



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE**

CLASS: XI

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

26.09.2019

Max. Marks: 80

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) 20 MARKS

1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8

Keeping cities clean is essential for keeping its residents healthy. Our health depends not just on personal hygiene and nutrition, but critically also on how clean we keep our cities and its surroundings. The spread of dengue and chikungunya are intimately linked to the deteriorating state of public health conditions in our cities.

The good news is that waste management to keep cities clean is now getting attention through the Swachh Bharat Mission. However, much of the attention begins and stops with the brooms and the dustbins, extending at most to the collection and transportation of the mixed waste to some distant or not so distant place, preferably out of sight.

The challenge of processing and treating the different streams of solid waste, and safe disposal of the residuals in scientific landfills, has received much less attention in municipal solid waste management than expected from a health point of view. One of the problems is that instead of focusing on waste management for health, we have got sidetracked into “waste for energy”. If only we were to begin by not mixing the biodegradable component of solid waste (close to 60 percent of the total) in our cities with the dry waste, and instead use this stream of waste for composting and producing a gas called methane.

City compost from biodegradable waste provides an alternative to farmyard manure (like cow-dung). It provides an opportunity to simultaneously clean up our cities and help improve agricultural productivity and quality of the soil. Organic manure or compost plays a very important role as a supplement to chemical fertilisers in enriching the nutrient-deficient soils. City compost can be the new player in the field.

Benefits of compost on the farm are well-known. The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps with drought-proofing, and the requirement of less water per crop is a

welcome feature for a water-stressed future. By making the soil porous, use of compost also makes roots stronger and resistant to pests and decay. Farmers using compost, therefore, need less quantity of pesticides. There is also evidence to suggest that horticulture crops grown with compost have better flavour, size, colour and shelf-life.

City compost has the additional advantage of being weed-free unlike farmyard manure which brings with it the seeds of undigested grasses and requires a substantial additional labour cost for weeding as the crops grow. City compost is also rich in organic carbon, and our soils are short in this.

Farmers clearly recognize the value of city compost. If city waste was composted before making it available to the farmers for applying to the soil, cities would be cleaned up and the fields around them would be much more productive

Quite apart from cleaning up the cities of biodegradable waste, this would be a major and sustainable contribution to improving the health of our soil without further damage by excessive chemical inputs. What a marvellous change from waste to health! The good news is that some states are regularly laying plastic roads. Plastic roads will not only withstand future monsoon damage but will also solve a city's problem of disposing of non-recyclable plastic. It is clear that if the mountains of waste from our cities were to be recycled into road construction material, it would tackle the problem of managing waste while freeing up scarce land.

a) Make notes on the passage in a suitable format using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give a title to your notes. 5

b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words based on your notes. 3

2 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 12

SOCIETY IS CHANGING

1. With society changing at a constant speed one thing that remains steady is our need and desire to learn. Although the classroom is viewed as a traditional setting for learning, it is also changing and evolving at a lightning speed. With a growing population, continual technological advances and the constant demand for a P valuable education, these institutions must continue to provide the materials to meet these changes. Even though it has existed for some time, a growing trend in distance education, as it is quickly becoming an integral part of the learning experience at all levels of higher education. Distance education has traditionally been referred to as correspondence, whereby the student completes the course by mail from another town or city other than that in which the school is located. The student is supplied with the necessary materials- books, tapes or videos and it is up to them to complete assignments by the deadline.

2. The appeal of distance education is that the students are allowed to complete the course at their own pace on their own schedule. The student has the choice of completing a few courses, perhaps out of interest or as a 'stepping stone' for their career. With the growing number of accredited institutions, there are numerous opportunities available to students wishing to enrich their lives with a certificate, diploma or degree. The newest trend to hit the distance education scene is the

virtual classroom or distance education online. This has opened up a whole new world of opportunities for students.

3. Many schools are now offering distance education courses online with students receiving all course materials and grades as well as handing in assignments, communicating with professors/instructors or chatting with fellow students over the internet. It is also easier for students to access their instructor for clarification about the assignment, grades or questions about their courses. From an international perspective, distance education online now gives pupils a chance to easily study at school in other countries. Canadian and international pupils now have the chance to explore each other's education systems without the hassle of acquiring a student visa or incurring expensive travel costs.

4. A few tips to think about before pursuing distance education- Students should be self-disciplined and motivated and should make sure they have the available time during the week to complete the work. Research your institution before enrolling, make sure it's accredited, so you know your certificate, diploma or degree will be recognized upon completion. If you are taking this programme as a requirement for a job, make sure your current or potential place of employment will recognize your certificate upon completion. Ask others who have already taken the course or another programme from the same institution about their experience with the programme or school. Ask yourself what level of involvement you would like from your instructor or other students.

2.1 Read the questions given below and write the correct option you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet:

1X6

(a) In this form of education, the student has to be

- (i) disciplined (ii) motivated
- (iii) self-dependent (iv) all of the above

(b) Distance education is gaining popularity because

- (i) society is changing
- (ii) classrooms are no longer required for learning to take place
- (iii) there are too many students cramped in a single classroom
- (iv) children in different cities/towns can complete a course from an institute in another city

(c) The most important feature of a good online course is

- (i) that it provides the student with all course material
- (ii) that it has qualified teachers
- (iii) that is recognized by a proper educational organization
- (iv) none of the above

- (d) With the coming of the virtual classrooms, students cannot
- (i) clarify their doubts from anyone
 - (ii) communicate with fellow students
 - (iii) find an excuse for submitting late assignments
 - (iv) chat with students from other countries
- (e) The best person to seek advice from before deciding upon the institution is
- (i) a person well experienced in studies
 - (ii) a person who is well read on all aspects
 - (iii) a person who has already taken that course from the same institution.
 - (iv) none of the above
- (f) A virtual classroom is different from a traditional distance education system as
- (i) it uses the internet to link up the students and teachers
 - (ii) it gives pupils a chance to easily study at school in other countries.
 - (iii) both (i) and (ii)
 - (iv) none of the above

2.2 Answer the following questions very briefly.

1x4=4

- (i) What according to the writer is the one important thing that has remained constant in the fast-changing age that we live in today?
- (ii) Why is it important to do an online course from an accredited institution only?
- (iii) Mention two reasons why people generally opt for these courses?
- (iv) Why would distance education be a good option for slow learners?

2.3 Find words in the above passage which convey the same meaning as the following

1x2=2

- (i) to be able to reach/retrieve information (para 3)
- (ii) in advancement help one to advance/improve (para 2)

SECTION - B (WRITING & GRAMMAR) 30 MARKS

- 3** Principal, Sunrise Global School, Agra requires a receptionist for her school. Draft a suitable advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a national newspaper giving all the necessary details of qualifications and experience required in the receptionist. **4**
- 4** After passing the Secondary School Examination, a candidate has to make a very difficult choice from a number of streams available to him for further study at the senior school level. There is no valid mechanism to assess the suitability of a candidate for a particular stream. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily emphasizing the need of educational counsellors for guidance in this matter in each school. You are Vinita/Vinay, 48, Agra Fort, Agra.(120-150 words) **6**

5 You are Selma /Saleem. You saw an advertisement regarding a course for training and preparing students for TOEFL (Test of English as a foreign Language). You wish to join the course. Write a letter to the course director, British council, Chennai-68, enquiring about all the details that you require. 6

6 Recent floods in many metropolitan cities of the country during the monsoon season laid bare the hollowness of the claims of the civic authorities of their preparedness. The poor had to bear the brunt of the problem while no one was ever held accountable. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on the common man’s woes during the monsoons and the need for accountability of the officials concerned. You are Sumit/Smita Verma. 8

OR

This year the monsoons were quite erratic. It rained incessantly and in plenty in many places while some had scanty rain. Suppose you live in an area which had heavy downpour that disrupted normal life. Narrate the experience in 150-200 words.

7 The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet against the correct number. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied. ½ x 4=2

	Incorrect	Correct
Educationist today are overwhelmingly	a) _____	_____
concern about the future of youngsters.	b) _____	_____
The common complaint is that students doesn’t	c) _____	_____
study; they are not interested. Some blames	d) _____	_____
exposure to media or lack of interest.		

8 Read the dialogue given below and complete the paragraph that follows. 2

Anya: I called you yesterday. Where were you?
Meena: I went to visit my grandmother. Why did you call?
Anya : I called to tell you that our results will be out next week.

Anya told Meena that (a) _____ and asked her where she had been.
Meena told her that (b) _____ grandmother and enquired why she had called .Anya told her that she had called to tell her that their results would be out the following week.

9 Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. 2

a) why/ to drugs/ there is / people /take/ no one/ single/ reason
b) taking drugs/once /is no/ a person/ then/ there/ starts/ for him/ turning back

SECTION - C (TEXTUAL QUESTIONS) 30 MARKS

10 Read the following extract and answer any two of the questions that follow.

1x2=2

A sweet face
My mother's, that was before I was born
And the sea, which appears to have changed less
Washed their terribly transient feet.

- a) Name the poem and the poet.
- b) What has stood the onslaught of time and what has not?
- c) What does 'terribly transient feet' mean?

11 Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words:

2x5=10

- a) What do you think was the reason of Mrs. Dorling's indifference towards the narrator?
- b) Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned— in death as in life".
- c) Why is the image of the 'engine' evoked in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?
- d) Mourad showed a special concern for animals. Justify.
- e) Why was the grandmother disturbed and distressed with the teaching in the English school?
- f) What is so special about the village Hosahalli, according to the narrator?

12 Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

6

How does the story, 'We're not afraid to die if we can all be together', suggest that optimism helps one to endure 'direst stress'?

OR

The landscape is an inner one, a spiritual and conceptual space. Discuss in reference to 'Landscape of the soul'.

13 Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

6

Why does the narrator want to forget the address, '46 Marconi Street'?

OR

Ranga's views on marriage were modern, yet he followed the age old custom of 'arranged marriage'. Comment.

14 Answer any one of the following question in about 150 words.

6

The author's grandmother was a religious person. What are the different ways in which we come to know this?

OR

'Archaeology has changed substantially', Justify in context to "Discovering Tut- the saga continues".

End of the Question Paper