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SET - 2



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION  
ENGLISH

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code:301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

07.05.2018

Max. Marks: 100

**General Instructions:**

- (i) *This paper is divided into three Sections: A, B, and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- (ii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- (iii) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.*
- (iv) *Attempt all questions of a section without mixing them with another section.*

**SECTION – A (READING)****30****1 Read the passage given below carefully:****12**

1. The titanic, in its watery grave, is a great museum of human history and is at risk of being lost forever because of curious voyagers and treasure hunters, fears Bob Ballard, who first discovered the remains of the iconic ship in 1985. Famous for discovering the great ship, Ballard is a former US Navy Officer and a professor of oceanography.

2. “Titanic is a museum of human history without door and guard. I am deeply concerned about not only the Titanic but all the ancient history that is now at risk. If we cannot save this iconic ship, then there is very little hope we can save ancient ships. The world should realize that you don’t have to go down and take everything and you do not have to do a treasure hunt. This is a common heritage of all of us and if we really want to take steps to preserve human history in the ocean, we need to start with Titanic,” Ballard said in a telephonic interview from London.

3. Ballard, as part of a tie-up, is presenting a documentary called “Save the Titanic” on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship – April 15, 1912. The ship and her fate continue to fascinate, largely because of the horror that took place that night, with 1,522 passengers and crew losing their lives.

4. Ballard says that despite being on the ocean floor for 100 years, the ship is full of human footprints. “You will find pairs of shoes everywhere. The sea and the life below has claimed everything but they do not know what to do with shoes so you will find a pair of mother’s shoes next to her little daughter and that’s their gravestone. At her wreckage, we almost felt that we were surrounded by the lifeboats of all the people that were in the water at that spot”.

5. Ballard says that the fate of Titanic continues to fascinate so many years after it sank because it is “irony personified in history”. “The story has all the ingredients to make it timelessly fascinating. You have this revolutionary ship that’s unsinkable, and carrying a cross section of people in society. And then, it goes and hits an iceberg and sinks on its maiden journey. It’s an irony personified in history”.

6. Talking about his discovery, which came after great research and 75 years later, Ballard, says it was a somber moment when they first spotted the boiler of the Titanic. “In the 90s, advanced technology gave us double diving capabilities in the Atlantic Ocean. I knew that the Titanic was sitting at almost 12,000 feet. What led me to her discovery was a simple technique that I followed. We decided to look for the debris trail instead of the ship”.

7. Ballard says the ship, if preserved well and not subjected to constant submarine journeys, will last for a long time on the Atlantic floor. “The deep sea, because of its darkness, its cold temperatures and its great pressure, creates a high state of preservation. With a little caution, we can protect the Titanic for future generations to visit.”

8. Ballard has also connected to the people of Belfast, who refused to talk about the tragedy “The ship’s construction took place at Belfast. After ENGLISH XII 16 the tragedy, families of the workers refused to talk about it because of the shame and sadness in the loss of life involved”.

**1.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options (4 marks)**

(a) The Titanic sank on -

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) its 100th anniversary      | (ii) 15th April 1912             |
| (iii) an iconic voyage in 1985 | (iv) leaving the port of Belfast |

(b) The Titanic continues to attract attention because -

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (i) it is irony personified in history | (ii) its advanced technology gave double diving technologies |
| (iii) it is a treasure hunt            | (iv) it is a common need                                     |

(c) Ballard’s documentary on the Titanic is titled -

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| (i) a museum of human history | (ii) the titanic    |
| (iii) save the Titanic        | (iv) 75 years later |

(d) Bob Ballard is a -

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) Former US Navy Officer | (ii) A professor of oceanography |
| (iii) Both (i) and (ii)    | (iv) None of the above           |

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (6 marks)**

(a) What happened on April 15, 1912?

(b) Who is Bob Ballard and what did he discover?

(c) Why does Bob Ballard call it a museum of human history?

(d) Why did the people of Belfast refuse to talk about Titanic?

(e) What did Ballard do as part of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic?

(f) Explain “it is irony personified.”

**1.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: (2 marks)**

- (a) first of its kind (para 5)
- (b) very solemn or serious (para 6)

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

**10**

1. The play of names has almost a touch of fable here-Nirakar, the formless one, regenerating the primal form of a forest that had passed into the mist. For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick, a small farmer in Orissa's Kendra Para district, has been greening a coastal landscape that had of late been experiencing more of brown. Droughts, as they are wont to be, are cruel in these parts. At other times, it's excess water that's the bane. Nirakar's latest sally-the rebirthing of a forest on a two hectare stretch circling the river Brahmani near his village- came after the green patch was denuded in the 1999 super cyclone.

2. The tidal waves that had swamped Orissa's coasts had led to heavy soil erosion, rendering these villages forever vulnerable to floods. But now thanks to Nirakar, over five thousand trees of sundry varieties cover the area. This has not only helped restore the local ecosystem but also provided a potential source of income to the community. People, however, were skeptical in the beginning. They were losing out on grazing ground for cattle. Some were also suspicious of Nirakar's motive, fearing he was out to grab government land. But once the trees began shooting up and the entire village looked rejuvenated, everybody was won over. Nirakar, for one, never made any bid to corner the fruits of his labour.

3. So now there are fruit bearing trees in the forest-jackfruit, mango, guava, coconut-as well as timber rich ones like teak, casuarinas, eucalyptus. Not all of the seven thousand seedlings he'd planted, survived the elements. That didn't deter him, and Nirakar proudly says that as long as he is alive, no one from the area would ever harm a tree.

4. Over the years, Nirakar has spent a small fortune out of his own hard earned savings in greening mission. As a driver in Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC), he'd get about Rs 3000 a month. From this, he would put aside Rs 500 for planting trees. For the last two years he has not been receiving his salary from the defunct OLIC. He manages to make both ends meet by working his share of the one acre farmland inherited from his father. Born in 1962 in a poor family in Aliha village, Nirakar inherited a feel for the soil and the green thumb of his father. A good student, he had to quit the studies after class 9th to take up a job. He joined the OLIC in 1982 and got married the same year. Today he is father of trees, two sons and a daughter.

5. Though officially a driver, Nirakar is a jack of all trades, doubling up as mechanic, fitter, electrician and operator at Aliha's lift irrigation project. For the area's small farmers who depend on the water supplied through lift irrigation, he is nothing short of a hero.

6. Anti-hero too, for some, at a point of time. Traditionally, the Harijans of Aliha never planted coconuts. The Brahmins had told them that if they dared to plant the forbidden fruit, there would be death in the community. Nirakar broke this "divine" taboo. He got about agricultural farm and distributed it among his people. Today almost every courtyard in Aliha village has half a dozen fruit bearing coconut trees and no one died. Nirakar's wife is an enthusiastic partner in his green ventures. His children also help him. He has now taken a plantation of 20,000 seedlings along the tree kilometers stretch from Manipatna to Singri in his block. Nirakar aims to plant at least one lakh trees before he dies.

7. Recognition has evaded him so far and Nirakar is least bothered. His only regret is that the government has not taken over maintenance of the forest from him so that it can be preserved for posterity. He hopes his good work is not lost after he is gone. He is, as you must have realized by now, crazy about his trees. “The trees speak to me,” he says, “God has paid me back richly in many ways. I need nothing more”.

**2.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: (2 marks)**

- (a) For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick has been
- i) planting trees
  - ii) painting green coastal landscapes
  - iii) living in Orissa’s Kendra para district
  - iv) both i and ii
- (b) Nirakar has broken the ‘divine taboo’ by
- i) planting 7000 seedlings
  - ii) distributing agricultural land among Harijans
  - iii) successfully leading the green campaign
  - iv) planting coconut trees

**2.2 Answer the following as briefly as possible: (6 marks)**

- a) Give an appropriate title to the passage.
- b) Why did Nirakar quit his studies in childhood?
- c) What is the Para district of Orissa prone to?
- d) What happened to the seven thousand seedlings planted by Nirakar?
- e) How has Nirakar been running his household for the last two years?
- f) Why was Nirakar considered as “a Jack of all trades?”

**2.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: (2 marks)**

- a) weak (para 2)
- b) discourage/prevent (para 3)

**3 Read the passage given below:**

8

It is surprising that sometimes we don’t listen to what people say to us. We hear them, but we don’t listen to them. I was curious to know how hearing is different from listening. I had thought both were synonyms, but gradually, I realized there is a big difference between the two words. Hearing is a physical phenomenon. Whenever somebody speaks, the sound waves generated reach you, and you definitely hear whatever is said to you. However, even if you hear something, it doesn’t always mean that you actually understand whatever is being said. Paying attention to whatever you hear means you are really listening. Consciously using your mind to understand whatever is being said is listening.

Diving deeper, I found that listening is not only hearing with attention, but is much more than that. Listening is hearing with full attention, and applying our mind. Most of the time, we listen to someone, but our minds are full of needless chatter and there doesn’t seem to be enough space to

accommodate what is being spoken.

We come with a lot of prejudices and preconceived notions about the speaker or the subject on which he is talking. We pretend to listen to the speaker, but deep inside, we sit in judgement and are dying to pronounce right or wrong, true or false, yes or no. Sometimes, we even come prepared with a negative mindset of proving the speaker wrong. Even if the speaker says nothing harmful, we are ready to pounce on him with our own version of things.

What we should ideally do is listen first with full awareness. Once, we have done that, we can decide whether we want to make a judgement or not. Once we do that, communication will be perfect and our interpersonal relationship will become so much better. Listening well doesn't mean one has to say the right thing at the right moment. In fact, sometimes if words are left unspoken, there is a feeling of tension and negativity. Therefore, it is better to speak out your mind, but do so with awareness after listening to the speaker with full concentration.

Let's look at this in another way. When you really listen, you imbibe not only what is being spoken, but you also understand what is not spoken as well. Most of the time we don't really listen even to people who really matter to us. That's how misunderstandings grow among families, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters.

- 3.1 **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (minimum four) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.** 5
- 3.2 **Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.** 3

**SECTION – B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) 30**

- 4 You are running a real estate agency in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. You wish to advertise the residential apartments available for rent in the classified columns of a newspaper. Draft the advertisement in not more than 50 words. 4

**OR**

Your school is planning to organize a 'Clean Up' day where all students will help to clean up the school premises. This event will not only spruce up the campus; it will bring students together with a sense of ownership and common purpose. Write a notice informing students about this activity. You are Manuj Rai/ Mansi Rai, the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. Write the notice in 50 words. Use a date, time, and meeting place of your choice.

- 5 Along with air and water pollution, our cities are also under an attack of noise pollution. Marriage processions, DJs during wedding receptions, loud music from neighbourhood flats etc. are all sources of noise which is not good for the old, the ailing and students. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper describing the problem and making a request to the concerned authorities to solve it. You are Karan/Karuna, M 114, Mall Road, Delhi. 6

**OR**

You are Buavik/ Bhawna of Class XII of Tejas International School, Vijay Nagar, Bulandshaher. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Manager of the sports Store, Meerut, complaining about a defective sports watch you purchased from their store. Write as a Sports Secretary of your school.

- 6 It is increasingly felt that the youth of the country should be actively involved in social service activities. Their involvement will give them first-hand knowledge of the actual problems the people are facing and inspire them to play a more active role in nation building. Write an article in 150–200 words on ‘Youth and Social Service’. You are Pushpa/Pushpendra. 10

**OR**

You are Mamta/Mohan a student of Class XII of Sarvodaya school Nangloi. You feel that there is a wide gap between civic facilities in urban and rural India. All the progress in the fields of technology and economy is used up in improving the life of city dwellers, Whereas rural people remain neglected. Write an article in about 150–200 words on the topic ‘How to bring the light of modernity to rural India’.

- 7 You are Raksha/Rakesh a student of Class XII of MGH school Geeta colony. You feel that mobile phones have become integral part of today’s life. You think that every good thing has bad sides also. Write a debate in 150–200 words either in favour of or against the topic ‘Mobile Phone and Social Development of the Children’. 10

**OR**

You are Rajan / Rajni the Head Boy/Girl of your school. You are asked to address the students of a neighbouring school on the World Environment Day as a part of students interaction programme. Write a speech in about 150-200 words emphasizing the “Role of Students in Protecting the Environment”.

### **SECTION – C (PRESCRIBED TEXT BOOKS )**

**40**

- 8 **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)**

i) “ ...and looked but soon  
put that thought away, and looked out at young  
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes.”

- a) What was the poet ‘looking’ at? What did she notice?
- b) What thought did she try to drive away?
- c) Why did the poet start ‘looking out’? What does her gesture suggest?
- d) What did the images of ‘young trees’ and ‘merry children’ symbolize?

**OR**

ii) “.....Far far from gusty waves these children’s faces  
like rootless weeds, the hair torn around their pallor:  
The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper- seeming boy, with rat’s eyes.”

- a) How is the tall girl affected by her poverty?
- b) Explain ‘like rootless weeds’. Identify the literary device.
- c) What is the comparison drawn with rat’s eyes?
- d) What does the expression ‘Far far from gusty waves signify’?

**9 Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each: (12 marks)**

- a What do you understand by “threat of a Stuka bomber”?
- b What was the ‘thunderclap’ the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson?
- c Why can’t the people in Firozabad organize themselves into a cooperative?
- d ‘History is theirs whose language is the sun’. Justify the truth of this statement.
- e What does the poet do to shrug off the painful thought of her mother’s approaching end?
- f What predictions did the astrologers make at the birth of the tiger king?

**10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:**

- i ‘Lost Spring’ explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Do you agree? Substantiate your view. **6**

**OR**

- ii ‘...I’ve plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’ Franz was shocked when he heard that it was the last lesson and he hardly knew French, his mother tongue. Many of us find ourselves in similar situations and regret when all is over. What qualities should we inculcate in life so that we are able to achieve our goals?

**11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words:**

- i Discuss the suitability of title of the story ‘The Tiger King’. **6**

**OR**

- ii “The operation is successful. The maharaja is dead.” Comment on the irony of the situation.

**12 Answer the following question in 120-150 words:**

**6**

Despite her apprehensions, Mrs. Hall defended her guest. Why? What light does this throw on her character?

**13 Answer the following question in 120-150 words:**

**6**

Why did Mr. Sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith, suggest the Halls to hang a horseshoe?

**End of the Question Paper**