



**COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2022 - 2023)**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)**  
**CLASS XII- SESSION 2022-23**



**TIME Allowed: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Fifteen minutes of reading time is allotted prior to the writing time.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections: READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS**

**20**

**I Read the passage given below.**

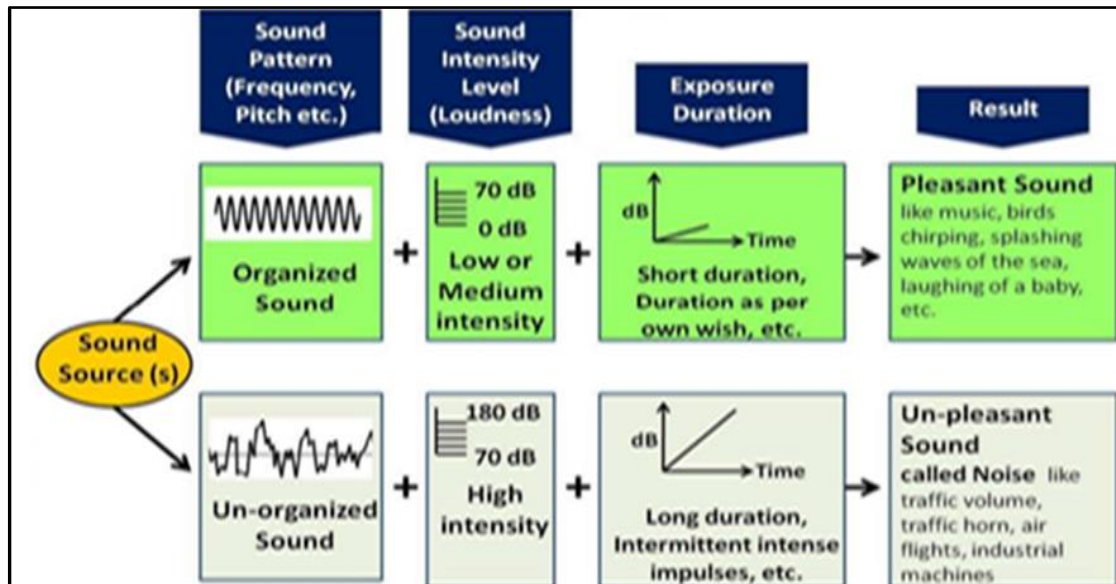
**10**

1. Among the natural resources which can be called upon in national plans for development, possibly the most important is human labour. Since the English language suffers from a certain weakness in its ability to describe groups composed of both male and female members, this is usually described as "manpower". Without a productive labour force, including effective leadership and intelligent middle management, no amount of foreign assistance or of natural wealth can ensure successful development and modernization.
2. The manpower for development during the next quarter century will come from the world's present population of infants, children and adolescents. Will they have the health, the education, the skills, the socio-cultural attitudes essential for the responsibilities of development?
3. For far too many of them the answer is no. The reason is basic. A child's most critical years, with regard to physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development, are those before he reaches five years of age. During those critical formative years, he is cared for almost exclusively by his mother and in many parts of the world the mother may not have the capacity to raise a superior child because of her own poor health, her ignorance and her lack of status and recognition of social and legal rights, of economic parity of independence. One essential factor has been overlooked and ignored. The forgotten factor is the role of women. Development will be handicapped as long as women remain second class citizen, uneducated without any voice in family or community, decisions without legal or economic status and married when they are still practically children.
4. We can enhance development by improving 'women power'. Statistics show that the average family size increases in inverse ratio to the mother's years of education- is lowest among college graduates, highest among those with only primary school training, or no education. Malnutrition is most frequent in large families. The principle seems established that an educated mother has healthier and more intelligent children, and that is related to the fact that she has fewer children.
5. The educational level of women is significant also because it has a direct influence upon their chances of employment, and the number of employed women forces has a direct bearing on both the gross national product and disposable income of the individual family. Disposable income, influences food purchasing and therefore the nutritional status of the family. The fact that the additional income derives from the paid employment of women provides a logical incentive to restrict the family size.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: 1x10**

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.  
Among the natural resources which can be called upon in national plans for development.....
  - a. the most important is certainly human labour.
  - b. the most important is possibly human labour.
  - c. the least developed is certainly human labour.
  - d. the least developed is undoubtedly human labour
- ii. How is the average family size related to the education of the mother?
- iii. What are the unavoidable factors required for the responsibilities of development?
- iv. "...the number of employed women in a country's total labour force has a direct bearing on both the gross national product and disposable income of the individual family."  
In which of the following sentences does "bearing" has the same meaning as in this one?
  - a. He is a man of dignified bearing.
  - b. These new facts have some bearing on the case.
  - c. It was supported by a beam with 4 inches of bearing upon the wall.
  - d. Because of the gaps between the parts, that fluid also acts as a bearing and cooling fluid.
- v. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT:
  - a. Role of women in development cannot be ignored.
  - b. Poor health and ignorance of a mother have little significance in moulding a superior child.
  - c. Development will be handicapped as long as women remain second-class citizens.
  - d. Uneducated women usually do not have any voice in their family or community.
- vi. Based on your understanding of paragraphs three and four, state why the educational level of women is significant.
- vii. Manpower for development during the next quarter century will arise from.....
- viii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following:  
The writer asks a striking question in paragraph two in order to highlight.....
- ix. What can happen without a productive labour force, including effective leadership and intelligent middle management?
  - a. No productive work is possible and heavy loss will occur.
  - b. Entrepreneurs will incur heavy losses.
  - c. Economic development will not keep pace with national movements.
  - d. No amount of foreign assistance or of natural wealth can ensure successful development and modernization.
- x. Select the most suitable title for the passage above.
  - a. Empowerment of Women: An Asset for Development
  - b. Manpower in Society for Development
  - c. Economy Vs Manpower
  - d. Women: The Backbone of Society

1. The word 'noise' is originated from "nausea" implying – 'unpleasant Sound'. A sound becomes noise when it is unpleasant, unwanted, loud and has detrimental physiological and psychological effects on humans due to the intensity of sound, time of exposure, continuity of sound and its frequency. Noise is one of the environmental pollutions that affects the quality of life.



GRAPHIC 1

2. According to WHO at least 100 million people are affected by road noise in the European Union and at least 1.6 million years of healthy life are lost every year. It is affecting human behaviour, well-being, productivity and health. Sound becomes noise when the three elements- sound Pattern, sound Intensity and exposure duration are having values other than specified norms.
3. Urbanization, economic growth and motorized transport are some of the driving forces for environmental noise exposure and adverse health effects. The increasing ambient noise levels have resulted from sources like industrial activity, construction activity, fire crackers, loud speakers, public address systems, etc. These can be categorized as indoor and outdoor noise pollutants. The indoor noise pollutants are associated with human activities within the building, operation of building services and office equipment. Outdoor noise pollutants constitute the major sources of environmental noise such as noise from traffic, automobiles, industries like quarries and mining industries, rallies like political campaigns, and so on. Population and unawareness about harmful effects of noise pollution, are also some of the major contributors.
4. The role of noise as an environmental pollutant and its impact on health are being increasingly recognized. The effect of noise on any human being may be psychological or physiological. Environmental noise is a psycho-social stressor that affects subjective well-being and physical health. It may cause hypertension, hearing loss, sleep disruption, cognitive impairment in children, reduced productivity, absenteeism and accidents, cardiovascular disease, annoyance and frustration reactions, high blood pressure, anxiety and stress-related illness.
- 5.

<b>Table-1 : Typical sound levels encountered in daily life and industry</b>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sound Level dB(A)</i>	<i>Graphical scale of sound level in respects of transport oriented sound levels</i>
Desert	10	
Rustling Leaves	20	
Room in a quiet dwelling at midnight	32	
Soft whispers at 5 feet	34	
Men's clothing department of large store	53	
Window air conditioner	55	
Conversational Speech	60	
Household department of large store	62	
Busy restaurant	65	
Vacuum cleaner in private residence	69	
Ringling alarm clock at 2 feet	80	
Loudly reproduced orchestral music	82	
Prolonged exposure - hearing damage	85	
Lorry or motorbike close by	90	
Rock concert , loud disco	100	
Pneumatic Drill	110	
Jet aircraft take-off	130	
Gunshots, explosions	140	
<i>Source: Tam 2000</i>		<i>Source : World Bank, 1997</i>

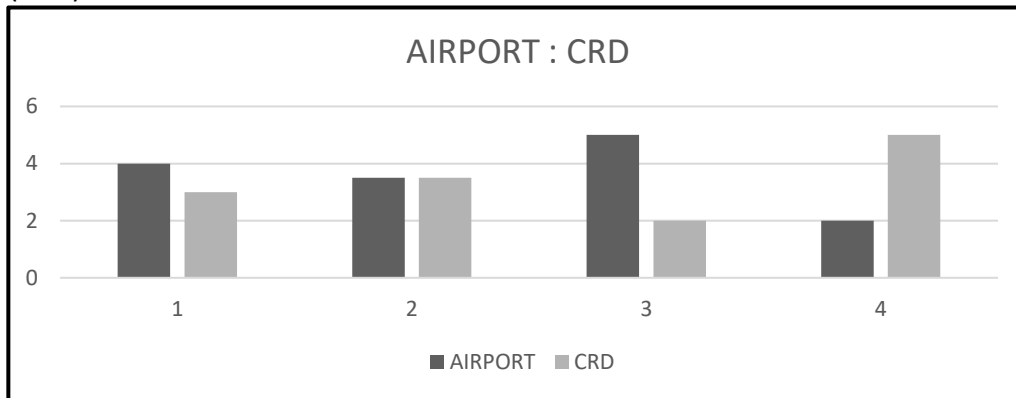
**GRAPHIC 2**

"Noise is undesired and disagreeable to the recipient due to 'adverse effects on health' like damage to hearing, disrupt sleep, hypertension, high blood pressure and other diseases and bad effects on his routine life like annoyance, discomfort, reduction in efficiency of work performance and disturbance to his normal activities." It disturbs and interferes with the activities of the individual, including concentration, communication, relaxation and sleep. It is considered necessary to regulate and control the noise-producing and generating sources with the objective of maintaining ambient air quality standards in respect of noise.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:** **1x10**

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 4?  
**According to the author, environmental noise is a psycho-social stressor, but it does not lead to heart diseases.**  
 Select from the following:  
**True** - if the statement agrees with the information  
**False** - if the statement contradicts the information  
**Not Given** - if there is no information on this
- ii. What do you think is the aim of the researcher of the study? Support your answer with reference to the text.
- iii. Complete the sentence based on the following statement.  
**The role of noise as an environmental pollutant and its impact on health are being increasingly recognized..... It is considered necessary to regulate and control the noise-producing and generating sources...**  
 The statement tells us that noise being an environmental pollutant, its sources must be .....for maintaining.....
- iv. Point out two sources of unpleasant sound as per GRAPHIC 2.

- v. Based on the graphical chart in the passage, choose the option that correctly states the noise level ratio of an airport with that of a countryside road by day (CRD).



- Option 1
  - Option 2
  - Option 3
  - Option 4
- vi. Pick the option/options from the list below that is NOT TRUE according to the passage:
- The unorganized sound pattern produces noise.
  - Intensity of pleasant sound must be between 0-90dB.
  - Sound becomes pleasant if the duration of sound is as per one's wish
  - Duration is not a factor that determines whether a sound is pleasant or unpleasant
- 1 & 3
  - 2 & 4
  - 3 & 4
  - 1 & 4
- vii. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option.  
***The passage clearly states that we should control and maintain noise..... duration to lead a healthy life.***
- contact
  - loudness
  - exposure
  - disclosure
- viii. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option.  
**Noise is undesired and disagreeable to the recipient because it .....**
- negatively affects health.
  - disrupts sleep.
  - cause hypertension.
  - both a & c
- ix. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/ two words.  
 In the context of the data given in Graphic 2, countryside and quiet roads are safer for health compared to ..... and .....
- x. Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement: ***In the modern world, with city life being the most preferable one for personal development and progress, it is absolutely not necessary to pay heed to noise pollution as it is unavoidable.***

*All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.*

**1 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below:**

5

- A. Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth) programme on the occasion of World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Ms. Radhika Subrahmanyam would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, the Cultural Society of your school, draft a **notice** in about **50 words**, informing the students about the same. You are Ritika/Rohan of SB School, Jaipur.

**OR**

- B. You are the Secretary of the Literary Association of your school. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving details of the proposed inauguration of the Literary Association of your school. You are Karan/Kavita of Jain Vidyashram, Cuddalore.

**2 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below:**

5

- A. Your sister Nivedita is going to marry Akhilesh (S/o Mr & Mrs SM. Joshi, Nainital) Your father Mr K.S. Bhardwaj has planned to hold the wedding at Hotel Kunal, New Delhi on 25 May 20XX at 8 p.m. Write a **formal invitation** on behalf of Mr & Mrs K. S. Bhardwaj inviting guests to the auspicious occasion. Give other details. Do not exceed **50 words**.

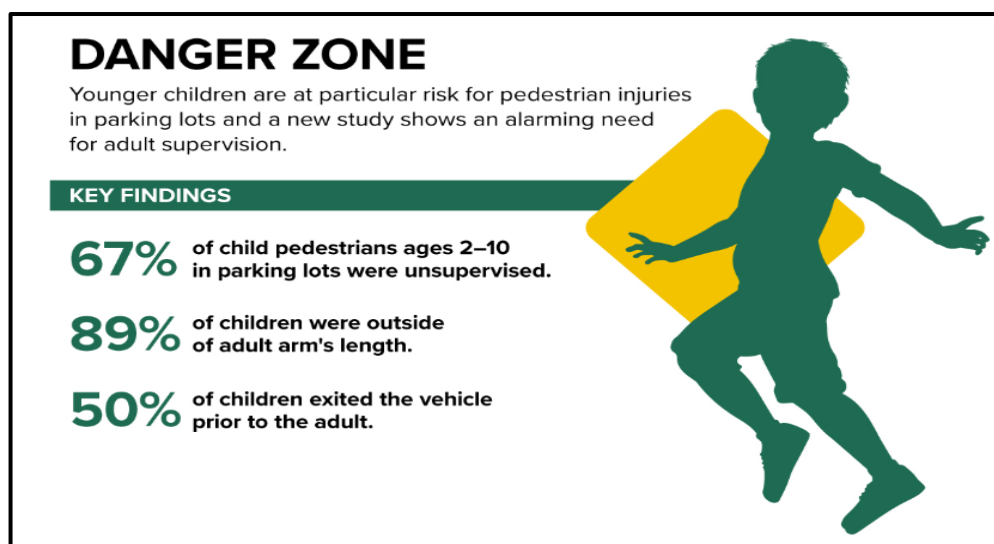
**OR**

- B. You are Dr. Anand Rathore. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Punjab who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'Child Care' on 25 January 2023 at 9 a.m. in Sanjeevani Hospital, Ambala. Draft a **reply accepting the invitation in 50 words**.

**3 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below:**

5

- A. A recent study shows that parking lots present high risk of injury, and even death in children due to lack of attention. Write a letter to the Editor, the Deccan Times, Bangalore about the safety of children at Parking places. Offer your suggestions. You are Anoop/Ritu, 24 Hennus Road, Bangalore. (120-150 words)



OR

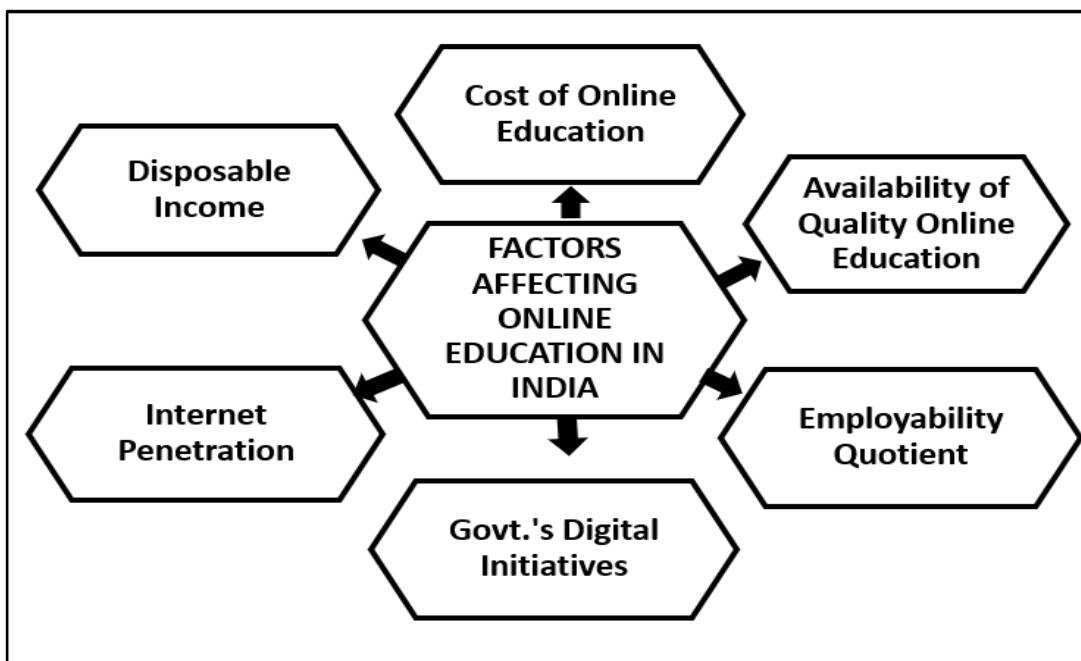
You are Bharat Sharma, B-120, Malviya Nagar, Delhi. Read the advertisement given below and write a job application to the Director. (120-150 words)

PRINCIPAL REQUIRED
Royal Public School Delhi is looking for a professionally qualified dedicated and experienced female/male PGT with strong academic, administrative & communication skills for the vacant position.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Qualification:</b> M Phil/MSc/MA/Med with First Division (Regular Studies Preferred)</li><li>○ <b>Experience :</b> Minimum 10 years of Academic &amp; Administrative</li><li>○ <b>Age :</b> 35 – 50 years</li></ul>
Eligible candidates send CV along with 2 passport-size photographs and complete testimonials to the following address by 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023. The interview date will be intimated later.
<b>20 Wing, Mayur Vihar, Delhi</b> <b>Ph. No. 01 26xxxx</b>

**4 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below.**

**5**

- A. Education is in crisis at the moment. The transition from teacher-class based teaching to digital-education will need multi-pronged efforts over time. For parents, students, teachers and institutions, investment and infrastructure are needed. Collect your thoughts on it and write an article on 'Is Digital India prepared for Digital Education' in 120-150 words.





OR

- B. As part of an Entrepreneurship project the commerce students of your school recently launched a product called Oatlicious. They not only set up a company to produce the product but also designed its advertising and marketing strategy. Write a report in about 150-200 words for your school magazine giving details of the enterprise and its launch. You are Anmol/Anjali of Graham Public School, Indore. Use the following Clues:

- ✓ **Company, Rules & Regulations**
- ✓ **Conducted Market Research**
- ✓ **Guaranteeing product innovation**
- ✓ **Catchy name for product**
- ✓ **Suitable price - right for everyone**
- ✓ **Utilize a "Try It Before You Buy It" strategy**
- ✓ **Marketing & Advertising Plan**
  - **Create brand awareness & influence consumer preferences**
  - **Establish and maintain brand recognition**
  - **Perceived value & long-term goals**
  - **Correct distribution channels & grab more market share**

**SECTION C: LITERATURE**

**40**

**IV Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.**

**1 Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.**

**1X6=6**

A. *'Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.'*

- i. What is the condition of Aunt Jennifer in the above lines?
1. subjugated
  2. independent
  3. gratified
  4. burdened

Choose the most appropriate option.

- a. only 2
  - b. 2 & 4
  - c. 1 & 3
  - d. 1 & 4
- ii. Identify the phrase from the stanza, that suggests the following:  
Aunt Jennifer was yoked by marital responsibilities.
- iii. What qualities of uncle can be inferred through these lines?
- a. cunning and haughty
  - b. loving and sympathetic
  - c. selfish, but merciful
  - d. oppressive and dominating

iv. Pick out and write the phrases from the lines where hyperbole is used.



- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to 1 and 2 given below.
  - 1. Aunt Jennifer is worried, nervous and weak.
  - 2. Marital life becomes a big burden for her.
    - a. 1 is true but 2 is false.
    - b. 2 is true but 1 is false.
    - c. 2 is the reason for 1.
    - d. Both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract.
- vi. What does the expression 'fingers fluttering' suggest?

**OR**

- B. "No in country money, the country scale of gain  
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found  
Or so the voice of the county seems to complain  
I can't help owning the great relief it would be  
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain."
  - i. What does the poet mean by country money?
    - a. the economy of the country
    - b. the meagre income of the country people
    - c. the small amount given by city people
    - d. both a and b
  - ii. Choose the option that DOES NOT complete the given sentence suitably, as per the extract.  
Requisite lift of spirit \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. is never found among the country folk.
    - b. speaks about the spiritual emptiness in their life.
    - c. is a reference to earning sufficient money to meet basic needs.
    - d. is what they complain about not having.
  - iii. What might the "country scale of gain" signify?
    - a. the small scale used by country folk
    - b. the calculation of their benefit
    - c. comparatively less profit of the country folk
    - d. the calculation of country folk
  - iv. What would be a relief for the poet?
  - v. Who is the voice of the country?
  - vi. What does the poet intend when he says, "To put these people at one stroke out of their pain"?

**2 Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.**

**1X4=4**

- A. "You say the man escaped?" the General asked faintly. He had been operated upon a week before, an emergency operation to which Sadao had been called in the night. For twelve hours Sadao had not been sure the General would live. The gall bladder was much involved. Then the old man had begun to breathe deeply again and to demand food. Sadao had not been able to ask about the assassins. So far as he knew they had never come. The servants had returned and Yumi had cleaned the guest room thoroughly and had burned sulphur in it to get the white man's smell out of it. Nobody said anything. Only the gardener was cross because he had got behind with his chrysanthemums.

- i. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'faintly' as it is used in the extract?
  - a. Bring him to emergency—the doctor told softly.
  - b. The manager scolded the employee just feebly.
  - c. He seemed to be in a trance and spoke vaguely.
  - d. The lawyer argued weakly for the client and he lost his case.
- ii. Pick the option that best describes Sadao's condition.
  - a. irritated, but calm
  - b. calm and comfy
  - c. afraid and timid
  - d. upset and annoyed
- iii. Why was Sadao not able to ask the General about the assassin?
- iv. What made the servants return home?

**OR**

*"Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe..... because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape ..... maybe that's how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea."*

- i. What were the speaker's feelings when he described the Grand Central?
  - a. he was shocked
  - b. he got upset
  - c. he got anxious
  - d. he was fascinated
- ii. What is it that he did not tell his psychiatrist friend?
- iii. Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence 'pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots'?
  - a. personification
  - b. metaphor
  - c. simile
  - d. oxymoron
- iv. What does the narrator mean by Grand central has been an exit?

**3 Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.**

**1X6=6**

- A. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds—one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the sahuks, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic" he repeats.

- i. How would you describe the condition of “the child”?
  1. abysmal
  2. superb
  3. burdened
  4. manageable
  - a. Options 4 only
  - b. Options 3 and 4
  - c. Options 2 and 3
  - d. Options 1 and 3
- ii. The word in the extract which means the same as ‘brutal’ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. The two distinct worlds mentioned here are \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. The phrase ‘stigma of caste’ here refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. grief-stricken life of the bangle makers due to the set norms of the caste
  - b. the untouchables life of bangle makers in Firozabad
  - c. poor families living in the slums
  - d. children unable to get proper food and clothes
- v. How does the second world, the vicious one, impose baggage on the child?
- vi. Author says, “I am cheered” It suggests that she is happy as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. he is passionate about driving and likes to be a mechanic.
  - b. he is just like other boys in his place and surrenders to his fate.
  - c. he is daring and different from all the members of his family.
  - d. he has to work as a mechanic to earn his livelihood.

**OR**

**B.** “And years later, when I was out of Gemini Studios and I had much time but not much money, anything at a reduced price attracted my attention. On the footpath in front of the Madras Mount Road Post Office, there was a pile of brand-new books for fifty paise each. Actually, they were copies of the same book, an elegant paperback of American origin. ‘Special low-priced student edition, in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution’, I paid fifty paise and picked up a copy of the book, *The God That Failed*. Six eminent men of letters in six separate essays described ‘their journeys into Communism and their disillusioned return’; Andre Gide, Richard Wright, Ignazio Silone, Arthur Koestler, Louis Fischer and Stephen Spender. Stephen Spender! Suddenly the book assumed tremendous significance.”

- i. Pick the option that uses the antonym ‘disillusioned.’
  - a. disappointed
  - b. inspired
  - c. disheartened
  - d. crestfallen
- ii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:  
sophisticated: elegant:: remarkable: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Why do you think the book became very significant then?
  - a. As it spoke about communism.
  - b. As it was co-authored by six eminent writers.
  - c. As Stephen Spender was one among the authors.
  - d. As they were his favourite writers.

- iv. Based on the extract, choose the statement that is TRUE.
  - a. Cheap things attracted him though he had enough money.
  - b. 'The God That Failed' told about the glory of communist ideology.
  - c. The books were sold cheaper as it was the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.
  - d. Author was a communist when he worked at the Gemini Studio.
- v. "Disillusioned return" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- vi. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the author was excited to know about Spender.

**V Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each. 5X2=10**

- i. Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?
- ii. The rattrap seller leaves a gift for Elda. What did the gift of the rattrap signify?
- iii. The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is replete with symbols. Interpret any two symbols used in the poem.
- iv. Imagery in poetry generally functions as the poem's backbone or grounding rod because images are used to evoke a reader's gut-level response. Comment on the use of imagery in the poem '*A Thing of Beauty*'.
- v. Explain Douglas' statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished".
- vi. What do the poet's parting words to her mother signify? (*My Mother at Sixty-Six*)

**VI Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2X2=4**

- i. Dr Sadao was compelled by duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. What made Hana, his wife, sympathetic to him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff?
- ii. The story Tiger King is a social satire. What aspects of society are satirised in the story?
- iii. 'Take care of the small things and the big things will take care of themselves.' Explain in the context of the lesson 'Journey to the End of the Earth'.

**VII Answer EITHER ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1X5=5**

- i. "Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."— C.G. Jung  
Most of the problems faced today by human beings are due to the fact that humans rarely look inside themselves. Pablo Neruda elucidates this idea in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'. After reading the poem you are deeply influenced and decide to make a diary entry. Write it in about 120-150 words

**OR**

- ii. "When you stop having dreams and ideals – well, you might as well stop altogether." said Marian Anderson. We always feel that life without dreams is like a bird with a broken wing – it can't fly.  
Yet, on reading "Going Places" we find fault with Sophie for dreaming. A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work. Write a letter to Sophie telling her what was wrong with her dreams and how she can achieve her dreams.

VIII Answer EITHER ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.

1X5=5

- i. Derry: You think..... 'Here's a Boy'. You look at me...and then you see my face and you think 'That's bad , That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw. You think, Poor boy. But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror and see it, I'm afraid of me.

Though this is the lament of a teen who has a disfigured face due to acid that fell on his face, many teenagers go through a phase where they have a complex about their appearance and they do not like to be underestimated or pitied. How could society help such children become confident?

OR

- ii. Great stalwarts like the Mahatma, Dr. Ambedkar and Ramanujam worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the Dalits. But, unfortunately the caste bias still rears its ugly head in many parts of the country. Certain values need to be instilled in individuals for the betterment and upliftment of the marginalized communities.

Imagine yourself to be Bama who has reached a great position in life and express these thoughts. You may begin like this: ***I can't forget the childhood experience and I can't thank my Anna enough for.....***

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