

ENGLISH CORE

Date-

Time Allowed-3 hrs

Class-XII

Max Marks-100

**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 carefully and follow them faithfully.
- 3 Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**Section A: Reading**

**(30 marks)**

**Q1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow**

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

1. It was yet another morning in July last year. Or was it August? I'm not quite sure. Everything seemed a blur. I'd just returned home after dropping my 12-year-old daughter off to school. I sat on the couch in our little balcony. But this time there was no shoulder to drape my arm around. That space to my right was empty.

2. It was hard to sit there for more than a moment. And I couldn't get myself to enter our unusually silent house. So I did the things I did most mornings. I walked aimlessly through the garden, breaking off a dry leaf, kicking a stone out of the way. I stopped to listen to birdsong. These little things once brought joy to my heart, but not any longer. For months I was numb to my surroundings.

3. Weary, I trudged back inside. Close to the stairs, tucked away in a far corner, I noticed something: a small clump of bushes with broad, dark green leaves, just inches off the ground. I had seen them before but did not pay much attention. Nothing else but weeds. I would have pulled them out, but something held me back.

4. Later that day, I pointed out the bushes to the gardener. He looked at them, touched the leaves and then, with surprise in his voice, exclaimed: 'These are lime bushes!' He was right-the sour, tangy smell was unmistakable! I was confused. That tiny patch near the stairs was where I had a small kitchen garden. I didn't remember sowing any lime seeds. *How did they get here?* And then it all came back in a flash.

5. It was in March 2014 that David, my husband of 17 years, was diagnosed with a very rare kind of cancer. Tall, well-built and handsome, David was full of life, and just a few months away from turning 50. He took this news on his chin, reeling from the blow, but back on his feet almost immediately. Disbelief, sadness and pain were overshadowed by a fierce

determination even he couldn't understand. 'I'm going to fight this,' he told me once the truth sunk in. Nothing could keep David down. He carried his work with him to the hospital room. In a few hours, the place was transformed into a small office-orders were finalized, instructions given over the phone, meetings held. It seemed like any other workday. Life went on. Whenever he couldn't be reached on the phone, I would find him, his head bowed in silent meditation, in the chapel attached to our local church. Through all this, we searched for an answer to the question: What's going to halt this disease?

6. There were options for natural therapies. Some were discussed, others dismissed. One that he did try was to have large amounts of lime. We got lemons from as far as Kerala, some larger than a tennis ball. Slivers of lime were cut and added to water. It was squeezed on to salads. David would usually be found sitting outside in his favourite place on the couch in the evening, a glass of lime and soda cradled in his hand, ice clinking, just like old times. But nothing worked. We lost David early last July.

7. Holding that crushed leaf in my palm, I remembered the day in May when I tipped over the dregs of the juice into the garden. Who would have ever thought that four of the tiny pips would sprout into bushes months after David left us? I knew at once that these were My David Trees. His last gift.

8. Small and unremarkable among the more exotic plants that surround them, these shrubs are special to me. Each time I see them I feel connected with the man who lived life king-size. I learnt from watching him every day what it means to fight the good fight. And how in the end, he accepted gracefully, without a murmur, the cards dealt to him.

9. Knowing what those plants meant to me, our gardener potted and placed them in the same corner where they were found. A year later they have grown much taller, with little branches growing out. Once the monsoon arrived, I had the gardener transplant the bushes into the loose earth. It is my hope that they will grow big and strong, unfettered by the confines of a pot, their branches spreading outward to embrace the world. Just the way David did.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: 4**

**a. 'That space to my right was empty' means that**

- i. The author was alone at home.
- ii. Her daughter had gone to school.
- iii. Her husband was no more by her side.
- iv. There was no chair to her right.

**b. The seeds of the small bush of lemons were:**

- i. planted by her husband
- ii. planted by her daughter
- iii. planted by the gardener
- iv. planted by the author

**c. The author's tone is of**

- i. nostalgia
- ii. depression
- iii. despair
- iv. hope

**d. The tiny shrubs :**

- i. were unnecessary weeds for the author
- ii. were unwanted lime bushes

- iii. held a very special place in the author's life
- iv. were some sprigs that grew from nowhere

**Answer the following questions:**

- 1. Why was it difficult for the author to sit in the balcony for long? 1
- 2. How did the author pass her time in the mornings? 1
- 3. What did the gardner discover about the bushes? 1
- 4. How did David spend the last few months of his life? 1
- 5. Where would the author find David when he was not available on phone? 1
- 6. What did the gardener do with the lime bushes? 1

**1.3. Find a word from the passage which means the same as the word/phrase given below: 2**

- i. plodded (para3)
- ii. outdone /dominated (para 5)

**2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: 10**

1.A small boil on his forearm 12 years ago transformed Srinivasa Gopal's life. The Chennai-based IT professional was advised a minor surgery, and pre-surgery tests revealed that he had high blood sugar. He was 37, overweight, had poor eating habits and a stressful job involving night shifts. Even with diabetic parents at home, he didn't think he was at risk. He is not alone. According to latest estimates, a staggering 69 million Indians have diabetes and another 80 million pre diabetes. What's more, awareness about the condition is dismal.

2. Diabetes is becoming an epidemic because Indians are genetically more susceptible. We have the 'thrifty gene'-primed to store energy as abdominal fat. It helped cope with food shortage in the distant past, but now when food is plentiful, it increases diabetes risk. But experts agree that genes alone cannot explain why the numbers have shot up dramatically in the past 40 years. They hold our lifestyle-the tendency to remain sedentary and overeat, along with stress, which throws our hormones out of whack-and environment responsible. It is the interplay of genes, lifestyle and environment that determine our diabetes risk. Experts say that healthy choices can outsmart our genes, and armed with information and taking charge of our health can help protect us from the imminent diabetes tsunami. Over time, uncontrolled diabetes can turn lethal by causing serious damage to blood vessels (cardiovascular disease, stroke, retinopathy), nerves (neuropathy or numbness) and organs (kidney disease).

3. Srinivasa was lucky: He treated his early diagnosis as a wake-up call and has been vigilant ever since. Along with medication, he followed the lifestyle advice of the team at Dr V. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre. Recognizing that night shifts adversely affected his health, he opted for a day shift. 'I was able to change my eating habits, got time to exercise and ensured better quality of sleep,' he says.

4. Of course, the best place to intervene is in the detectable process that precedes a diagnosis-pre diabetes. This is a condition where blood glucose level is high, but not high enough to be in the diabetic zone. Studies indicate that without intervention, most people with pre diabetes will get full-blown diabetes within 10 years. However, with changes in lifestyle, including modest weight loss (as little as 5-7 per cent of current weight), people

with pre diabetes can prevent or delay the development of the condition by 54 per cent three years later.

5. Eating habits such as eating high-fiber foods, whole grains, adequate protein, swapping bad fats with good ones, choosing small and frequent meals and ditching refined foods are the principles that stave off rise in blood sugar levels. Exercise helps torch calories, slash weight, lower your blood sugar levels and improve insulin sensitivity. Stress causes your blood sugar levels to skyrocket, giving you the energy to fight or flee.

6. An expanding waistline is a strong predictor of insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes. Abdominal fat (or visceral fat) is highly metabolic. It breaks down quickly, travels around the body, parking itself on various tissues including those of the pancreas-the insulin production house of the body.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option 2**

a. What transformed Srinivasa's life?

- i. stressful job
- ii. parents diabetic background
- iii. night shifts
- iv. being detected with high blood sugar

b. The role of thrifty gene in the past was:

- i. to deposit sugar
- ii. to cope with food shortage
- iii. to reduce stress
- iv. to increase the risk of diabetes

**Answer the following questions:**

**6**

- a. What does abdominal fat do to the body?
- b. Mention two ways through which high blood sugar levels can be staved off.
- c. How can uncontrolled diabetes become lethal?
- d. What is diagnosis-pre diabetes?
- e. According to experts the diabetes risk is determined by which factors?
- f. How can pre diabetes people delay the onset of diabetes?

**Find a word from the passage which means the same as the word/phrase given below: 2**

- i. Watchful (para 3)
- ii. Shocking (para 1)

**Q 3. Read the passage given below carefully:**

**8**

Residents of the BhirungRaut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bishmillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year-old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah's land, recalled: "*Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality*".

He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji's Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Qamaruddin and became Bishmillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in

Varanasi. His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him.

For Bismillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bismillah Khan won't just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhana to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was a testimony to the plurality that is India.

A practicing Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of *kusti* in *BeniaBagaAkhada*. Every morning, Bismillah Khan would do *riyaaz* at the Balaji temple on the banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn't desert Bismillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a *thumri* to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music.

Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bismillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the very end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

**On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary. 5**

**Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3**

### **SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (30 MARKS)**

4. Your school is organizing a one day trip to a nearby adventure park for the students. As the Cultural Secretary of your school draft a notice to inform the students about the same giving all necessary details. You are Sumit Kumar/ Sudha Shetty of Blooms International School, Bengaluru. (Word limit 50 words) 4

**OR**

Gaurav Saxena of 12, Park Lane, Secunderabad wants to rent out his bungalow as he is transferred to another city. Draft an advertisement for the classified columns of Times Of India with all the necessary information. Word limit 50 words

5. Gayatri Niketan Public School, Chennai had placed a bulk order for house T-shirts from Arvind Garments Ltd., Vellore. The school is disappointed with the poor service of the supplier who has failed to maintain the quality standards. Moreover, the supply of the goods was also inadequate which has caused a lot of inconvenience to the school. As the Store In-charge, Mr. Rakesh Niar, draft a letter complaining about the same to the supplier stating your expectation. (Word limit 120 words.) 6

**OR**

The newspaper has reported cases of acid attack victims who have dared to move on and not give up hope. You are deeply moved by the news which is an inspiration and also a reminder of the brutality that exists in the human society. Write a letter to the Editor of a

National Daily expressing your concern on the above issue and also conveying a strong message to humanity.

6. The Indian government spends a huge amount of money on various professional courses. Being lured by the lucrative prospects of the developed countries, Indian professionals are tempted to migrate and drain their knowledge there; leading to the growth and development of the other countries. As a citizen write an article expressing your concern over 'Brain Drain' which is affecting our country's progress. Discuss the reasons and suggest some measures to prevent the same. ( Word limit 200 words ) **10**

**OR**

In modern times when people are swayed by success and power there is no room for principles and value in one's life. Everyone wants to find short cuts and quick measures to become successful unmindful of the compromises they make. Write a debate expressing your views in favour or against the motion on the topic 'Integrity (sticking to one's morals and principles) is important in attaining success. Word limit 200 words

7. The present generation holds very liberal views about discipline. They are carried away by the trends in vogue and tend to imitate everything that is new. As a result they fail to identify with themselves and become victims of their own liberal values. As the Head Girl of your school you are told to address the morning assembly on the 'Importance of Discipline' in a student's life. Write this speech in not more than 200 words. **10**

**OR**

Your school organized an exhibition-cum-sale of handicrafts that were made by the students during the art and craft classes. It included a wide variety of things such as cards, candles, decorated pottery work, embossed paintings etc. There was an overwhelming response from the parents and the amount collected was donated to the orphanage. Students also visited the orphanage to personally hand over various goods to the orphanage children. Write **a report** to be published in the newspaper. Word limit 200 words

### **SECTION C: LITERATURE**

**40**

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: **4**

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- i. Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- ii. What are Aunt Jennifer's tigers doing? How do they look like?
- iii. Where do the tigers live? How are they described?
- iv. Identify the poetic device used in the second line.

**OR**

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
i. How do we bind ourselves to the earth?

- ii. Explain 'o'er-darkened ways.
- iii. How does the poet describe human lives in the above lines?
- iv. Identify the poetic device used in the above lines.

**9. Answer any the following questions in about 30-40 words: 3x4=12**

- i. How is Sophie different from Jansie?
- ii. How did Gandhi teach his lawyer friends the importance of self-reliance?
- iii. What did Zitkala Sa resist? Was she successful?
- iv. Why is Derry defiant and withdrawn? How does Mr. Lamb help him?
- v. How did the instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas?

**10. Answer the following questions in 125-150 words 6**

Memories of Childhood is a poignant account of suffering and humiliation. Elucidate the above statement with appropriate instances from the lesson.

**OR**

While we condemn crime, we are sympathetic to the criminal. How does Evans exploit the sympathy shown towards him to his advantage?

**11. Answer the following questions in 125-150 words 6**

Sophie belongs to the lower strata of the society, yet she is not ready to accept the reality. Describe the character of Sophie comparing it with that of Jansie. What values does Jansie display?

**OR**

Lost Springs highlights the extreme poverty in which generations suffer. The children living in slums also have dreams yet they cannot pursue them. How can humanity rise to the expectations of these neglected children? What values are required to make their dreams come true?

**Answer the following question in 125-150 words 2x 6=12**

**12.** "The little child has come to link him once more with the whole world". In the light of the above statement trace the development of Silas Marner's character after the arrival of Eppie.

**13.** What was the plot hatched by William Dane? Was he successful in spoiling the reputation of Silas Marner? What does this reveal about William Dane's character?

Ms. Sindhu Stanly