



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE**

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

08.01.2019

Max. Marks:100

General Instructions:

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

SECTION – A (READING)**(30)****Q.1 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:****(10)**

1. On a serious level, when was the last time you remember keeping your emotions solely to yourself, when a disaster struck? Or was averted? Agreed, humans are social beings who need feedback based on their social interactions. But, in today's times, where people - men and women alike - thrive on social approval, it feels like your happiness is on a leash depends on social media, or society at large. A person could possibly go to any extent to seek attention. Lying, cheating, manipulating, constantly blabbing or being intentionally silent, are all a part of the process to be the centre of attention. Everyone wants to be liked and be popular. Attention gives a pleasurable high and does wonderful things to one's ego and self - worth. It is when seeking attention exceeds normalcy that the trouble begins. Both too much of attention and the lack of it are obvious signs of trouble.

2. Also known as Histrionic Personality Disorder, attention-seeking is an attempt to desperately attract the attention of other people, typically by disruptive or excessively extrovert behavior. To find an attention - seeker around you, look for someone who says, "I want to kill myself," after a mere bad day at work, or simply throws a tantrum for not being given enough time. Taking on the role of a victim or a damsel-in-distress is a typical trait of an attention-seeker. Simply put, attention-seekers are the drama queens we come across frequently in our life.

3. According to clinical psychiatrist, Dr Harish Shetty, from Hiranandani Hospital, Mumbai, "Attention - seeking is not exactly a disorder. We all want approval in some way or the other from the people we are around with. It massages our ego and therefore, has a feel-good factor to it. Seeking approval enhances our identity." He explains how attention seeking, if casual, can be encouraging, "but once out of control, if the persons' obsession sets in, the trouble that follows ruins a person's relationships and eventually their peace of mind."

4. Attention-seeking generally happens in a large magnitude to people who blame others. The blaming is a type of coping mechanism the attention-mongers feel is essential to justify

the mistakes they refuse to own up to. Dr. Shetty elaborates, “People who are narcissistic will seek attention in a larger than life manner like dramatizing even the smallest of things that happens to them. Also, adults who have been spoilt as children will have a lesser sense of responsibility towards others as well as themselves, so are more likely to be narcissistic.” This behaviour can be seen in adults who have had an unpleasant past, i.e. they have been ignored, neglected bullied, or abused in any way before. They gradually start becoming addicted to it. They think making up for all the years of unfairness they have faced as a child is best done by seeking attention. The pre-teen years are extremely significant as they mould the child he or she is to become when they fully grow up. Frustration, anger, and disturbing relationships ensue if there is an excess of this behavior. The person can also grow to be extremely anxious and develop nervous anxiety.

5. Dr. Shetty adds, “Mostly seen in kids, this behavior generally tends to die out with age. But as adults, people suffering from a terminal illness, ones who have faced a huge loss in business, break-ups or divorces, also portray such behavior. If not handled with maturity, it worsens. But, when someone faces a challenge, they think they are incapable of handling, it can amplify uneasiness in them and they resort to playing the victim all the time. A lot of other causes, however are varied and highly subjective.”

1.1 **On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 4). Also supply an appropriate title to it.** (5)

1.2 **Write a summary of the passage in about 100 words** (5)

Q.2 **Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below:** (20)

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become more easy and comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making people develop a mind-set to have anything immediately without waiting for - even at the traffic signals.

2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy like, like...” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a life time of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don’t is this “instant coffee” attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up. Things should be easy. Why should things take long? It is unfair.

4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well – dismissing their achievements as pure luck -- or think that they have support, help, approach ... that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And so we give up.

5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn't solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the 'instant coffee' attitude.

6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour - whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality- it is a long arduous journey.

7. Only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.

8. I often come across clients who have changed their doctors and do that even after they have spoken to me – because they are on the lookout for a doctor who will instantly give them relief from their problems. One who will ensure that by the time they reach home from the clinic they will have wonderfully fulfilling relationships with their families. No wonder, most of us get bitter and disillusioned with life and ourselves and look for escape routes which seem to promise quick results.

9. The major problem with these "instant coffee" solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyze what we are doing, we will realize how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially.

2.1 Answer the following questions briefly: **(1×6=6)**

- (i) What things have made life more comfortable now?
- (ii) What did the young lady's father tell her about playing musical instruments?
- (iii) What, according to the piano teacher, is required for learning music?
- (iv) What is the main problem of "instant coffee" solutions?
- (v) What does "bread making attitude" result in?
- (vi) What is the true fact of life that the writer wants us to accept?

2.2 Pick up words from the passage which are similar to the following: **(1×3=3)**

- (i) home (para 1)
- (ii) useless (para 9)
- (iii) customers (para 8)

2.3 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: **(1×5=5)**

(i) Life is tough for people with:

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) fashion consciousness | b) 'instant coffee' attitude. |
| c) 'bread making' attitude | d) patience |

(ii) We don't have enough time to do all the things we want to as:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a) we can't do all things | b) we are not prepared to do all such things |
| c) life is very short | d) life is quite uncertain |

(iii) **In this jet age everyone is always:**

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) in a hurry | b) outreaching his rivals |
| c) trying to be powerful | d) interested in making easy money. |

(iv) **The two forgotten words of the present generation are:**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) sorry and thank you | b) sorry and please |
| c) please and thank you | d) Perseverance and patience |

(v) **The antonym of 'instantaneous' (para 6) is:**

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| a) immediate | b) instant |
| c) delayed | d) rapid |

2.4 Answer any three of the following questions in 25-30 words: (2×3=6)

- (i) How do we dismiss the achievements of successful people?
- (ii) How has easy and comfortable life affected people's mindset?
- (iii) What example does the writer use in order to illustrate 'bread making' attitude?
- (iv) What is an "instant coffee" attitude?

SECTION- B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) (30)

- Q.3** Model Public School, New Delhi requires cricket and hockey coaches. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words for the 'Situations Vacant' column of the 'Daily Herald', stating your requirements regarding age, qualification, experience etc. You are the Principal of the school. **(4)**

OR

- As Sports Secretary of G.D. Public School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board informing the students about the sale of old sports goods of your school. You are Rohini/Rohit. **(4)**

- Q.4** You are Arman /Arpita of 14, MG Road, Pune. You had bought textbook, 'Vistas' for class XII from a neighbourhood bookstore. After browsing through the book, you realized that a few pages were missing and the print overlapped on a few pages. Write a complaint letter in 100-125 words to the Manager, Dawn Books, Lawrence Road, Chennai, requesting him for a replacement or refund. **(6)**

OR

- You are Prem / Shiny of No.16, TRS Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Human Resources Manager, Skypack Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 100-125 words giving your bio-data. **(6)**

- Q.5** "Boarding schools are better than day schools for an all-round education of a child" is the topic of the Inter House Debate to be conducted at your school. Draft a debate speech in 150-200 words expressing your views for the motion. **(10)**

OR

Media has a strong hold on society. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic “How media influences public opinion” to be delivered in the morning school assembly. You are Arun /Asha of Radiant Public School, Periyar Nagar, Chennai. (10)

Q.6 You are Ravi/Rani, secretary Yuva Club of your school. Your school celebrated a ‘Yuva-week’ by organising a cultural programme in your school, in which many students and teachers took active part. Write a report on the programme for your school magazine, in 150 -200 words. (10)

OR

Write an article in 150 - 200 words on the topic “The Power Crisis and its Impact” with regard to the frequent power break down and load shedding operations in your city and many other cities in India. (10)

SECTION – C (40)

(LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT)

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

*“It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.”*

- a) What does he mean by ‘exotic moment’?
- b) How could man achieve this exotic moment?
- c) Explain: ‘without rush, without engines.’
- d) Name the poem and the poet.

OR

*“Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.”*

- a) What does prancing tigers symbolize?
- b) What are Aunt Jennifer’s tigers doing? How do they look like?
- c) Where do they live? Who are they not afraid of?
- d) Name the poem and the poet.

Q.8 Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 3×4=12

- a) How did Franz’s feelings towards schoolwork and schoolbooks suddenly change?
- b) Why has the mother been compared to the late winter’s moon?
- c) What is the cause of our ‘gloomy days’ and ‘dark spirits’? ?
- d) Do you think Evans’ statement, ‘I may surprise everybody,’ has some special significance?
- e) Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff’s silence?
- f) Who was Annan? Why was he not amused by Bama’s story?

Q.9 Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

- a) “Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.... great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance” – Samuel Johnson. William Douglas tried hard to learn swimming, but every time something happened to deter him. However he never gave up and showed great perseverance. With these thoughts in mind, write an article on the topic ‘Patience and Perseverance always Pays.’
- b) Greed is the greatest evil force that has tempted man into doing a lot of misdeeds. Whether it is greed of money or power, it is a great corrupting force that makes a man go to any extreme. The peddler in ‘The Rattrap’ is not conscientious nor does he think twice before robbing the crofter. Bearing these thoughts in mind, write an article discussing the qualities that are required for overcoming the evil of greed.
- c) ‘Lost Spring’ explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Do you agree? Why / Why not?

Q.10 Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

- a) What is the ugly middle position where Jack finds himself trapped?
- b) How did Dr. Sadao rise above narrow prejudices of race & country to a human being in need?
- c) The lesson, ‘On The Face of It’, is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.

Q.11 Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

- a) Describe the incident at Lantern Yard that changed the life of Silas Mariner.
- b) What does Silas Marner’s cottage represent?
- c) Describe the circumstances that made Griffin rob his own father. What made his crime grave?
- d) What took the Halls to their cellar in the early morning of Whit Monday? Why did Mr. Hall have to rush up immediately? What did he see there?

Q.12 Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

- a) What sort of a man was Silas? Draw a character sketch.
- b) Describe Dolly Winthrop and her son Aaron.
- c) Who was Mr. Heelas? What idea do you get about him from the last chapter of the novel “The Invisible Man”?
- d) Who was Thomas Marvel? What idea do you gather about him from his first encounter with the Invisible Man?

End of the Question Paper