

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's VM Public School , Vadodara

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

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

Action But Not It's Fruits

1. Life, that marvelous gift we enjoy day by day, makes sense to those who, at every moment try to do their very best- to those who fulfill their duties with joy, with total devotion, even when the task is difficult.
2. I want to tell you that, from a very young age, I have been obsessed with a single idea not to abandon this world with empty hands. This image of empty hands that are always filled , because they are always giving , has been with me all my life.
3. About ten years ago, a famous Indian painter asked me to select one of his paintings honouring Mother Teresa, the beloved nun, without hesitating I chose the one that represented Mother Teresa's extraordinary capacity for love and devotion to the poor and needy: a marvelous painting of her skinny but expressive hands. I tell you this because I believe that giving with generosity is what makes life meaningful.
4. There is something that we should never forget however: we must give without expecting a reward. In this regard, ancient Indian tradition is of great value because of its emphasis on detached action. This was the philosophy of life that guided Mahatma Gandhi in his struggle of peaceful resistance for the independence of his country.
5. It is only when we understand that giving is more important than receiving, loving than being loved, serving than being served, that we find ourselves on the path that leads to inner peace .
6. When the time came for me to choose a professional career, I selected teaching. There are two reasons for this : my mother wanted one of her daughters to become a teacher

and , perhaps, without being completely aware of it at the time, I sensed that I had a vocation for teaching.

7.I have never regretted having chosen this way of life. To know things, to think about them, to investigate and finally to share your knowledge with your students is a beautiful task.

8. Like the farmer, we plant the seed in the hope that it will germinate , grow and bear fruits. But , unlike the farmer who looks forward to harvesting his crops, the teacher knows that the fruits of her labour do not belong to her . Just like children must learn to leave the parental nest and fly with their own wings , so the student must follow his or her own path.

9.As the great poet Rabindranath Tagore put it , “A teacher can only teach if he keeps on learning that a lamp cannot light up another light unless it has its own flame .” The teacher plants the seeds, but she will not necessarily harvest the fruits.

10. To a certain extent , this is the duty everyone is born to fulfill : to act without any attachment to the results. This is the only way to be free. It is the only way life can achieve plenitude; the only way by which our hands may be filled with the miracle of giving.

On the basis of your reading the passage answer the questions by choosing the best of the given choices **1x3=3**

(a) What kind of people find life meaningful?

- (i) those who find success in life (ii) those who find love and happiness
(iii) those who perform difficult duties (iv) those who gain power

(b) Why did author choose Mother Teresa’s painting with her skinny hands ?

- (i) they show her generous giving (ii) they symbolize her love and devotion
(iii) they reflect that she always gave to the poor (iv) all the above

(c) What guided Mahatama Gandhi in his struggle of peaceful resistance ?

- (i) detached action (ii) attachment to result
(iii) Mother Teresa’s generosity (iv) all the above

Answer the questions briefly **1x6=6**

(d) What is meant by detached action?

(e) How can one lead a life of inner peace?

(f) Why did the author choose the career of teaching?

(g) How is a teacher different from a farmer?

(h) What thought obsessed the author’s youth ?

(i) Did the author regret her choice of profession? Why?

Pick out the words from the passage which mean the same as: 1x3=3

- (i) extremely thin (para 3)
- (ii) disconnected (para 4)
- (iii) kindness (para 3)

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

1. This year marks a great milestone in the human saga, similar in magnitude to the agricultural era and industrial revolution. For the first time in history, a majority of human beings will be living in vast urban areas, according to the United Nations-many in mega cities and suburban extension with populations of 10 million people more. We have become Home Urbans.

2. Millions of people huddling together, stacked on top of each other in gigantic urban centres is a new phenomenon. No one is really sure whether this profound turning point on human living arrangements ought to be celebrated, lamented, or merely acknowledged for the record. That's because our burgeoning population and urban way of life has been purchased at the expense of the demise of the earth's vast ecosystems and habitats. Cultural historian Elias Canetti once remarked that each of us is a king in a field of corpses. If we were to stop for a moment and reflect on the number of creatures and earth's resources and materials we have expropriated and consumed in our lifetime.

3. Large populations living in mega cities consume massive amount of the earth's energy. To put this in perspective, the Sears Tower alone, one of the tallest skyscrapers in the world, uses more electricity in a single day than a town of 35000 inhabitants. Even more amazing, our species now consume nearly 40 per cent of the net primary production on earth-net amount of solar energy converted to plant organic matter through photosynthesis-even though we only make up one half of 1 per cent of the animal biomass of the planet.

4. It's no accident that as we celebrate the urbanisation of the world, we are quickly approaching another historic watershed, the disappearance of the wild. Rising population, growing consumption of food, water and building materials, expanding road and transport, and urban sprawl continue to encroach on the remaining wild, pushing it to extinction. Our scientists tell us that within the lifetime of today's children, the wild will disappear from the face of the earth after millions of years of existence.

5. Where does this leave us? Try to imagine 1,000 cities of nearly one million or more inhabitants in 35 years from now. It boggles the mind and is unsustainable for the earth. Perhaps the commemoration of the urbanisation of the human race in 2007 might be an opportunity to rethink the way we live on this planet. Certainly there is much to applaud about urban life : its rich cultural diversity and social inter course and dense commercial activity come readily to mind. But the question is one of magnitude and scale. We need to

ponder how best to lower our population and develop sustainable urban environments that use energy and resources more efficiently, are less polluting, as well as better designed.

6. In short, in the great era of urbanisation we have increasingly shut off the human race from the rest of the natural world in the belief that we could conquer, colonise and utilise the rich largesse of the planet to ensure our complete autonomy and without dire consequences to us and future generations. In the next phase of human history, we will need to find a way to reintegrate ourselves back into the rest of the living earth if we are to preserve our own species and conserve the planet for our fellow creatures.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:
1x2=2**

(i) Urbanization has led to:

- a) better living standard.
- b) disappearance of Earth's vast ecosystems.
- c) growth in agriculture.
- d) none of the above.

(ii) The great era of urbanization will:

- a) create a great human force.
- b) create great conquerors.
- c) cut off the human race from natural world.
- d) create autonomy.

Answer the following questions briefly:

1x6=6

- (a) What is the significance of the present year in human history?
- (b) Why should we lament at the growth of population and not celebrate the progress?
- (c) According to the author, how can we preserve our own species?
- (d) How is urbanization harmful for the natural resources?
- (e) What is the warning given by our scientists for future?
- (f) According to the passage what is worth applauding about the urban life?

**Find out the words which mean the same as the word/phrase given below:
1x2=2**

- (i) growing/increasing (para2):
- (ii) celebration (para 5)

Q3 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

8

The small village of Somnathpur contains an extraordinary temple, built around 1268 A.D. by the Hoyasalas of Karnataka-one of the most prolific temple builders. Belur and Helebid are among their-better-known works. While these suffered during the invasions of the 14th century, the Somnathpur temple stands more or less intact in near-original condition. This small temple captivates with the beauty and vitality of its detailed sculpture, covering almost every inch of the walls, pillars, and even ceilings. It has three shikharas and stands on a star-shaped, raised platform with 24 edges. The outer walls have a profusion of detailed carvings: the entire surface run over by carved plaques of stone. There were vertical panels covered by exquisite figures of gods and goddesses. with many incarnations being depicted. There were nymphs too, some carrying an ear of maize (a

symbol of plenty and prosperity. The elaborate ornamentation, very characteristic of Hoyalasa sculptures, was a remarkable feature. On closer look - and it is worth it - the series of friezes on the outer walls revealed intricately carved caparisoned elephants, charging horsemen, stylized flowers, warriors, musicians, crocodiles, and swans.

The temple was actually commissioned by Soma Dandanayaka or Somnath (he named the village after himself), the minister of the Hoyalasa king, Narasimha the Third. The temple was built to house three versions of Krishna. The inner center of the temple was the kalyanamandapa. Leading from here were three corridors, each ending in a shrine, one for each kind of Krishna-Venugopala, Janardana and PrasannaKeshava, though only two remain in their original form. In the darkness of the sanctum sanctorum, I tried to discern the different images. The temple's sculptural perfection is amazing and it includes the doors of the temple and the three elegantly carved towers. 324 words

Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations, with suitable titles **5**

Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. **3**

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills Max. Marks: 30

Q.4. You are the President of your school theatre club. Your club is organizing a play The Miser to help the victims of earthquake. Design a poster informing the students about this play. Invent necessary details.

Or

The students' council of your school has organized an excursion to Goa for students of class XII during the Autumn Break. As President of the council, write a notice in not more than fifty words informing the students about this excursion. Sign yourself as Ravi / Raveena. **4**

Q.5. You are Rahul, the Headboy of Creative Public School, Delhi. Recently your school hosted the Regional Level CBSE Science Exhibition. Write a report of this event for your school newsletter in about 125 words.

Or

The International Book Fair was inaugurated by the Chairman of Children's Book Trust, Dr. Kumar. The theme this year was Illustrated Works of Children. You are Akshay/ Akanksha a class XII student of A.K. International School Mathura. You visited the exhibition and were impressed with the range of books on display. Write a factual description in about 125 words. **6**

Q.6. You are Naresh/Neetu. Recently, you came across a newspaper report on the burning of a young woman as her parents could not meet the dowry demands. You feel that even after 60 years of independence we have not really progressed as a nation. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your views and also giving suggestions to improve the status of women in Indian Society.

OR

You are Satish/Sonali, the student prefect incharge of the school library. You have been asked to place an order for children's story books (Ages 10-13 yrs). Write a letter to M.S. Book Depot Ramnagar, Bikaner placing an order for the books. Invent the necessary details. **10**

Q.7. India is a country with diverse cultures, traditions, religious and political beliefs. To keep such a country together, to bind the people and take the nation ahead on the path of progress, democracy is the most suitable form of government. Write an article in about 150-200 words. You are Akshay/Asha a class XII student at Rosary Senior Secondary School Lucknow.

OR

You are Amit/Amita a student of class XII at K.N. Senior Secondary School Nagpur. You recently visited a hill station alongwith your parents. It was an exhilarating, adventurous and joyful experience. Write an article for the school magazine sharing your experience in 150-200 words. **10**

SECTION –C LITERATURE

40

Q8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow .

And 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.

- (a) Why were Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering? **1**
- (b) What is suggested by the image the massive weight of uncle's wedding band? **1**
- (c) Why did Aunt Jennifer create animals which were so different from her own character? **2**

OR

And yet, for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world,

Where all their future's painted with a fog

, A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky

Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words.

- (a) What does the map on the wall signify? **1**
- (b) Who are these children? What is their world like? **1**
- (c) What kind of future does the poet foresee for them? **2**

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

- (a) What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums? How can their lives change?
- (b) How will counting up to twelve and keeping still help us?
- (c) Why was Franz afraid when he was going to school that day?
- (d) What is the misadventure that William Douglas speaks about?
- (e) Why was Sophie jealous of her brother's silence?

Q.10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. 6

The life of bangle makers of Firozabad was full of obstacles which forced them to lead a life of poverty and deprivation. Discuss with reference to Lost Spring.

Or

Why does Derry tell Mr. Lamb that he is afraid of seeing himself in the mirror in the story On the Face of It?

Q.11. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. 6

Individuals who belong to enemy countries tend to hate each other even if they do not know each other personally. At times it is seen that some of them rise above such prejudices. What makes a human being do so?

Or

An adult's perspective is different from that of a child. Why? Answer with reference to the story Should Wizard hit his Mommy?

Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6

Q.12 How do both the thefts determine Marner's interaction with the people of Raveloe?

Q 13. Not only does Eppie have golden hair but she also has a heart of gold. Justify 6

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