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Code Number: 301/3



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
THIRD PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH

CLASS: XII
06.02.2018

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

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: 2

- a) Friendly or lively atmosphere (para 1)
- b) To overthrow or cause downfall (para 2)

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'e 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. **1**

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

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

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

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly. 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 : 2

a) (i) enclosure (stanza 1)

b) (ii) a low short sound (stanza 3)

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**

SECTION-B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) **30**

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

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.

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 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. 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

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

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?
b) Explain ‘like rootless weeds’. Identify the literary device.
c) Why is the comparison drawn with rat’s eyes?
d) What does the expression ‘Far far from gusty waves signify’?

1
1
1
1

OR

“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.”

- a) What proves a blessing for the sheep? 1
- b) Where do daffodils bloom? 1
- c) What prove to be pleasant shelters in summer? 1
- d) Name the objects of beauty referred to here. 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? 3
- c) Give a brief character sketch of Evans? 3
- d) How did the writer indicate that Dr Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man? 3
- e) 'Seemapuri is on the periphery of Delhi yet miles away from it metaphorically.' What does the author mean by this? 3
- f) How did Roger Skunk pay the wizard? 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 'The Rattrap' focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Comment.
- 11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words: 6**
- What were the precautions taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination for Evans?
- OR
- What problems did the Maharaja face in pursuit of his mission? How did he resolve them?
- 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. After reading the novel, "The Invisible Man", what opinion do you form of Dr. Kemp? 6**

End of the Question Paper