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SET B



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XI

Sub.Code:301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

27.09.2018

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. *This paper consists of three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
2. *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.*
3. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.*
4. *Attempt all questions of a section without mixing them with another section.*

SECTION A (READING)

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

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The Maasai tribe live on the wide plains in southern and northern Kenya and northern Tanzania. Essentially there are twelve geographic sectors of the tribe, each one having its own customs, appearance, leadership and dialects. They can be recognized by the special red cloth they wear which is called a Shuka. They are famous fighters. They used to raid the neighbouring tribe and carry away their cattle. All the other tribes were afraid of them because of their skills in war.

The warrior is of great importance as a source of pride in the Maasai culture. To be a Maasai is to be born into one of the world's last great warrior cultures. From boyhood to adulthood, young Maasai boys begin to learn the responsibilities of being a man and a warrior. The role of a warrior is to protect their animals from human and animal predators, to build kraals (Maasai homes) and to provide security to their families.

The Maasai live in a very beautiful part of Africa. It consists of miles of rolling grassland, on which you can find thorny bushes and here and there a rocky hill. The people move from one place to another according to the seasons, looking for the grasses and other plants on which their cattle can graze.

Since the Maasai lead a semi-nomadic life, their houses are loosely constructed and semi-permanent. They are usually small, circular houses built by the women using mud, grass, wood and cow-dung. The men build the fences and sheds for the animals. When they want to settle in a place for some time, they build a kind of camp called a "Manyatta", where a few families live for weeks or months. Then they move on again, taking their few belongings with them, and burning the old "Manyatta" to the ground.

To make a hut, they take a number of long thin wooden poles and plant them in circle. Then each pole is bent into a shape of a 'U', and its other end is also planted in the earth. Now the framework for the hut is ready.

Next, the space between the poles is filled with leaves, small branches of tree and mud. Then the outside of earth hut is covered or plastered with cow-dung, which quickly becomes hard in the sun. An opening is left for the door but there are no windows. The hut is about 5 feet high, so that grown-up men cannot stand up straight inside his hut. There is no furniture, except perhaps a small wooden stool for the head of the family.

The Maasai tribe has a deep, almost sacred, relationship with cattle. They are guided by a strong belief that God created cattle especially for them and that they are the sole custodians of all the cattle on earth. This bond has led them into a nomadic way of life following patterns of rainfall over vast land in search of food and water for their large herds of cattle. The Maasai tribe measures wealth by the number of cattle and children one has.

The effects of modern civilization, education and western influence have not completely spared this unique and interesting tribe. Some of the Maasai tribe's deep-rooted culture is slowly fading away. Many practice nomadic pastoralism, while others have been absorbed into modern day jobs working in tourism where they showcase their culture to visiting tourists. Maasai children now have access to education and some have moved from their homeland to urban areas where they have secured jobs.

- a. **Make notes on the passage in any suitable format using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give a title to your notes.** 5
- b. **Write a summary of the passage based on your notes.** 3
- 2. **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:** 12
 - 1. Today, when we pick up a daily newspaper, we invariably find increasing incidences of vandalism, fraud, theft, robbery, child abuse, battered spouses, murders, hate crimes, genocide (now termed as "ethnic cleansing") along with a multitude of other senseless violent acts that have become disturbingly common. These are not the actions of people who like themselves.
 - 2. The solution to a great many problems, whether personal, national or global, lies in improving our feelings about ourselves both as individuals and members of society. When the significance of good self-esteem is well understood and it achieves the prominence it deserves, a transformation will begin, for as the people will learn they are deserving of self-respect, their respect for others will automatically increase.
 - 3. Most of our behaviour has been shaped by our parents, caregivers and authority figures who played an important part in our early upbringing and were responsible for crystallizing our ideas about ourselves and the world. While everyone has self-esteem, only a small percentage of us have high self-esteem. High self-esteem denotes that we accept ourselves unconditionally exactly as we are; we appreciate our value as a human being. When, on the other hand, we have low self-esteem, we believe that we have little intrinsic worth.

4. We believe our personal value is in direct proportion to the value of our accomplishments. If we cannot accomplish certain results, we tend to feel low about ourselves. Some of us try too hard and become workaholics and over-achievers. With few genuine feelings of self-worth, we try to create some and prove that we are somebody by our successes and achievements. Because our desire for perfection is so great, we tend to set unrealistic goals and place unreasonable demands on ourselves. Failing, rather than encouraging us to have more realistic aspirations, only leads to a mere punishing round of self-blame and a resolve to drive ourselves harder next time. If we do finally achieve our goals we are disappointed; despite everything we have done, we still feel empty inside.
5. Vulnerable to the opinions of others, we desperately try to gain their recognition and approval sometimes through risky and dangerous behaviour. Thus we are at the mercy of our emotions, instead of controlling them, we permit them to control us. Since we allow circumstances to influence our feelings, we are inclined to be moody. The insecurity we feel as a result of devaluing ourselves makes us react with jealousy, envy and possessiveness. Fear makes us greedy and acquisitive, and feelings of self-hate alternate with those of futility, unhappiness and depression.
6. Sound self-esteem is the basis for all self-improvement. As human beings, our potential is limitless, our abilities inexhaustible, and the possibilities for creative and constructive changes are endless. But, we won't experience satisfactory progress towards our goals or make any lasting improvements unless we believe we deserve the good we want. Conditions in our lives will improve permanently only when we believe we are entitled to something better. So improving our self-esteem inwardly is the vital ingredient for improving our lives.

A Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

1x6=6

- i) These days the newspapers are full of
- (a) development news
 - (b) political news
 - (c) acts of violence and crimes
 - (d) educational and employment news
- ii) Such acts are done by people
- (a) to preserve their honour
 - (b) because they lack tolerance
 - (c) who have high self-esteem
 - (d) who disregard themselves
- iii) Good self-esteem is stressed upon because
- (a) it is essential for solving many problems
 - (b) it builds up self-confidence
 - (c) it increases one's reputation
 - (d) it helps one to respect others
- iv) High self-esteem is a remarkable asset as
- (a) it makes us worthless in our own eyes
 - (b) it helps us to believe in our worth
 - (c) it forces us to be achievers
 - (d) it brings depression and disappointment

- v) Sound self-esteem ensures success as
- (a) one reacts emotionally to problems
 - (b) one becomes moody and insecure
 - (c) one taps one's latent talents and creative faculties
 - (d) one makes instant improvements
- vi) The word 'potential' in para 6 means
- (a) possible
 - (b) inability of a person
 - (c) a liquid with magic powers
 - (d) hidden power

B Answer the following questions briefly:

1x4=4

- i) What is the importance of good self-esteem?
- ii) What is remarkable in high self-esteem?
- iii) What is the result of setting unrealistic goals and unreasonable demands?
- iv) How will conditions in our lives improve permanently?

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

1x2=2

- i) destruction (para 1)
- ii) inherent (para 3)

SECTION B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR)

3. As president of the Student's Council of your school, write a notice in not more than 50 words asking the students of your school to donate old clothes, books and bags for the Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, a school for the underprivileged being run on your school premises.

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OR

RKD Financial Services Ltd, 91 Nehru Place, New Delhi requires a Company Secretary for its corporate office urgently. Write out an advertisement in not more than 50 words for a walk-in-interview to be published in the classified columns of a local newspaper.

4. You are Aditi / Anurag staying at the Vidarbha Apartments, Ashok Nagar, Bijapur. There is no bus-stop within the radius of 2 km. from the apartments, causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents. Write a letter in about 120-150 words, to the Editor of a local daily, drawing attention of the authorities to this problem and requesting speedy action.

6

OR

You are planning to go on a holiday with your family to Assam later this year. Write a letter to a travel agency in about 120-150 words to enquire about the tour packages and discounts. You are Shobhit/ Sheena of Karol Bagh, Delhi.

5. The information technology has provided new avenues to the students for knowledge, creativity, discovery as well as job opportunities at home or abroad. Computers have brought in a silent revolution. Write an article in 150-200 words showing how information technology has provided the younger generation new opportunities, joys of discovery and thrill of creativity. You are Madhu/Mudit.

10

OR

Sunday is a day of rest and repose, but some of us go on accumulating work and postpone it for Sunday. Once you were also ensnared in this web and discovered that it pays to be regular. Narrate in about 150- 200 words, the incident that liberated you from the habit of postponement.

6. **The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet against the correct number. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied.** 1/2x8=4

The camel is an oldest of domestic	e.g.	an	<u>the</u>
animals. It has been used since thousands	a.		
of year by the desert people to supply	b.		
much of their needs. Camels pulled ploughs	c.		
and carry good to market. In the desert	d.		
they are almost an only means of	e.		
transport. This animal that can adapt with	f.		
life in dry lands is often calling the ship	g.		
of the desert. It could survive on dry	h.		
leaves, seeds and twigs.			

- 7 **Read the dialogue and complete the passage given below:** 1x4=4

Interviewer: So, why do you want to be a computer programmer?

Ravi: Well, I have always been interested in computers.

Interviewer: I see. Do you have any experience?

Ravi: No, but I am a fast learner.

Interviewer: What kind of a computer do you see?

Ravi: Computer? I can use a Mac. I also used Windows 95 once.

Interviewer: That's good.

Ravi recently attended an Interview for the selection of a computer programmer. At the interview he was asked (a)..... To this question he replied that he wanted that job because (b)..... When the Interviewer asked him (c) he replied that he didn't but (d).....

8. **Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences.** 1x2=2

e.g. Sub-continent/ India/ not new/ and its/ floods are/ to

Floods are not new to India and its sub-continent.

- a) of/ very much/ flooding/ is/ in the/ rainfall/ a cause/ subcontinent/ seasonal
- b) cutting of trees/ also heightened/ of flood/ human actions/ have/ the danger/ through the

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

9. Read the following extract and answer any three of the questions that follow:

1x3=3

I descend to lave the droughts,
Atomies, dust- layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds
Only, latent, unborn

- a) What are the two voices in the poem?
- b) What does the descent of the rain signify?
- c) How does the rain help the seeds?
- d) What does the phrase '*lave the droughts*' mean?

10. Answer any three of the following questions in 30 – 40 words:

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- a) “When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble.” Why was it so?
- b) What was special about Rangappa? How did the villagers react to it?
- c) Why is the image of the engine evoked in the poem ‘The Laburnum Top’?
- d) Describe narrator’s experience when he rode the white horse alone?

Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.

11. What do you understand by ‘outsider art’? Write a note on worldwide recognition of Nek Chand’s contribution to outsider art. 6

OR

How does the story suggest that optimism helps to endure “the direst stress”?

12. Why did the two boys ultimately return the horse all of a sudden although they had planned to keep it at least for six months? 6

OR

'The Address' is a story of human predicament that follows war. Comment.

13. Gradually the author and the grandmother saw less of each other and their friendship was broken. Was the distancing in the relationship deliberate or due to the demand of the situation? Explain with examples from the text. 6

OR

A.R Williams says, “King Tut is in death, as in life moving regally ahead of his countrymen.” How far do you agree with the assertion and why?

End of the Question Paper