

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN: CHENNAI REGION

CLASS XII COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2016-17

Subject : English Core

Time Allotted: 3 hours

Max Marks: 100

General Instructions:

- (i) *This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- (ii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- (iii) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION A
READING (30 MARKS)**

1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow: (12 Marks)

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. Karmically, 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.

1.1 Choose the appropriate answer

(4 Marks)

(a) The thoughts are said to be the

- (i) foundation
- (ii) inspiration
- (iii) both (i) and (ii)
- (iv) none of the above

(b) For our actions to be good, our

- (i) body should be healthy
- (ii) heart should be good
- (iii) thoughts should be good
- (iv) hands should be good

(c) Our Actions should always be

- (i) negative
- (ii) neither negative nor positive
- (iii) positive
- (iv) both positive and negative

(d) Our greatest responsibility is

- (i) to help others
- (ii) to think right
- (iii) to love one's nation
- (iv) to live happily

1.2. Answer the following questions

(1x6=6)

- a. How can we make our life meaningful?
- b. Why does Krishna say, “*No man resteth a moment inactive?*”
- c. How do our thoughts affect the whole body?
- d. How can we change our mood when we are depressed?
- e. How can we bring about the desired effect?
- f. What is the key message of the passage?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following

(2 Marks)

- a. bring about the desired change (Para 4)
- b. to look into one’s own thoughts and feelings (Para 5)

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

(10 Marks)

Living India: Doctor couple who built a cheap hospital

1. At first sight, the cheerful-looking red and white painted building looks like a quiet public rest house of Hajipur, a fast developing town in India's northern state of Bihar. But it is in fact the Aastha Hospital, run by an enterprising doctor couple who left lucrative jobs in India's private sector to set up a facility offering quality treatment at affordable prices to the poor people.
2. In the process, surgeon Atul Varma, and ophthalmologist Jayashree Shekhar, have upended the widely held notion that you cannot get quality healthcare in India unless you are affluent. After all, India spends a paltry amount of its gross domestic product (GDP) on health. Millions of Indians become bankrupt meeting medical expenses. The public health system is in a shambles although the state has some 800 government hospitals and primary health centres, and about 2,000 private nursing homes or clinics. Federal laws regulating private facilities are routinely flouted.
3. Just one doctor for every 18,000 patients makes for overworked physicians and suspicious patients. Reimbursement for a modest state-funded health insurance for the very poor is difficult to raise.
4. Seven years ago, the doctor couple returned to their native state after working at home and abroad. Dr Varma worked in a state-run hospital, before they decided to set up their hospital. "There was little we could do, as there were no beds available. It got me thinking that we needed to do something back home."
5. They took out a bank loan to buy an ageing school building - the school moved to a new place a few blocks away - and revamped it into a 3,600 sq-ft (334 sq-m), 12-bed hospital which opened last year. Every detail has been attended to: A spacious consultation room, a clean and functional operation theatre, fireproof wiring, a medicine store, water mats to keep the place cool in Bihar's bristling summers, and airy ventilation.
6. The ground floor waiting hall sees patients every day and Dr Verma carries out minimally invasive keyhole, vascular and general surgeries on patients who often come from far-flung villages. The clinic charges a

small nominal amount for their services to the patients. Two trained counsellors talk to the patients and "educate" them on their ailments.

7. They plan to expand the hospital and add a floor so that Jayashree can see her patients there. In a bigger, more audacious plan, they have sought 40,000 sq-ft (3716 sq-m) of wasteland at a subsidised price from the government to build a 100-bed hospital for the poor
8. That was more than three years ago. They are still waiting.
9. "There is no giving up," says Dr Varma. "All is not lost."

By Soutik Biswas BBC News, Bihar (Adapted from the original), 11 March 2015

2.1. Choose the appropriate answer

(2 Marks)

- a. The Doctor Couple returned to
 - i) the North eastern State
 - ii) the U.S.A
 - iii) Bihar
 - iv) None of the above
- b. In his small Hospital, Dr Verma performs
 - i) cosmetic surgery only
 - ii) Minor and general surgeries
 - iii) Cancer and Heart surgeries
 - iv) only consultation without surgeries

2.2 Answer the following questions

(1x6=6)

- a) What is remarkable about the decision taken by the Doctor Couple? 1 mark
- b) What is the first requirement if you need to get good health care in India? 1 mark
- c) How did the Doctor Couple manage a make shift Hospital? 1 mark
- d) How do the Doctors manage the Psychological needs of patients? 1 mark
- e) What does the Doctor Couple plan to do in order to offer better Healthcare to the poor? 1 mark
- f) Why has Dr Varma not given up his effort even after three years of waiting for land from the Government? 1 mark

2.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as the following

(1x2=2)

marks)

- a. Profitable (para 1)
- b. give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to. (para 5)

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow

(8 Marks)

1. How often do we exclaim: "That was a mistake!" That bewildered expression of regret and panic gets replayed through life. Some mistakes we forget, others we don't. The mistakes can be as mundane as forgetting to turn the geyser off or to pick up your passport from the airport counter.

2. Absent mindedness, preoccupation, distraction, carelessness, nervousness, there are umpteen excuses to justify mistakes. However major decisions like relocations of home or an unwarranted resignation letter can cause much trouble and upheaval and lead to regrets that leave you sad and depressed. Some mistakes are irreversible - then is there room for hope?

3. In fact, there are no mistakes, only experiences. There are no problems, only challenges. Every experience teaches us something in life. Every mistake inspires retrospection and introspection. The experience is humbling and it makes us wiser. That is, every mistake is regarded as an experience and not as a source of self-pity or self-condemnation. Many times people are unable to reconcile with the change grooved in the blame culture and rooted in the past, they have to realise the life time benefits they receive from changes.

4. Nature abounds in examples of flexibility and relocation in the case of birds and beasts. Scientific research in the behaviour of birds has confirmed this. Birds, animals and even nomads, travel miles and miles in search of better food, congenial climate and safety.

These relocations may cause some amount of stress, no doubt, but they are the source of survival: helping to group bonding and cooperation; and to explore the beauty of new space and better environment.

5. "To the weak, problems are stumbling blocks, to the brave, they are stepping stones." An untimely resignation and or termination letter is certainly traumatic and disturbing. But think of possibilities it can throw open for you. A young man felt disappointed when he failed an interview for a corporate job. At that point of time, he left dejected. Today, looking back he says, "It was a blessing in disguise. I would have never reached this far." Some mistakes bring in a very important message. "Believe and achieve! And in order to do so, faith is essential. It is the triple faith that men need today - faith in oneself, faith in the world around us, and above all faith in God!"

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

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

Section B

Advanced Writing Skills Marks: (30 MARKS)

4. You are Pranav/Parul, the President of your School's Classic Movies Appreciation Society. Your Society is organizing a screening of the Award Winning Movie, 'MAHATMA GANDHI-the saint of cleanliness', to spread his ideas of Cleanliness, and the 'Swatch Bharat Movement'. Write a Notice informing the students about this Movie. Invent necessary details. (50 words) **(4 Marks)**

(OR)

ABC Public School is envisaging a campaign in support of Organ Donation to help victims of traumatic accidents, and Organ damage due to various diseases. Design a Poster that will be put up in various areas of public places to support this noble cause.

5. 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 many years of independence we have not really progressed as a nation because of social evils such as Dowry harassment, etc. Write a letter to the editor of the 'Deccan Herald' expressing your views and also give suggestions to improve the status of women in Indian Society. (120-150 words) **(6 Marks)**

(OR)

During summer months after your exams are over, you want to utilize your time by working as a Cashier in a Seventh Heaven Bhavan chain of restaurants. You are Sanjay/Geeta. Write an application for the post of a Cashier giving your complete bio-data to the Human Resources Manager, Seventh Heaven Bhavan, Peters Road, Royapettah, Chennai.(120-150 words)

6. Many of the youngsters today prefer having junk food than homemade food that is healthy and nutritious. It adversely affects their health and results in obesity and many such diseases. In turn it also hampers their academic performance. Prepare a speech in about 150-200 words to be given in the morning assembly highlighting the importance of nutritious diet and adverse effect of junk food. **(10 Marks)**

(OR)

You are Ramesh Roshan /Rekha Roshan of 50, U Sector, Bhavini, Chandigarh. You are appalled to read the survey reports of UNICEF which depict the miserable condition of millions of children in India who are engaged in child labour. You have been asked to write an article for the United Nations Assembly(UNO) Quarterly Journal, as a Student Representative from KV Matunga, Mumbai on the topic 'Child Labour: a Stigma on Society' in about 150-200 words.

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. Take a stand (for or against) and write your text for the debate titled, 'Democracy is the cradle of Indian Unity' in about 150-200 words. You are Selvan/Selvi a class XII student at Raju Samera Senior Secondary School, Madurai. **(10 Marks)**

(OR)

You are Satish/Seetha, a senior Journalist with 'The Hindu', Chennai. You recently visited Ooty, a hill station in Tamilnadu, to cover the World Earth Summit that was conducted there to discuss the destruction of the Green Jungles of the Western Ghats (as Green Jungles are being replaced by Concrete Jungles). Write a report on this World Class Event in 150-200 words.

Section C
Text Books(40 MARKS)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks)

a) "...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 Mark)**
- b) What is suggested by the image *the massive weight of uncle's wedding band*? **(1 Mark)**
- c) Why did Aunt Jennifer create animals which were so different from her own character? **(1 Mark)**
- d) How did this work help her? **(1 Mark)**

(OR)

"What I want should not be
confused with total inactivity
Life is what it is about
I want no truck with death
If we were not so single minded
About keeping our lives moving."

- a) Why does the poet not want to be misunderstood? **(1 Mark)**
- b) What is the Poet's attitude towards life? **(1 Mark)**
- c) What is the most common mistake committed by people? **(1 Mark)**
- d) Explain '...keeping our lives moving' **(1 Mark)**

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words. (3x4=12)

- a) Why did Franz get this thought, "Will they make them sing in German, even the Pigeons"?
- b) What were the findings of the Official enquiry on the issue of the Share Cropping arrangement? How did it help to get relief and justice for the peasants?
- c) Why was Sophie jealous of her brother's silence? (Going places)
- d) Why does Stephen Spender invoke, 'Governor', 'Inspector', and 'Visitor' for the emancipation of children?
- e) What was the desire of the High ranking British Officer in the Kingdom of the Tiger King? Was his wish fulfilled? Why?
- f) Why does Derry go back to Mr Lamb in the end?

10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. (6 Marks)

Individuals who belong to enemy countries tend to hate each other. At times, it is seen that some people rise above such prejudices and help the enemy soldiers especially when they are injured or near death. What makes a human being do so? Answer with reference to 'The Enemy'

(OR)

An adult's perspective is different from that of a child and society mostly patronises the adult view of things. Why? Do you think this story can help us understand children better? Answer with reference to the story 'Should Wizard hit Mommy?'

11. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words.

(6 Marks)

Great achievers have failed many times before achieving success. In spite of a lurking and traumatic fear for the 'Water', Douglas took up the challenge. How does the story of Douglas inspire you to face the challenges of life?

(OR)

Compare and contrast the character of the Iron Master with that of his daughter. How does the compassion displayed by one of them bring about the change of heart in the Peddler?

12. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words

(6 Marks)

Describe the burglary that happened at the Vicarage.

13. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words

(6 Marks)

Write a pen portrait of Dr. Kemp and contrast it with that of Griffin.
