

Grade 12 - English Core (301)

Pre-board - I

Date:

Max. Marks: 80

Time: 3 hours

General Instructions:

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

Section A: Reading (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

1. I was only a year and some months younger than Valodya; we grew up, studied and played together. No distinction of elder and younger was made between us. But just about the time I am speaking of I began to realize that I was no companion for him, either in age, in interests or in ability. It even seemed to me that Valodya himself was aware of his superiority and was proud of it. This idea (it may have been a wrong one) was inspired by my vanity which suffered every time I came in contact with him. He was better than me in everything; at lessons, in arguments and in manners, and all this took me farther from him and caused me moral anguish which I could not understand. When Valodya was given a tucked linen shirt for the first time I was unhappy for not having a shirt like that. I am sure I would have felt happier if I was convinced that every time he arranged his collar it was not done to annoy me.

2. What tormented me most was that it sometimes seemed to me Valodya understood what was going on inside me but tried to hide it. But perhaps my sensitiveness and tendency to analyse deceived me in this case. It may be Valodya did not feel at all as I did. He was impulsive and his enthusiasm in different hobbies did not last long.

3. He would suddenly develop a passion for pictures, himself take up painting, spend all his money buying them and beg them of his drawing-master, of papa and of grandmamma. Then it would be a craze for curios to decorate his table, collecting them from every room in the house, or a mania for novels which he obtained on the sly and read all day and night. I could not help being impressed by his hobbies but I was too proud to imitate him and too young and not independent enough to choose a hobby for myself. But there was nothing I envied so much as Valodya's happy large heartedness which showed itself most strikingly when we quarrelled. I always felt that he was behaving well but I could not do likewise.

4. Once when his passion of ornaments was at its height, I went up to his table and accidentally broke an empty bright-coloured little scent bottle.

“Who asked you to touch my things?” demanded Valodya coming into the room and seeing how I had upset the symmetry of the different treasures on his table. “And where is the scent bottle? You must have...”

5. “I knocked it over by accident and it broke. What does it matter?”

“Do me the favour-never dare touch my things again”, he said, putting the pieces of broken flask together and looking at them sorrowfully.

“And you please don’t issue orders” I retorted, “that’s all.” And I smiled, though I did not feel in the least like smiling.

“Yes, it’s nothing to you but it does matter to me,” pursued Valodya, jerking his shoulder, a gesture he had inherited from pap. “He goes and breaks it and then laughs, the nasty little brat!”

“I am a little brat; and you’re big but you’re stupid.”

“I am not going to quarrel with you,” said Valodya, giving me a slight push, “go away.”

“Don’t push!”

“Get away!”

“Don’t push, I tell you!”

Valodya took my word and tried to drag me away from the table; but I was beside myself by now; I got hold of the leg of the table and tipped it over. “There now!” And all his china and glass ornaments crashed to the floor. “You disgusting little boy!” cried Valodya, trying to save some of his falling treasures.

“Well, now it is all over between us,” I thought as I left the room, “we have quarrelled for good.”

6. As soon as afternoon lessons were over I left the room. I was too scared, uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with my brother. After our history lesson in the evening I took my exercise books and started towards the door. As I passed Valodya, though I wanted to go up to him and make friends I scowled and put on an angry expression. At that moment Valodya raised his head and, with a meaningful smile, looked me full in the face. Our eyes met and I knew that he understood me; but some irresistible feeling made me turn away.

7. “Nicky!” he said in a most natural voice without a scrap of pathos. “Don’t be cross any more. Forgive me if I offended you.” And he held out his hand. Something that came higher and higher seemed to be pressing my chest and stopping my breath but this only lasted a second; tears came to my eyes and I felt better. “Forgive....m-me, Val-dya,” I stammered, squeezing his hand. Valodya looked at me as if he could not make out at all why there should be tears in my eyes.

- Leo Tolstoy

(Excerpts from his autobiographical novel ‘Boyhood’ originally written in Russian, translation by C.J. Haqar)

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

(5x1 = 5 marks)

1. Which of the following is NOT true for Valodaya?

- (i) He was fond of reading.
- (ii) He was inclined towards painting.
- (iii) He was reckless with money.
- (iv) He liked collecting curios and works of art.

2. “I am a little brat, and you’re big but you are stupid.” This line highlights that Nicky –

- (i) was disrespectful towards his brother
- (ii) was impulsive and volatile, but loved his brother
- (iii) was jealous of his brother
- (iv) was unapologetic towards his brother

3. Choose the antonym of comforted (para 2)

- (i) deceived
- (ii) tormented
- (iii) impulsive
- (iv) enthusiasm

4. Choose the right answer which explains the underlined phrase:

‘We have quarrelled for good’

- (i) It is very good.
- (ii) forever
- (iii) for good reason
- (iv) for good things to follow

5. “Something that came higher and higher seemed to be pressing my chest,” implies

- (i) his brother towered over him.
- (ii) he was in a state of confusion.
- (iii) his brother tried to overpower him.
- (iv) he felt choked with emotions.

II. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible.

(5x1 = 5 marks)

- 1. Why did Nicky feel that he was not an apt companion for Valodya?
- 2. Which aspect of Valodya’s personality was Nicky most upset about?
- 3. Why did Nicky feel uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with his brother?
- 4. What did Nicky do to show that he was sorry for all that he had done in the morning?
- 5. What does Valodya’s behaviour show about his character?

III. Pick out words from the passage similar in meaning to the following:

(2 marks)

- 1. pride; conceit (Para 1)
- 2. resented; grudged (Para 3)

2. Read the passage given below:

1. High blood pressure, or hypertension, occurs when your blood pressure increases to unhealthy levels. Your blood pressure measurement takes into account how much blood is passing through your blood vessels and the amount of resistance the blood meets while the heart is pumping. Narrow arteries increase resistance. The narrower your arteries are, the higher your blood pressure will be. Over the long term, increased pressure can cause health issues, including heart disease. Hypertension is quite common.

2. Hypertension is generally a silent condition. Even then, these symptoms may be attributed to other issues. Symptoms of severe hypertension can include headache, shortness of breath, nosebleeds, chest pain, dizziness, etc. They don’t occur in everyone with hypertension, but waiting for a symptom of this condition to appear could be fatal. For example, if you have a family history of heart disease or have risk factors for developing the condition, your doctor may recommend that you have your blood pressure checked twice a year. This helps you and your doctor stay on top of any possible issues before they become problematic.

3. Hypertension is of two types — primary and secondary hypertension. Primary hypertension is also called essential hypertension which develops over time with no identifiable cause. Most people have this type of high blood pressure. The factors which play a major role include genes, physical changes and environment. Secondary hypertension often occurs quickly and can

become more severe than primary hypertension. Several conditions that may cause secondary hypertension include side effects of medications, consumption of some drugs and alcohol, adrenal gland problems, etc.

4. Diagnosing hypertension is as simple as taking a blood pressure reading. Most doctors' offices check blood pressure as part of a routine visit. If your blood pressure is elevated, your doctor may request you to have more readings over the course of a few days or weeks. That's because your environment can contribute to increased blood pressure, such as the stress you may feel by being at the doctor's office. If your blood pressure remains high, your doctor will likely conduct more tests to rule out underlying conditions. These tests can include urine test, cholesterol screening and other blood tests, ECG (electrocardiogram) test and ultrasound of your heart and kidney. These tests can help your doctor identify any secondary issues causing your elevated blood pressure. They can also look at the effects high blood pressure may have had on your organs. During this time, your doctor may begin treating your hypertension. Early treatment may reduce your risk of lasting damage. Complications of the hypertension may result in damaging of arteries, heart (cardiac arrest, heart failure, arrhythmias, etc.) and brain.

6. Healthy lifestyle changes can help you control the factors that cause hypertension. A heart-healthy diet is vital for helping to reduce high blood pressure. It's also important for managing hypertension that is under control and reducing the risk of complications. A heart-healthy diet emphasizes foods that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean sources of proteins, also reducing dietary sodium, eating more veggies and cut back on sweets. Reaching a healthy weight should include being physically more active. In addition, exercise can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure naturally, and strengthen your cardiovascular system. Other activities can also be helpful. These include meditation, deep breathing, and yoga or tai chi. These are all proven stress-reducing techniques. Getting adequate sleep can also help reduce stress levels.

a) On the basis of your reading of the passage carefully, make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations and a format you consider suitable. (4 marks)

b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (4 marks)

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills (30 marks)

3. You are Aditya Kumar, a renowned singer. You have received an invitation from the Principal of Shining Light Public School to judge their Inter School Talent Search Competition, which is to be held on 2nd February, 2019 in the school auditorium from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Write a reply in about 50 words declining the offer, giving a valid reason.

OR

As the Administrative Officer of Diamond Gym, draft a notice in about 50 words informing the members of the increase in membership fee with effect from 1st March, 2020 and the change in the timings. Invent necessary details. You are Vishnu/Vaishnavi.

(4 marks)

4. You see a classified advertisement in the newspaper inviting applications for the post of Marketing Representative in a reputed company. Write a letter with biodata in 120 - 150 words to

the HR Manager, Neo Technologies, New Delhi, applying for the post advertised. You are Priyanka/Priyank of 121 Green Park, New Delhi, a fresh graduate in Sales and Marketing from the University of Delhi.

OR

Events like marathons, promoting Go Green, 'Save the Girl Child', etc. have now become a yearly phenomenon to spread awareness of social and health issues. Response to such events is huge with celebrities adding a touch of glamour to the events resulting in large unmanageable crowds. Media also plays a role by hyping the event, thus diluting the actual cause.

As a concerned youth, discuss the issue in a letter to the Editor of 'The Hindustan Times', in 120 – 150 words, stating what your opinion is on whether such events are successful in spreading awareness. Give suggestions to make such initiatives work. You are Bharat/Bharti. (6 marks)

5. It is said that 'well begun is half done'. Applying this to 'Swachh Bharat Mission' (Clean India Mission) we can safely assume that praiseworthy success has been achieved under this mission. However, much more remains to be done. Write a speech in 150 – 200 words on the need to intensify this drive. You are Raunaq/Asmeeta, Secretary, Environment Conservation Club in your school.

OR

You are Amrit/Amrita. You are participating in a debate. Write either for or against the topic 'In today's world only wealthy people can afford to be healthy.' (150 – 200 words) (10 marks)

6. The newspaper has a very important role in shaping public opinion and raising awareness of social and public issues. It is believed that the information provided in the newspaper is authentic, objective and reliable. Write an article in 150 - 200 words expressing your views on the role of newspapers and journalists. You are Raj/Raji.

OR

You are Anand/Anandita, Prefect, Divine Public School, Delhi. Your school celebrated Book Week from January 5th to 9th in collaboration with Reading Scholars Publications. Various activities like bookmark making, book exchanges, favourite character portrayals, newspaper designing, book exhibition, etc. were organized in the course of the week. A few famous authors were also invited to interact with the students. Write a report on the same for your school magazine in 150-200 words. (10 marks)

Section C: Literature Textbooks (Flamingo & Vistas) (30 marks)

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- Why are Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering?
- What is the result of the fluttering?
- Explain: 'The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.
- Name the literary device found in the third line of the above stanza.

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)

I know that by writing novels I reach a larger audience. I cannot expect to have one million readers with stuff on semiotics.

- Name the speaker and the interviewer.
- How did he start writing novels?

- c. Name the novel that he wrote which brought him intellectual superstardom.
- d. State any one quality of the speaker that is revealed through the interview.

9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30 - 40 words each (5×2=10)

- a) How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day in *The Last Lesson*?
- b) Mention any two long-term consequences of the near drowning incident on Douglas.
- c) How does the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum', portray/describe the slum children?
- d) What did Edla notice about the stranger/peddler that her father could not?
- e) How is Antarctica a crucial element in the debate of climate change?
- f) How did the Tiger King acquire his name?
- g) What kind of a person was Evans?

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

Sophie's dream world clashes with the world of her family and friends". Bring out the stark difference between the two worlds.

OR

Analyse the character of Kothamangalam Subbu in the story *Poets and Pancakes*.

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

What is the bond that unites old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the boy? How does the old man inspire the boy?

OR

Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa are victims of discrimination that is practised in the society. What kind of experience did both of them go through?
