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Code Number



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017
ENGLISH

CLASS: XII
29.11.2017

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs
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. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.*
- (iv) *Attempt all questions of a section without mixing them with another section.*

SECTION A - (READING)

**30
12**

1. Read the passage given below carefully :

1. There is no discounting that one learns some of the more important skills in the classroom but the lessons one learns about life when one leaves the comfort zone of the classroom and steps into the unknown, are incomparable. One of the best lessons, therefore, which is learnt outside the safe confines of the classroom, is what travel teaches you.

2. If you travel on your own by not opting for a group tour where everything is planned for you, then you are likely to tackle situations where you have to make a choice or a decision almost immediately. No amount of prior research or preparedness can come to your rescue. But on the bright side, travelling alone gives one the opportunity to discover things such as the cheapest and quickest way to travel from point A to B, how much you should trust your instinct when talking to a stranger, how much you should spend each day. All these handy exchanges go a long way in smartening up a person. Also when you are in another country and managing your own affairs you feel less judged and more courageous too.

3. Modern day travel has also become a more even playing ground. Whereas previously travel was by and large a rich man's indulgence, today, anybody can travel. But that does not mean travelling on a shoestring budget literally. One of the golden rules of travel planning is to religiously save a certain amount from your allowance and you can easily save enough for a trip once a year. And the trip does not entail making bookings at ridiculously low or shamefully high hotels for accommodation. You can stay with a local and work along the way, eat simple food, take public transport and, more important, stick to your budget. These are the essential rules for making the journey hassle free.

4. Although travel is about making plans and hoping things turn out exactly as one has planned, when you are travelling around, things are bound to go wrong. The best way out of a bad situation is to remain calm, when faced with such a calamity, and learn to be flexible and to roll with the punches. As a travel blogger shared: ‘I was once invited by a local in Rome to go and stay with him. I was super excited by the idea. After taking a two hour tiring journey to the address he had mentioned I found out that he wasn’t residing there and was only playing a prank on me. I was extremely frustrated but in hindsight it taught me acceptance. The time that was gone was gone. Why spoil my whole trip sulking over it?’

5. Another plus point of travel is that every single time one travels one discovers the romance within oneself. As a tourist, one enjoys the beauty of simple everyday life all round. You also become aware of nature all around and sharpen your powers of observation and appreciation. Also when you travel you realize that people all over the world are not very different, although they may do things differently. You realize that you are just another one in this vast world and the world does not revolve around you.

6. Travel thus helps you to get rid of race, religion and cultural stereotypes. When you travel, it is most important to be smart and take some basic precautions. While travelling you also learn to trust good people and your faith in humanity increases. With better roads and better communication at your fingertips, travel is no longer a bogey. There are options galore and tickets can be had months in advance, so people are more confident about making their travel plans that will not become nightmares any more.

On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: 4

- a) Handy exchanges with strangers while travelling..... 1
(i) smarten up a person (ii) make them suspicious of strangers
(iii) tend to make one careless (iv) make one over trusting
- b) The travel blogger had a bad experience 1
(i) in India (ii) in Rome (iii) in the United States (iv) at home
- c) Travel makes one realize that people..... 1
(i) are very different around the world (ii) love to exchange notes
(iii) are not very different (iv) have the same ambitions
- d) Travel helps one get rid of 1
(i) the fear of travelling (ii) lavish spending on travel
(iii) travel being a bogey (iv) race, religion, and culture stereotypes

Answer the following questions briefly: 6

- e) What are the best points of opting out of group travel? 1
- f) How has modern travel become an even playing ground? 1
- g) How can one tackle situations where travel plans get upset? 1

- h) What are some of the advantages an individual gains from travel? 1
- i) What are the precautions that one must take while travelling? 1
- j) Why is travel no longer a bogey now? 1
- k) **Find words from the passage which mean the same as:** 2
- (i) grumbling or brooding (para 4)
- (ii) previous (para 2)

2. Read the passage given below carefully: 10

1. Zakir Hussain is India's iconic tabla maestro. Long known for his capacity to move crowds of listeners whenever he takes the stage, off stage, too, the maestro is a man with far sighted patriotic views. He says that every Indian knows how to live peacefully. According to him, we are a diverse country and in our diversity we have found peace and compassion.

2. 'I am an Indian and am proud to be an Indian. My wife is an American and I can get an American passport but I never went for it. There is a deep rooted connection between me and the art of India that we are constantly aware of. We are peace loving and we need to hold on to this harmony. We should not give anyone an opportunity to pit us one against the other.

3. I am the quintessential Mumbai boy. I was brought up in Mahim. My father was the best tabla player I knew. His discipline and dedication was very inspirational. At home after my morning prayers and riyaz I would go to madrasa and pray. From there I'd go to St. Michael's school before which I would go to the chapel and say hymns and novenas. In the evening I used to go to a temple and then come home and learn tabla again. No one prevented me from doing what I did. I was welcomed in every house of God and felt blessed in each place. I grew up with this multi religious faith imbibed in me.

4. Harmony is within us. Only when we allow the outside world to disturb the inner peace do we feel distanced from each other. Music is global. It has no boundaries or religion or nation. Religion is a way of life. It is a way of life for me. Therefore it is my religion and this religion encompasses all religions of the world. My father used to say: 'I am a worshipper of Maa Saraswati. I love her and she loves me. He introduced me to Lord Ganesha's pakhawaj and to Lord Shiva's dumroo. Every religion preaches love thy neighbour. I believe if you are kind to the people around you have practiced your religion.

5. On the artistic front the first challenge every artist has is to overcome staleness in art. The table is about spontaneity. Sometimes there is a creative block through, which can be difficult to overcome. Being selfless on stage is another challenge as the audience has flocked to hear your rendition. Also, it is equally important to allow your fellow artiste to perform his best. Another challenge for accomplished artists is to know that you are not the best. I constantly strive to better myself.

6. I am the original heart throb of Indian Classical music today. I wouldn't want any young

musician to be like me. They have to be better than me. I offered my best to audience the world over. Today, I am sure there are many who can play better than me. Indian music gives each one an opportunity to create one's own identity.'

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

- a) Zakir Hussain is India's **1**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) iconic Indian dancer | (iii) iconic Indian tabla maestro |
| (ii) film star playback singer | (iv) crowd pulling acrobat |
- b) Zakir Hussain does not want any Indian to be like him because..... **1**
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (i) he wants to remain the best | (iii) he is unbeatable |
| (ii) he is a world class star | (iv) he wants them to be better than him |

Answer the following as briefly as possible: **6**

- c) What is Zakir Hussain's opinion about every Indian? **1**
- d) How can we guard our Indianness? **1**
- e) Where was Zakir Hussain brought up? **1**
- f) What are his views about music? **1**
- g) What are the challenges of a performer? **1**
- h) How does he surmise his music education by his father? **1**
- i) **Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:** **2**
- | |
|--|
| (i) encouraging or motivating (para 3) |
| (ii) performance (para 5) |

3. Read the passage given below: **8**

Contentment is the state of being satisfied with what you have, with your status and current situations. It is not resignation, which is more about giving up, being a victim and feeling disempowered. Contentment is a very spiritual approach to life. In fact, most spiritual traditions would say that contentment is the first step to true happiness – even to enlightenment or heaven

Being contented would mean that you are truly satisfied with your life as it is right now. Of course there is always room to grow and expand who we are and how we live our lives. But we can also be satisfied with how much we have and accept ourselves as we are. This is a powerful way to be in the world. This means that we are not victim to other's opinions and we are not easily swayed from our view points and beliefs. We actually live our lives in a more authentic way.

We live in a time that is set up to keep us from being content with ourselves and therefore we suffer from insecurity, lack of self-confidence and anxiety. Take a look at the media. The whole

point of media and advertising is to convince you that you are not happy, that you don't have enough, and that you need more of what they are selling. When you buy their product, or when you have the lifestyle and body and looks of celebrities and models, then you will be happy.

So, from the moment we are born we are brainwashed to believe that the only way to happiness is to earn as much money as possible, to have perfect abs, the big house in the perfect neighbourhood etc. If we don't have these things, then we are not happy. Since most of us don't have these things, we hold on to a neurotic need to be different than who we are and live life with much stress and anxiety as we helplessly look for the thing that will make us happy.

So, how do we overcome this deep-seated pattern within us? It takes nothing short of a revolution. I believe the most rebellious thing we can do at this moment is to consciously choose to be content. By doing so, we free ourselves from the pressures of the media and mainstream culture and we can live once again according to our own personal measure of what it means to be happy and to be a successful, empowered person. It is a very practical, methodical approach that requires you really do it all and not just think about it. It requires cutting through the confusion and really seeing you and your life as they really are at this moment.

- 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 – (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) 30

- 4, Prepare a poster about the importance of books for putting up in a library of R B Public School, Siliguri. **4**

OR

Write a notice informing the prefects, monitors and Students Council of a Leadership Training Programme. Draft this notice with all necessary details in not more than 50 words to be displayed at the school main gate notice board. You are Robert / Rochelle, the Principal of Silverdale Public School, Darjeeling.

5. You are Varun / Varsha residing at C/45, Palace Road, Hyderabad. You have come across an advertisement in 'The Times of India' for recruitment of Computer Software Engineer Trainees by Xanadu Telecom. Apply in response to this advertisement, giving your detailed bio-data. **6**

OR

Chandigarh – the beautiful city seems to be losing its lustre. Green open areas have either been taken over by concrete buildings or they are a place for garbage dumps. Cluttered, potholed roads and encroachments on pavements is the regular sight. Pained by the sight of your city, write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner to convey your resentment and an appeal for quick remedial action. You are Avinash, a resident of House No.2121, Sector 21, Chandigarh.

6. Does watching violent Television programmes make a child think violence is acceptable? Do playing violent video games make a child think violence is acceptable? Write a speech in about 150 – 200 words to be read out in your classroom on the need to imbibe principles of truthfulness, gentleness and cooperation in order to counter growing violence in today’s world. **10**

OR

Draft a debate speech against the motion “Violent Games Should Be Banned. Write this debate speech in not more than 200 words.

7. Labour Day was celebrated in a unique way in your school. All workers who helped in the running of the school like peons, gardeners, security guards and those who kept the campus clean were honoured. Funds were raised through various programmes and each of the guests was given a gift and cash. Write a report on the same in about 150 – 200 words for your school magazine. You are Sam of XII Std. **10**

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Adit / Aditi. You had the opportunity of playing ‘kabadi’ when you visited your cousins in a small town. You decide to write an article on the joys of playing outdoor games for the school magazine. Write this article in not more than 200 words.

SECTION C – (LITERATURE)

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

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Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

- a) What are the kinds of wars mentioned in the above lines? **1**
b) What are green wars? **1**
c) How would the wars affect our lives? **1**
d) What could be the ideal situation? **1**

OR

Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree:
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- a) What does prancing tigers symbolize? **1**
b) What are Aunt Jennifer’s tigers doing? How do they look like? **1**
c) Where do they live? Who are they not afraid of? **1**
d) Explain: They pace in sleek chivalric certainty. **1**

9. Answer any ***four*** of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 12
- a) What was Roger Skunk's problem? How did he get rid of it? 3
 - b) What do slum children receive as inheritance? 3
 - c) How is Saheb's name full of irony? 3
 - d) 'It's all relative. Beauty and the beast.' What does Mr Lamb mean by this statement? 3
 - e) What is the cause of our 'gloomy days' and 'dark spirits'? (A Thing of beauty) 3
 - f) How did Bama win friends? 3

10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6

Rajkumar Shukla, an unassuming peasant became a catalyst for change by taking Gandhiji to Champaran, an act which later culminated into the first successful instance of Civil Disobedience in India. What qualities do you think helped both of them to initiate one of the most powerful movements in the history of our national struggle?

OR

Sophie and Jansie are classmates and friends. What were the differences between them that show up in the story?

11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6

There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy'.

OR

Give an account of the blunders committed by the prison authorities which resulted in making Evans' escape-plan a success.

12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6

How did Griffin feel as he gradually turned invisible?

13. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: 6

Who was Professor Oliver? What idea do you form about his character from Griffin's account?

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER