



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
THIRD PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION  
ENGLISH**

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code:301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

06.02.2018

Max. Marks:100

**General Instructions:**

1. *This paper consists of three sections: 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. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.*
4. *Attempt all questions of a section without mixing them with another section.*

**SECTION A: (Reading)****30****1. Read the passage carefully:****12**

1. India has over 500,000 telecom towers at present, but the growth in the number of towers is just 3 percent annually, which compares poorly with the over 12 million subscribers added by industry every year. Telecom service providers say that a 'health scare' among the public is what prevents additional towers from coming up in large numbers. What is the truth in this?

2. A Bio-Initiative Report in 2012 pointed towards health hazards due to radiation from cell towers. The most common of these are sleep disorder, headache, irritability, concentration problem, memory loss, depression, hearing loss and joint problems. More severe problems include seizures, paralysis, miscarriage, irreversible infertility and cancer. Many countries have lower radiation norms, says Girish Kumar, a professor in the electrical engineering department of IIT-Bombay. For instance, Austria has a radiation limit of 1 milliwatt per square metre. In countries such as Russia, China, Italy and Poland, the allowed limit is 100 milliwatt per square metre. "If mobile coverage is possible in these countries, then there is no reason why we cannot have low radiation levels in our country," says Kumar.

3. There was a wave of protests in Mumbai over possible radiation effects of cell phone towers. The protests grew after film actor Juhi Chawla stepped in to first get towers right opposite her home in Mumbai's Malabar Hill removed, and subsequently mobilised support from the public and activists to launch a full-fledged awareness campaign against cell phone towers. She wanted telecom companies to lower radiation levels on towers near residential areas, put a cap on the number of antennae, and place towers at a distance from buildings. Meanwhile, reports on the ill-effects of radiation poured in. For instance, residents of the Sree Samarth building in Dadar's Parsi colony claimed that they saw six cases of cancer in the building in a period of just three years, allegedly caused by radiation from telecom towers in the area.

4. The link between the towers and cancer was not proved in any of the cases, but they set panic bells ringing in government circles. In 2014, the Department of Telecommunications undertook a study on radiation levels through its Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) wing in Mumbai. It addressed the public's grievances and reassured them that operators are indeed adhering to the prescribed norms on radiation. Union Telecom Minister Ravi Prasad also told INDIA TODAY that there are no conclusive studies to prove that radiation from these towers is a health hazard.

5. The American Cancer Society, a non-profit organisation, says that radiation levels from cell phone towers are low since the towers are mounted high above ground level and signals are transmitted intermittently. Unless someone is exposed directly in front of the antennae, the radiation impact would be limited, the society says.

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

- a. The growth in the number of towers in India is
  - (i) 2 percent annually
  - (ii) 3 percent annually
  - (iii) 4 percent annually
  - (iv) 5 percent annually
  
- b. The most common health hazards due to radiation are
  - (i) sleep disorder, headache
  - (ii) memory loss, depressions
  - (iii) hearing loss, joint problems
  - (iv) All of the above
  
- c. Department of Telecommunications conducted a study on radiation level through its
  - (i) Telecom Monitoring Resource Wing
  - (ii) Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring
  - (iii) Telecom Radiation Enforcement Wing
  - (iv) Telecom Radiation Vigilance Department
  
- d. Which cancer society says that radiation levels from cell phone are low-
  - (i) Indian Cancer Society
  - (ii) Russian Cancer Society
  - (iii) American Cancer Society
  - (iv) African Cancer Society

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly. 6**

- a. How many telecom towers are present in India and what is the growth rate annually?
- b. Name any three common and two severe health diseases due to radiation.
- c. What is the allowed limit of radiation in Austria, Russia, Italy and Poland?
- d. What was the ill-effects of radiation faced by the residents of Dadar's Parsi colony?

- e. Which department of telecommunication undertook a study on radiation?
- f. Which film actress protested over radiation effects of cell phone towers?

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

2

- a. emission (para 2)
- b. complaint (para 4)

2. **Read the given poem carefully.**

10

**A LUCKY THING**

1. High up in a hawthorn tree  
A robin perched, where he could see  
Into a coop of wire and wood.  
Inside the coop a farmer stood  
Flinging grain upon the ground.  
Twelve fat chickens gathered round.
  
2. The robin, singing, cocked his head  
And watched the chickens being fed.  
He saw it was a lucky thing  
To be a chicken: Farmers bring  
You golden grain, scoop after scoop,  
If you're a chicken in a coop-  
A lovely coop with nesting boxes  
Safe from cats and crows and foxes.
  
3. The chickens in the coop could see  
The bird. They heard his melody  
And clucked it was a lucky thing  
To be a robin who could sing  
A song upon a hawthorn tree.  
They watched him through the woven wire.  
They saw him fly up high, and higher.  
Twelve fat chickens  
Scratched the floor.  
The farmer closed  
And latched the door.

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

a) **The robin feels ..... the chickens because they are safe from predators and do not have to look for their food.**

- (i) happy about
- (ii) sorry for
- (iii) envious of
- (iv) None of these

b) **Identify the rhyme scheme of the lines 1-6.**

- (i) abcd
- (ii) aabbcc
- (iii) abbcc
- (iv) adccd

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

- a) What does the poet convey through this poem? **1**
- b) What is the chickens' attitude towards the robin? **1**
- c) Why did the farmer close and latch the door after feeding the chickens? **1**
- d) From what three predators are the chickens safe? **1**
- e) Which other relationship mentioned in the poem is most similar to the relationship between the coop and the chicken? **1**
- f) Identify any one example of alliteration from the poem. **1**

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

- a. enclosure (stanza 1)
- b. a low short sound (stanza 3)

**3. Read the passage carefully.** **8**

1. The trail of smoke in most cases inevitably leads to school. And college days-those adolescent times when mere lighting up gave them the thrill of indulging in the prohibited. And yes, they weren't mama's boy (or girls) anymore; they were macho and grown up beyond listening to nannies. Or so they thought, till they got addicted.

2. There is a clear link between the youth and tobacco addiction. Statistics reveal that many children are initiated into the habit of smoking at the tender age of 10 years, according to Dr. Srinath Reddy, a researcher-activist. That's why it makes sense to stop them young, when they are vulnerable to peer pressure. Smoking, which often starts as an experiment in the company of friends often transforms into addiction.

3. According to the Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act 1997 nobody is allowed to store, sell or distribute cigarettes, beedies or any other tobacco product within an area of 100 mts around colleges, schools and other educational institutions. The Indian Parliament passed another comprehensive legislation, the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, a few years ago

banning the sale of tobacco products to minors.

4. Has that made any difference? You have to go to north campus to see if any law is followed. Many students even argue that it is a matter of personal choice. “Once in college, a student is old enough to take decisions. It is clearly mentioned on cigarette packs that ‘smoking is injurious to health’ and after that if someone smokes, it is completely the individual’s choice,” says Manu Singh, a student at JNU. Sad reality is that nothing has been able to stop students from smoking in schools and colleges. It is fashion.

5. The law enforcement agencies take refuge behind pleas like they have large areas to cover with a small term. Their strength, they say, is not adequate to enforce laws. “Sometimes people pay the fine (Rs 200), which is hardly a big amount. In universities and colleges, raids are not possible. With just one person from the police, it becomes impossible to control them,” said Dr. M.D. Thapa, Chief District Medical Officer, Northwest district.

6. Advocate Ashok Agarwal does not buy the argument. According to him, there is a clear lack of interest on the part of the lawmakers. “The police and the administration have their own priorities hence they have little time to look into these sensitive issues. The situation in this case is that of accepted and agreed violation where just nobody is bothered,” he says.

7. The one answer the experts agree on is; the government. “There is no effort to implement the laws,” complains advocate Ashok Agarwal. When society does not care, the government becomes duty-bound to make them care. “There is a direct link between the youth and tobacco addiction. They are the key targets for the MNCs,” says Bijon Mishra, a social activist involved with the NGO, Voice. While society and its institution ignore those mischievous puffs in school canteens, the biggest beneficiaries are the tobacco companies.

- 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. You have received an invitation to attend the prize giving ceremony on the occasion of the Regional Social Science Exhibition. Respond to the invitation, informing the secretary of 'The World View' (the organiser of the exhibition), about your inability to attend the programme in about 50 words. **4**

**OR**

Design a poster giving necessary details about a ‘Non-Stick Cookware Exhibition’ in your city. Draft a poster for the same in about 50 words.

5. You are Keerti/Krishna of 56, Indrapuram, Bangalore. You bought a new “VIP” Washing Machine from M/s Rama Electronics, Commercial Street, Bangalore last week. Now you find that the machine makes an unbearable noise and motor tears delicate fabrics. Write a letter to the dealer (in 120 to 150 words) complaining about the same and requesting him to change the machine as early as possible. **6**

**OR**

You are Taneen/Vinaya Shah. Write a letter (in 120-150 words) to apply for the post of Sales Executive at Reliance Industries, Ahmedabad. Prepare a bio-data with all the necessary details.

6. Write an article in 150-200 words for your school magazine on the topic, 'Obesity among School Children'. You are Mohini/Mohit. **10**

**OR**

You are Anurag/Anjali, a reporter with a national daily. You have heard that a multi-storey building near the main railway station has collapsed causing panic in the area. You rush to the site of the accident along with your team. Write a report in 150 – 200 words mentioning the time and place of the accident, number of casualties, the cause of the accident and the rescue operation conducted by the authorities.

7. Hockey is the national game of India. Today it is in name only. Write a speech to be given in the morning assembly in 150-200 words asking the students to play hockey. It is inexpensive, more healthy, a short duration and a team game. You are Ajit/Rupa. **10**

**OR**

“Boarding schools are better than day schools for the all-round education of a child” is the topic of the Inter House Debate to be conducted at your school. Draft a debate in 150-200 words expressing your views for the motion.

**SECTION C: (Literature: Text Books and Long Reading Text)**

**40**

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

**4**

“Such the sun, the moon,  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
‘gainst the hot season.”

- What proves a blessing for the sheep?
- Where do daffodils bloom?
- What prove to be pleasant shelters in summer?
- Name the objects of beauty referred to here.

**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.”

- What does the expression ‘Aunt Jennifer’s tigers’ imply?
- What does prancing tigers symbolize?
- Why are they referred to as ‘denizens of a world of green’?
- What qualities of the ‘tigers’ are highlighted here.

9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 12
- a. How was Gandhiji able to influence the lawyers?
  - b. What were the contents of the small suitcase that McLeery carried?
  - c. How did Douglas overcome his fear of water?
  - d. How will counting up to twelve and keeping still help us?
  - e. How did the writer indicate that Dr Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man?
  - f. How did Roger Skunk pay the wizard?

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

The story 'The Rattrap' focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Comment.

**OR**

Day-dreaming and escapism lead a person to create a different world of illusions that is far removed from the harsh realities of life. How did Sophie, an incurable dreamer, create such a world and with what results?

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

What were the precautions taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination for Evans?

**OR**

It took almost an hour for Bama to reach back home from school. Why?

12. What kind of unexpected problems did Griffin encounter after reaching Drury Lane? Why did he expect a solution to his problems in the costume shop? 6
13. What was Dr Kemp's state of mind after he left Griffin all by himself in the bedroom? 6

**End of the Question Paper**