



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH**

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

18.02.2020

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- *This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.*
- *All the sections are compulsory.*
- *Read the instructions given with each section very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION: A (Reading)

20

1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below:

12

1. What would we do without humour? How would we enjoy talks with others if we did not use humour to invite a smile or a laugh? And how would we manage the times when we feel sad and alone?

2. With humour we lighten up each day, and we find common ground with others. We build healthy relationships with others by knowing what to say and to do that helps, and what hinders, a conversation. Humour often takes us to the edge of uncertainty when we exaggerate, or tease others to make our point. When humour is successful, we build trust and cooperation. We discover that we are not alone, we learn to accept our mistakes, and we look for the good in others and in ourselves. Most importantly, we create common ground. However, when we lose our sense of humour, we often get critical or defensive, and, we often get critical of ourselves for what was said, and how it was said.

3. Humour is an essential skill needed to communicate well with others. A few well chosen words get the attention of others and make a serious point without their getting defensive. Whether we prefer to be the centre of attention or shy and quiet, humour can be adjusted to suit our personality.

4. The challenge for everyone is to become more aware of how to add humour, and when to avoid it. Too much humour, like too much spice often annoys others. Humour that is perceived as insensitive often leads others to shut down, or become argumentative. But when we each maintain our sense of humour, we look for the good in others and in ourselves. To ensure that our humour is welcomed by others, we need to combine our humour with speaking clearly and listening effectively.

5. Have you ever noticed that successful individuals often use self-deprecating humour to

humble themselves, without putting themselves down? These individuals understand that every person has strengths and weaknesses and that self-deprecating humour invites others to feel more confident and equal. Having humour helps us keep our perspective, stay responsive to others, and resolve differences. Do you already have some things that you say to diffuse tension? Words like “At times like this, my uncle used to say...” can help the conversation to become less confrontational.

6. If you can't think of a humorous comment that will be helpful, you can try looking for clarification by mirroring back their words and clarifying their point. Assume that there is always something that you can find to appreciate when you are looking for common ground. Focus on preventing an argument. Remember, humour is often not the best choice to handle conflict.

7. Opportunities to add a touch of humour happen all of the time. In December when I visited my friend Tim in the hospital, I came wearing antlers from the Dollar Store. And when I was accepted into the graduate program at University of Waterloo, I wrote my acceptance letter as a poem. In each situation my small change from the everyday stirred others to smile, and expect positive conversations in the future.

8. Much of our humour comes from reconnecting to our playful inner child. For many of us, it only takes a playful voice tone, wearing a funny hat, or holding a stuffed toy to get started. Take a risk. Add a bit more humour, and do it in the way that is right for you.

1.1 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

(i) Humour helps us:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| a) to find common ground with others | b) lighten up each day |
| c) exaggerate | d) both (a) and (b) |

(ii) When we lose humour, we

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| a) often get biased | b) often get aggressive |
| c) often get critical for what was said | d) all the three |

(iii) Humour is not the best tool to :

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) resolve a conflict | b) be a successful conversationalist |
| c) to build trust | d) stay responsive to others |

(iv) self-deprecating humour is used

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) when a point is to be clarified | b) to create a sense of equality |
| c) while communicating | d) for building healthy relationships |

(v) The writer gives the example of wearing a funny hat to exemplify that:

- a) humour comes from association with one's inner child
- b) opportunities to add humour are always present
- c) humour requires childish behaviour
- d) humour involves risk

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

- i) What is the challenge for everyone regarding humour?
- ii) How can one ensure that humour is welcomed by others?
- iii) What do successful individuals understand?
- iv) In which situation does the writer suggest 'clarifying their point'?
- v) Why did the writer write his acceptance letter as a poem?

1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:

(1x2=2)

- (i) obstruct (para 2)
- (ii) viewpoint (para 5)

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

8

Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and to concentrate on understanding what has been heard. Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First, they may drift. Their attention drifts from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter-arguments to whatever a speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then, they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit with their own frame of reference. Finally, they react. They let personal feelings about a speaker or subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

Good listening is an art that can be cultivated. It relates to skills that can be developed. A good listener knows the art of getting much more than what the speaker is trying to convey. What can a listener do to be more effective? The first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving a message his chances of success are high. Listening starts with hearing but goes beyond. Hearing, in other words is necessary but is not a sufficient condition for listening. Listening involves hearing with attention.

While, listening, one should also be observant. In other words, listening has to do with the ears, as well as with the eyes and the mind. Listening is to be understood as the total process that involves hearing with attention, being observant and making interpretations. It is necessary to be interested and also show or make it abundantly clear that one is interested in knowing what the other person has to say.

It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems or because of the form in which they send a message. There is then a particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on what is being said.

Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side. One useful way for achieving this is intensive note-taking, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub-headings the speaker is referring to.

Note-taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees that listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the

patterns of eye-contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's timing is aided-he can see when a note-taker is writing hard and can then make effective use of pauses.

Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backwards and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time it is seen by the speaker to be a positive feature amongst his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-max. five) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 4

2.2 Write a summary of the notes prepared in not more than 80 words. 4

SECTION: B (Advanced Writing Skills)

30

- 3.** On behalf of Lion's Club draft a poster announcing Essay and drawing competition to be held in Holkar Stadium on the occasion of 26th January. The event is organized for students upto class XII and is open for all the schools in the city. 4

OR

Draft a suitable advertisement for the classified column of a newspaper, offering an all-inclusive package to Singapore and Malaysia. You are Director of 'Travel Asia', a renowned travel agency.

- 4.** You are interested in taking online classes/tuition from www.studyonline.com, a reputed provider of online classes in Mumbai. Having found the site's information inadequate, write a letter enquiring various details regarding the functioning of the classes that you intend to avail from. You are Rohit/ Reema of St. Paul's School, Pune. 6

OR

You are Devika / Dev, living at 21 Mount Road, Coimbatore. You placed an order for some Household items after reading an advertisement in a newspaper. On delivery, you discovered certain problems in the things received. Draft a letter of complaint to the manager of the company, Online Shopper's Dream at their office address, 34 Curzon Road, Chennai, giving details of the problems.

- 5.** 'Character traits such as self-discipline, self-awareness and consideration for others help students to develop in ways that transcend the curriculum, equipping them for life after school.' Write a speech in 150- 200 words on the given statement to be delivered in the school assembly. 10

OR

'Gyms and fitness centres have reduced the importance of exercise in the open spaces like parks and fields'. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the topic.

6. Teenagers are full of energy as well as ideas. Write an article in 150–200 words on ‘How to channelize the energy of the teenagers’ suggesting ways on being focused and productive. You are Tarun Sen / Reema Sen. 10

OR

Sunshine Senior Secondary School recently organised a four- day Personality Development and Leadership Training Camp for the students aspiring to be captains, prefects and monitors of the school. Write a report about the same in 150- 200 words for the school magazine.

SECTION: C (Literature Textbooks)

30

7. Read the extract and answer the following questions briefly: (1x4=4)

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

- a) What are the flowery bands that bind us to the Earth?
- b) Which evil things do we possess and suffer from?
- c) Explain ‘in spite of all’.
- d) Find words from the passage which mean:
 - (i) malice (ii) disappointment

8. Read the extract and answer the following questions briefly: (1x4=4)

Several hours later, I walked home. I was weak and trembling. I shook and cried when I lay on my bed. I couldn’t eat that night. For days a haunting fear was in my heart. The slightest exertion upset me, making me wobbly in the knees and sick to my stomach. I never went back to the pool. I feared water. I avoided it whenever I could.

- (a) Who is the speaker here?
- (b) What fear had gripped the speaker?
- (c) How did this fear impact the speaker’s mind?
- (d) Which pool did he speaker talk about?

9. Answer **any five** the following questions in 30-40 words: (2x5=10)

- a) How does the poet distinguish stillness from ‘total inactivity’?
- b) How did M Hamel say farewell to his students and the people of the town?
- c) Elda noticed things about the peddler that the ironmaster in his excitement had overlooked? Substantiate with an evidence from the text.
- d) What enabled Eco to acquire the equivalent of intellectual superstardom?
- e) How did Charley ascertain that he had reached the 1894 world?
- f) What opinion of Evans did the prison authorities convey to the Secretary, Education Board?
- g) “The battle of Champaran is won.” When and why did Gandhiji say these words?

10. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120-150 words:

6

- a) 'The story lost spring describes the pitiable condition of the poor children who have been forced to miss the joy of childhood due to their socio-economic conditions'. Elaborate the statement.

OR

- b) What are the indicators of the financial status of Sophie's family? How does her situation make her dreams unrealistic?

11. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 120-150 words:

6

- a) How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race and country for assisting a human being in need? Discuss.

OR

- b) How has the rapid increase of human population left its mark on nature and her resources?

End of the Question Paper