

**Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans 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**

**( 30)**

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

1 To make our life a meaningful one, we need to mind our thoughts, for our thoughts are the foundation, the inspiration, and the motivating power of our deeds. We create our entire world by the way we think. Thoughts are the causes and the conditions are the effects.

2 Our circumstances and conditions are not dictated by the world outside; it is the world inside us that creates the outside. Self-awareness comes from the mind, which means soul. Mind is the sum total of the states of consciousness grouped under thought, will and feeling. Besides self-consciousness we have the power to choose and think. Krishna says: "no man resteth a moment inactive". Even when inactive on the bodily plane, we are all the time acting on the thought plane. Therefore if we observe ourselves, we can easily mould our thoughts. If our thoughts are pure and noble, naturally actions follow the same. If our thoughts are filled with jealousy, hatred and greed, our actions will be the same.

3 Karmic ally, however, thought or intent is more responsible and dynamic than an act. One may perform a charitable act, but if he does not think charitably and is doing the act just for the sake of gain and glory, it is his thoughts that will determine the result. Theosophy teaches us that every thought, no matter how fleeting, leaves a seed in the mind of the thinker. These small seeds together go to make up a large thought seed and determine one's general character. Our thoughts affect the whole body. Each thought once generated and sent out becomes independent of the brain and mind and will live upon its own energy depending upon its intensity.

4 Trying to keep a thought from our mind can produce the very state we are trying to avoid. We can alter our environment to create the mood. When, for instance, we are depressed, if we sit by ourselves trying to think cheerful thoughts, we often do not

succeed. But if we mix with people who are cheerful we can bring about a change in our mood and thoughts. Every thought we think, every act we perform, creates in us an impression, like everything else, is subject to cyclic law and becomes repetitive in our mind. So, we alone have the choice to create our thoughts and develop the kind of impressions that make our action more positive.

5 Let us choose the thought seeds of right ideas, noble and courageous aspirations that will be received by minds of the same nature. Right introspection will be required of us to determine what we really desire to effect. Everything in the universe is inter-related and inter-dependent, that we live in one another and by accepting the grand principle of universal brotherhood we shall be in a position to appreciate what a heavy responsibility is ever ours to think right. Let us reflect and send loving and helpful thoughts and lighten the load of the world's suffering.

**On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: (1x4)**

(a) To make our lives meaningful we should

- (i) Motivate others
- (ii) Train our thoughts
- (iii) Lead a good life
- (iv) Both (i) and (ii)

(b) Theosophy teaches us that

- (i) Think cheerful thoughts
- (ii) Thoughts determine our character
- (iii) Everything is inter-related
- (iv) Both (i) and (ii)

(c) Self awareness comes from

- (i) being dynamic
- (ii) moulding our thoughts
- (iii) the mind that is the soul
- (iv) all the above

(d) We can lighten the load of the world by

- (i) universal brotherhood
- (ii) sending loving and helpful thoughts
- (iii) being charitable
- (iv) all the above

**Answer the following questions:**

**5 marks**

- b. Why does Krishna say, "No man rested a moment inactive?" 1
- c. How do our thoughts affect the whole body? 1
- d. How can we change our mood when we are depressed? 1
- e. How can we bring about the desired effect? 1

f. Why are thoughts considered to be more intense and dynamic than action? 1

**Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: 3**

g. Full of activity (Para 3)

h. Happening in cycles (Para 4)

i. to look into one's own thoughts and feelings (Para 5)

**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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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**

(a) Urbanization has led to:

- i) better living standard.
- ii) disappearance of Earth's vast ecosystems.
- iii) growth in agriculture.
- iv) none of the above.

(b) The great era of urbanization will:

- i) create a great human force.
- ii) create great conquerors.
- iii) cut off the human race from natural world.
- iv) create autonomy.

**Answer the following questions:**

**1x6=6**

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

- (j) growing/increasing (para2)
- (k) celebration (para 6)

**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 templebuilders. 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 Hoyasala 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 Hoyasala 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

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

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

### **Section B: Advanced Writing Skills**

**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 Head Boy 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 in-charge 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 along with 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

**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**

(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: 2x6=12**

**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.

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