

MODEL EXAMINATION, JANUARY - 2020

SUBJECT : ENGLISH CORE

Class : XII

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

SET : A

General Instructions:

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

SECTION : A

(READING SKILLS - 20 MARKS)

1. Read the passage given below : (12 Marks)

1. Books are the index of great minds. They are a veritable house of knowledge, fantasy and great ideas. Therefore the habit of reading is one of the greatest resources of mankind; and we enjoy reading books that belong to us more than if they are borrowed. A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with punctiliousness, with a certain considerate formality. You must see that it sustain no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, and you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, although this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.
2. But your own books belong to you; you treat them with affectionate intimacy that does not require any formality. Books are for use, not for show; you could own no book that you are afraid to mark up, or afraid to place on the table, wide open and face down. A good reason for marking favourite passages in books is that this practice enables you to remember more easily the significant sayings, to refer to them quickly, and in later years it is like visiting a forest where once blazed a trail. You have the pleasure of going over the old ground, and recalling both the intellectual scenery and your own earlier self.
3. Everyone should begin collecting a private library in youth; the instinct of private property, which is fundamental in human beings, can here be cultivated with every advantage and no evils. One should have one's own

bookshelves, which should not have doors, glass windows, or keys; they should be free and accessible to the hand as well as to the eye. The best of mural decorations is books; they are more varied in colour and appearance than any wall-paper, they are more attractive in design, and they have the prime advantage of being separate personalities, so that if you sit alone in a room in the firelight, you are surrounded with intimate friends. The knowledge that they are there in plain view is both stimulating and refreshing. You do not have to read them all. Most of my indoor life is spent in a room containing six thousand books; and I have a stock answer to the invariable question that comes from strangers. "Have you read all of these books?" "some of them twice." This reply is both true and unexpected.

4. There are of course no friends like living, breathing, corporal men and women; my devotion to reading has never made me a recluse. How could it? Literature is the immortal part of history; it is the best and most enduring part of personality. But book- friends have this advantage over living friends; you can enjoy the most truly aristocratic society in the world whenever you want it. The great dead are beyond our physical reach and the great living are usually almost as inaccessible; as for our personal friends and acquaintance, we cannot always see them. Good books improve our standard of living. They tone up our intellectual taste they make our outlook broad. They console us when we are depressed. Books encourage us when we are defeated. They inspire us to work hard with hope and courage. They remove our ignorance and add to our knowledge. Books enrich our experience and sharpen our intellect. Thus a good book is our true friend.
5. We should read only good books. Reading good books has many advantages. A good book is our 'friend, philosopher and guide'. We can get pleasure from various things. Sports, games and films are some of them. But the reading of books gives us the real pleasure of life. When we read good book, we forget ourselves. We do not remember the care and anxieties of the world. We are sent into a land of beauty, imagination and happiness. So, books are the source of the greatest pleasure in life.
6. Well –read man is loved by all. He is a store house of information. He knows something of everything. A well read man can be very good talker. He can entertain us with his good talks. He shows his worth at a social function. He can talk about many things. So, we do not feel dullness and boredom in the company of such persons. This is another advantage of reading books. Books are of different kinds. Some books deal with topics of general nature. Everybody likes to read these books. There are also some books on certain

topics. Such books were written for a particular set of readers. A general reader likes to read books of general nature. They give us knowledge and pleasure. Francis Bacon rightly said, "Reading makes a full man....." .

1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage complete each of the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (5)

- (a)** Borrowed books are like guests because -----.
- (i) they need to be preserved without using.
 - (ii) they should be treated with utmost care.
 - (iii) they are allowed to be kept with us forever.
 - (iv) they should be gifted to somebody .
- (b)** Books are the index of great minds because -----.
- (i) they act as a key to success.
 - (ii) they indicate that a person is knowledgeable.
 - (iii) they make us great.
 - (iv) all the above.
- (c)** 'The reply that is both true and unexpected' refers to the fact that-----.
- (i) the writer keeps donating books.
 - (ii) he keeps books for show.
 - (iii) he has read all his books, some more than once.
 - (iv) he makes children read their texts.
- (d)** Literature is the immortal part of the history suggests that -----.
- (i) history cannot be thought of without referring to great writings.
 - (ii) literature should rewrite history.
 - (iii) literature means study of the past.
 - (iv) literature is taught in history classes.
- (e)** 'They tone up our intellectual taste' means -----.
- (i) good readers inspire us.
 - (ii) good books strengthen our intellect
 - (iii) books give us only knowledge.
 - (iv) friends inspire us to read and become intelligent.

1.2. Answer the following briefly:

(5x1=5)

- a. Why is the habit of reading one of the greatest resources of people?
- b. How is one's own book different from the borrowed book? (any one point)
- c. How does marking favourite passages in a book help us?
- d. Why are books considered to be 'the best of mural decorations'?
- e. Why does the writer prefer books to people?

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

(2x1=2)

(a) great care/ attention (para 1)

(b) a person who keeps himself aloof (para 4)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8 Marks)

To the first people it was obvious that time went in circles. The sun rises (comes up in the morning) and sets (goes down in the evening). The moon waxes (gets fatter and wider) and wanes (gets thinner or narrower). The seasons follow each other in order. These things happen because we are all going round in circles...the earth spins around in 24 hours, the moon goes around the earth, and the earth goes round the sun in 365.25 days. The most natural kind of calendar comes from the sun and the moon. You can count the number of days and nights in the moon's cycle from new moon (when it is all dark) to full moon (a bright disc), and back again: 29.5.

The basic problem for calendar makers is how to get the months (which come from the moon) to stay in synch with the years. The years all have a bit more than 12 new moons in them. Maybe you are familiar with the Chinese New Year. If you are, you already know that some years the Chinese calendar has an extra month, so they have exactly 235 months in every period of 19 years. This article is about how the Western world solved the same problem by adding an extra day in leap year (and having longer months the rest of the time).

You can't find any cycles of seven days by looking at the sky. However, the ancient world knew five planets apart from the sun and the moon: Venus, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. They probably made the week seven days long to give one day for each. In English, the first days of the week clearly come from the sun (Sunday) and the moon (Monday). The last day comes from Saturn (Saturday). Just like the rest of our language, an English week is a mixture of Latin and words from other places... Germanic gods: Tiw (an Anglo-Saxon god of the sun and war) and Wodin (the head of Anglo-Saxon gods) for Tuesday and Wednesday and Scandinavian gods Thor (another god of war) and Frigg (goddess of love) for Thursday and Friday.

Our names for months all come from Latin. Janus, a god with two faces, the god of doors and gates , gives us January, and February comes from a Roman festival of spring cleaning. Mars, who didn't get a day of the week in English , got the whole month of March . Jupiter, well his wife was Juno- which makes the month of June. Most of the later months just come from the Latin words for numbers seven, eight, nine and ten: septem, octo, nove, decem. But why isn't September month number seven? It was for the Romans, because they started the year with March.

- 2.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (4)
- 2.2. Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (4)

SECTION : B

(ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS : 30 MARKS)

3. You are Rita / Ritul of Rose International School, Kanpur. Your school is organizing a workshop on 'Prevention of Drug Abuse' in the coming week. Prepare a poster with complete information of the same to create awareness among the students of class X – XII. (50 words) (4)

OR

You are Dr. Anil Gupta, an eminent educationist . You have been invited to preside over an Inter Zonal Declamation competition by Neeraj, the President of English Literary Club of Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector-20, Chandigarh. Write a formal reply accepting the invitation. (50 words)

4. Public demonstrations causes a lot of disturbances in daily routine of common man. You almost missed your important entrance examination as people blocked the highway. As Tara/ Tarun, a class XII student of DAV Public School, Chennai, write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India highlighting the need to discourage such demonstrations and disturbances by public on highways. (120-150 words) (6)

OR

You are Mohit/ Meera, Sales Manager, GulmoharPvt.Ltd. 10/B, Gandhi Road, Lucknow. You received a letter from the Principal, Sun Public School, New Delhi

about the undue delay in the delivery of books from your company. Write a suitable reply to the Principal explaining the reasons for the delay and the measures that you intend to take. (120-150 words)

5. You are Vidhya/ Vijay a student of Class XII of Navjyothi Public School, Mumbai. You feel that there is a wide gap between civic facilities in urban and rural India. All the progress in the field of technology and economy is used up in improving the life of city dwellers, whereas rural people remain neglected. Write an article on the topic “ How to bring the light of modernity in rural India”. (150- 200 words) **(10)**

OR

As part of an Entrepreneurship project the Commerce students of your school recently launched a product called Oatilicious. They not only set up a company to produce the product but also designed its advertising and marketing strategy. Write a report for your school magazine giving details of the enterprise and the launch. You are Ria/ Rinu of Nehru Public School, Indore. (150-200 words)

6. You recently attended a week- long Student Leadership Camp in Bengaluru. The theme of the camp was ‘Be the Change’. A workshop on leadership and the need of community service was held followed by a cultural show. Based on your experience of participation, write a speech on the importance of community service and the role of students in organizing it. You are Meghana/ Mohan. (150-200 words) **(10)**

OR

Jawahar Senior Secondary School, Indore is holding an interschool debate on the topic, ‘School bullies are a menace; they should be expelled’. You will be participating from your school in the debate. Write your debate choosing a stand for or against the motion . (150-200 words)

SECTION : C
(LITERATURE : 30 MARKS)

7 .A. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow: (4)

“Or beauty rest in a beautiful mountain scene,
You have the money, but if you want to be mean,
Why keep the money(this crossly) and go along.
The hurt of the scenery wouldn't be my complaint
So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid.”

- (a)What attractions does the place offer? (1)
- (b)What should one do if one wants to be mean? (1)
- (c)What does the poet not complaint about? (1)
- (d)What do you think is the real worry of the poet? (1)

7.B. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow : (4)

‘He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience—‘

- (a)Who does the word ‘he’ refer to ? (1)
- (b)Whom is he addressing? (1)
- (c)Why were the audience dazed and silent? (1)
- (d)Name the lesson and the author. (1)

8. Answer any five of the following in about 30 -40 words : (2x5=10)

- (a) How does Aunt Jennifer express her bitterness and anger against male dominance?
- (b) How did McLeery misguide the police officials?
- (c) What do you learn about Umberto Eco's distinctive style in his doctoral dissertation?
- (d) How do beautiful things help us live a happy life?
- (e) How was Skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
- (f) ‘A hole in them does not bother him.’ What does this refer to and what does it tell you about the circumstances of the person in the question?
- (g) What were the contents of the letter written by the peddler to Edla?

9. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120- 150 words: (6)

The story ‘ Going Places’ highlights the aspirations of youth along with the pain of disappointment leading to day dreaming. Justify the statement on the basis of the story.

OR

A real politician is like a scientist, who first observes the pain of people thoroughly, visits the places shrouded in problems from the system, meets with local people, carries on a thorough study of the law and then acts for addressing the problem. In view of this enumerate Gandhi's modus operandi as narrated in the lesson 'Indigo'.

10. Answer any one of the following in 120- 150 words: (6)

Untouchability is not only a crime , it is inhuman too. Why and how did Bama decide to fight against it?

OR

Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character of Mr. Lamb from the chapter 'On the Face of It'.

~~~~~ THE END *~~~~~*