

## Pre-Board Examination 1- 2019-20

### **Sub: ENGLISH CORE (301)**

Class: XII

Marks: 80

Date: January 2020

Time: 3 hrs.

### **General Instructions:**

The question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A: Reading 20 marks

Section B: Writing skills 30 marks

Section C: Literature: Textbooks 30 marks

All questions of a section must be attempted in order.

Answers must be numbered correctly and clearly in the margin.

This question paper has 7 pages and 10 questions.

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1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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 pajamas 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. But it's all about barking up the right tree. "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 organises 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 must 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 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. 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 feared 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.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options:

1X5=5

Verhaen Khanna is on a mission to cure

- a.
  - (i) Night blindness
  - (ii) Tree blindness
  - (iii) Colour blindness
  - (iv) Short sightedness
  
- b. Spending time with nature and climbing trees has become a
  - (i) spiritual exercise
  - (ii) physical exercise
  - (iii) aerobic exercise
  - (iv) All the above
  
- c. When climbing a straight trunk use
  - (i) both arms in tandem
  - (ii) both legs in tandem
  - (iii) both arms and legs in tandem
  - (iv) alternate arm and leg in tandem
  
- d. When not scaling trees, NDNS members are busy doing
  - (i) Tree Gardening
  - (ii) Flower Gardening
  - (iii) Guerrilla Gardening
  - (iv) recruiting new members
  
- e. Khanna is professionally a
  - (i) tree climber
  - (ii) businessman
  - (iii) commercial pilot
  - (iv) botanist

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

1x5=5

- a. In addition to tree climbing what other activities does Khanna promote?
- b. What education is being imparted to Delhiites by Verhaen Khanna?
- c. What is Anuj Wadhwa's opinion about nature and climbing trees?
- d. According to Wadhwa, what do you become when you are in a tree?
- e. What varieties of trees are planted by the NDNS members?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

1x2=2

- i. Biological environment (Para 2, 5)
- ii. Excursion (Para 4)

2. Read the following passage carefully:

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1. A vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 percent over India, damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall patterns and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk, according to a new study.

2. The startling findings of scientists working with the United Nations Environment Programme indicate that the spectacular economic growth seen in this part of the world in the past decade may soon falter as a result of this pollution.

3. Research carried out in India indicates that the haze caused by pollution might be reducing winter rice harvests by as much as 10 percent, the report said.

4. "Acids in the haze may be falling as acid rain, have the potential to damage crops and trees. Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impact of reduced sunlight on earth's surface. The pollution that is forming the haze could be leading to several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases," it said. Results from seven cities in India alone, including Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata, estimate that air pollution was annually responsible for 24,000 premature deaths in the early 1990s. By the mid-1990s they resulted in an estimated 37,000 premature fatalities.

5. "The haze has cut down sunlight over India by 10 percent (so far)—a huge amount! As a repercussion, the North West of India is drying up," Prof. V. Ramanathan said, when asked specifically about the impact of the haze over India. Stating that sunlight was going down every year, he said, "We are still in the early stage of understanding of the impact of the haze."

6. Asked whether the current drought in most parts of India after over a decade of good monsoon was owing to the haze, he said, "It was too early to reach a conclusion. If the drought persists for about four to five years, then we should start suspecting that it may be because of the haze."

7. India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover. The preliminary results indicate the buildup of haze, a mass of ash, acid, aerosols and other particles is disrupting weather systems, including rainfall and wind patterns and triggering droughts in western parts of the Asian Continent. The concern is that the regional and global impacts of the haze are set to intensify over the next 30 years as the population of the Asian region rises to an estimated five billion people.

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

SECTION B WRITING SKILLS 30 MARKS

3. You lost your wristwatch in your school auditorium. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving a detailed description of the watch. You are Anirudh/Arundhati of Class XII of Springfield's School, Pune. 4

Or

Your school Shardha Vidyalaya is organising a cultural evening to collect funds for slum children. The Human Resources Development Minister has consented to be the Chief Guest. Draft a poster to be displayed in different areas of your locality. You are the cultural secretary of your school. (50 words)

4. You are Bhavik/Bhawna of class XII of Tejas International School, Vijay Nagar Bulandshahar. As the Sports Secretary of your school write a letter to the Manager of the Sports Store, Meerut, complaining about the defective stop watches you purchased from their store. (Word limit 120 – 150) 6

Or

Recently you travelled from Bengaluru City to Vasco aboard the Vasco Express. To your dismay, you found that the coach was infested with cockroaches. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Hindu' drawing the attention of the General Manager, Southern Railway, to the prevailing unhygienic conditions and asking for remedial action.

You are Saroj/Saran, 5/31 Bengaluru Cantt, Bengaluru. (Word limit 120 – 150)

5. You are Raman/Ruchika. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic, 'Life without Modern Gadgets.' 10

Or

You visited a Job Fair organized by Ability Foundation at Chennai recently. You were impressed to see that nearly 55 companies from various sectors such as Information Technology, Telecommunication, and Electronics etc. offered jobs to the final year students of colleges. As a reporter of 'The Deccan Times,' Chennai, prepare a report in 150 -200 words. You are Piyush / Priya.

6. Hockey is the national game of India. Today it is in name only. Write a speech in 150-200 words in an attempt to convince the students about the benefits of playing hockey. It is inexpensive, healthier and a team game of a short duration. You are Ajit/Rupa. 10

Or

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

### SECTION C LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS 30 MARKS

- 7.A Read the extract given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each: 1x4=4

*"It is in the news that all these pitiful kin  
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in  
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the stone,  
Where greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey  
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits*

- What is in the news?
- Who is referred to as 'beasts of prey' and why?
- Identify one poetic device in these lines.
- How will the 'greedy good-doers' soothe the rural poor out of their wits?

- 7.B *Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had* 1x4=4

*suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet.*

- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. Why has the speaker been separated from her mother?
- c. What are the extreme indignities?
- d. Why does the speaker lose her spirit?

8. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in 30 -40 words each: 2x5=10

- a. How does the poet criticise the city ways?
- b. Why did Douglas go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire? How did he make his terror flee?
- c. Why did Gandhiji's casual visit to Champaran extend to over a year?
- d. Why and how is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead in Keats's poem?
- e. What had Sam written in his letter to Charley?
- f. How did the Tiger King acquire his name?
- g. What did Derry's mother think of Mr. Lamb?

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

Describe the experience Bama had on her way back home? How does it bring about a realisation that proves to be life changing?

Or

What is the moral issue raised by the story of 'Should Wizard hit Mommy'?

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

Jansie is just as old as Sophie but she is very different from her. Bring out the contrast between the two friends citing relevant instances from the story, 'Going Places.'

Or

Mahatma Gandhi is a true leader who saved the peasants of Champaran in more than one way. Elaborate on the statement with reference to the lesson 'Indigo.'

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