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SET A



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII
18.09.2019

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs
Max. Marks: 80

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)

Q1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below: (12)

1. Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make a tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.

2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process of growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world.

The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.

3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoiding responsibility.

4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his success possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.

5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made a great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

1.1 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

(1x5=5)

- (i) The main idea in the first paragraph is that
- (a) big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great
 - (b) small actions and decisions are important in one’s life
 - (c) overnight success is possible for all of us
 - (d) personal changes are not important

- (ii) According to the writer, character is developed by
- (a) doing big things
 - (b) working on their lives one day at a time
 - (c) taking big decisions
 - (d) all the above
- (iii) What does the writer mean by saying '*chipped away at their bad habits*'?
- (a) Steadily gave up bad habits
 - (b) Slowly produced bad habits
 - (c) Gradually criticised bad habits
 - (d) Did not like bad habits
- (iv) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third paragraph?
- (a) Gandhi became great overnight.
 - (b) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself.
 - (c) Everyday Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way.
 - (d) Gandhi never made mistakes.
- (v) What is done by great people to transform their lives?
- (a) They approach life on a day-by-day basis.
 - (b) They build character in small ways.
 - (c) They believe in performing every day.
 - (d) They take small decisions.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

- (i) How do small actions and choices impact our lives?
- (ii) Describe organic process of growth through an example from the above passage.
- (iii) What are the negativities that Gandhi overcame to become great?
- (iv) Mention two things that have made a great impact on the lives of all great men?
- (v) What does the writer tell us to beware of when our ideal goals are not far away from us?

1.3 Pick out the words from the passage which are similar to the following:

(1x2=2)

- (i) regularly / repeatedly (para-3)
- (ii) unimportant / trivial (para-1)

Q.2 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

Tourism has emerged as the world's largest industry. Growing rapidly in the last two decades, today it accounts for 6% of world output and employs some 100 million people around the globe. Since the end of the Second World War, it has developed immense revenue and development potential and stands today as a unique natural renewable resource industry.

Tourism-the travel based recreation provides people with a change of visiting a place and a breaking from the monotony of daily life. It brings people of different nations together, allowing them to come into close contact with each other's customs and other aspects of life. It reveals the scenic beauty and past heritage of a country to people belonging to other nations. The knowledge and experience gained in the process can lead to greater understanding and tolerance and can even foster world peace.

The contribution of tourism can nowhere be seen more clearly than on the economic front. A study conducted by the United Nations has shown that developing countries, in particular, can reap handsome benefits out of tourism which greatly boosts national income. Tourism generates employment and adds to the entrepreneurial wealth of nation. While tourism's advantages are many, its undesirable side-effects have raised fresh problems.

Tourism can cause social, cultural or environmental disruption. One of the greatest concern is its damage to the environment. In order to attract more tourist, sprawling resorts are built which take neither the local architectural styles nor the ecology into consideration. Natural systems come to be destroyed as a result of indiscriminate construction to provide water and waste disposal facilities and recreational arrangements to tourists. Over use of environmental wealth disturbs the ecological balance.

Damage is most in wildlife parks which remain the foremost sites of tourist attraction. Tourist vans and the visitor's feet destroy the ground vegetation thus affecting the feeding habits of the

animals and landscape as well. Overcrowding brings about congestion, leading to environmental and health hazards.

Tourism often ushers in new life styles. Arrangements, as desired by tourists, are provided in order to make them feel at home. The emergence of the 'other' culture in various places has caused dissatisfaction among the local people. The concern is that the local people tend to imitate the foreign values, breaking away from their own traditions.

To promote safe tourism while ensuring that it remains a profitable industry, it is imperative to understand the factors that hamper the growth of tourism and check them effectively. General instability of the nation is damaging to tourism prospects. Political disturbances, in particular, pose a serious problem. The growing violence in the international scene and increasing threat of terrorism affects the flow of tourists. Countries like Sri Lanka have been a victim to terrorist threats for long and have therefore suffered set-backs in tourism.

- 2.1 On the basis of your reading 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. (4)
- 2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80 - 100 words. (4)

SECTION - B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

- Q.3 Your school is organizing a seminar on Communicative Approach to English Language. Prof. S N Chand, eminent linguist and resource person, will conduct the seminar. Draft an invitation to be sent to the Principal of Sena Public School, Shiv Marg, Kanpur to depute four teachers to attend the seminar and sent their names. You are Adit / Aditi, Secretary of The English Society of Sunrise Public School, Pratap Bagh, Kanpur. (4)

OR

- You are Anil / Anila, General Manager of Indo Electricals, Hyderabad. You need an accountant for your office. Draft, in not more than 50 words, an advertisement to be published in 'The Hindu' in the classified columns. (4)

Q.4 Neil / Neelam of 26 A, Green Park, New Delhi has a passion for acting. He / she sees an advertisement issued by the National School of Drama, New Delhi offering short term course in acting. Write a letter to the Director of the Institute seeking more information about the course, working hours etc. (6)

OR

Dance, as shown in some reality shows on TV, seems to have a lot of gymnastics. India has a rich tradition of classical and folk dances. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India on the need to have shows exclusively of Indian folk and classical dances. You are Neil / Neelam of 26 A, Green Park, New Delhi. (6)

Q.5 Though the concept of community service is not very new, its importance has developed in the past few years. Community service can leave a long lasting positive impact on the lives of students for a better society, a better nation and a better world at large. Write a speech in not more than 200 words on 'The Importance of Community Service in Schools' to be delivered for the morning assembly. (10)

OR

Rapid growth of technology has resulted in the widespread use of computers and mobiles. However, the interactive computer-mediated technologies have resulted in the social media harming people's social lives. Write a speech in not more than 200 words on the 'Harmful Impact of Social Media' to be delivered for the morning assembly. (10)

Q.6 The onset of monsoons in 2018 and 2019 causing heavy devastation, inundating thousands of homes, displacing over one million, landslides etc. calls for the attention of not only the Government but also the locals. As a concerned environmentalist, you decide to write on this issue and how to combat this. Write this article in not more than 200 words. You are Mukesh / Mukta. (10)

OR

Residents line up to get drinking water from a distribution tanker in the outskirts of Chennai on May 29, 2019. Without access to private tankers or rainwater harvesting systems, these low income families are almost entirely dependent on groundwater for basic needs and thus are hit hardest in crises like this. (10)

Having come across this report in the newspaper, you decide to write on this issue and how to combat this. Write this article in not more than 200 words. You are Mukesh / Mukta.

SECTION – C

(LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS)

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

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

- What are the kinds of wars mentioned in the above lines?
- What are green wars?
- What does the poet mean by '*victory with no survivors*'?
- What could be the ideal situation?

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

"If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain."

- Identify the speakers and the listener.
- How are the speakers able to feed their families?
- Where are the speakers living now? Where do the speakers hail from?
- Why did the speakers move to the present place?

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

- What does the astrologer reply to the question what if the hundredth tiger were also killed?
- What was written in Sam's letter to Charley?
- What is the aim of 'Students on Ice' programme?

- d) Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?
- e) What does the poet Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums?
- f) How does M Hamel bid farewell to his students and the people of the town?
- g) Why does Kamala Das bring in the image of merry children spilling out of their homes?

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

- a) What were the steps taken by Gandhiji to solve the problems of social and cultural backwardness in the villages of Champaran?
- b) A big boy pushed Douglas into the deep end of the swimming pool which could have led to his death. Bullying is not a new problem, but it is one that has a profound impact on many students today. Write an article on the nature of bullying, reasons for being bullied and its various other aspects.

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

- a) What explains the attitude of the General in the matter of the enemy soldiers? Was it human consideration, lack of national loyalty, dereliction of duty or simply self absorption?
- b) The title 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' has a question mark. Why? How far do you find it convincing and appropriate?

End of the Question Paper