____
virus, stroke between dawn and dusk.	(b) _____	_____
Much conventional types strike usually at night	(c) _____	_____
The Aedes mosquito can breed somewhere near	(d) _____	_____
your home in tin cans, coconut shells, or even in		
your flower vase.		

Q7. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. 1x4=4

- their numbers/very quickly/ rabbits/ and/ grow/ breed/very easily
- a lot of/ by making /the/they/ damage/ holes/ cause/ in/ ground/
- contribute/ cause / land areas/ soil erosion/ and / to / over
/land degradation/ vast/they
- breeding/ rabbits/ require/ fresh/ protein /rich/ growth/ to stimulate

Section C - Literature : 30 Marks

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1X 4= 4

“My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night.”

- a. The poem “The Trees ” is written by
(i) Adrienne Rich (ii) Walt Whitman (iii) Robert Klein (iv) Carl Sandburg
- b. In the expression ‘The glass is breaking’ glass is symbolic of -
(i) freedom (ii) a secret (iii) bondage (iv) glass house
- c. What kind of whispers is the poet’s head full of?
- d. The poetic device used in the third line is_____.

OR

“Excuse my interrupting you. You say, ‘my Oxen Meadows’ But are they yours?”

- a. Who is ‘you’ in the above extract?
(i) Lomov (ii) Chubukov (iii) Natalya (iv) Marunsinsky
- b. The speaker’s mood at this point of time is
(i) hope (ii) disappointment
(iii) anger (iv) surprise
- c. ‘Oxen Meadows’ was given in perpetuity to the second party because
_____.

d. How does the dispute affect both the speaker and the listener?

Q9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30 to 40 words each.

2x5=10

1. Why does the poet favour 'fire' and 'ice' so far as the end of the world is concerned?
2. Where does Amanda find refuge from the continuous nagging by her mother? Support your answer with an example from the poem.
3. How did the book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthlings?
4. What are the legends associated with the origin of tea?
5. What is the message that Liam O' Flaherty wants to give to the readers through the lesson 'His first Flight'?
6. What is the bone of contention between the two secret agents- Ausable and Max? Why?

Q10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 to 150 words.

8

Describe the value of freedom for the human beings and how it is important for the growth of civilization and humanism as described in the lesson 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

OR

It is not complaining but accepting a situation, the key to happiness in life. Elaborate in context of the poem 'Animals'.

Q11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 to 150 words.

8

'Never judge a book by its cover'. Comment on the statement in the light of your reading of the story 'The Hundred Dresses I & II.

OR

Mrs. Pumphrey's concern for Tricki was excessively indulgent and was nothing short of mania. Discuss.

..... Good Luck