



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SECOND PRE - BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE (301)

CLASS: XII

TERM 2

Time Allotted: 2 hrs.

11.04.2022

Max. Marks: 40

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A – READING (14 marks)**1. Read the passage carefully:**

- (1) In Central Africa, there lives a group of people called the Pygmies. Their average height is less than five feet. The origin of the word 'pygmy' used to refer to the distance between the elbow and the knuckles, in reference to the height of the people. One tribe of the Pygmies is called the Efé tribe. These people are semi-nomadic. During certain times of the year, they move around in the forest in search of food. The tribe continues to live in the jungle like their ancestors did, hunting and gathering, almost totally unaffected by modernity.
- (2) Scientists find studying the Efé so interesting because these people represent the closest, we can ever get to our ancient ancestors. Their way of life remains so unchanged that learning about their lifestyle would open our eyes to how our ancestors lived as well.
- (3) The Efé are renowned archers. Their skill as archers sets them apart from other tribes, who use different methods of hunting their prey. The Efé usually hunt in groups for animals like antelope. They surround the animal and shoot at it with arrows from different directions. The arrows have metal tips which are very lethal. The meat of the animal is divided among all the hunters who have participated in the hunt. The best parts of the animal, like the hind legs, are usually given to the hunter who made the first shot. The hunter who shoots the final arrow that brings down the animal also receives quite a good piece of the animal. The hunters who do not manage to shoot the animal at all still get an equal share of whatever meat that is left.
- (4) The Efé also hunt for monkeys as a source of food. When they go monkey hunting, they go alone. With only one person, the hunter can minimize the noise that he makes so that he can successfully sneak up on the monkey. This is certainly not an easy task compared to other animals. Poison arrows are used in monkey hunting. The poison attacks the central nervous system of the monkey but it can take as long as fifteen minutes to take full effect, long enough to make an escape. Shooting a monkey does not always mean bringing one home for a meal.
- (5) The Efé have a great weakness for honey, considered to be a delicacy. Every June, the trees start to flower and bees soon start to build beehives. Come July, the men start looking for honey. In spite of their height, they still manage to reach the hives by climbing up trees. With a basket of leaves and smoldering coals in one hand to pacify the bees, they reach into the beehive with the other hand and pull out the honey-comb. Those on the ground are always excited at the sight,

fighting to get the first taste of the wonderful stuff. They usually stuff themselves with it, until their bellies are swollen. Sometimes, they eat all that they find, returning home to the women saying that they had no luck. Their full stomachs, of course, tell a different story.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT questions from the NINE given below. **1x8 = 8**

- i) Why is the tribe called semi-nomadic and not nomadic? 1
- ii) Why do you think the Efé are 'almost totally unaffected by modernity'? 1
- iii) Explain clearly why it is necessary for the Efé to hunt in groups, according to the passage. 1
- iv) Why are some hunters given a bigger share of the animal? Give examples of who they are in your answer. 1
- v) According to paragraph 4, why do you think it is not easy to sneak up on a monkey and capture it? 1
- vi) 'Shooting a monkey does not always mean bringing one home for a meal.' Why is this so? 1
- vii) The Efé have 'a great weakness for honey ...' Explain in your own words what this means. 1
- viii) Why is it necessary for the Efé to 'pacify the bees'? 1
- ix) 'Their full stomachs, of course, tell a different story'. Explain the tone and meaning of this line. 1

2. Read the passage given below:

- (1) We are inching closer to the very first test flight of electric aircrafts that can carry passengers just like in taxis and just as cheaply as a taxi too. Aircraft manufacturers are developing a flying taxi as part of an effort to alleviate congestion by taking commuting to the skies. An insider said that the cost may estimate between \$1.50 to \$2.50 per mile. So, we can estimate globally and rates can be explained in local terms. If the thought of flying around town isn't mad enough, developers want to make the machine fly autonomously and rely on eight rotors to take off vertically. The first prototype, which will have a range of 50 kilometres (31 miles), is undergoing testing and is expected to be ready by the end of 2017. The final version is set to fly for 100 kilometres (62 miles) and all the developers are satisfied that the range will continue to expand over time.

- (2) This transformation in city transit is set to start coming to reality across the world's major cities by 2021 with fierce competition from several manufacturers. UAE is one notable country that is looking to get there first. They expect to have people using the machines by the end of 2017. I am sure a lot will be learned from the teething problems they face. Others look set for a 2019 start in Germany perhaps and more cities are waiting until the systems are proved, so are looking beyond 2023. Naturally, trips in flying taxis are bound to last longer than the majority of quick cab rides. But if the price is not much higher and you need to do a longer cross-town trio at rush hour you can't beat reaching for the skies. One manufacturer is saying that these machines are potentially safer as there will be a reduction in collisions. They will also be supplying the taxis with parachutes, just in case there is an emergency.

- (3) In principle, here's how it will work: a customer will use an app to summon a taxi at a nearby landing pad. While a passenger takes a taxi to the landing site, the aircraft will automatically conduct a pre-flight test to ensure it's ready for take-off as soon as the user arrives. It is easy to see

two huge issues here and that is the driving to and from the landing pads – these will soon become the bottlenecks of the 21st century instead of traffic lights and signals, thankfully in most cities the range of the taxi won't be an issue. To help move the project forward governments have begun looking at and changing laws and regulations so the new machines can be licensed. At present, they are looking closely at the software required particularly in unmanned taxis with vertical take-off. What is important, is that they are trying their best not to stand in the way of progress and are working with developers instead of standing in their way. Whether or not these aircrafts will be effective at reducing city congestion remains to be seen, considering passengers will likely take single-occupancy vehicles to helipads or whether it's all just pie in the sky still remains to be seen.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY SIX out of the SEVEN questions given below. 1x6=6

- (i) What was the 'transformation in city transit' referred to in paragraph 2? 1
- (ii) "The first prototype is undergoing testing" What does the term 'prototype' mean? 1
- (iii) What is meant by the phrase 'teething problems' used in paragraph 2? 1
- (iv) What is the basis on which the flying taxis will be operable for the common people? 1
- (v) What changes does the government intend to make in order to accommodate flying taxis? 1
- (vi) 'Unmanned taxis' means the taxis _____. 1
- (vii) What does the use of the expression 'pie in the sky' mean or suggest about the whole passage? 1

SECTION B – WRITING (8 Marks)

- 3. You are Rajat Jain, Admin officer of Gayatri Devi Sr. Sec. School, Delhi. Write a formal invitation in 50 words, to invite parents and other official acquaintances to the 50th Annual Day celebrations. Invent all necessary details. 3
- 4. Answer any one of the following questions: 5

SITUATION VACANT
HABC Bank, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi
Sales Executive needed, Degree/Diploma in Management, minimum experience of 3 yrs. pleasant and energetic personality, attractive salary. Interested candidates apply to the HR Manager with detailed resume.

You see a classified advertisement in the newspaper inviting applications for the post of Sales Executive in a reputed bank. Write a letter with bio-data in about 100 - 125 words to the HR Manager, HABC Bank, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, applying for the post advertised. You are Avani/Aviral of 120, Kirti Nagar, Delhi.

OR

You are Saloni/ Sohan, an active member of the Animal Lovers Club which works for the welfare of the animal by preventing cruelty to them. Recently you visited Mahatma Gandhi Animal Care Home. You were pleasantly surprised to see the good treatment given to the animals. Write a report in 100 -125 words on your visit.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (18 Marks)

5. Attempt any FIVE out of SIX given questions in 40 words: 2x5=10

- (i) How did Evans have the last laugh at the Governor? 2
- (ii) Why was Gandhiji opposed to C.F. Andrews helping him in Champaran? 2
- (iii) What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man, Lamb? 2
- (iv) What do ‘inhuman dearth’ and ‘Spite of despondency’ refer to? How are they interconnected? 2
- (v) What changes did Jack find in his daughter as compared to the past when he began narrating bedtime stories? Write with examples. 2
- (vi) What conclusion did the ironmaster reach when he heard that the crofter had been robbed by the peddler? 2

6. Attempt any TWO of the given questions in 120 -150 words: 4×2 = 8

- (i) How did Gandhi work for rural uplift during his stay in Champaran? 4
- (ii) What impression do you form of ‘Evans the Break’? 4
- (iii) What are the instances in the story that show that the character of the ironmaster is different from that of his daughter in many ways? 4

End of the Question Paper



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SECTION A – READING (14 marks)

1. Read the passage carefully:

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- (2) Scientists find studying the Efé so interesting because these people represent the closest, we can ever get to our ancient ancestors. Their way of life remains so unchanged that learning about their lifestyle would open our eyes to how our ancestors lived as well.
- (3) The Efé are renowned archers. Their skill as archers sets them apart from other tribes, who use different methods of hunting their prey. The Efé usually hunt in groups for animals like antelope. They surround the animal and shoot at it with arrows from different directions. The arrows have metal tips which are very lethal. The meat of the animal is divided among all the hunters who have participated in the hunt. The best parts of the animal, like the hind legs, are usually given to the hunter who made the first shot. The hunter who shoots the final arrow that brings down the animal also receives quite a good piece of the animal. The hunters who do not manage to shoot the animal at all still get an equal share of whatever meat that is left.
- (4) The Efé also hunt for monkeys as a source of food. When they go monkey hunting, however, they go alone. With only one person, the hunter can minimize the noise that he makes so that he can successfully sneak up on the monkey. This is certainly not an easy task compared to other animals. Poison arrows are used in monkey hunting. The poison attacks the central nervous system of the monkey but it can take as long as fifteen minutes to take full effect, long enough to make an escape. Shooting a monkey does not always mean bringing one home for a meal.
- (5) The Efé have a great weakness for honey, considered to be a delicacy. Every June, the trees start to flower and bees soon start to build beehives. Come July, the men start looking for honey. In spite of their height, they still manage to reach the hives by climbing up trees. With a basket of leaves and smoldering coals in one hand to pacify the bees, they reach into the beehive with the other hand and pull out the honey-comb. Those on the ground are always excited at the sight, fighting to get the first

taste of the wonderful stuff. They usually stuff themselves with it, until their bellies are swollen. Sometimes, they eat all that they find, returning home to the women saying that they had no luck. Their full stomachs, of course, tell a different story.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT questions from the NINE given below. 1x8=8

- (i) Why is the tribe called semi-nomadic and not nomadic? 1
- (ii) Why do you think the Efé are 'almost totally unaffected by modernity'? 1
- (iii) Explain clearly why it is necessary for the Efé to hunt in groups, according to the passage. 1
- (iv) Why are some hunters given a bigger share of the animal? Give examples of who they are in your answer. 1
- (v) According to paragraph 4, why do you think it is not easy to sneak up on a monkey and capture it? 1
- (vi) 'Shooting a monkey does not always mean bringing one home for a meal.' Why is this so? 1
- (vii) The Efé have ‘a great weakness for honey ...'. Explain in your own words what this means. 1
- (viii) Why is it necessary for the Efé to 'pacify the bees'? 1
- (ix) 'Their full stomachs, of course, tell a different story'. Explain the tone and meaning of this line. 1

2. **Read the passage given below:**

- (1) We are inching closer to the very first test flight of electric aircrafts that can carry passengers just like in taxis and just as cheaply as a taxi too. Aircraft manufacturers are developing a flying taxi as part of an effort to alleviate congestion by taking commuting to the skies. An insider said that the cost may estimate between \$1.50 to \$2.50 per mile. So, we can estimate globally and rates can be explained in local terms. If the thought of flying around town isn’t mad enough, developers want to make the machine fly autonomously and rely on eight rotors to take off vertically. The first prototype, which will have a range of 50 kilometres (31 miles), is undergoing testing and is expected to be ready by the end of 2017. The final version is set to fly for 100 kilometres (62 miles) and all the developers are satisfied that the range will continue to expand over time.
- (2) This transformation in city transit is set to start coming to reality across the world’s major cities by 2021 with fierce competition from several manufacturers. UAE is one notable country that is looking to get there first. They expect to have people using the machines by the end of 2017. I am sure a lot will be learned from the teething problems they face. Others look set for a 2019 start in Germany perhaps and more cities are waiting until the systems are proved, so are looking beyond 2023. Naturally, trips in flying taxis are bound to last longer than the majority of quick cab rides. But if the price is not much higher and you need to do a longer cross-town trio at rush hour you can’t beat reaching for the skies. One manufacturer is saying that these machines are potentially safer as there will be a reduction in collisions. They will also be supplying the taxis with parachutes, just in case there is an emergency.

- (3) In principle, here's how it will work: a customer will use an app to summon a taxi at a nearby landing pad. While a passenger takes a taxi to the landing site, the aircraft will automatically conduct a pre-flight test to ensure it's ready for take-off as soon as the user arrives. It is easy to see two huge issues here and that is the driving to and from the landing pads – these will soon become the bottlenecks of the 21st century instead of traffic lights and signals, thankfully in most cities the range of the taxi won't be an issue. To help move the project forward governments have begun looking at and changing laws and regulations so the new machines can be licensed. At present, they are looking closely at the software required particularly in unmanned taxis with vertical take-off. What is important is that they are trying their best not to stand in the way of progress and are working with developers instead of standing in their way. Whether or not these aircrafts will be effective at reducing city congestion remains to be seen, considering passengers will likely take single-occupancy vehicles to helipads or whether it's all just pie in the sky still remains to be seen.

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- | | |
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| (i) What was the 'transformation in city transit' referred to in paragraph 2? | 1 |
| (ii) 'The first prototype is undergoing testing' What does the term 'prototype' mean? | 1 |
| (iii) What is meant by the phrase 'teething problems' used in paragraph 2? | 1 |
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| (v) What changes does the government intend to make in order to accommodate flying taxis? | 1 |
| (vi) 'Unmanned taxis' means the taxis will be _____. | 1 |
| (vii) What does the use of the expression 'pie in the sky' mean or suggest about the whole passage? | 1 |

SECTION B – WRITING (8 Marks)

3. You are the secretary of Haryana Civil Medical Doctors' Association, 2345 Sector 15, Panchkula. You have organized a seminar on Cancer and its Prevention for the members of the association and invited a specialist guest speaker. Draft an invitation, in about 50 words. 3

4. Answer any one of the following questions: 5

We are a reputed publishing house looking for Science Graduates for our Science Division in Mumbai. Fluency in English and knowledge of computers will be an advantage. Apply before 15th April to: The Personnel Manager New World Publications Worli, Mumbai -1.

You are Ravi Sharma of 59, Sea Side Road, Mumbai. You see this advertisement in 'The Everyday Times' and decide to apply for the job of an Office Executive. Write a letter with bio-data in about 100-125 words to the Personnel Manager, New World Publication, Worli, Mumbai.

OR

Your school, Sun Public School, Poona, celebrated 'Environment Day' on 5th November. Write a report on the programme in 100 -125 words for your school newsletter. You are Neeta/Naveen, Cultural Secretary of the school. Invent necessary details.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (18 Marks)

- 5. Attempt any FIVE out of SIX given questions in 40 words: 2x5=10**
- (i) How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement? 2
- (ii) What is the significance of the title of the story should wizard hit mommy? 2
- (iii) What picture of male chauvinism do we find in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? 2
- (iv) How did the seller of rattrap realize that he himself was caught up in a rattrap after he left the crofter's cottage? 2
- (v) How does Mr. Lamb react to Derry's query:- "Aren't you interested"? 2
- (vi) How was 'injured' McLeery able to befool the prison officers? 2
- 6. Attempt any TWO of the given questions in 120 -150 words: 4x2 = 8**
- (i) Self-reliance, Indian Independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together. Elucidate with reference to the excerpt 'Indigo'. 4
- (ii) What was the style of story narration by Jack? 4
- (iii) Give a character sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison based on your understanding of the story, 'Evans Tries an O-level'. 4

End of the Question Paper



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- vii) The Efé have 'a great weakness for honey ...' Explain in your own words what this means. 1
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conduct a pre-flight test to ensure it's ready for take-off as soon as the user arrives. It is easy to see two huge issues here and that is the driving to and from the landing pads – these will soon become the bottlenecks of the 21st century instead of traffic lights and signals, thankfully in most cities the range of the taxi won't be an issue. To help move the project forward governments have begun looking at and changing laws and regulations so the new machines can be licensed. At present, they are looking closely at the software required particularly in unmanned taxis with vertical take-off. What is important, is that they are trying their best not to stand in the way of progress and are working with developers instead of standing in their way. Whether or not these aircrafts will be effective at reducing city congestion remains to be seen, considering passengers will likely take single-occupancy vehicles to helipads or whether it's all just pie in the sky still remains to be seen.

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- (v) What changes does the government intend to make in order to accommodate flying taxis? 1
- (vi) 'Unmanned taxis' means the taxis _____. 1
- (vii) What does the use of the expression 'pie in the sky' mean or suggest about the whole passage? 1

SECTION B – WRITING (8 Marks)

- 3. M/s Brij Kishor & Sons are opening a new general store 'Galaxy Novelties' in Sarvodaya Enclave, Dwarika, Delhi-1. The inauguration ceremony is fixed for 20th April 2022. Prepare a formal invitation for the purpose, in 50 words. 3
- 4. Answer any one of the following questions: 5

SITUATION VACANT
HABC Bank, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi
Sales Executive needed, Degree/Diploma in Management, minimum experience of 3 yrs. pleasant and energetic personality, attractive salary. Interested candidates apply to the HR Manager with detailed resume.

You see a classified advertisement in the newspaper inviting applications for the post of Sales Executive in a reputed bank. Write a letter with bio-data in about 100 -125 words to the HR Manager, HABC Bank, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, applying for the post advertised. You are Avani/Aviral of 120, Kirti Nagar, Delhi.

OR

Your school organised an exhibition-cum-sale of the items prepared by the students of your school. There was an overwhelming response from the public. Prepare a report in 100 -125 words for a local daily. You are the Coordinator, S.U.P.W. activities, Navyodaya School, Ajmer.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (18 Marks)

- 5. Attempt any FIVE out of SIX given questions in 40 words:** **2x5=10**
- (i) What conclusion did the ironmaster reach when he heard that the crofter had been robbed by the peddler? **2**
- (ii) How was ‘injured’ McLeery able to befool the prison officers? **2**
- (iii) Which narrative of Mr. Lamb made Derry laugh? **2**
- (iv) Why was Gandhiji opposed to C.F. Andrews helping him in Champaran? **2**
- (v) What do ‘inhuman dearth’ and ‘Spite of despondency’ refer to? How are they interconnected? **2**
- (vi) What changes did Jack find in his daughter as compared to the past when he began narrating bedtime stories? Write with examples. **2**
- 6. Attempt any TWO of the given questions in 120 -150 words:** **4×2 = 8**
- (i) What are the instances in the story that show that the character of the ironmaster is different from that of his daughter in many ways? **4**
- (ii) How did Gandhi work for rural uplift during his stay in Champaran? **4**
- (iii) How does Jo show her independent thinking in the story ‘Should Wizard Hit Mommy’? Elaborate with examples from the text. **4**

End of the Question Paper