

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans VM Public School , Vadodara

ENGLISH CORE

Class-XII

Max Marks-100

Time Allowed-3 hrs

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

30marks

1) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow 12Marks

1. I was more than a little mystified to see a vacancy for a teacher advertised in the local press some time ago, specifying among other eligibility requirements that the applicant be 'articulate'. Is it a sign of the times that teachers are no longer the great talkers they used to be?

2. Probably, the new' breed of recruits already manifest an alarming degree of inarticulateness in a profession which, like that of politicians or DJs, calls for strong vocal chords and much glibness. Usually, one takes it for granted that teachers talk and their pupils follow suit, so that the younger generation masters effective speaking skills while they are about it.

3. Apparently, language learning is not as simple as that, when one does not have the opportunity to speak out in class, to try out new vocabulary and syntax and to develop one's confidence at the same time.

4. Now I've got to take another person with me whenever I go to the hospital or to my children's school. Though I have a 'B' for English. I am not so fluent in my speech. But what I lack most of all is the confidence to keep up a conversation with strangers for more than five minutes at a time," she explained. Except for some group recitation, she had not been called upon to read aloud or answer a question orally.

5. As she is from an affluent family, this young woman is content being a fulltime housewife. She has a teacher's qualification but shies away from employment. Effective speaking skills encompass the whole spectrum of the curriculum at all levels and should involve every single student in the school. Unless regular checks are made through internal supervision and grades allotted for speech in the terminal report, it is not possible to ensure adequate speech training for all students.

6. Encouraging youngsters to participate in the learning experience by talking freely and without any fear of being put down helps to strengthen their personality. This has a carry-over effect on their future employment prospects.
7. Current trends in technology and contemporary lifestyles have created the need for young people to be smart, independent, resourceful and career-oriented. The ability to speak one or two international languages is a definite plus point. The minimum one can expect of an educated person seeking employment in a specific labour market is that he or she speaks one language which is currently viable there.
8. Every age prescribes specific linguistic skills as being relevant for socioeconomic purposes. For instance, public speaking was considered essential in a limited way in ancient Greece for those who were the masters. In Rome, the training was extended to a larger group from whom the leaders were selected. In feudal times, the landed aristocracy was privileged to receive an education. With the Industrial Revolution, most of the workers needed only a smattering off to follow instructions to run the machines.
9. Today, individuals who have good verbal skills are in great demand in commerce, the media, schools and colleges, scientific projects and communication sector, etc., Though public speaking is necessary in certain a what is even more useful in day to day business is a polished conversation style that gets the message across lucidly.
10. Unless teachers themselves are articulate enough to act as role models and youngsters the opportunity to speak out and guide them to be creative and rational in their speech, education will tend to lag behind modern time.
11. Inspectors in the UK recently blacklisted a primary school in Brixton, London and recommended that it be closed down because a little girl who was put there had not talked in class for three years. The teachers had not detected the problem. The parents removed her from the school and have yet to find whether she is normal or not.
12. A broad-based speech programme which stresses the acquisition of verbal skill by providing training in pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, public speaking and also some reading aloud will be timely and fit .

On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: 3x1=3

a).The basic requirement for being a teacher is

- (i) Highly Qualified
- (ii) Thorough knowledge of the subject
- (iii) Strong communication skills
- (iv) All the above

b) The Current trends in technology and contemporary lifestyles have created need for

- (i) young people to be smart
- (ii) ability to speak one or two international languages
- (iii) skill in public speaking
- (iv) All the above

c). . Inspectors in the UK recently blacklisted a primary school in Brixton because

- (i) The fees they charged was very high
- (ii) The teachers were not qualified
- (iii) Parents were not happy
- (iv) Speech problem of a student was not detected by the teacher.

- (d) Why was it mystifying to see a vacancy for a teacher's post? 1
- (e) What according to the author is essential for developing language skills. 1
Mention three.
- (f) How can we strengthen children's personality? Mention any two ways. 1
- (g) How has the need for communicative skills changed over a period of 1
time?
- (h) Why is speech training essential ? 1
- (i) What changes came over in Rome during the Industrial Revolution ? 1

Find words from the passage which mean the same as the ones given below 3

- (g) bewildered (para 1)
- (h) new member (para 2)
- (i) rich (para 5)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

One of the greatest advances in modern technology has been the invention of computers. They are widely used in Industries and in Universities. Now there is hardly any sphere of human life where computers have not been pressed in to service of man. We are heading fast on the close of this present century towards a situation when a computer will be as much part of man's daily life as a telephone or a calculator.

Computers are capable of doing extremely complicated work in all branches of learning. They can solve the most complex mathematical problems or put thousands of unrelated facts in order. These machines can be put to varied uses. For instance, they can provide information on the best way to prevent traffic, or they can count the number of times the word "and" has been used in the Bible. Because they work accurately and at high speed, they save the research workers hard work. This whole process by which machines can be used to work for us had been called 'automation'. In the future 'automation' may enable human beings for more leisure than they do today. The coming of automation is bound to have important social consequences.

Some years ago an expert on automation, Sir Leon Bagrit, pointed out that it was a mistake to believe that these machines could 'think'. There no possibility that human beings will be "controlled by machines". Though computers are capable of learning from their mistakes and improving on their performance, they need detailed instructions from human beings to operate. They can never, as it were, lead independent lives or "rule the world" by making decision of their own.

Sir Leon said that in future, computers would be developed which would be small enough to carry in the pocket. Ordinary people would then be able to use them to obtain valuable information. Computers could be plugged into a national network and be used like radios. For instance, people going on holiday could be informed about weather conditions. Car drivers can be given alternative routes when there are traffic jams. It will also be possible to make tiny translating machines. This will enable people who do not share a common language to talk to each other without any difficulty or to read foreign publication. It is impossible to assess that importance of a machine of this sort, for many international misunderstandings are caused simple through our failure to understand each other. Computers will also be used in ordinary public hospital, by providing a machine with a patient's systems; a doctor will be able to diagnosis the nature of illness. Similarly machines could be used to keep a check on a patient's health record and bring it up to date. Doctors will there for have immediate access to a great many facts which will help in their work. Bookkeepers and accountants too could be relieved of dull clerical work, for the tedious task of compiling and checking lists of figures could be done entirely by machines. Computers will also be able to tell the exact the age a man is going to live, with the help of his blood picture. Computers are the most efficient servants man has ever had and there is no limit to the way they can be used to improve our life style and life.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: 2x1=2

- a) Computers are capable of :
- i) Mathematical problem
 - ii) extremely complicated work
 - iii) providing traffic information
 - iv) all of the above
- b) Computers will help common people
- i) predicting future
 - ii) finding alliance
 - iii) predicting weather condition
 - iv) finding household help

Answer the questions briefly

- c) What is the greatest advancement in modern technology? 1
- d) Explain Automation? 1
- e) What was the prediction of Sir Leon about the computers in future? 1
- f) Name two prominent areas where computers can be effectively used? 1

g) How will the computers be useful for doctors ?

1

Find word in above passage which convey the similar meaning for 1X2=2

h) Difficult or complex (para 2)

i) spare time (para 2)

j) connected (para 4)

3) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow 8 Marks

It is reported that the government is close to finalizing a system of dual pricing for the public procurement of food grains. There would be two basic elements to this system: A fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) covering the cost of cultivation, as at present, recommended by the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), and variable procurement prices, at the discretion of the department of food , depending on market For example, according to a working group of the Planning Commission, over the five year period ending 2001-02 when there was a steep rise in procurement price resulting in accumulation of embarrassing large stock of food grains of over 60 million tones with the government, consumption of food grains in the country was reduced, on this account, by at least five million tons per annum. The new system by assigning a greater role for private trade can improve the efficiency in the distribution of food grains and substantially cut down subsidies, which can help to step up much needed public investment in agriculture. The proposed dual pricing system is a better alternative than total marketing of food grains trade by disbanding altogether public procurement at MSP.

Such a dismantling could lead to a crash in market prices of food grains in years of food harvest. Even though this may take exports competitive and raise domestic consumption of food grains in the short run, it may undermine food security by sapping producer incentives. The experience of green revolution underlines the importance of assured MSP including the farmers to step up their own investment and effort and derive full benefit from available infrastructure.

For the dual pricing system to yield desired results, it needs to be backed by several other policy measures. Since the impetus for crop diversification would be greater in the infrastructural- developed regions like the north-west , this can slow down the growth of food grains output in the country and, in particular, the surpluses procured, unless immediate measures are taken to strengthen public support for irrigation, technology, extension and credit in the rest of the company, especially in the central and eastern regions where there is a large potentials the growth of food grains output has barely kept pace with population growth since the mid-90s. This also calls for more effective public procurement of food grains at MSP in these regions, as farmers have to often sell their produce immediately after the harvest at prices that are lower than MSP. Therefore, dual pricing system can be sustained only through non-price interventions such as infrastructural support for regional dispersal of growth in food grains output.

The new system requires better market intelligence forecasts as well as concurrent analyses on prices and sales in markets in India and abroad

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title. 5
- b) Write a summary of the above in 80 words. 3

SECTION-B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS 30 Marks

4) You are Diya/Deepak , Sports Secretary of Maharani Public School, Gwalior. As Coordinator of Red Cross Society wing of your school, you propose to organize a one day blood donation camp at your school. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words to be placed on your school notice board appealing to the students to motivate their parents and neighbours to participate in this noble cause.

OR

Your school, Akash Public school needs a canteen manager. On behalf of the Principal, write an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a local daily. Mention the educational qualification and professional qualifications, other qualities required in the manager, whom to apply to and the last date for the receipt of applications. 4

5) You are Amrit/Anuradha of B.M.B. Public School, Dalmianagar. Your school recently celebrated Teacher's day. You are one of the black badge holders. Write a report for the school magazine giving details of the event.

OR

You are a staff reporter of 'The Hindu', New Delhi. Write a report covering the havoc caused by the cloud burst in Uttarakhand. . 6

6) Sheela, a student of 15, M.G. Road, Banglore desires to be a fashion designer. She writes to the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ahmedabad seeking information about their courses, admission procedure etc. Write her letter.

OR

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

7) With the advancement of technology and modern Lifestyle, the older generation finds it difficult to keep pace with the changes. Write an article, highlighting the efforts put in by both the generations, the older and the younger to bridge the gap. You are Mukesh/Mukta.

OR

With the declaration of Telangana as a new state, there are other parts of India demanding split in their own states. Such demands lead to fragmentation of the country. Write the article expressing your views. You are Akshay/Asha. (150 words) 10

SECTION –C LITERATURE

40 Marks

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

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? 1
ii) Where is the poet heading to? 1
iii) What do the 'sprinting trees' signify? 2

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? 1
ii) What do you understand by a 'bower'? 1
iii) In what does a thing of beauty help us? 2

9) Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each: 4x3=12

(a) Describe the world beyond the slums . (An Elementary School)

(b) What changes came over little Franz after he heard M.Hamel's announcement ?

(c) How does the metaphor of the rattrap serve to highlight the human predicament?

(d) Why did the messenger come to Dr. Sadao? What did Hana think of it?

(e) His dreams loom like a mirage.' Whose dreams are being referred to and why are they compared to a mirage?

10) 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 determined person can overcome his weaknesses". Justify the statement with reference to Dougl's account of ' Deep Water'.

11. Answer the following question in 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

What according to you are the qualities of a good ruler? Do you think the Tiger king possessed the qualities of a good ruler? Explain your answer with evidences from the story 'The Tiger King'.

Answer the following questions in 120-150 words 6x2=12

12. Describe the character of Dunstan Cass. Give instances from the novel to elucidate his character .

13 .When does Silas Marner discover about the robbery at his house? How did the robbery take place?

Ms. Shubhra Awasthi

