

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 marks)

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

1. India is so lively and refreshing. From here, the West looks somewhat old, gray and struggling. Indeed, India looks all set to regain the centre stage it occupied a few centuries ago. But while it is developing very fast and its elite is striving to match up with the West, is it not, at the same time, putting at stake much of its precious environment, culture, traditions and values? Of course, the great country has ascribed influences of many previous invaders and colonizers without losing its identity. But presently, its 'westernization' seems to be taking place at a frightening speed.

2. Foreign trade delegations are rushing into the country even during the hottest months of the year. Starry-eyed businessmen, dressed in crisp black suits are hopping from one five-star hotel to another, cracking mega deals. Market scales and huge figures make them drool. They all want their chunk of the great Indian curry. However, the West is not always exporting its very best to India. Because it's not just higher standards of safety or environmental friendliness, or valuable technologies and know-how that are flowing from the western world.

3. Fast food, tobacco, alcohol and toxic skin-whitening creams are pouring into India. This wave is promoting a western lifestyle based on consumerism, individualism and meaninglessness. And the pace of consumption is indeed picking up in India. Manufacturers of goods as different as cars, clothes or cell phones have noticed that in recent years the life cycle of products has shortened.

4. While the older generation of Indians would buy a new product only when the previous one's useful life had ended, the young generation tends to fall for novelty. People want the latest generation of gadgets because they have more money and more access to such goods. But mostly, they are made to believe, by ever increasing and omnipresent publicity, that they will feel happier with the new product. To encourage this shopping frenzy, a quiet revolution is taking place in the form of rapidly increasing credit penetration.

5. For historical and cultural reasons, well-to-do Indians traditionally avoided indebteding themselves. This may be one less talked about reasons why the country's economy avoided major trouble during the recent crisis. Only 20 million Indians possess a credit card and personal loans represent about 10% of GDP. Whilst in most western economies, the latter account for approximately 100% of it. But all this is about to change with a booming credit industry.

6. These trends may be healthy ingredients for thriving capitalism. But they may not prove soothing for the soul. Even if they all possess their own television, car, washing machine and fridge, Westerners are not necessarily a happier lot. Surveys show that their happiness has declined in correlation with the development of consumerism since World War II. Moreover, most people in the so-called developed nations suffer from obesity, loneliness depression and addiction to prescribed drugs. May be once upon a time they danced, sang songs and told stories, but now, free time often means watching TV or shopping.

7. To meet the growing demand, natural resources are now being exploited in India, displacing millions of tribal people towards urban slums fuelling growing pockets of civil war-like conflicts across the country. Efforts may be made to fight the old caste system, but a social stratification based on consumption power is emerging. Along with this, India's comparatively good criminality track record is bound to go on the rise in the coming years.

8. Even the western toilets have become a status symbol in Indian middleclass homes. Millions of fancy flush toilets are added every year to new trendy restaurants, malls, condominiums and five-star hotels in Indian cities. Instead of adopting unsustainable imports from the West, there are areas wherein India should inspire the latter. With its traditional squatting toilet for instance. Not just because it is cheaper, more hygienic and better adapted to the human anatomy, but mostly, in a context where clean water is increasingly rare and pricy, because it requires much less of it. Countless other sustainable concepts, values and products from India could benefit Westerners. Strong extended family ties, respect for elders, kriya yoga and tongue-scrapers are just a few of them.

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

i) India is lively because:

- a) she copies the West
- b) she has maintained her own identity.
- c) she is losing her culture.
- d) she is gray and struggling.

ii) Foreign delegates are rushing into the country:

- a) to get the taste of Indian curry.
- b) to export their best to the country.
- c) to strike the best mega deals.
- d) to share their latest technology.

iii) People buy latest gadgets because:

- a) they are bored of the old ones.
- b) they want to experiment the new ones.
- c) they have more money and more access to such goods.
- d) they feel happy.

iv) The reason why Indians could survive recent crisis is:

- a) they took heavy loans.
- b) they used their credit cards liberally.
- c) they followed the western economy.
- d) they did not indebt themselves through overuse of credit cards.

Answer the following questions:

- (a) What cost have we to pay for westernization? 1
- (b) How do the salesmen try to tempt buyers for buying cell phones? 1
- (c) How do the old and young consumers differ in buying goods? 1
- (d) How can Indians inspire western countries? 1
- (e) What prompts people to buy new products? 1
- (f) What revolution is the credit industry creating? 1

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

- (g) attackers (para - 1) _____
- (h) one who is present everywhere (para - 4) _____

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 centers 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

(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:

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 6) : _____

Q. 3. Read the passage given below carefully:

The Masai tribe lived on the wide plains in southern and northern Kenya and northern Tanzania. The Masai were famous fighter. They used to raid the neighbouring tribe and carry away their cattle. All the other tribes were afraid of them because of their skills in war.

The Masai are handsome people, tall and slim with light brown skins, straight noses and long hair. They do not belong completely to the Negro race. They belong mostly to the same race as the people of the ancient Egypt. The ancient Egypt probably looked like the Masais of today.

The Masais live in a very beautiful part of Africa. It consists of miles of rolling grassland, on which you can find thorny bushes and here and there a rocky hill. The people move from one place to another according to the seasons, looking for the gasses and other plants on which their cattle can graze. They have no permanent home. When they want to settle in a place for sometime, they build a kind of camp called a "Manyatta", where a few families live for a weeks or months. Then they move on again, taking their few belongings with them, and burning the old "Manyatta" to the ground.

To make a hut, they take a number of long thin wooden poles and plant them in circle. Then each pole is bent into a shape of a 'U', and its other end is also planted in the earth. Now the framework for the hut is ready.

Next, the space between the poles is filled with leaves, small branches of tree and mud. Then the outside of the hut is covered or plastered with cow-dung, which quickly becomes hard in the sun. An opening is left for the door but there are no windows. The hut is about 5 feet high, so that grown-up men cannot stand up straight inside his hut. There is no furniture, except perhaps a small wooden stool for the head of the family.

The huts are arranged in a big circle and around the outside of the circle the Masais build a thorn fence, about 7 feet high, with several openings, so that the people can go in and out with their cattle. After dark, all the openings are closed. Then all the people and cattle in the 'Manyatta' are safe from wild animals.

Nowadays there are no wars between the tribes. So a Masai warrior has very little to do now. But they sometimes go hunting. The Masais like to kill lions with spears, and a lion-hunt is a great test of courage. The warrior who first kills a lion is given great honour, and he wears the lion's mane round his neck, to show that he is a lion-killer.

The Masais are fairly well-to-do and intelligent, and live comfortable lives. However, most of them are happy to live as their father lived hundreds of years ago.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. **5**

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. **3**

SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS **30**

Q4)As Secretary of the 'Eco Club' of St.Anne' s School,Ahmedabad, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the club members about the screening of Al Gore's film, 'Inconvenient Truth' in the school's Audio Visual Room. **4**

OR

You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of 'The Hindu' giving all necessary details. You are Niranjana, 247, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore.

Q5)You are perturbed to read about the cases of road rage in the capital. People turn aggressive at trivial issues and exhibit violent behavior causing injuries to others. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily about the need to curb such behavior of the people to make society a better place. You are Ankit/Ankita , of Karol Bagh , New Delhi. **6**

OR

You are Jeetu of class XII. You are interested in pursuing a course in Visual Communication. You have seen an advertisement issued by National Institute of Communication, Pune, offering courses in Media and Communication. Write a letter to the Director seeking information about their courses, fee structure, placement opportunities etc.

Q6)Today the 24-hour television news channels give us instant news from every nook and corner of the world. But the fact remains that the importance of the newspaper remains intact. Write an article in 150-200 words expressing your views on 'The relevance of Newspapers'. You are Sunita/ Sunil. **10**

OR

Nowadays children are unable to enjoy simple pleasures of childhood due to parental pressure of performing well in competitive exams. As a student of class XII express your opinion in the school assembly. Write a speech in 150-200 words.

Q7) Consumerism is increasing day by day. Luxuries of yesterday have become necessities of today. The result is that the more we want the more miserable we become. Write a debate in 150-200 words on 'The only way to minimize human suffering and pain is to control our needs.' You are Raju / Rajita. **10**

OR

Migration from villages to cities has led to the spread of urban slums. People living in these slums lead a miserable life. Economic disparity leads to the problem of law and order. Write a debate in 150-200 words on 'Solution to the problem of misery in the urban slums lies in creating jobs in the villages.' You are Raman/ Ramita.

SECTION –C LITERATURE AND LONG READING TEXT

40

Q8) Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow

4

(a) And looked out at young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
Out of their homes, but after the airport's
Security check,

- (i) Which thought does the poet put away?
- (ii) What do the 'sprinting trees' signify?
- (iii) What are the 'merry children, spilling out of their homes' symbolic of?
- (iv) Identify the poetic device used in the second line.

OR

(b) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing

- (i) How does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever?
- (ii) What do you understand by a 'bower'?
- (iii) Mention any two sources of joy which a thing of beauty provides to us.
- (iv) Identify the poetic device used in the above lines.

Q9) Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 3X4= 12

- (a) What does the world of slum children consist of?
- (b) 'His dreams loom like a mirage.' Whose dreams are being referred to and why are they compared to a mirage?
- (c) How does the metaphor of the rattrap serve to highlight the human predicament?
- (d) Point out the irony in the statement, 'From that day onwards there was celebration time for all the tigers in Pratibandhpuram'?
- (e) Why did the messenger come to Dr. Sadao? What did Hana think of it?
- (f) What changes came over little Frantz after he heard M.Hamel's announcement ?

Q10) Answer the following question in 125-150 words: 6

How is an adult's perspective on life different from that of a child? Explain with reference to the lesson, 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy'.

OR

A man of courage is also a man of faith. How is this borne out by Douglas's account of his conquest over the fear of water?

Q11) Answer the following question in 125-150 words: 6

The people of Alasce and Lorraine were forced to study German. They were not allowed to study French. It implies that students of the area were taught only one language. They did not follow the concept of three languages at school. Write an article on the topic Advantages of three language system at school in not more than 100 words.

OR

Though Edla is criticised by her father, the crofter, for comforting a tramp yet she continues to be kind to him. Explain how Edla's kindness helps in transforming the rattrap seller.

Answer the following questions in 125-150 words 6X2= 12 Marks

Q 12) Describe how Silas Marner is betrayed by his friend, William Dane.

Q13) 'Evil begets evil.' In the light of this remark, describe the character of Dunstan Cass.\

Ms. Shubhra Awasthi