

# COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2017-18

## ENGLISH (CORE)

### CLASS XII

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum 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 very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- 3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

#### SECTION - A

30 Marks

#### READING

##### 1. Read the passage below.

1. What would we do without humour? How would we enjoy talks with others if we did not use humour to invite a smile or a laugh? And how would we manage the times when we feel sad and alone?
2. With humour we lighten up each day, and we find common ground with others. We build healthy relationships with others by knowing what to say and to do that helps, and what hinders, a conversation. Humour often takes us to the edge of uncertainty when we exaggerate, or tease others to make our point. When humour is successful, we build trust and cooperation. We discover that we are not alone, we learn to accept our mistakes, and we look for the good in others and in ourselves. Most importantly, we create common ground. However, when we lose our sense of humour, we often get critical or defensive, and, we often get critical of ourselves for what was said, and how it was said.
3. Humour is an essential skill needed to communicate well with others. A few well-chosen words get the attention of others and make a serious point without their getting defensive. Whether we prefer to be the centre of attention or shy and quiet, humour can be adjusted to suit our personality.
4. The challenge for everyone is to become more aware of how to add humour, and when to avoid it. Too much humour, like too much spice often annoys others. Humour that is perceived as insensitive often leads others to shut down, or become argumentative. But when we each maintain our sense of humour, we look for the good in others and in ourselves. To ensure that

our humour is welcomed by others, we need to combine our humour with speaking clearly and listening effectively.

5. Have you ever noticed that successful individuals often use self-deprecating humour to humble themselves, without putting themselves down? These individuals understand that every person has strengths and weaknesses and that self-deprecating humour invites others to feel more confident and equal. Having humour, helps us keep our perspective, stay responsive to others, and resolve differences. Do you already have some things that you say to diffuse tension? Words like "At times like this, my uncle used to say ..." can help the conversation to become less confrontational.

6. If you can't think of a humorous comment that will be helpful, you can try looking for clarification by mirroring back their words and clarifying their point. Assume that there is always something that you can find to appreciate when you are looking for common ground. Focus on preventing an argument. Remember, humour is often not the best choice to handle conflict.

7. Opportunities to add a touch of humour happen all of the time. In December when I visited my friend Tim in the hospital, I came wearing antlers from the Dollar Store. And when I was accepted into the graduate program at University of Waterloo, I wrote my acceptance letter as a poem. In each situation my small change from the everyday stirred others to smile, and expect positive conversations in the future.

8. Much of our humour comes from reconnecting to our playful inner child. For many of us, it only takes a playful voice tone, wearing a funny hat, or holding a stuffed toy to get started. Take a risk. Add a bit more humour, and do it in the way that is right for you.

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1x4 = 4)**

(a) Humour helps us :

(i) to find common ground with others.

(ii) lighten up each day.

(iii) exaggerate.

(iv) both (i) and (ii).

(b) When we lose humour we:

(i) often get critical.

- (ii) often get defensive.
  - (iii) often get critical for what was said.
  - (iv) all the three.
- (c) Humour is not the best tool to:
- (i) be a successful conversationalist.
  - (ii) resolve a conflict.
  - (iii) to find common ground.
  - (iv) stay responsive to others.
- (d) The writer gives the example of wearing a funny hat to exemplify that:
- (i) humour comes from reconnecting with our inner child.
  - (ii) opportunities to add humour are always present.
  - (iii) humour requires common ground.
  - (iv) humour involves risk.

**Answer the following questions briefly:**

**(1x6=6)**

- (e) What is the challenge for everyone regarding humour?
- (f) What happens when we lose our sense of humour?
- (g) How can one ensure that humour is welcomed by others?
- (h) What do successful individuals understand?
- (i) How do people react when they perceive humour as insensitive?
- (j) Why did the writer write his acceptance letter as a poem?
- (k) Find words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: **(1x2=2)**
  - (i) obstruct (para 2)
  - (ii) viewpoint (para 5)

**2. Read the following passage carefully.**

1. One day Pahom was sitting at home, when a peasant passing through the village, happened to call in. He was allowed to stay at the night, and supper was given to him. Pahom had a talk

with this peasant and asked him where he came from. The stranger answered that he came from beyond the Volga, where he had been working.

2. One word led to another, and the man went on to say that many people were settling in those parts. He told how some people from his village had settled there. They had joined the Commune, and had twenty-five acres of land per man granted. The land was so good, he said, that the rye sown on it grew as high as a horse, and so thick that five cuts of a sickle made a sheaf. One peasant, he said, had brought nothing with him but his bare hands, and now he had six horses and two cows.

3. Pahom's heart kindled with desire. He thought: "Why should I suffer in this narrow hole, if one can live so elsewhere? I will sell my land and my homestead here, and with the money I will start afresh over there and get everything new. In this crowded place one is always having trouble. But I must first go and find out all about it myself."

4. Towards summer he got ready and started. He went down the Volga on a steamer to Samara, then walked another three hundred miles on foot, and at last reached the place. It was just as the stranger had said. The peasants had plenty of land: every man had twenty-five acres of Communal land given to him for his use, and anyone who had money could buy, besides, at fifty-cents an acre as much freehold land as he wanted. Having found out all he wished to know, Pahom returned home as autumn came on, and began selling off his belongings. He sold his land at a profit, sold his homestead and all his cattle, and withdrew from membership of the Commune. He only waited till the spring, and then started with his family for the new settlement.

5. As soon as Pahom and his family arrived at their new abode, he applied for admission into the Commune of a large village. He stood treat to the Elders, and obtained the necessary documents. Five shares of Communal land were given to him for his own and his sons' use: that is to say-125 acres (not altogether, but in different fields) besides the use of the Communal pasture.

6. Pahom put up the buildings he needed, and bought cattle. Of the Communal land alone he had three times as much as at his former home, and the land was good corn-land. He was ten times better off than he had been. He had plenty of arable land and pasturage, and could keep as many herd of cattle as he liked. (How Much Land Does a Man Need? by Leo Tolstoy)

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1x2=2)**

(a) The stranger did not tell Pahom that:

- (i) many people had been settling in those parts.
- (ii) some people from his village had settled there.
- (iii) they had been given 125 acres of land.
- (iv) the land was very good.

(b) Pahom thought of leaving his home as:

- (i) it was a crowded place.
- (ii) he did not like it.
- (iii) he wanted to start afresh and get everything new.
- (iv) both (i) and (iii)

**Answer the following questions briefly .**

**(1x6=6)**

- (c) Where had the stranger come from?
- (d) How had the farmer acquired six horses of his own?
- (e) How did Pahom reach the place?
- (f) What was the rate of land at the new settlement?
- (g) What was Pahom busy doing in autumn?
- (h) What did Pahom undertake as soon as he reached his new abode?
- (i) Find words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following. **(1x2=2)**
  - (i) bundle (para 2)
  - (ii) accommodation (para 5)

**3. Read the passage given below.**

1. While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognize the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual limit. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam or on comparing marks-sheets and finding that their friend has scored better.

2. Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psycho-social stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life.

3. Stress has a different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails an examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult the loss of his or her companion or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.

4. Such signs appear in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyper-acidity. Ultimately the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, drying of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist. It leads to depression, lethargy and weakness. Periodic mood shifts also indicate the stress status of the students, executives and professionals.

5. In a study sponsored by World Health Organization and carried out by Harvard School of Public Health, the global burden of diseases and injury indicated that stress diseases and accidents are going to be the major killers in 2020. The heart disease and depression - both stress diseases - are going to rank first and second in 2020. Road traffic accidents are going to be the third largest killers. These accidents are also an indicator of psycho-social stress in a fast moving society. Other stress diseases like ulcers, hypertension and sleeplessness have assumed epidemic proportions in modern societies.

6. A person under stress reacts in different ways and the common ones are flight, fight and flee depending upon the nature of the stress and capabilities of the person. The three responses can be elegantly chosen to cope with the stress so that stress does not damage the system and become distress.

7. When stress crosses the limit; peculiar to an individual, it lowers his performance capacity. Frequent crossings of the limit may result in chronic fatigue in which a person feels lethargic, disinterested and is not readily motivated to achieve anything. This may make the person mentally undecided, confused and accident prone as well. Sudden exposure to un-

nervous stress may also result in a loss of memory. Diet, massage, food supplements, herbal medicines, hobbies, relaxation techniques and dance movements are excellent stress busters.

(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 four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

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

**SECTION-B** **30 Marks**  
**WRITING SKILLS**

4. You are Suraj/Surya. You want to set up a small garment shop in your city. Draft an advertisement seeking a suitable space for rent, to be published in the 'Wanted Accommodation' column of a local newspaper. Write the advertisement in not more than 50 words. (4)

**OR**

Design a poster to increase awareness among the youth about blindness and the importance of donating eyes.

5. You are interested in doing a course in fashion designing. For this you wish to get admission in NIFT. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Director, Sapphire Academy, Dadar, Mumbai requesting him to provide you with all necessary information. You are Suraj/Surya, 48 Fort Apartments, Pune. (6)

**OR**

Your school has opened a new activity wing for the kindergarten students for which you require play equipment. Write a letter to the Manager, A-10, Zenith Stores, Delhi in 120-150 words placing an order for educational toys and other play equipment. You are Suraj/Surya, Manager, DML Public school, Delhi.

6. You are Suraj/Surya, many of your friends are getting expensive gifts from their parents but not their attention and time. Write an article to be published in a leading National Daily urging all parents to give their time and moral support to their children, especially adolescent children. Also focus on how a secure home atmosphere plays a key role in promoting success in life. (word limit-150-200) (10)

**OR**

As an active member of Interact Club of your school, you had participated in a summer camp organized by Lions Club of your district. Write a report on the camp and its activities in 150-200 words. You are Suraj/Surya .

7. "The policy of reservation of seats for admission to the professional courses is good for the deprived section of society." Write a debate either for or against the topic in not more than 150-200 words. You are Suraj/Surya . (10)

**OR**

In this age of growing 'I, me, myself' attitude, it is very important to teach students the value of giving back to society. As the Principal of your school, write a speech on the benefits of community service in about 150-200 words. You are Suraj/Surya.

**SECTION- C** **40 Marks**  
**LITERATURE : TEXTS AND LONG READING TEXTS**

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

.....,but after the airport's  
security check , standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

- (a) What did the poet do after the security check? (1)
- (b) What did she observe? (1)
- (c) What is the 'familiar ache' mentioned in these lines? (1)
- (d) Identify the figure of speech and explain. (1)

**OR**

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.

- (a) What is it that the poet wants? (1)
- (b) What is the confusion that the poet wishes to clarify? (1)
- (c) Explain the phrase 'no truck with death'. (1)
- (d) What does the poet mean by inactivity? (1)

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

- (a) What did the peddler think of the world and its people?

- (b) How is Mukesh's attitude to his situation different from that of his family?
- (c) What spreads the pall of despondence over the dark spirits of man? How is it removed?
- (d) What picture of male chauvinism do we find in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?
- (e) What makes Jack feel caught in an ugly middle position'?
- (f) Why did Zitkala-Sa resist the cutting of her hair so fiercely?

10. Answer the following in about **120 - 150** words. **(6)**

Every teenager has a hero/heroine to admire. So many times they become role models for them. What is wrong if Sophie fantasizes about Danny Casey and is ambitious in life?

**OR**

'Every problem has many solutions. But the success lies in identifying the right solution in the right time with strong will power.' William Douglas could win over his fear of water with such attitude. Elucidate.

11. Answer the following in about **120 - 150** words. **(6)**

Both Derry and Mr. Lamb are victims of physical impairments. Yet they are poles apart in their values and outlook to life. Comment.

**OR**

Dr. Sadao faced a dilemma. Should he use his surgical skills to save the life of a wounded person or hand over an escaped American prisoner of war to the Japanese police. How did he resolve this clash of values?

12. Answer the following in about **120 - 150** words. **(6)**

Griffin, the most gifted physicist the world has ever seen, ended in infinite disaster due to his strange and terrible career." Explain the statement.

**OR**

Compare Silas Marner's love of his money to his religious faith.

13. Answer the following in about **120 - 150** words. **(6)**

Draw the character sketch of Dr. Kemp as the voice of social conscience in the novel, 'The Invisible Man'.

**OR**

Describe Dolly Winthrop as the most lovable character in George Eliot's 'Silas Marner'.