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Code Number: 301/1



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
THIRD PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

06.02.2018

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

1. Read the passage given below carefully:

12

1. Cricket in South Asia is a carnivalesque, festive game. It carries not merely the baggage of competition and achievement, but is also a participatory cultural event that invokes images of religious festivals, convivial social gatherings, picnics and theatre. It is now gradually becoming a substitute for war, a means of redeeming self-esteem and expressing xenophobia, and a depot of weird conspiracy theories. No country now loses a game because the other side is better; a country loses only because its cricketers and cricket-administrators are under patriotic, corrupt, greedy or self-centered.

2. Unfortunately for ultra-nationalists and fortunately for the rest, cricket is one game in which the best training, organisation and preparation do not yield corresponding results. It is a subversive game that rebels against the productivity principle on which is built the world of globalized capitalism. Luck plays a major role in the final outcome of a match or series. In this respect, cricket is unlike football, tennis or chess. The grandeur of cricket and the clichéd reference to its glorious uncertainties come from a cultivated ignorance of this inner contradiction in the game. Cricketers and their fans, to say nothing of the experts, have to learn to live with the unpredictability without getting overly judgmental or paranoiac. All games have some built-in uncertainties; only cricket has turned the gracious acceptance of this into a measure of character.

3. Let us not forget that in cricket the 22 players involved are never on the field at the same time. Consequently, one team may play in full sunshine, while the other may have to play under an overcast sky when the ball begins to swing. One team may bat on a green top, the other on a wearing pitch. You can never truly equalize the outer conditions for the two teams. So a cricketer

not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate. That is one reason why it is a typically Indian or, if you prefer, South Asian game.

4. This is a cultural region that recognizes the role of destiny in human affairs. All cricketers are superstitious because of the nature of their job. Only South Asians are not embarrassed about it and have unashamedly built ritualized ways of dealing with destiny as a normal part of a cricketer's life. If you want a game where the investment of money, hard training and ruthless professionalism will pay predictable results, and the results will be a pure reflection of skill and talent, you should choose another game.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the questions by choosing the best option: 4

a) 'Cricket in South Asia is a carnivalesque, festive game' means: 1

- (i) that cricket is seasonal like festivals.
- (ii) that a cricket match is a cultural event like a festival or a carnival.
- (iii) that cricket is not a game but a carnival, a festival.
- (iv) that cricket merely facilitates social gatherings and picnics.

b) Cricket is becoming a substitute for war as: 1

- (i) countries slake their image and self-esteem on the outcome of the game.
- (ii) political interests have invaded the game.
- (iii) cricket teams receive massive international funding.
- (iv) cricketers are considered more patriotic.

c) 'It (cricket) rebels against the productivity principle' means that: 1

- (i) the principles or cricket are rebellious and unproductive.
- (ii) training and preparation do not necessarily bring success.
- (iii) cricket is played by rebels.
- (iv) luck is not an important aspect.

d) According to the author who should not choose cricket: 1

- (i) the one who cannot invest a lot of money in the game.
- (ii) the one who believes in role of destiny.
- (iii) one who looks for result based on merit.
- (iv) one who is a ruthless professional.

- 1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: 6**
- a) How can you say that cricketers are superstitious? 1
- b) In what way is cricket unlike football or tennis? 1
- c) ‘A cricketer not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate.’ Explain with an example from the passage. 1
- d) Why does the author describe cricket as a typical South Asian game? 1
- e) What factors in a game bring about predictable results? 1
- f) How many players are there in one cricket team? 1
- 1.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following: 2**
- a) Friendly or lively atmosphere (para 1)
- b) To overthrow or cause downfall (para 2)
- 2. Read the passage given below carefully: 10**

1. EdX, a system of education being introduced in India for the first time is altering education. The system provides a world school that is not stuck in time. It offers students who enroll access to a blue-chip faculty. The system offers an open online course to students, giving them direct access to teaching from blue-chip global universities. Also, EdX course credits are now being recognized by universities, reflecting its acceptability at traditional campuses. The course creates a new kind of university that is unparalleled. It is a university without borders that blends on-line learning with on-campus experience and gets the best of both.

2. The education layout has a number of programmes where one can take courses on EdX and get credits from an American university. Today, a student can take full first year of university education and if he/she passes the virtually proctored exam on EdX one can get credits with Arizona State University. So a student could be in High School and complete one year of college on EdX and then go to the US and transfer one year of credit wherever the student may go for further studies. Thus students taking the EdX system can save one year of stay and study in the United States.

3. Founded by Harvard and MIT in 2012, this online destination for learning is the provider for massive open online courses (Moocs). It offers courses from the world’s finest universities and almost six lakh students hold EdX certificates. The biggest areas of focus in these courses are job focused and English language courses. The popularity of these courses stems from the fact that in this fast growing economy there is a huge skills gap.

4. On closer examination of the outreach of Moocs, it is established that the system has not been able to reach the lower strata of people, particularly the people with no degrees. Looking into the matter it has been found that these people are not taking the courses offered because the Moocs courses are of an advanced level. Thus in correctional mood, Moocs has now included courses that are of a high school level and these courses have now brought about an increase in students in the age group of 13-18.

5. To provide a wide spectrum of choices, EdX courses have been categorized into four steps. As a first step, the system moved from courses to complete programmes and branded certificate programmes. In the second stage the system moved to credible micro credentials called micro masters. The third system is for cheating prevention by launching virtual proctoring. And finally there are programmes for collaboration and social learning. Not satisfied with streamlining their system, Moocs has moved a step further by making teams so that students can collaborate online.

6. The road ahead for EdX system for education is one of completely re-imagining education. While today, students go to a university or to some online courses, in the future these students will go back and forth between campus and online education. This method of learning is being called the porous university. A student pieces together a degree by taking the best from various places and getting some campus experience as well.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the questions by choosing the best option. 2

- a) The EdX system of education 1
- (i) is being offered in India for the first time
 - (ii) has been offered at select places
 - (iii) is popular in south India
 - (iv) will take students to Harvard

- b) Examinations at EdX are: 1
- (i) state managed
 - (ii) Harvard control
 - (iii) at the school level
 - (iv) virtually proctored

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly. 6

- a) What does the EdX system of education offer its students? 1
- b) Why is this education termed ‘the best of both’? 1
- c) What is the advantage of passing the virtually proctored examination in the system? 1
- d) What is the special advantage in it for high school students? 1

- e) What are the corrections made in the Moocs system? 1
- f) What does the concept of a porous university imply? 1

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: 2

- a) all teachers in school or college (para1)
- b) joint venture (para5)

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

It is surprising that sometimes we don't listen to what people say to us. We hear them, but we don't listen to them. I was curious to know how hearing is different from listening. I had thought both were synonyms, but gradually, I realized there is a big difference between the two words. Hearing is a physical phenomenon. Whenever somebody speaks, the sound waves generated reach you, and you definitely hear whatever is said to you. However, even if you hear something, it doesn't always mean that you actually understand whatever is being said. Paying attention to whatever you hear means you are really listening. Consciously using your mind to understand whatever is being said is listening.

Diving deeper, I found that listening is not only hearing with attention, but is much more than that. Listening is hearing with full attention, and applying our mind. Most of the time, we listen to someone, but our minds are full of needless chatter and there doesn't seem to be enough space to accommodate what is being spoken.

We come with a lot of prejudices and preconceived notions about the speaker or the subject on which he is talking. We pretend to listen to the speaker, but deep inside, we sit in judgement and are dying to pronounce right or wrong, true or false, yes or no. Sometimes, we even come prepared with a negative mindset of proving the speaker wrong. Even if the speaker says nothing harmful, we are ready to pounce on him with our own version of things.

What we should ideally do is listen first with full awareness. Once, we have done that, we can decide whether we want to make a judgement or not. Once we do that, communication will be perfect and our interpersonal relationship will become so much better. Listening well doesn't mean one has to say the right thing at the right moment. In fact, sometimes if words are left unspoken, there is a feeling of tension and negativity. Therefore, it is better to speak out your mind, but do so with awareness after listening to the speaker with full concentration.

Let's look at this in another way. When you really listen, you imbibe not only what is being spoken, but you also understand what is not spoken as well. Most of the time we don't really listen even to people who really matter to us. That's how misunderstandings grow among families, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters.

- a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary — minimum four). 5
- b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

4. You are Vikram/Sonia, an Electronics Engineer who has recently returned from the U.S. and looking for a suitable job in the IT industry. Draft an advertisement in about 50 words for the Situations Wanted column of a national newspaper. **4**

OR

The Literary Club of your school is putting up a play 'Waiting for Godot'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation, inviting the famous writer Sudeesh Gupta to be the Chief Guest at the function. Write an invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/Garima.

5. The odd-even formula in Delhi has been a good initiative to control pollution in the city. Write a letter to the Editor of the Hindustan Times expressing your views and need for more of such efforts to bring down the pollution level. You are Vimal/Vidushi of 52, New Colony, Kailash Vihar, New Delhi. **6**

OR

You are Kumaran/Kavita, Vice President, Customer Care, Shopmart Online. You have received a letter of inquiry from a dissatisfied customer seeking information about your company's exchange policy. Write a letter of reply in about 120-150 words to the customer giving information about the same.

6. National Book Trust organized a week-long book fair at Anna Grounds, Chennai. You visited the fair and bought a few books. You were pleased to see the enthusiasm of the visitors and the fact that books have not yet lost their relevance in the world of the Internet. Write an article in 150 – 200 words, expressing your views and highlighting the importance of such events. You are Lalit/Latha. **10**

OR

With a view to create awareness regarding health, St. Anne's school organized 'Health Mela' in the school premises. Various charts, models and fitness equipments were displayed. Lectures, debates, discussions, plays were organized. A workshop on low calorie cooking was also organized. Write a report in 150-200 words on the 'Health Mela' for the school magazine. You are Neha/Nikhil, Secretary of the Health Club of school.

7. To commemorate the 160th year of the mutiny of 1857 your school is organizing a special programme. You are Suresh/Saina, Head Girl of Heritage School. Prepare a speech to be delivered on the occasion using the input given below. **10**

Freedom struggle - sacrifice - maintaining and strengthening democracy - responsibility - challenges - new vision - responsibility of nation building.

OR

Write a debate in 150-200 words, against the topic, 'Tradition is a waste for the youth'. You are Sushil/Sushila.

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

Far far from gusty waves these children's faces
like rootless weeds, the hair torn around their pallor:
The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper-
seeming boy, with rat's eyes.

- a) How is the tall girl affected by her poverty? 1
- b) Explain 'like rootless weeds'. Identify the literary device. 1
- c) Why is the comparison drawn with rat's eyes? 1
- d) What does the expression 'Far far from gusty waves signify'? 1

OR

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.

- a) How is a thing of beauty a joy forever? 1
- b) What do you understand by 'bower'? 1
- c) According to Keats, what treasure does a beautiful thing store for us? 1
- d) What does 'quiet breathing' imply? 1

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: 12

- a) How was Gandhiji able to influence the lawyers? Give instances. 3
- b) Why does Aunt Jennifer create animals that are so different from her own character? Why does the poet show this difference? 3
- c) Give a brief character sketch of Evans? 3
- d) In what context does Hana remember General Takima? What does she infer? 3
- e) How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack? 3
- f) 'Seemapuri is on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it metaphorically.' What does the author mean by this? 3

10 Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words:

6

“All we have to fear is fear itself”. William Douglas had developed a phobia of water and he realized that fears are very difficult to overcome, unless they are tackled. Keeping this in mind, write an article on the topic ‘Conquering Fear is the beginning of Wisdom’.

OR

The story ‘Rattrap’ describes the effect of generosity and kindness of the crofter and Edla Willmansson on the peddler. There are so many under privileged in our society who could be benefitted by little gifts that can be given by the people. The gifts can be anything from time, funds to contribute to, providing them with education, etc. Write an article in about 150 words, about the need to lend a helping hand to uplift the underprivileged of the society.

11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words:

6

Describe the precautions taken by the prison officers to prevent Evans from escaping.

OR

What problems did the Maharaja face in pursuit of his mission? How did he resolve them?

12 Within a few days of his arrival in Iping, people became suspicious of Griffin. Why?

6

13. After reading the novel, “The Invisible Man”, what opinion do you form of Dr. Kemp?

6

End of the Question Paper