

**Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's VM Public School , Vadodara**

**ENGLISH CORE**

**Date-**

**Time Allowed-3 hrs**

**Class-XII**

**Max Marks-100**

**General instructions**

- 1.All the questions are compulsory.**
- 2.You may attempt any section at a time.**
- 3.All the questions of a particular section must be attempted in the correct order.**

**SECTION A - READING**

**(30 marks)**

**Q1.Read the passage given below and then answer the questions that follow: 12**

1. Giving soothes an individual with the vibration of joy. Unconditional giving is a natural principle and evident everywhere in nature which gives us solids, liquids and minerals. Water gives itself away for our agriculture and other uses. Trees give flowers, fruits and wood. Air gives us the very life breath and the sun gives us light of life.
2. Even the animals give us milk, egg, meat, skin and various services. But what do humans contribute to the cosmos in return? Isn't our role predominately selfish and destructive? We expand civilization to disturb ecological balance, spread pollution in fresh natural atmosphere, indulge in ruthless deforestation, kill animals even for sport and consume all natural resources for our own selfish interest.
3. It is always great to make donations, but what about giving your own time? It's wonderful to drop off used clothing, books and toys at a shelter for homeless, but what about spending an hour each week reading and playing with the deprived children? Come face to face with the person you are helping. It will make your giving more meaningful.
- 4.It is not just the time that you give to the deprived children but what you give to your family as well ! Are you there when they need you? Or, is it always you who demand help and cooperation from the rest of the family members. How do you utilize your spare moments? Isn't it that you just sit before the television flipping channels? Shut it down! You can use these precious spare moments making a special 'Get Well Soon ' card for your nanny, or someone dear to you not in good spirits, or send a letter via internet. Why to be on the 'Facebook' all the time chatting with your friends whom you even meet daily at school?
5. The law of karma is a natural law whereby we are paid back in the same coin. We have added much for our comforts but we have not been able to attain peace and tranquility. We are constantly haunted by excessive greed for grabbing which is severely disturbing

peaceful coexistence. We rarely do what we can for preservation of nature and even our fellowmen.

6. What can we give back to the cosmos? We humans are predominantly gifted with mind and intellect. These are very sharp instruments indeed which can be used as a surgeon's knife for healing or for killing. Instead of nurturing anger, jealousy, hatred selfishness and animosity, we can spread love, care, kindness and benevolence and thereby transform the earthly vibration into a heavenly one. We have divine inheritance of love, wisdom and self transformation. Jesus said, "Those that give shall receive". Instead of always being the one who receives, let us abide by the principle of giving and see how things change for humanity at large.

**Answer the following by choosing the most appropriate option from those given: 3**

- i) Unconditional giving is a natural principle which \_\_\_\_\_**
  - a) manifests in solids
  - b) is seen in nature
  - c) gives us light of life
  - d) is a component of the sun
- ii) Expanding civilization has resulted in \_\_\_\_\_**
  - a) creating sport for animals
  - b) creating the ecological system
  - c) disturbing the ecological balance
  - d) making man selfish
- iii) The natural law of karma \_\_\_\_\_**
  - a) pays back all previous debts
  - b) pays back in the same coin
  - c) preserves nature and our fellowmen
  - d) moves from a primitive selfish mentality

**On the basis of your reading the passage answer the questions that follow.**

- a) How is the giving principle of nature clearly visible? 1
- b) What do animals provide man with? 1
- c) Highlight the importance of time as apparent in the passage. 1
- d) What would 'abiding by the principle of giving' provide us with in return? 1
- e) What does the writer compare human intellect and mind with? 1
- f) How do youngsters usually spend their spare time? 1

**Find words from the passage which mean the opposite of the following.**

- a) Not obvious (para1) 1
- b) Privileged ( para 4) 1
- c) Worthless (para4) 1

**Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 10**

**Scientists Set Forth Proposals to Tame Climate**

1. In 20 years, global temperatures will rise by 0.2-0.4 degree centigrade, they say. Scientists from 12 academies round the world have met in Tokyo to issue a statement on the inevitable long-term rise in temperature. Their forecast is that in the next 20 years, global temperatures will rise by 0.2-0.4 degree centigrade. The consequences of global warming will be felt worldwide. Polar icecaps will continue to melt and the world's oceans will erode coastline still further.
2. The academics assessed the scientific aspects of global climate change. This will be a G-8 plus 5 summit involving China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico. Representatives of these five nations participated in drafting the statement on climate change.
3. The decision to expand the summit format was logical as China now ranks second after the United States in industrial emissions, and the other four countries are also notorious for their high pollution levels. The scientists called on world leaders to minimise the threat of climate change, stressed the need for urgent action to clarify the causes of this process and set forth proposals to "tame" the climate.
4. Yury Izrael, director of the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology at the Russian Academy of Sciences, who co-authored the statement, told RIA Novosti that the document mostly aimed at enhancing climate-stabilisation measures, outlined ways of adapting to the situation and stipulated a transfer to a low carbon society.
5. He said less carbon, carbon-intensive energy sources and the energy-preservation principle had to be introduced. Japan, which will hold the G-8 summit, has invented a production process making it possible to cut toxic emissions by 70 percent by 2050. However, Mr. Izrael said this would not solve the climate change problem even if all industrial giants followed suit. "To stabilize the climate, we must reduce toxic emissions down to the Earth's natural absorbing capacity. The planet can now absorb less than 50% of toxic emissions," he said.
6. "This means that we cannot achieve any short-term results in this sphere." Mr. Izrael said direct efforts to fight greenhouse emissions held little promise. Scientists have not yet assessed the impact of greenhouse gases on the global climate. At any rate, state-of-the-art industrial technologies are not the only way to fight global warming. This costly programme will take several hundred years and many millions of dollars to implement. The G-8 plus 5 academic meeting also focused on other factors influencing global climate change.

7. "We must have different 'weapons' for fighting climate change and stabilizing the climate, and have to use the most effective ones," Mr. Izrael said. For instance, geo-engineering technologies can alter the Earth's Albedo, or reflecting power. According to scientists, young and old trees have different Albedo levels. Young trees actively sequester carbon needed for their growth and development, while older trees either absorb little or no carbon at all. Consequently, new forests must be planted regularly to preserve a stable climate. Moreover, we must care for old forests, protecting them from wildfires and implementing well-thought-out tree felling programmes.
  
8. The Tokyo statement said it was necessary to intensify biological processes in the world's oceans. For instance, plankton, the perennial inhabitant of the seven seas, requires huge amounts of carbon dioxide for further growth and should therefore be planted en masse with special biotechnologies. It is also possible to build orbital solar-ray reflectors. This project may eventually prove less expensive than the costs of global warming. The statement called for developing and promoting Carbon Content Sequestering (CCS) technologies for accumulating, storing and extracting (sequestering) fossil-fuel carbon. This primarily concerns coal, which will remain a major source of energy for the next 50 years. All surplus carbon could be stored under the ground or dumped into the sea.
  
9. Mr. Izrael is an active supporter of the so-called optimal scenario aiming to change the meteorological solar constant by spraying fine dispersed aerosols of sulphuric acid and other substances into the lower atmosphere at 12-16 km altitudes. This will decrease sunshine reaching the Earth's surface and reduce the temperature in the troposphere by the required number of degrees, serving as an instrument of climate change.

**Answer the following by choosing the most appropriate option from those given:  
(1x2=2)**

**(a) The global temperature will rise considerably in**

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. 50 years        | 2. 4 years  |
| 3. After a century | 4. 20 years |

**(b) Sunshine reaching earth's surface can be reduced by**

1. building orbital solar-ray reflectors
2. Carbon content sequestering technologies
3. Spraying fine dispersed aerosols of sulphuric acid into the lower atmosphere
4. Geo-engineering technology

**On the basis of your reading the passage answer the questions that follow.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Name the countries in the G-8 plus 5 summit.                                | 1 |
| (b) What suggestion is given by Mr. Israel to solve the climate change problem? | 1 |
| (c) What are the ways to transfer the society into a low-carbon society?        | 1 |

- (d) What is meant by Geo-Engineering Technologies? 1
- (e) How does plankton help tame climate ? 1
- (f) What is the result of global warming ? 1

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

- (a) Examined/evaluated (para 2) 1
- (b) To state clearly and firmly that something must be done or how it must be done (para 4). 1

**Q3) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow**

The Indian hand-knotted carpet industry a traditionally rural based cottage industry, is highly insensitive and almost entirely export oriented. The present dominant tradition of pile carpet-weaving goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when migration of skilled craftsmen from Persia and Afghanistan, and the patronage extended by the Mughal rulers enabled the craft to take root and flourish in India.

The carpet industry in India adopted classical designs, almost all of Persian origins. However, some patterns commonly incorporated, were of Indian and Chinese origin. While the Persian weavers commonly depicted animals such as lions and tigers, Indian weavers more often represented birds. There is also a difference between the Persian and Indian manners of depicting flowers.

The Indian essence is symbolized through its art, textiles, crafts and cultures, which make the Indian appeal unique. Indian carpet designers and weavers have made distinct contributions to the oriental tradition of carpet- weaving down the ages. The most technically accomplished carpets of all times were woven in India. Also, the Indian carpet weavers were really painters; they employed dyed yarn as painters used pigments which resulted in a range of colours and sophistication otherwise unknown. Yarns of different colours were directly mixed or used in a combination to yield new hues or subtle varieties of existing ones. There was also a stylistic contribution. Although in the early years under court patronage, the patterns of Indian carpets were heavily dependent on Persian models, later, several patterns incorporating beautifully depicted flowers came into use.

After independence, the carpet industry expanded rapidly, particularly since 1970, facilitating the growth of employment and income in relatively backward and often remote regions of the country. The industry continues to be predominantly, in the cottage and small-scale sectors, labor-intensive and particularly oriented towards export. Hand knotted carpets from India have been long valued in countries which import them.

**a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title. 5**

**b) Write 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 : ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS**

**30**

**Q4)** You are Varun Goyal. You are opening an exclusive showroom of kids' apparel. Draft a formal invitation to be sent to friends, relatives and associates on the opening ceremony of the showroom. ( Word limit-50) **4**

OR

Your school Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Vadodara is organizing the 'Literary Week'. On this occasion, renowned author Vikram Seth will address the students. Write a notice informing students about the event. Invent necessary details. ( Word limit-50)

**Q5)** You are Akshay / Abhinaya of A-22 Karol Bagh, New Delhi. You had purchased an expensive Android Phone last month through a reputed online site. Now you discover it is not working properly. Write a letter to the Manager Customer Care complaining about the malfunctioning of the unit and asking them to repair and if indeed to replace it against the warranty. ( 125-150 words) **6**

OR

During summer months after your exams are over, you want to utilize your time by working for the summer in a leading chain of restaurants. You are Sanjay/ Geeta. Write an application for the post of a supervisor giving your complete bio-data to the HR Manager Subways, GK Part II, New Delhi.

**Q6)** You are Vishal/Veena, a resident of J.K. Nagar, Jamshedpur. Yesterday your father returned home tired and frustrated after standing in ATM queue for seven hours. But you feel these are just teething problems and in the long run demonetization will prove to be beneficial for the Indian economy. Write an article on the topic 'Demonetization will strengthen Indian Economy'. (150-200 words) **10**

OR

Your school organized a Mini Sports festival for the special children of Amar Jyoti School, Karkardooma to sensitize all towards the physically challenged. They were given prizes for their performances and participation. You are the Akshar /Akshara of Sunshine school Varanasi write a report for the local daily in (150- 200 words).

**Q7).** Nowadays the news channels are in neck to neck competition with each other to improve their ratings. They telecast entertainment bytes besides news. Write a debate either for or against the topic-'News channels are turned into entertainment channels.' (150-200 words) **10**

OR

The value education Club of your school organized a visit to a 'Home for the aged' in your city, where you interacted with the inmates and got an insight into their feelings. You were pained to hear about their loneliness, and their craving for the company of their near and dear ones. In order to reach out to society deliver a speech in the morning assembly in approximately 200 words, 'Caring for the Old during Sunset Years.'

**SECTION –C LITERATURE**

**40**

**Q8) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow 4**

The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones,  
reciting a father's gnarled disease,  
His lesson, from his desk.  
At back of the dim class One unnoted, sweet and young,  
His eyes live in dream;  
Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.

- (a) Who is referred to as unlucky heir and why?
- (b) What is the stunted boy reciting?
- (c) What poetic device is used in the second line?
- (d) "His eyes live in a dream"—What dream does he have?

OR

"Fishermen in the cold sea  
Would not harm whales  
And them and gathering salt  
Would look at his hurt hands."

- a) What is 'fisherman' symbolic of?
- b) What will happen when fishermen do not harm whales?
- c) What has happened to the man gathering salt? What must he do?
- d) What would happen in this moment of silence?

**Q9) Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 3x4=12**

- (a) Explain the theme of the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers and the ideology that the poem propounds?
- (b) How does M. Hamel evoke feelings of patriotism in the class towards the end of the lesson?
- (c) Point out the irony in the statement, 'From that day onwards there was celebration time for all the tigers in Pratibandhpuram.' ?
- (d) There is difference in opinion about the ending of the story of Roger Skunk.  
What does John Updike wish to convey through this story?
- (e) What opinion do you form of Mr. Lamb when he says "why is one green growing plant called a weed and another a flower"?

**Q10) Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words.**

**6**

Draw the similarities between the life of the rag pickers and the bangle makers as portrayed in Lost Spring

OR

A person like the Tiger King does not believe that in this universe there is equal place for all living creatures. It is a world created by the rich and the powerful to live the way they want. The author brings out this simple truth through this political satire "Tiger King". Elucidate.

**Q11) Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words:**

**6**

'War causes destruction and spreads hatred'. People feel insecure. Discuss the disadvantages of war keeping in mind Franco-Prussian War. ( The Last Lesson)

OR

How was Gandhiji's stay and work at Champaran a great turning point for the people of Champaran, to the freedom struggle and to Gandhiji himself?

**Answer the following in about 125-150 words:**

**6x2=12**

**Q12)** How can a contrast be drawn between the life of Silas in Lantern Yard and the life he had in Raveloe? (150 words)

**Q13)** Who was Dunstan Cass? What did his character reflect about his upbringing?

Ms. Sindhu Stanly