

BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S V M PUBLIC SCHOOL,VADODARA

ENGLISH CORE

CLASS- XII

DATE-

TIME- 3hrs

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. Education is modern India's greatest leveler and its redemption. It is the tide that lifts every boat. We are all prisoners of birth, but education has the power to snap the meanest bonds of economic and social enslavement. It is the route out of the caste ghetto, the path out of the slum, the road to the high table. A degree in engineering or medicine gives the child of a mill hand as much opportunity as any son or daughter of privilege.

2. At home and at work, chances are that your domestic help, driver, dhobi, liftman, watchman and peon are doing whatever it takes to send their children to an 'English-medium' school, buy them a second-hand computer, pay for their tuition, get them trained in IT. They dream of empowering their child with the kind of ambition they never dared have. And when the child excels in a board exam, gets into big college or lands a good job, all those years of hardship and uncertainty melt away. In that defining moment there is a reinforcement of faith in the future—that it is possible to break the cycle of inequity by honorable means.

3. It is a well-worn cliché that ours is a country of glaring contradictions. Yes, we have one of the biggest education systems in the world—1.2 million schools, 6.3 million teachers and 290 million students, which is itself more than the population of every country in the world except China, India and the US. And yes, literacy has grown from 28% in 1961 to 68% today. But the other end of the scale is crumbling. We still have over 287 million illiterate people (from the age of five)—the largest in any country, and larger than the population of Indians (five and above) at the time of Independence.

4. India is today considered an emerging super power and if the stereotype has shifted from snake-charmer to IT whiz, some of the credit must go to our education system, to our IITs and IIMs, and to grassroots initiatives like the midday meal scheme and the Navodaya Vidyalayas. This system has produced one of the world's largest pools of science and tech graduates and created a robust middle class. And with well-educated Indians in influential positions in the developed world, notably the US, India has a voice that commands respect and attention on the global stage.

5. And yet, the many successes cannot hide the system's sprawling underbelly. Millions of underprivileged youth have no access whatsoever to any form of schooling of the 460

million between 6 and 24 years, 170 million are not in the education system. The drop-out rate is depressing : a staggering 90% don't make it to college. There are thousands of schools and colleges, both state-run and private, that provide no real education, and we don't need empirical proof to bear this out. There is enough and more anecdotal evidence. There's a massive deficit of teachers. And of the 4.7 million-odd who teach between classes I and VIII, almost half have not studied beyond senior secondary .Infrastructure is dismal : almost a third of primary and middle schools don't have pucca buildings, 87% have no computers.

6. Ironically, our greatest source of strength is threatening to become our biggest weakness. Our education system is choking. Strategically, we are in danger of losing our global competitive advantage. Entrepreneurs have found that education is a great new business, and there's nothing wrong with that so long as there is a genuine intent to provide quality education. But private education comes at a price, and the question is, can it reach children in slums and villages? If it can, can they afford it? The answer quite simply is no. As aspirations rise and disparities widen, and as the need for equity assumes even greater urgency, there is only one solution : to redeem the classroom.

Choose the correct option

(3x1=3)

(a) The image of India has changed due to

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Upcoming industries | 2. IITs and IIMs |
| 3.Snake charmers | 4.Sound Education system |

(b)Literacy rate in India is low because

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lack of basic facilities | 2.Dropouts from school |
| 3. Unavailability of teachers | 4. All of them |

(c) Newly found business by Indian Entrepreneurs is

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1.IT industry | 2. Stock market |
| 3. Education | 4. Fashion industry |

Answer the following questions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Why do you think illiterate parents put in years of hardship? | 1 |
| (b) How is education modern India's greatest leveler? | 1 |
| (c) Name any two glaring contradictions of our country in education? | 1 |
| (d) Who/ what is responsible for shift in image from snake charmer to IT whiz? | 1 |
| (e) How is our greatest strength becoming our biggest weakness? | 1 |
| (f) Mention two factors that are detrimental in bringing down the value of education in schools | 1 |

Find words similar in meaning:**3**

- (g) make free/free amends (para 1)
- (h) relying on observation & experimentation (para 5)
- (i) desire/expectation (para 6)

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

detonate 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.

(i) Choose the correct option

(1x3=3)

(a) The global temperature will rise considerably in

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

(b) The Global warming results in

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Melting polar caps | 2. Eroding coastline |
| 3. Reducing life span | 4. All of them |

(c) 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

(ii) Answer the following questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| (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 |

(iii) 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 8

Millions of people in the United States are affected by eating disorders. More than 90% of those afflicted are adolescents or young adult women. Although all eating disorders share some common manifestations, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating each have distinctive symptoms and risks.

People who intentionally starve themselves (even while experiencing severe hunger pains) suffer from anorexia nervosa. The disorder, which usually begins around the time of puberty, involves extreme weight loss to at least 15% below the individual's normal body weight. Many people with the disorder look emaciated but are convinced they are overweight. In patients with anorexia nervosa, starvation can damage vital organs such as the heart and brain. To protect itself, the body shifts into slow gear: Menstrual periods stop, blood pressure rates drop, and thyroid function slows. Excessive thirst and frequent urination may occur. Dehydration contributes to constipation, and reduced body fat leads to lowered body temperature and the inability to withstand cold. Mild anemia, swollen joints, reduced muscle mass, and light-headedness also commonly occur in anorexia nervosa.

Anorexia nervosa sufferers can exhibit sudden angry outbursts or become socially withdrawn. One in ten cases of anorexia nervosa leads to death from starvation, cardiac arrest, other medical complications, or suicide. Clinical depression and anxiety place many individuals with eating disorders at risk for suicidal behavior.

People with bulimia nervosa consume large amounts of food and then rid their bodies of the excess calories by vomiting, abusing laxatives or diuretics, taking enemas, or exercising obsessively. Some use a combination of all these forms of purging.

Individuals with bulimia who use drugs to stimulate vomiting, bowel movements, or urination may be in considerable danger, as this practice increases the risk of heart failure. Dieting heavily between episodes of bingeing and purging is common.

Because many individuals with bulimia binge and purge in secret and maintain normal or above normal body weight, they can often successfully hide their problem for years. But bulimia nervosa patients—even those of normal weight—can severely damage their bodies by frequent binge eating and purging. In rare instances, binge eating causes the stomach to rupture; purging may result in heart failure due to loss of vital minerals such as potassium. Vomiting can cause the esophagus to become inflamed and glands near the cheeks to become swollen. As in anorexia nervosa, bulimia may lead to irregular menstrual periods. Psychological effects include compulsive stealing as well as possible indications of obsessive-compulsive disorder, an illness characterized by repetitive thoughts and behaviors. Obsessive compulsive disorder can also accompany anorexia nervosa. As with anorexia nervosa, bulimia typically begins during adolescence.

Eventually, half of those with anorexia nervosa will develop bulimia. The condition occurs most often in women but is also found in men.

Binge-eating disorder is found in about 2% of the general population. As many as one-third of this group are men. It also affects older women, though with less frequency. Recent research shows that binge-eating disorder occurs in about 30% of people participating in medically supervised weight-control programs. This disorder differs from bulimia because its sufferers do not purge. Individuals with binge-eating disorder feel that they lose control of themselves when eating. They eat large quantities of food and do not stop until they are uncomfortably full. Most sufferers are overweight or obese and have a history of weight fluctuations. As a result, they are prone to the serious medical problems associated with obesity, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Obese individuals also have a higher risk for gallbladder disease, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Usually they have more difficulty losing weight and keeping it off than do people with other serious weight problems. Like anorexic and bulimic sufferers who exhibit psychological problems, individuals with binge-eating disorder have high rates of simultaneously occurring psychiatric illnesses, especially depression.

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 Asha/Asmit, Cultural Secretary of Rainbow Public School, Gwalior. Your school is organizing a 'Safety Drive' workshop in the school which will be conducted by DCP traffic police . Draft a notice to inform the students about the event. (Word limit-50)

4

OR

After the devastating floods in Kashmir the fear of the outbreak of contagious diseases is imminent. Design a poster to create awareness among the people about the post flood situation.

Q5) You are Akshay / Abhinaya. You were invited to participate in a seminar on 'Effective Time Management' organized by the Lions Club of India in your city. It was an enriching experience for you. Write a report of the same in 125 words for the school magazine. **6**

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 125 words.

Q6 Vishal/Veena, a resident of J.K. Nagar, a newly developed colony on the outskirts of Pune, is concerned that the area lacks in even basic amenities such as public transport, co-operative store, etc. He/ She decides to write a Letter to the Editor of the 'Deccan Chronicle' highlighting the problems faced by the residents so as to draw the attention of the concerned authorities . Write the letter. **10**

OR

You are Sadhana /Sanjay, librarian of St. Joseph's School; Jabalpur. You had placed an order for a few books for your School library. When the books were delivered, you found that some were damaged and some were missing. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of Bharat Publishing House, Rohini, Delhi cancelling the order because of the poor service.

Q7) The visit of Chinese Prime Minister to India brings new hope for development and avenues for youth. As a student write your views on the visit and changes you expect. Write an article for local daily in 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 write an article 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.
4marks**

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.

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

OR

I want no truck with death

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) What is our single-mindedness?
- (c) How has it affected us?
- (d) What are the two things that have caused 'this sadness'?

**Q9) Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each.
4x3=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) "Piece by piece, he built a swimmer". How did the instructor help the author to become a swimmer and overcome his fear of water?
- (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 150 words. 6marks

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 150 words: 6

Hana plays an instrumental role in saving the life of the injured prisoner. Give an

account of her role in the light of this statement.

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 question in 120-150 words:

2x6=12

Q 12) How can a contrast be drawn between the life of Silas in Lantern Yard and the life he had in Raveloe? (150 words)

Q13) When Eppie decides to stay with Silas ,what sort of a person does she emerge as? (150 words)

Ms. Shubhra Awasthi

