

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 following passage carefully.

(12 Marks)

1. Today there is a lot of talk about the environment. All nations are coming to an agreement to save the planet earth. Like we pollute the earth, we pollute the water; we also pollute the subtle environment through our negative feelings and emotions. We have become a victim of our environment. We are not able to control our mind. We hear a lot about other things in life but we spend very little time to hear about ourselves. How to handle our mind? How to be in the present moment? How to be happy and grateful? This, we have not learnt. This is the most unfortunate thing. Then, what is the solution? This is where we miss a very fundamental principle that governs our environment, our mind, our emotions and our life in general.
2. Our body has the capacity to **sustain** much longer the vibration of bliss and peace than it does negative emotion because **positivity** is in the centre of our existence. Just like in the structure of an atom, protons and neutrons are in the centre of the atom and electrons are only the periphery, same is with our lives: the centre core of our existence is bliss, positivity and joy, but it is surrounded by a cloud of negative ions. Through the help of our breath we can easily get over our negative emotions in a short period of time. Through meditation and certain breathing techniques, we can clear this negative cloud.
3. This has so much to offer you. You can see this once you take some time off, rejuvenating the soul. Your soul is hungry for a smile from you. If you could give this, you feel energized the whole year and nothing, whatsoever, can take the smile away from you.
4. Everyone wants to be successful in life. But without knowing what success is, you want to be successful. What is the sign of success? Just having a lot of money, is that success? Why do you think money means success? Because money gives you freedom, so that you can do whatever you want. You may have big bank balance but you have stomach-ache, ulcers, can't eat this, can't do this, can't do that. We spend

half of our health to gain wealth and spend half our wealth to gain back the health. Is this success? It is very bad mathematics.

5. Look at those who claim to be successful—are they successful? No, they are miserable. Then, what is the sign of success? It is confidence, compassion, generosity and smile that none can snatch away, being really happy and being able to be more free. These are the signs of a successful person.
6. Take some time off to look a little deeper in to yourself and calm the mind down. Thus, erasing all the impressions that we are carrying in our minds and experience the presence, the divine that is the very core of our existence. This is feeling the presence.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: **(4×1 = 4)**

- a) We pollute our environment -
 - (i) by becoming victims to our environment
 - (ii) by not listening to indications about ourselves
 - (iii) through our negative thoughts and feelings
 - (iv) by being positive
- b) “Sustain” in Para 2 means.....
 - (i) keep alive
 - (ii) experience
 - (iii)remember
 - (iv)create
- c) In Para 2, ‘positivity’ has been compared to _____.
 - (i) protons and neutrons
 - (ii) electrons
 - (iii)cloud of ions
 - (iv)atom
- d) We can feel the presence of the divine at the core of our existence if we _____.
 - (i) are healthy
 - (ii) take time off
 - (iii) can erase the impressions in our minds
 - (iv) meditate

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly. **(6×1 = 6)**

- e) How can we get rid of our negative emotions?
- f) How can one keep one’s soul energized?
- g) What, according to the author, is ‘bad mathematics’?
- h) According to the writer who is a successful person?
- i) What can happen if you calm the mind down?
- j) What does the author mean by saying “positivity is in the centre of our existence”?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: (2 Marks)

- (i) edge (Para 2)
- (ii) give new life to (Para 3)

2. Read the following passage carefully. (10 Marks)

1. As a medium of literary expression, the common language is inadequate. Like the man of letters, the scientist finds it necessary to “give a purer sense to the words of the tribe”. But the purity of scientific language is not the same as the purity of literary language.

2. The aim of the scientist is to say only one thing at a time, and to say it unambiguously and with the greatest precision. To achieve this, he simplifies and jargonises. In other words, he uses the vocabulary and syntax of common speech in such a way that each phrase is susceptible to only one interpretation and when the vocabulary and syntax of common speech are too imprecise for his purpose, he invites a new technical language, or jargon specially designed to express the limited meaning with which he is professionally concerned. At its most perfectly pure form, scientific language ceases the matter of words and terms into mathematics.

3. The literary artist purifies the language of the tribe in a radically different way. The scientist’s aim, as we have seen, is to say one thing, and only one thing at a time. This most emphatically, is not the aim of the literary artist. Human life is lived simultaneously on many levels and has many meanings.

4. Literature is a device for reporting the multifarious facts and expressing their significance. When the literary artist undertakes to give a pure sense to the words of his tribe, he does so with the purpose of creating a language capable of conveying, not the single meaning of some particular science, but the multiple significance of human experience, on its most private as well as on its more public levels.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (2 x 1=2)

- a) The passage highlights the difference between.....
 - (i) the language of science and of literature
 - (ii) the language of the tribe and that of a civilised man
 - (iii) jargon and the language of a common man
 - (iv) the central purpose of science and literature

- b) ‘Jargon’ in the context of the passage means.....
 - (i) difficult language
 - (ii) technical language
 - (iii) language with limited meaning
 - (iv) mathematical language

2.2 Answer the following questions as briefly:

(6×1 = 6)

- c) What is the purpose of literature according to the writer?
- d) What kind of a language is used in science?
- e) Discuss the similarities between the language of science and that of literature.
- f) What is the objective of a scientist?
- g) How does the literary artist purify the language of a tribe?
- h) Why does a scientist use specific technical words?

2.3 Find words from the passage similar in meaning as:

(2x 1= 2)

- (i) not suffice (Para 1)
- (ii) side by side (Para 3)

3. Read the following passage carefully.

(8 Marks)

Tourism has emerged as the world's largest industry. Growing rapidly in the last two decades, today it accounts for 6% of the world output and employs some 100 million people around the globe. Since the end of the Second World War, it has developed immense revenue and development potential and stands today as a natural renewable resource industry.

Tourism - the travel-based recreation provides people with a change of place and a break from the monotony of daily life. It brings people of different nations together, allowing them to come into close contact with each other's customs and other aspects of life. It reveals the scenic beauty and past heritage of a country to people belonging to other nations. The knowledge and experience gained in the process can lead to greater understanding and tolerance and can even promote world peace.

The contribution of tourism can be nowhere seen more clearly than on the economic front. A study conducted by the United Nation has shown that developing countries, in particular, can reap handsome benefits out of tourism which greatly boosts national income. Tourism generates employment, and adds to the entrepreneurial wealth of a nation. While tourism's advantages are many, its undesirable side-effects have raised fresh problems.

Tourism can cause social, cultural or environmental disruption. Of the greatest concern is its damage to the environment. In order to attract more tourists, sprawling resorts are built which take neither the local architectural styles nor the ecology into consideration. Natural systems come to be destroyed as a result of indiscriminate construction to provide water and waste disposal facilities and recreational arrangements to tourists. Overuse of environmental wealth disturbs the ecological balance.

Damage is most in wildlife parks which remain the foremost sites of tourism attraction. Tourist vans and visitors destroy the ground vegetation, thus affecting the feeding habits of the animals and landscape as well. Overcrowding brings about congestion, leading to environmental and health hazards. The Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, has suffered a lot of wear and tear from trampling feet of tourists.

Some socio-cultural effects of tourism have been damaging. Tourism often ushers in new life styles; arrangements as desired by tourists are provided in order to make them feel at home. The emergence of this ‘other’ culture in various places has caused dissatisfaction among the local people. The concern is that the local people tend to imitate the foreign values breaking away from their own traditions. To provide safe tourism while ensuring that it remains a profitable industry, it is imperative to understand the factors that hamper the growth of tourism and check them effectively.

General instability of the nation is damaging to tourism prospects. Political disturbances, in particular, pose a serious problem. The growing violence in the international scene and increasing threat of terrorism affects the flow of tourists. Countries like Sri Lanka have been a victim to terrorist threats for long and have therefore suffered setbacks in tourism. Whatever the problems, India must work hard to reap the benefits from this industry for the country has everything to attract visitors from far and near.

A. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub – headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 4) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **(5 Marks)**

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

SECTION B

ADVANCE WRITING SKILLS (30 Marks)

4. You are Manoj/Nandita. You have a three bedroom flat in Dwarka, which you want to let out on rent. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in “The Times of India” under classified columns, Contact 22758902. **(4 Marks)**

(OR)

You are Mayank/Maya, Secretary of the English Literary Association of Tagore Memorial School, Patna. Write out a notice for the notice board, inviting names of those who would like to participate in the proposed inter-house debate, oratorical and elocution contests. (50 words).

5. Games and sports are not given so much importance in the country as is given to academics. As a result of this, our achievements in the international arena are not very spectacular. Write a letter to the editor of ‘The Hindu’ on the importance of sports and games and the need to create awareness about it. You are Sunita /Sumit, 8/35, M.G.Road, Bengaluru. **(6 Marks)**

(OR)

G.T.C. runs a large fleet of public transport buses in Gopalpur. You want to hire some buses to carry your students and staff to school and back to various localities in the city. As the Principal of the School, write a letter to the Manager, G.T.C. Gopalpur mentioning the number of buses required, various routes, number of students, etc. You are Arun/Aruna(120-150 words).

6. You are Ajay/ Anu, Head Boy/Girl of Kendriya Vidyalaya Kanpur. You have seen some students of junior classes littering the school compound and verandas with food leftovers. It makes the school look unclean and untidy. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly, advising students to keep the school neat and clean. **(10 Marks)**

(OR)

“The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher”. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

7. You are Manoj/Monika. Many of your friends get expensive gifts from their parents but not their attention and time. Write an article in 150-200 words for your school magazine urging all the parents to give their time and moral support to their children, especially the adolescent. Also stress on how a secure home atmosphere plays a key role in promoting success in life. **(10 Marks)**

(OR)

Incessant rain has caused irrecoverable damage in your area. As an active participant in the flood relief programme, write a report in 150-200 words on the different flood relief measures carried out. You are Sonu/Sonia a social worker.

SECTION – C

(TEXT BOOKS and LONG READING TEXT) (40 MARKS)

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

(4 Marks)

“Aunt 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 was Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering? **(1 Mark)**
- b) How was she pulling the needle? **(1 Mark)**
- c) What was lying heavily on her hand? **(1 Mark)**
- d) Identify the figure of speech in the last two lines. **(1 Mark)**

(OR)

“... The stunted, unlucky heir
Of twisted bones, reciting a father’s gnarled disease,
His lesson, from his desk. At the back of the dim class
One unnoted, sweet and young.”

- a) Who is the unlucky heir? **(1 Mark)**
- b) What has the “unlucky heir” inherited? **(1 Mark)**
- c) Who is sitting at the back of the dim class? **(1 Mark)**
- d) Name the poem and the poet. **(1 Mark)**

9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (4×3=12)

- a) “For children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents.” Explain.
- b) Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter? Justify.
- c) According to Keats, what spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?
- d) What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda’s attitude towards these wars?
- e) In what context does Hana remember the cruel nature of General Takima?
- f) Why does Jo insist that her father should tell her the story with a different ending?

10. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6 Marks)

One’s language speaks of one’s identity .How does the presence of village elders in the class room and M.Hamel’s last lesson show their love for French?

(OR)

“Non-Violence is a time tested tool to find solution to all human woes.” How did Gandhi use Satyagraha and non – violence at Champaran to achieve his goal?

11. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6 Marks)

Give a character-sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison based on your understanding of the story, ‘Evans Tries an O-level’

(OR)

Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment, but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment.

12. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6 Marks)

‘Griffin is the model of science without humanity.’ Discuss this statement with reference to the theme of ‘The Invisible Man’.

13. Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words (6 Marks)

Compare and contrast Mr. and Mrs. Hall with regard to their views about the stranger who came to stay at the inn.
