



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FINAL EXAMINATION
ENGLISH

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

13.11.2019

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)

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

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1. The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, maybe unique lifestyles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.

2. A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain's family knew better than to breach his study door they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Green went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all, every one of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally, we need our private space too!

3. A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two-hour jaunt but wouldn't return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck. Nineteenth-century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under streetlamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had a limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir's close friends puts it this way. "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work." To Pablo, the idea of Sunday was an "at home day".

4. The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive and no doubt easier on his liver.

5. Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate, but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking.

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

- (a) The passage is about:
- (i) how to practise walking
 - (ii) walking everyday
 - (iii) the life of a genius
 - (iv) what we can learn from the routines of geniuses
- (b) The writers in the past:
- (i) followed a perfect daily routine
 - (ii) enjoyed the difficulties of life
 - (iii) can teach us a lot
 - (iv) wrote a lot in books
- (c) In their daily routines:
- (i) they had unique lifestyles
 - (ii) they read books and enjoyed them
 - (iii) they did not get any privacy
 - (iv) they did not mind visitors
- (d) The routine of these thinkers are perhaps unattainable because:
- (i) most of us do not organize time
 - (ii) we are unable to work in difficulties
 - (iii) we cannot organize time as we wish
 - (iv) all are not capable of proper planning
- (e) Some artists resorted to walking as it was:
- (i) an exercise
 - (ii) a creative inspiration
 - (iii) essential for improving their health
 - (iv) helpful in interaction with others

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (1x5=5)

- (a) Why do you think Graham Green hired a secret office?
- (b) What was the rumour about Erik Satie's productivity?
- (c) How did her limited social life affect Simone de Beauvoir?
- (d) In what way did T.S. Eliot's day job help him to write?
- (e) What makes it easier for one to stay on the path?

1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: (1x2=2)

(a) glance (para 1)

(b) noisy (para 2)

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

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Advertising was initially meant to make people aware of the goods available in the market. It was as simple as announcing what you have in your store or the services you offer in your premises. Over the years, advertising has evolved into a major industry that goes beyond informing to persuading and influencing. It is a form of brainwashing consumers.

Advertising has become a type of culture with ardent followers. In the process, it attracts enviable attention from manufacturers and service providers who fancy an edge over their competitors. Unfortunately, in keeping with the ever-increasing demands of the manufacturers, the advertisers have come to create unnecessary wants and excess consumption in most of us. This is a craving for harmful products that we are better off without. It preys on our minds rendering us completely irrational. The billboards (hoardings), television and radio advertisements target us from a very early age, forming our view of the world as we grow into adults. The buzzwords in advertising are, 'you are cool, type, sophisticated, of the hook', if you use this or that product.

The notion that the media is primarily in place to give us news is not very true. If the truth may be told, the media is there to gather enough audience, package them into a pricey commodity and sell it to the advertisers. The advertisers, on the other hand, are always on the lookout for a target audience to persuade them that this product or service is better than that of the competitor.

Advertising does influence people. Most of the advertisements are filled with images that equate emotional well-being with material acquisition and associate independence and leisure with consumption of alcohol. Advertising also makes people lavish their effect on products rather than real people, thereby destroying human relationships. We have become trapped in the web of advertising where products like brands of beer and cigarette take over our minds, doing away with our core family values.

When you look critically at most of the advertisements on the television, you will discover how persuasive the advertisers are in deciding for us what, when, how much and why to buy. But most people think that they are not influenced by advertisements. This is precisely what the advertisers want us to think, that in the end 'the people decide'. If you think deeply, nobody in his profit-minded sense will pay so much money to make a thirty second advertisement, which might not be seen by a hundred people, leave alone convince them to buy. How we strike a healthy balance between the two will definitely have a direct bearing on the future of our country. It is unfortunate that alcohol and tobacco advertising forms a sizable chunk of the industry.

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 80 words. 4

SECTION: B (Advanced Writing Skills)

3. You are president of Craftsman Welfare Association, Jaipur you are organizing an exhibition of handicrafts at Dilli Haat, Delhi, to showcase the dying arts due to lack of patronage. Prepare a notice, in about 50 words, inviting people to see the exhibition and encourage the craftsmen. 4

OR

Draft a poster in about 50 words creating awareness about the need to keep your city clean and green. You are Rakshita/ Rohit of MNV Public School, Udaipur.

4. Write an application in 120-150 words for the post of Receptionist advertised in a national newspaper by JKL Publishers, Peshwa Road, Pune. You are Karuna, M 114, Mall Road, Pune, a graduate from SNDT University and have done a Secretarial Practice Course from YWCA, Mumbai. 6

OR

Write a letter to the Mayor, Mumbai Corporation, stating the difficulties faced by the residents regarding drinking water and requesting him to provide your colony with proper drinking water facilities. You are Mukesh/ Meera, (120-150 words)

5. Write a debate in 150- 200 words either for or against the topic, "Children should not participate in reality shows." 10

OR

You are Ankit/Ankita. As the captain of your school you have to deliver a speech in the morning assembly on the topic 'Time management maximizes the effectiveness of an individual efforts'. Write your speech in about 150- 200 words.

6. Good citizens are the greatest asset of any country. Most of us display an attitude of indifference towards our responsibilities resulting in damage to environment, loss of public property etc. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'Responsibilities of a Good Citizen'. You are Gopal/ Gopika. 10

OR

You recently attended a workshop on creative writing that was conducted by Scholastic India Ltd. Write a report in 150-200 words for your school magazine. You are Akshay/ Garima of Graham Public School, Indore.

SECTION: C (Literature Textbooks)

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

The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead
 Or, if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
 At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
 Of signs with S turned wrong and N turned wrong...

- Explain the poetic device in 'the polished traffic'.
- Why are their minds ahead?
- Explain, 'if ever aside a moment'.
- How did the poor people "mar" the landscape?

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

‘As he walked along with the money in his pocket he felt quite pleased with his smartness. He realised, of course, that at first he dared not continue on the public highway, but must turn off the road, into the woods. During the first hours this caused him no difficulty. Later in the day it became worse.....’

- (a) Who is he? Where is he at the moment?
- (b) Explain ‘pleased with his smartness’.
- (c) Why didn’t he dare to continue on the public pathway?
- (d) What became worse and how?

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

- a) What were the positive qualities of Subbu that the writer admired?
- b) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being ‘resolute’?
How did the Governor of Oxford Prison locate the hiding place of Evans?
- c) Why do most celebrity writers hate to be interviewed?
- d) What beauty of balance does the author see in Antarctica and in the warm countries?
- e) Why does Mr Lamb narrate the story of a man who locked himself in a room because he was afraid?
- f) How was the Skunk’s story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?

10. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120-150 words: 6

- a) People say that failures are the stepping stones. They are the best teachers. Discuss the aphorism taking ideas from the following lines:
“I feared water. I avoided it whenever I could. A few years later when I came to know the waters of Cascades, I wanted to get into them. And whenever I did ... the terror that had seized me in the pool would come back... I decided to get an instructor and learn to swim.”
- b) The story ‘Going Places’ draws a beautiful contrast between fact and fiction. Comment.

11. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 120-150 words: 6

- a) Why does Tishani Doshi call her trip to Antarctica a “Journey to the End of the Earth”?
What experience did she have during this expedition?
- b) How did Bama and Zitkala Sa rebel against their existing circumstances? What is the commonality of the theme found in both the accounts?

End of the Question Paper