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Code Number



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
SUBJECT : ENGLISH

CLASS: X
30.11.2017

Sub. Code: 101

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs
Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper consists of 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 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 (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

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- 1 The composer came of a musical family; for his grandfather was Kapeilmeister, and his father, a tenor singer, filled a small musical post at Cologne. He was born at Bonn in December 1770. His father had become a confirmed toper, and the boy suffered in consequence. The father had heard of the prodigy Mozart, and the money he had brought his parents; and he conceived the notion of exploiting his own son in the same way. Thus he kept him slaving at the piano, and thrashed him when he did not practice long enough. There are stories of the sot coming home late and dragging the little fellow out of bed to go to the keyboard. This degraded specimen ended his life by his own hand, but not before his conduct had cast a gloom over his son's youth which greatly affected his after years.
- 2 Beethoven seems to have had no regular course of instruction in Bonn, but when he was seventeen he went to Vienna and had some lessons from Mozart. Later on, he had lessons from Haydn; but the two did not get on well together, their natures being totally different. Beethoven finally left Bonn when he was twenty-two, and settled in Vienna, where he gradually made a name for himself. He began to appear in public as a player and in 1796 played before the King in Berlin; but he soon gave up playing for composing.
- 3 His first works were roundly abused by the critics—even some that we now regard as among his greatest creations. Weber said of the Seventh Symphony that its composer was “quite ripe for the madhouse”. Then, when deafness came upon him—the tragedy of his life—the sapient fellows found that the “horrors of sound” in his works were due to the fact that he could not hear them himself. When “Fidelio” was first performed, it was said that never before had anything so incoherent, coarse, wild, and ear-splitting been heard! Of course, the deafness had nothing to do with it. Beethoven, like all really great composers, was simply before his time.

- 4 But the deafness had a great deal to do with Beethoven himself. It turned him into a wretched misanthrope, and well-nigh caused him to end his life. In the theatre he had to lay his ears close to the orchestra in order to understand the actors, and the higher notes of the instruments and voices he could not hear when only a little distance away. We need not dwell on it. From the time of his deafness onwards, he was constantly adding to the world's stores of the best in music. When he realized that his end was near, he said to those around him: "Clap hands, friends; the play is over." And so, on the 26th of March, 1827, this great master of tone went out to the darkness of the Silent Land.

Attempt any eight of the following questions on the basis of the passage you have read.(1x8=8)

- a) Why did Beethoven's father mistreat him?
- b) How did he suffer at the hands of his own father? Give an example?
- c) How did Beethoven make a name for himself?
- d) What was the response to "Fidelio"?
- e) Why was Beethoven not accepted by the critics in his time?
- f) What effect did Beethoven's deafness have on him?
- g) What inconveniences did he face due to his deafness?
- h) Find word from para 3 which means the same as 'rough'.
- i) Beethoven later preferred composing to _____ .

2. Read the following passage carefully.

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- 1 It is simple when we buy a product, we check its manufacturing or expiry date. But we rarely check the ingredients. For example most shampoos and soaps contain the chemical sodium lauryl sulfate(SLS) which is carcinogenic, most toothpastes have very high sugar content, deodorants contain aerosols which deplete the ozone layer and harm the skin, and washing soaps clog drains and do not degrade easily. In short, almost all 'washing and cleaning' agents, including toothpastes, contain surfactants (like SLES or SLS) and other harmful chemicals that contribute to carbon emissions during their manufacture.
- 2 So, using a herbal hair wash powder or a shampoo that has no SLS will keep your hair healthier. Substitute ayurvedic tooth powders for toothpastes. If you are inclined, you can make your own washing soap at home for use in a washing machine, which is far more eco-friendly than the ready-made detergents (recipes are available on the Net). And always remember, if you are eating something that your grandmother or mother cannot make at home, then you are inviting trouble. Each time you buy and eat fast food, plastic packets are being used without being recycled.

- 3 Similarly, there is an indiscriminate use of electronics products: each member of the family has his own laptop, music player mobile phone and sometimes, even separate TV set. True, it has become a necessity today to possess these gadgets, but there is a way of using them effectively. Turn off appliances when they are not in use. If you are downloading a movie, do it when you are awake and can switch off the computer and the Internet once it is done. This will not only save power, but will also make your appliances work efficiently.
- 4 Mobile phones take up much more battery power when they are in vibration mode than when the ringtone is on. Keep brightness to a minimum, and switch off your Bluetooth at times when you are not sharing files. After charging the phone, switch off the charger. Over-charging means wastage of electricity and it also impairs the life of appliances be it iPods, mobile phones or laptops.

2.1 **On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each : (2x4=8)**

- i) What do products such as soaps, shampoos and tooth paste contain that is harmful for humans?
- ii) Why are herbal products considered better?
- iii) Why does the writer recommend home made products?
- iv) How can we ensure efficient use of electronic products?
- v) How can we ensure that our mobile lasts for long time?

2.2 **On the basis of your reading of the passage, fill in any two of the following blanks with appropriate words/phrases. (1x2=2)**

- i) Byers normally do not check _____.
- ii) An example of thoughtless use of electronic gadgets is _____
- iii) Buying fast food in plastic is harmful because _____.

2.3 **Attempt any two of the following. Find out the words from the passage that mean the same as under: 2**

- i) destroy (*para 1*)
- ii) motivated (*para 2*)
- iii) spoils (*para 4*)

SECTION B– WRITING AND GRAMMAR (30 marks)

3. One or two dustbins provided to your colony are not sufficient for the needs of its residents. They always remain filled to the brim. Most of the garbage therefore, remains scattered on the main road emitting unbearable foul smell and creating highly insanitary conditions. Write a letter in 120-150 words, to the Editor, Times of India, Delhi inviting the attention of the concerned civic authorities towards the problem. You are Mudit/ Mudita of 79, Pandav Nagar, Delhi. **8**

OR

You are Rohit/Reena, a student who has completed Class X from a small town in Andhra Pradesh, where not many educational coaching facilities are available. Your friend has referred you an advertisement about a coaching centre for IIT JEE. Write a letter in 120-150 words, to the Director of Bright Coaching Centre asking for duration of the coaching, fees structure and other relevant information.

4. **Write a short story, in about 200-250 words, with any one set of the cues given below. Give a suitable title to the story. 10**

One day I was going to market with my friend. When I was near the market, I saw a woman coming out of an ATM. She had withdrawn some money. I noticed that two young boys were following her.....

OR

There was a lot of hustle and bustle among the students of Class X. After all they were going for a camp. Camping seems so much fun.....

5. **Fill in any four of the following blanks choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below. Write the answers in your answer –sheet against the correct blank numbers. 4**

Entry of air (a)..... the house is ventilation. Air may enter the house (b) many ways: natural ventilation (c) we open doors or windows or by infiltration through the cracks in the walls, floors or ceilings or (d)..... exhaust fans and air conditioners. But if the air is not clean it can cause health problems. One may forget that indoor air pollutants (e)..... be very dangerous too.

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|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| (a) i) in | ii) into | iii) from | iv) towards |
| (b) i) from | ii) in | iii) as | iv) through |
| (c) i) for | ii) where | iii) when | iv) because |
| (d) i) with | ii) through | iii) in | iv) of |
| (e) i) could | ii) are | iii) will | iv) can |

6. In the following passage one word has been omitted in each line .Write the missing word, in any four lines of the given paragraph, along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in the space provided . 4

Human speech is very complicated process, eg. isavery
which no animal perform. One reason is (a)
that in very special way we use a whole (b)
series organs to produce the sounds (c)
we want to make when we utter words.
The way vocal cords are made to vibrate (d)
is something animals do. (e)

7. Read the conversation given below and fill in any four of the following blanks . 4

Mr. Goel : Have you booked the rooms in the Hotel for our holiday?

MrsGoel: Yes I have. I asked them to book a double room on the tenth floor.

MrGoel: Why did you ask for a room on the tenth floor?

Mrs. Goel: The view from there is really great.

Mr. Goel: Have you forgotten I am afraid of lifts?

MrGoel inquired from his wife (a)_____ the rooms in the Hotel for their holiday.She replied that she had and added that she (b) _____ them to book a double room on the tenth floor. Mr. Goel then wanted to know (c) _____ them to book the room on the tenth floor, to which Mrs. Goel replied (d) _____. At that Mr. Goel wanted to know (e) _____ that he was afraid of lifts.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (30 marks)

8. Read one of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. 4

What can be avoided
Whose end is purposed by the mighty Gods?
Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions
Are to the world in general as to Caesar.

- a) Who speaks these lines to whom and when?
- b) How does the speaker react to the listener's fears?
- c) Give an example of the predictions.
- d) What opinion do you form of the speaker?

OR

'And I thought of the albatross,
And I wished he would come back, my snake
For he seemed to me again like a king,
Now due to be crowned again.
And so I missed my chance with one of the lords of life
I have something to expiate.
A pettiness!'

4

- a) Why does the poet refer to the albatross ?
- b) What did the poet wish? Why?
- c) Why is the snake described as a king?
- d) What has the poet to make amends for ?

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

(2x4=8)

- a) Why does the crew hang the albatross around the Mariner's neck?
- b) What will outlive all the monuments and memorials and how?
- c) What was Michael's theory about how Sebastian had entered the games?
- d) Why did Helen trouble the narrator of 'A Shady Plot'?
- e) How did Decius interpret Calpurnia's dream?

10. Answer ONE of the following questions in about 120 – 150 words.

8

Many years have elapsed. Mr. Abel Merryweather is no more. Mrs. Slater is old and she realizes how greedily she had behaved with her father. She is grief-stricken and regrets her actions. She unburdens herself in a diary-entry. Compose this on her behalf.

OR

‘A faint memory was stirred up in PatolBabu’s mind. Some priceless words of advice given in a deep mellow voice.’ Write a diary entry expressing how the advice of our elders and teachers always come to our rescue as they have wisdom and experience of life.

- 11. Answer the following question based on prescribed novel text for extended reading in about 200-250 words. 10**

The Story of My Life

How did Helen respond to the entire controversy? What did it help her realize? Do you think she was guilty of plagiarism as charged?

OR

Describe Alexander Graham Bell as he appears in Helen’s life?

The Diary of a Young Girl

What are Anne’s views about the Laws that restrict the Jews’ freedom?

OR

Write the pen portrait of Mr. Van Dann.
