

<b>Roll Number</b>		
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**SET A**



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION-2023  
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE**

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

20.08.2023

Max. Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**I SECTION-A (READING) - 20 MARKS**

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

1x12=12

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become easier and more comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop a mindset to have anything immediately without waiting for – even at the traffic signals.

2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take?” My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly, I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL BE QUICK, FAST AND EASY LIKE, LIKE...” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.

4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare ourselves with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well-dismissing their achievement as pure luck or thinking that they have support, help, and approach ... that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And, so we give up.

5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn't solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the 'instant coffee' attitude.

6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, and then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality-it is a long arduous journey.

7. Only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from being happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.

8. The major problem with these 'instant coffee' solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track.

(i) People's interest to have an easy and comfortable life has led to

- a. the latest scientific inventions
- b. others to work for them
- c. getting more friends and wastage of resources
- d. develop a mindset to get everything very quickly

(ii) The lady never came to the piano teacher because she

- a. was no more interested to learn the piano
- b. was keen to learn the piano quickly
- c. thought the teacher was not interested
- d. was eager to learn the piano efficiently

(iii) Real success comes to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Pick the option in which the meaning of 'bread making' is not the same as given in the passage.

- a. People who follow a bread-making attitude never give up.
- b. She joined cookery classes to learn 'bread making'.
- c. People interested in a comfortable life never choose 'a bread-making' attitude.
- d. A 'bread-making' attitude leads to competence.

(iv) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the CORRECT set of statements.

- 1. Perseverance is the key to immediate success.
- 2. Success demands an arduous long journey.
- 3. The young lady described an interesting encounter.
- 4. We get easily upset and frustrated with initial failures.
- 5. Failures are the stepping stones to success.

- a. 1, 2 and 5                      b. 2, 4 and 5                      c. 3, 1 and 5                      d. 1, 3 and 4

(v) The major drawback with the 'instant-coffee solutions' is that they are \_\_\_\_\_

- a. short-lived      b. source of wealth      c. beneficial      d. permanent

(vi) The people with a 'bread-making' attitude have the following qualities.

- a. Perseverance, impatience and fighting spirit
- b. Patience, perseverance and never say die attitude
- c. Perseverance, quickness and relationships
- d. Perseverance, dynamism and a comfortable attitude

(vii) Find out another phrase used in the passage which means 'quick solutions'.

- a. path
- b. couple of hours
- c. meticulous practice
- d. instant-coffee attitude

(viii) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the statement which is NOT correct.

- a. The piano teacher was meticulous and competent.
- b. Life is tough for those who have an 'instant-coffee' attitude.
- c. We waste our time choosing a straight path full of initial difficulties.
- d. We look for escape routes which promise quick results.

(ix) According to the author, the following qualities make a man successful.

- (i) determination
- (ii) quick solutions attitude
- (iii) belief in God
- (iv) patience and hard work

- a. (ii) and (iv)
- b. (i) and (iv)
- c. (i) and (iii)
- d. (iii) and (iv)

(x) The word arduous in para 6 means

- a. difficult
- b. inaccessible
- c. complex
- d. energetic

(xi) Explain the expression 'her face fell' in a few words.

(xii) Mention a major problem with instant coffee solutions.

## 2. Read the passage carefully:

1. Homestays initially grew in popularity as a way for language, cultural or student travellers to immerse themselves in the local culture of a town or city. But in the last few years, thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting guests and hosts, the profile of the typical homestay traveller has changed significantly. As indicated by the research by PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition while students still account for 29% of homestay guests, nearly half of all homestay guests travel for

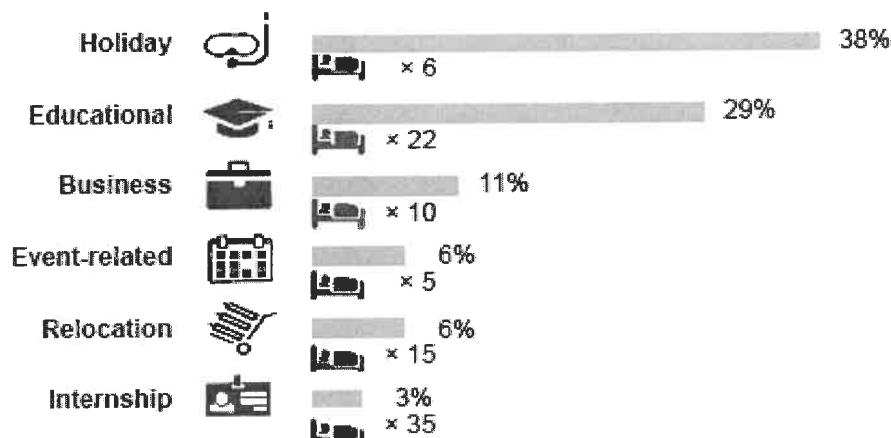
leisure.

**Why guests book homestays |** Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and the local experience.



2. Why guests book homestays | Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and for the local experience. A homestay is an increasingly popular form of accommodation that connects guests with individual hosts who have opened their homes to travellers. Guests don't stay in an empty apartment or home but instead share the accommodations provided by the homeowner and his or her family. Homestays are a popular lodging option for consumers of all ages who want a more personalized, immersive and authentic travel experience. The key to a great homestay experience for both host and guest is not only finding the right home but also the right person. In other words, finding the right match. While some guests are seeking an immersive and cultural experience, others might simply want good quality, affordable accommodations in the right location with a host they get along with. Similarly, some hosts will want to spend hours chatting with guests over a meal while others will prefer guests who are more independent.

3. According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition: • 77% of next-generation travellers chose a home or apartment rental for lodging. The top reasons for choosing a rental over a hotel include: Homelike amenities • More space • Multiple rooms • Multiple travellers • Value for money and a perfect fit for millennials Holiday. The homestay traveller is most likely to be on holiday – 38% of our respondents indicated that they were travelling for leisure. The graph below depicts the motivations of homestay travellers.



4. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination. This traveller is served by a host who recognizes that opening one's home to guests is enriching and life-changing. [Sources: Homestay.com]

**Choose the most appropriate option.**

**1x10=10**

(i) In the line "...thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting...", the word "aggregator" does not refer to:

- Web based collection of information about a topic
- Web based banking
- Web based application to gather and provide data
- Website based communication about a particular topic

(ii) According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition:

- Almost 50% of homestay guests travel for leisure
- Almost 50% of homestay guests are students
- Almost 29% of students travel for leisure
- Nearly 29% of homestay guests travel for leisure

(iii) One of the elements that is important to a homestay is:

- Guests are required to spend time with owners
- Guests stay with the homeowners of the house
- Guests have to cook their own food
- Guests stay in a cheap place with basic amenities

(iv) Read the two situations given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

(1) Rita might have to shift to Goa if she accepts offer for a new job. However, she wants to experience the culture, meet people, interact with them and get a feel of the place before she makes the final decision.

(2) At the same time her friend Reena just wants to travel for sightseeing and click pictures. She also likes a place to herself.

- Both of them would stay at a five-star hotel.

- b. Rita would stay in a hostel while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- c. Rita would prefer homestay while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- d. Both of them can prefer homestay.

(v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of homestays:

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Provides a unique cultural experience                           |
| 2. Allows you to stay alone in an apartment                        |
| 3. Provides an opportunity to stay with a local person             |
| 4. Provides an opportunity to live in great luxury                 |
| 5. Offers good quality, affordable living space with the homeowner |

- a. 1,2 and 5
- b. 1,3 and 4
- c. 1,5 and 4
- d. 1,3 and 5

(vi) As per the data of all the people who opt for home stays the ones who like it the most are:

- a. those who travel for fun or education.
- b. those who travel for education or business.
- c. those who travel for business or events.
- d. those who travel for relocation or internship.

(vii) Choose the option that is 'Not True' as per the report.

- a. Homestays are the new alternative of stay for travellers.
- b. Home stays are affordable and a great option for budget travellers.
- c. Homestays are often in far corners and they're difficult to locate.
- d. Home stays offer vast space and a home-like environment.

(viii) Based on your reading of the passage, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.

*Argument: I would not prefer to opt for homestay as it would mean spending time with strangers who are very different from you.*

- a. Homestay offers perfect accommodation for those travellers who wish to learn about different cultures.
- b. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination.
- c. Knowledge and culture are the key takeaways for the people who opt for homestays.
- d. Students and all other language junkies only should opt for homestays as it provides a home-like atmosphere.

(ix) Substitute the word 'genuine' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph – 2:

**The documents collected by the Special Task Force are genuine.**

(x) Answer in one sentence-

In what way do hosts differ from one another?

II

**SECTION B**  
**Creative Writing Skills**

**18 Marks**

3. You are Anoop/Arya, the cultural secretary of your school. As part of the national heritage programme, the school has decided to put up a show on ancient art forms. Write a notice in 50 words for the school notice board inviting students to watch the show and encourage the artists. **4**

OR

You are Selina /Jitesh, the manager of the East Coast Mart, Mumbai. You have opened a new branch of your provision store and you want the local people to visit it. Put up a notice letting them know about the new store. Draft the notice in about 50 words giving all necessary details.

4. You and Sojan / Sonia, the President, Student Council. Draft an invitation in 50 words to be sent to the parents and well-wishers on the occasion of the Academic Awards Ceremony. **4**

OR

You are Akshya / Aakriti. You have been invited to participate in a seminar on 'Fundamental Rights of Children', organised by the Lions Club of your district. Respond to the invitation addressing the Secretary of the club accepting the invitation. (Word limit: 50)

5. You are Suman of 19, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chantap Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your biodata. **5**

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of The Times Newspaper, highlighting increasing technological addiction among the young generation and appealing to the youth worldwide to maintain a balance in all spheres of life. Word limit-120-150

6. Travel is an important part of a man's education. It enables a person to learn manners, customs, languages and history of different people and places and also widens the circle of one's acquaintances. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Travel, an Important Source of Education". **5**

OR

Your School organized a workshop on personality development for students. Many eminent personalities had been present. Write a report in 125-150 words on how the workshop proved to be beneficial. You are Manish/ Malini.

### III

### SECTION-C

#### Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text

7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

What I want should not be  
confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.  
If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with  
death.

- A. (i) The poet's intention in the first line is to:
- a. give warning to the readers.
  - b. give right direction to the readers.
  - c. give choice to the readers.
  - d. give a clarification to the readers.

- (ii) Select the option that best explains the stand of the poet in the expression:  
**"I want no truck with death".**

- a. He advises people to escape death.
- b. He asserts that death is inevitable.
- c. He believes in having no association with death
- d. He expresses his desire not to die.

- (iii) Select the option that aptly describes the tone of the poet in the expression:  
**"If we were not so single minded".**

- a. Regretful
- b. Critical
- c. Encouraging
- d. Friendly

- (iv) According to the poet, who is to blame for the condition of threatening ourselves with death?



- a. Stressful life
- b. Keeping quiet
- c. Lack of understanding
- d. state of confusion

(v) The tone of the poet in the expression "perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness" is

- a. unsure yet optimistic
- b. sure and confident
- c. poetic & melodramatic
- d. hopeful but not confident

(vi) The essence of the poem is based on:

- a. Introspection
- b. Inspection
- c. Searching
- d. Looking around

**OR**

B. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
 Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways  
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
 From our dark spirits.

(i) In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with 'despondency'?

- a. The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
- b. A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
- c. I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench.
- d. Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.

(ii) Pick the option that is NOT an example of 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways.

- a. A person who is egoistic and looks down upon others.
- b. A person who seeks eternal happiness.
- c. A person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
- d. A person who is corrupt and manipulative.

(iii) Choose the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' would include.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Selflessness   | 2. Insensitivity |
| 3. Enthusiasm     | 4. Aggression    |
| 5. Meticulousness | 6. Judiciousness |

- a. 1, 4 and 5
- b. 2, 3 and 6
- c. 2, 4 and 5
- d. 1, 3 and 6

(iv) Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.

Statement 2: The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.

- a. Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- c. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- d. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

(v) Why are things of beauty compared to a flowery band?

- a. Things of beauty keep us connected to earth.
- b. Things of beauty look good on us.
- c. Things of beauty serve as trivial embellishments.
- d. Things of beauty are truly unnecessary.

(vi) What is the central theme of the passage?

- a. The importance of finding beauty in life's challenges
- b. The role of nature in uplifting our spirits
- c. The inevitability of hardships in the human experience
- d. The significance of noble virtues in society

8. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 4x1=4

A. 'That's easy to do. I've been in and out of the grand central hundreds of times, but I'm always bumping into new doorways and stairs and corridors.'

(i) Where was the speaker going?

- a. Roosevelt Hotel
- b. The third level
- c. His/her apartment
- d. Galesburg

(ii) "That's easy to do". What does the speaker refer to?

- a. Finding the third level
- b. Navigating the Grand Central station
- c. Reaching Galesburg
- d. Getting lost

(iii) What can be inferred from the speaker's statement?

- a. The speaker has excellent navigation skills.
- b. The speaker is always lost in unfamiliar places.
- c. The speaker is a frequent traveller.
- d. The speaker dislikes crowded places.

(iv) Choose the sentence with does NOT reflect the phrasal verb- 'bump into'

- a. You'll never guess who I met at the store this afternoon.
- b. Mark apologized to Brooke and as dance parties go, people are bound to collide with one another.
- c. What I do is keep updating it, make corrections, and publish when the need arises.
- d. These devices should be installed on coffee and end tables so that the people don't rub into the sharp edges while they are walking through them.

OR

B. "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty." He looked anxiously at his doctor. "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly, Your Excellency," Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. "I swear to your loyalty. Excellency," he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy."

(i) Pick the option that best describes the word 'dereliction' as used in the passage.

1. evasion	2. Deterioration	3. Negligence
4. Carelessness	5. Dilapidation	6. management

- a. 2, 3 and 6
- b. 1, 4 and 5
- c. 2, 4 and 6
- d. 1, 3 and 4

(ii) At the end of the conversation with the General, Sadao felt

- a. rejuvenated and guilt-free.
- b. conceited and egotistic.
- c. refreshed and self-conscious.
- d. relieved and guilt-free.

(iii) Read the analysis of the General based on the given extract. Choose the option that fills in the given blanks most appropriately:

The General (i) \_\_\_\_\_ power but is (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of the obligations of his job. He is so (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ with his health that he forgets to send the assassins to kill the prisoner. Due to his (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ interests, he doesn't want to expose Sadao and agrees to keep the prisoner's escape a secret.

- a. (i) fantasizes    (ii) lonely    (iii) consumed    (iv) vested
- b. (i) relishes    (ii) weary    (iii) self-absorbed    (iv) selfish
- c. (i) fancies    (ii) apathetic    (iii) negligent    (iv) worthless
- d. (i) desires    (ii) concerned    (iii) indisposed    (iv) narrow

(iv) Pick the option that best matches the idioms with their meanings.

Idioms	Meanings
1. hand in glove	A) in the care of somebody good and knowledgeable
2. in good hands	B) to reveal a secret about one's plans
3. tip one's hand	C) to win something indisputably
4. hands down	D) two or more people who are in collusion

- a) 1-A; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B
- b) 1-B; 2-C; 3-D; 4-A
- c) 1-D; 2-A; 3-B; 4-C
- d) 1-C; 2-A; 3-D; 4-B

9. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

A. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds – one of the families, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the *sahukars*, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down.

(i) Identify the literary device in the phrase 'web of poverty'.

- a. Personification
- b. Irony
- c. Metaphor
- d. Simile

(ii) What are the two distinct worlds?

- a. Poor and rich
- b. Poor and powerful
- c. Dominant and powerful
- d. Dominant and wealthy

(iii) Which factor adds to the burden faced by the families in Firozabad?

- a. Lack of political representation
- b. Stigma of caste at birth
- c. Inadequate law enforcement
- d. Competition with the middlemen

- (iv) How does the stigma of caste affect families?
  - a. It restricts them to their family trade.
  - b. It isolates them from the sahuikars' influence.
  - c. It strengthens their position in the vicious circle.
  - d. It causes them to migrate to other regions.
- (v) Find out the synonym of the word 'disgrace' from the passage.
  - a. Disillusion
  - b. Disgruntled
  - c. Disseminate
  - d. Dishonour
- (vi) What does not contribute to the 'baggage' as mentioned in the extract?
  - a. Caste system,
  - b. Manipulation by the vicious circle
  - c. Poverty
  - d. Insufficient law regulations

OR

- B. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!" And off I'd go for another length of the pool. This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So, I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

- (i) Why did Douglas go to swim at Lake Wentworth?
  - a. To showcase his skills for all who had doubted him.
  - b. To honour the efforts of his swimming instructor.
  - c. To build on his ability of swimming in a natural water body.
  - d. To know for sure that he had overcome his fear of drowning in water.
- (ii) Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the extract.
  - a. Triggs Island and Stamp Act Island are both located in Lake Wentworth.
  - b. Lake Wentworth is a part of Triggs Island.
  - c. Stamp Act Island is two miles away from New Hampshire.
  - d. Lake Wentworth is connected via docks to New Hampshire.
- (iii) What was the reason for the 'return' of terror?
  - a. Superstitions about the dock at Triggs Islands
  - b. Recent reports about drowning incidents
  - c. Prior drowning experiences
  - d. Warnings by experienced swimmers

(iv) Douglas mentions that the old sensation returned in miniature. He means that he felt the familiar feeling of fear .....

- a. at irregular intervals.
- b. on a small scale.
- c. repeatedly.
- d. without notice.

(v) How did Douglas handle the 'old sensation'?

- a. Addressed it.
- b. Avoided it.
- c. Submitted to it.
- d. Stayed indifferent to it.

(vi) The title of William Douglas' account of 'deep Water' is appropriate because it denotes

- a. being overwhelmed by a situation
- b. bringing disaster
- c. being in serious trouble
- d. being a situation that cannot be handled

10. Answer any 5 out of 6 questions in 40-50 words each.

5x2=10

(i) 'See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, 'Bah! I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow.' What broader life lessons does the story present through this statement.

(ii) The literary device 'Imagery' has been used effectively to bring out the morbid state of the mother. Comment.

(iii) What deep conclusion did Douglas draw from his various experiences of fear?

(iv) 'The residents of Seemapuri live in the primeval state without any facilities. Elaborate.

(v) Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness" in the poem Keeping Quiet?

(vi) How does the poem view 'beauty' in relation to the sorrows of life?

11. Answer any 2 out of 3 questions in 40-50 words each.

2x2=4

(i) What instances indicate that Dr. Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man?

(ii) 'The manner of The Tiger King's death is a matter of extraordinary interest.' Comment.

(iii) Does Charley agree that stamp collecting habit is a way of escapism? Why?

12. Attempt ANY ONE question given below in 120-150 words.

1x5=5

(i) There are occurrences where older kids engage in bullying younger ones, particularly within school environment. How can we draw a connection between this behavior and William Douglas' encounter at the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool? Furthermore, what does this trend reveal about the attitudes of the youth involved and the consequences of their actions?

OR

(ii) How does Alphonse Daudet showcase one's love for the native language during the time of crisis? Explain with close reference to the characters in the story providing examples.

13. Attempt ANY ONE question given below in 120-150 words.

1x5=5

(i) Imagine you were a fellow traveller with Tishani Doshi on the journey to Antarctica. In this adventure you made unexpected discoveries and came across new challenges that changed your perspective. Write a letter to a friend discussing the impact of the Students on Ice programme on your life and thinking pattern. **Begin this way:**

Delhi  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why/Why not? Explain with reference to the story, 'The Enemy'.

**End of the Question Paper**





<b>Roll Number</b>		
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**SET B**



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HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION-2023  
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE**

**CLASS: XII**

**Sub. Code: 301**

**Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.**

**20.09.2023**

**Max. Marks: 80**

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1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become easier and more comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop a mindset to have anything immediately without waiting for – even at the traffic signals.

2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take?” My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly, I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL BE QUICK, FAST AND EASY LIKE, LIKE...” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don’t is this ‘instant coffee’ attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.

4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare ourselves with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well-dismissing their achievement as pure luck or thinking that they have support, help, and approach ... that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And, so we give up.

5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn’t solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the ‘instant coffee’ attitude.

6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, and then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality-it is a long arduous journey.

7. Only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from being happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.

8. The major problem with these 'instant coffee' solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track.

(i) People's interest to have an easy and comfortable life has led to

- a. the latest scientific inventions
- b. others to work for them
- c. getting more friends and wastage of resources
- d. develop a mindset to get everything very quickly

(ii) The lady never came to the piano teacher because she

- a. was no more interested to learn the piano
- b. was keen to learn the piano quickly
- c. thought the teacher was not interested
- d. was eager to learn the piano efficiently

(iii) Real success comes to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Pick the option in which the meaning of 'bread making' is not the same as given in the passage.

- a. People who follow a bread-making attitude never give up.
- b. She joined cookery classes to learn 'bread making'.
- c. People interested in a comfortable life never choose 'a bread-making' attitude.
- d. A 'bread-making' attitude leads to competence.

(iv) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the CORRECT set of statements.

- 1. Perseverance is the key to immediate success.
  - 2. Success demands an arduous long journey.
  - 3. The young lady described an interesting encounter.
  - 4. We get easily upset and frustrated with initial failures.
  - 5. Failures are the stepping stones to success.
- a. 1, 3 and 5
  - b. 2, 4 and 5
  - c. 3, 1 and 5
  - d. 1, 3 and 4

(v) The major drawback with the 'instant-coffee solutions' is that they are

- a. short-lived
- b. source of wealth
- c. beneficial
- d. permanent

(vi) The people with a 'bread-making' attitude have the following qualities.

- a. Perseverance, impatience and fighting spirit
- b. Patience, perseverance and never-give-up attitude
- c. Perseverance, quickness and relationships
- d. Perseverance, dynamism and a comfortable attitude

(vii) Find out another phrase used in the passage which means 'quick solutions.'

- a. path
- b. couple of hours
- c. meticulous practice
- d. instant-coffee attitude

(viii) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the statement which is NOT correct.

- a. The piano teacher was meticulous and competent.
- b. Life is tough for those who have an 'instant-coffee' attitude.
- c. We waste our time choosing a straight path full of initial difficulties.
- d. We look for escape routes which promise quick results.

(ix) According to the author, the following qualities make a man successful.

- (i) determination
- (ii) quick solutions attitude
- (iii) belief in God
- (iv) patience and hard work

- a. (ii) and (iv)
- b. (i) and (iv)
- c. (i) and (iii)
- d. (iii) and (iv)

(x) The word arduous in para 6 means

- a. difficult
- b. inaccessible
- c. complex
- d. energetic

(xi) Explain the expression 'her face fell' in a few words.

(xii) Mention a major problem with instant coffee solutions.

## 2. Read the passage carefully:

1. Homestays initially grew in popularity as a way for language, cultural or student travellers to immerse themselves in the local culture of a town or city. But in the last few years, thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting guests and hosts, the profile of the typical homestay traveller has changed significantly. As indicated by the research by PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition while students still account for 29% of homestay guests, nearly half of all homestay guests travel for leisure.

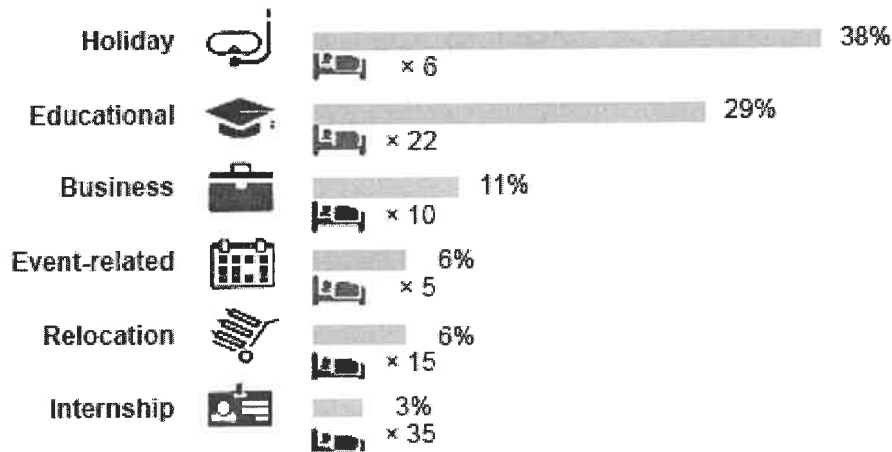
**Why guests book homestays** | Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and the local experience.



2. Why guests book homestays | Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and for the local experience. A homestay is an increasingly popular form of accommodation that connects guests with individual hosts who have opened their homes to travellers. Guests don't stay in an empty apartment or home but instead share the accommodations provided by the homeowner and his or her family. Homestays are a popular lodging option for consumers of all ages who want a more personalized, immersive and authentic travel experience. The key to a great homestay experience for both host and guest is not only finding the right home but also the right person. In other words, finding the right match. While some guests are seeking an immersive and cultural experience, others might simply want good quality, affordable accommodations in the right location with a host they get along with. Similarly, some hosts will want to spend hours chatting with guests over a meal while others will prefer guests who are more independent.

3. According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition:

- 77% of next-generation travellers chose a home or apartment rental for lodging. The top reasons for choosing a rental over a hotel include: Homelike amenities • More space • Multiple rooms • Multiple travellers • Value for money and a perfect fit for millennials
- Holiday. The homestay traveller is most likely to be on holiday – 38% of our respondents indicated that they were travelling for leisure. The graph below depicts the motivations of homestay travellers.



4. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination. This traveller is served by a host who recognizes that opening one's home to guests is enriching and life-changing. [Sources: Homestay.com]

**Choose the most appropriate option.**

**1x10=10**

(i) In the line "...thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting...", the word "aggregator" does not refer to:

- a. Web based collection of information about a topic
- b. Web based banking
- c. Web based application to gather and provide data
- d. Website based communication about a particular topic

(ii) According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition:

- a. Almost 50% of homestay guests travel for leisure
- b. Almost 50% of homestay guests are students
- c. Almost 29% of students travel for leisure
- d. Nearly 29% of homestay guests travel for leisure

(iii) One of the elements that is important to a homestay is:

- a. Guests are required to spend time with owners
- b. Guests stay with the homeowners of the house
- c. Guests have to cook their own food
- d. Guests stay in a cheap place with basic amenities

(iv) Read the two situations given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

(1) Rita might have to shift to Goa if she accepts offer for a new job. However, she wants to experience the culture, meet people, interact with them and get a feel of the place before she makes the final decision.

(2) At the same time her friend Reena just wants to travel for sightseeing and click pictures. She also likes a place to herself.

- a. Both of them would stay at a five-star hotel.
- b. Rita would stay in a hostel while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- c. Rita would prefer homestay while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- d. Both of them can prefer homestay.

(v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of homestays:

1. Provides a unique cultural experience
2. Allows you to stay alone in an apartment
3. Provides an opportunity to stay with a local person
4. Provides an opportunity to live in great luxury
5. Offers good quality, affordable living space with the homeowner

- a. 1,2 and 5
- b. 1,3 and 4
- c. 1,5 and 2
- d. 1,3 and 5

(vi) As per the data of all the people who opt for home stays the ones who like it the most are:

- a. those who travel for fun or education.
- b. those who travel for education or business.
- c. those who travel for business or events.
- d. those who travel for relocation or internship.

(vii) Choose the option that is 'Not True' as per the report.

- a. Homestays are the new alternative of stay for travellers.
- b. Home stays are affordable and a great option for budget travellers.
- c. Homestays are often in far corners and they're difficult to locate.
- d. Home stays offer vast space and a home-like environment.

(viii) Based on your reading of the passage, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.

*Argument: I would not prefer to opt for homestay as it would mean spending time with strangers who are very different from you.*

- a. Homestay offers perfect accommodation for those travellers who wish to learn about different cultures.
- b. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination.
- c. Knowledge and culture are the key takeaways for the people who opt for homestays.
- d. Students and all other language junkies only should opt for homestays as it provides a home-like atmosphere.

(ix) Substitute the word 'genuine' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph – 2:

**The documents collected by the Special Task Force are genuine.**

(x) Answer in one sentence-

In what way do hosts differ from one another?

II

**SECTION B**  
**Creative Writing Skills**

**18 Marks**

3. You are Rashmi/ Rajan Head Girl/Head Boy of Moonrise Public School, Chandigarh. A photography competition is going to take place in your school. Write a notice to be displayed on the school notice board informing the students of the competition and inviting them to participate. Draft the notice in about 50 words giving all necessary details. 4

OR

You are Nitin/ Naureen, the Secretary of the Royal Housing Complex. As a secretary you feel giving to charity builds and strengthens the community. Draft a notice in 50 words requesting the people of the housing complex to meet at the community hall for a charitable cause. Invent necessary details.

4. Draft an invitation in 50 words on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Kamal Raj of 38, Kamal Kunj, Varanasi, which they may use to invite their friends and relatives on the 5th birth anniversary of their son Nikhil at their residence. 4

OR

As the principal of a reputed college, you have been invited to inaugurate a Book Exhibition in your neighbourhood. Draft a reply to the invitation in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function. You are Tarun/Tanvi.

5. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times Newspaper, highlighting increasing technological addiction among the young generation and appealing to the youth worldwide to maintain a balance in all spheres of life. Word limit-120-150 5

OR

Easy Call Centre in New Delhi needs some call executives for its UK shift. Write a job application to apply for the post. The prerequisite for the job is- Graduation in any stream and proficiency in English. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your biodata.

6. Your School organized a workshop on personality development for students. Many eminent personalities had been present. Write a report in 125-150 words on how the workshop proved to be beneficial. You are Manish/ Malini. 5

OR

Travel is an important part of a man's education. It enables a person to learn manners, customs, languages and history of different people and places and also widens the circle of one's acquaintances. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Travel, an Important Source of Education".

### III

#### SECTION-C

##### Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text

7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

- A. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- a. The beauty of nature
- b. The power of imagination
- c. The immortality of art and literature
- d. The inevitability of death

(ii) Pick the option that pairs the TRUE statements based on the extract, from the list below.

- 1. The bushes with fragrant flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.
- 2. Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.
- 3. Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar of joy.
- 4. Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us.

- a. 1 and 2



- b. 2 and 4
- c. 1 and 4
- d. 2 and 3

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The "endless fountain of immortal drink" is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because \_\_\_\_\_.

(vi) Pick the option that uses the same literary device as the 'mighty dead'.

- a. Sleepless nights
- b. Deafening silence
- c. Glaring lights
- d. Timeless beauty

(v) The phrase "endless fountain of immortal drink" is a metaphor for:

- a. A source of eternal life
- b. An infinite source of knowledge
- c. An unending supply of physical sustenance
- d. A celestial waterfall

(vi) The overall tone of the excerpt is:

- a. Somber and melancholic
- b. Fearful and anxious
- c. Joyful and exuberant
- d. Humorous and lighthearted

**OR**

B. Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
As when everything seems dead  
And later proves to be alive

(i) What can earth teach us?

- a. Silence is not death
- b. Death is not silent
- c. Silence and death are synonymous
- d. Living life is important

(ii) How can we achieve the state of 'seems dead'?

- a. Taking out time to synchronize
- b. Taking out time to recover
- c. Taking out time to replenish
- d. Taking out time to introspect

(iii) What is the sadness in the poem the poet speaks about?

- a. Violence because of thoughtlessness of people
- b. Unnecessary actions
- c. Speaking in many languages
- d. Fighting

(iv) What does the phrase "the Earth can teach us" imply in the context of the statement?

- a. Earth possesses consciousness and communicates with us.
- b. By studying Earth, we can gain insights into the history of the universe.
- c. Nature has valuable lessons to offer that can benefit humanity.
- d. The Earth has hidden knowledge that only the chosen can access.

(v) Pick out the proverb which suits best to the meaning of the given extract.

- a. Silence helps encourage mindfulness.
- b. Silence is more than just a lack of words.
- c. There is a time to speak and a time to be silent.
- d. The spoken word sometimes loses what silence has won.

(vi) Choose the literary device used in the first line of the stanza.

- a. Transferred epithet
- b. Personification
- c. Metaphor
- d. Oxymoron

8. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 4x1=4

A. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality.

(i) Why did Sam's verdict make Charley's wife 'mad'?

- a. It made it difficult for her to accept that Charley would consult a psychiatrist.
- b. It seemed to suggest to her that she was the cause of Charley's unhappiness.
- c. It made her aware of Charley's delicate state of mind.
- d. It offended her that Charley and Sam collectively accused her

(ii) Sam's explanation to the reaction of Charley's wife was \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. Critical      b. aggressive      c. clarifying      d. accusatory

(iii) Select the option that signifies the condition of people of the 'modern world' mentioned in the extract.

- (1) unsure      (2) lazy      (3) offensive      (4) anxious      (5) afraid

- a. (1) and (3)  
b. (2) and (5)  
c. (2), (3) and (4)  
d. (1), (4) and (5)

(iv) Select the option that displays a cause-effect set.

	cause	effect
A.	Charley's stamp collecting	Wandering into the third level

	cause	effect
B.	Everybody wants to escape	Modern world full of insecurity

	cause	effect
C.	Charley's wandering into the third level	Charley's stamp collecting

	cause	effect
D.	Modern world full of insecurity	Everybody wants to escape

OR

B His father had taken him often to the islands of those seas, and never had he failed to say to the little brave boy at his side, "Those islands yonder, they are the stepping stones to the future for Japan."

"Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked seriously. "Who knows?" his father had answered. "Who can limit our future? It depends on what we make it".

i. What does the speaker mean by 'stepping stone'?

1. Means of advancement
2. Means of progression
3. Means of organization
4. Means of paucity

- (a) Option 1  
(b) Option 1 and 2  
(c) Option 3  
(d) Option 3 and 4

ii. Pick out the option that best describes the word 'yonder' as used in the passage.

1. Distant
2. Accessible
3. Proximate
4. non-adjacent
5. Adjoining
6. Far-flung

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 4 and 6
- (d) 2, 3 and 5

iii What does Sadao's father mean when he says, "It depends on what we make it"?

- (a) The future is predetermined and cannot be changed.
- (b) The future is entirely uncertain and cannot be influenced.
- (c) The future can be shaped by their actions and choices.
- (d) The future is limited by external factors beyond their control.

iv. "Where shall we step from them?" Sadao had asked \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Fairly
- (b) Earnestly
- (c) Insignificantly
- (d) Slightly

9. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

A. She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes. "Ek waqt ser bhar khana bhi nahin khaya," she says, in a voice drained of joy. She has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime —that's what she has reaped! Her husband, an old man with a flowing beard, says, "I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in."

Hearing him, one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head!

The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of their elders. Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad. Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

(i) 'She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes.' This implies that:

- a. She is married but has lost the charm in her eyes.

- b. She is a married woman who has lost her grace and beauty.
- c. Though she is married, her eyes are devoid of happiness.
- d. She is a married woman who has lost her eyesight.

(ii) He has a roof over his head!' The tone of the author is

- a. Pessimistic      b. sympathetic      c. empathetic      d. optimistic

(iii) Choose the term which best matches the statement 'The young men echo the lament of their elders'

- a. Acceptance      b. Retaliation      c. Reiteration      d. Doubtfulness

(iv) Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream'. This shows that:

- a. The bangle makers are exhausted yet they are enterprising and have dreams.
- b. The drudgery of work has destroyed their willingness to improve their lot.
- c. The daily grind has stolen the dreams of the bangle makers and made them dull.
- d. The bangle makers have been working so hard that there's no time to dream.

(v) Statement 1: The young bangle makers could not organise themselves into a cooperative.

Statement 2: They were caught in a web of vicious circle.

- a. If Statement 1 is the cause, Statement 2 is the effect.
- b. If Statement 1 is the effect, Statement 2 is the cause.
- c. Both the statements are the effects of a common cause.
- d. Both the statements are the effects of independent causes.

(vi) Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles, indicates that:

- a. bangle making is the only industry that flourishes in Firozabad.
- b. the entire population of Firozabad is involved in bangle making.
- c. majority of the population in Firozabad is involved in bangle making.
- d. bangle making is the most loved occupation in Firozabad.

OR

B. My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did these two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened.

(i) The author tried to learn swimming in the beginning by

- a. Self-learning at Yakima River
- b. Learning from his father
- c. Joining YMCA pool
- d. Hiring an instructor

(ii) What change did the author feel after sometime?

- a. Gained confidence
- b. Felt afraid
- c. Abandoned fear
- d. Started detesting water

(iii) What misadventure the author is referring to?

- a. Tossed by a boy in pool.
- b. Lost balance and fell into Yakima River.
- c. Was engulfed by the waves
- d. depression in childhood

(iv) Which word in the above extract means same as 'copying'?

- a. ignoring     b. aping     c. styling     d. employing

(v) Choose the statement that is NOT TRUE with reference to Douglas:

- a. Douglas's fear kept him away from leisurely activities in water.
- b. The fall in the pool at YMCA taught Douglas a life lesson.
- c. The fear of drowning was the source of Douglas's anxiety and terror.
- d. Douglas decided to give up to overcome his fear.

(vi) Choose the option which does not mean 'to feel at ease' -

- a. Relaxed     b. Secure     c. Effortless     d. Comfortable

10. Answer any 5 out of 6 questions in 40-50 words each.

5x2=10

(i) What is the significance of comparing 'beauty' to a 'fountain' in the poem, *A Thing of Beauty*.

(ii) What deep conclusion did Douglas draw from his various experiences of fear?

(iii) Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness" in the poem *Keeping Quiet*?

(iv) How does the story '*The Lost Spring*' explore the theme of hope and resilience amidst the harsh realities of life?

(v) What is the symbolism in the line "I never saw him look so tall"?

(vi) 'A smile does not always indicate happiness.' Does *My Mother at Sixty-Six* reflect this statement? Justify your response with an example from the poem.

11. Answer any 2 out of 3 questions in 40-50 words each.

2x2=4

(i) How did the Tiger King's Diwan prove to be resourceful?

(ii) How does Charley describe Galesburg as it used to be in 1894?

(iii) But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward""  
What was the reward?

12. Attempt ANY ONE question given below in 120-150 words.

1x5=5

(i) How does Alphonse Daudet showcase one's love for the native language during the time of crisis? Explain with close reference to the characters in the story providing examples.

OR

(ii) There are occurrences where older kids engage in bullying younger ones, particularly within school environment. How can we draw a connection between this behavior and William Douglas' encounter at the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool? Furthermore, what does this trend reveal about the attitudes of the youth involved and the consequences of their actions?

13. Attempt ANY ONE question given below in 120-150 words.

1x5=5

(i) Imagine you were a fellow traveller with Tishani Doshi on the journey to Antarctica. In this adventure you made unexpected discoveries and came across new challenges that changed your perspective. Write a letter to a friend discussing the impact of the Students on Ice programme on your life and thinking pattern. **Begin this way:**

Delhi  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why/Why not? Explain with reference to the story, 'The Enemy'.

**End of the Question Paper**





Roll Number		
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SET C



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION-2023  
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

20.08.2023

Max. Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**I SECTION-A (READING) - 20 MARKS**

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

1x12=12

1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become easier and more comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop a mindset to have anything immediately without waiting for – even at the traffic signals.

2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, “How long will this course take?” My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly, I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL BE QUICK, FAST AND EASY LIKE, LIKE...” When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.

3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up.

4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare ourselves with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well-dismissing their achievement as pure luck or thinking that they have support, help, and approach ... that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And, so we give up.

5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn't solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the 'instant coffee' attitude.

6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a ‘bread-making’ attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, and then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness or even in spirituality-it is a long arduous journey.

7. Only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don’t accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from being happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.

8. The major problem with these ‘instant coffee’ solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track.

(i) People’s interest to have an easy and comfortable life has led to

- a. the latest scientific inventions
- b. others to work for them
- c. getting more friends and wastage of resources
- d. develop a mindset to get everything very quickly

(ii) The lady never came to the piano teacher because she

- a. was no more interested to learn the piano
- b. was keen to learn the piano quickly
- c. thought the teacher was not interested
- d. was eager to learn the piano efficiently

(iii) Real success comes to those who have a ‘bread-making’ attitude. Pick the option in which the meaning of ‘bread making’ is not the same as given in the passage.

- a. People who follow a bread-making attitude never give up.
- b. She joined cookery classes to learn ‘bread making’.
- c. People interested in a comfortable life never choose ‘a bread-making’ attitude.
- d. A 'bread-making' attitude leads to competence.

(iv) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the CORRECT set of statements.

- 1. Perseverance is the key to immediate success.
- 2. Success demands an arduous long journey.
- 3. The young lady described an interesting encounter.
- 4. We get easily upset and frustrated with initial failures.
- 5. Failures are the stepping stones to success.

- a. 1, 3 and 5
- b. 2, 4 and 5
- c. 3, 1 and 2
- d. 1, 3 and 4

(v) The major drawback with the 'instant-coffee solutions' is that they are

- a. short-lived
- b. source of wealth
- c. beneficial
- d. permanent

(vi) The people with a 'bread-making' attitude have the following qualities.

- a. Perseverance, impatience and fighting spirit
- b. Patience, perseverance and never-give-up attitude
- c. Perseverance, quickness and relationships
- d. Perseverance, dynamism and a comfortable attitude

(vii) Find out another phrase used in the passage which means 'quick solutions.'

- a. path
- b. couple of hours
- c. meticulous practice
- d. instant-coffee attitude

(viii) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the statement which is NOT correct.

- a. The piano teacher was meticulous and competent.
- b. Life is tough for those who have an 'instant-coffee' attitude.
- c. We waste our time choosing a straight path full of initial difficulties.
- d. We look for escape routes which promise quick results.

(ix) According to the author, the following qualities make a man successful.

- (i) determination
- (ii) quick solutions attitude
- (iii) belief in God
- (iv) patience and hard work

- a. (ii) and (iv)
- b. (i) and (iv)
- c. (i) and (iii)
- d. (iii) and (iv)

(x) The word arduous in para 6 means

- a. difficult
- b. inaccessible
- c. complex
- d. energetic

(xi) Explain the expression 'her face fell' in a few words.

(xii) Mention a major problem with instant coffee solutions.

## 2. Read the passage carefully:

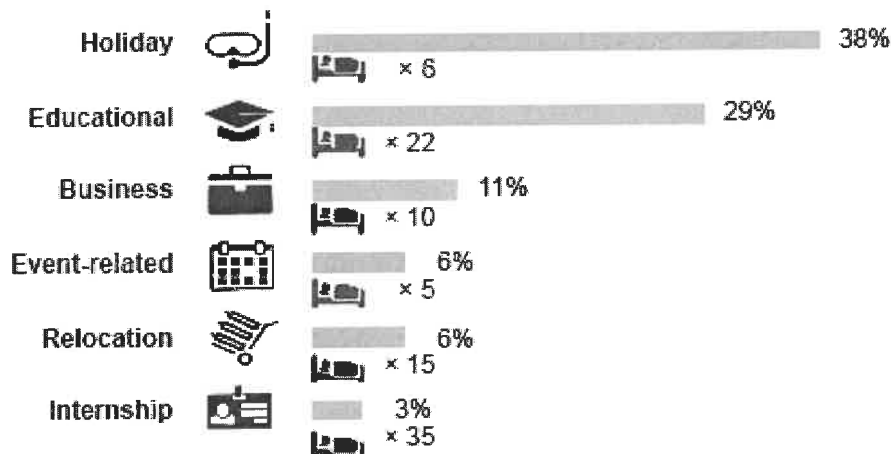
1. Homestays initially grew in popularity as a way for language, cultural or student travellers to immerse themselves in the local culture of a town or city. But in the last few years, thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting guests and hosts, the profile of the typical homestay traveller has changed significantly. As indicated by the research by PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition while students still account for 29% of homestay guests, nearly half of all homestay guests travel for leisure.

**Why guests book homestays | Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and the local experience.**



2. Why guests book homestays | Guests book homestays to enjoy staying in a home environment, for the location, for value for money, and for the local experience. A homestay is an increasingly popular form of accommodation that connects guests with individual hosts who have opened their homes to travellers. Guests don't stay in an empty apartment or home but instead share the accommodations provided by the homeowner and his or her family. Homestays are a popular lodging option for consumers of all ages who want a more personalized, immersive and authentic travel experience. The key to a great homestay experience for both host and guest is not only finding the right home but also the right person. In other words, finding the right match. While some guests are seeking an immersive and cultural experience, others might simply want good quality, affordable accommodations in the right location with a host they get along with. Similarly, some hosts will want to spend hours chatting with guests over a meal while others will prefer guests who are more independent.

3. According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition: • 77% of next-generation travellers chose a home or apartment rental for lodging. The top reasons for choosing a rental over a hotel include: Homelike amenities • More space • Multiple rooms • Multiple travellers • Value for money and a perfect fit for millennials Holiday. The homestay traveller is most likely to be on holiday – 38% of our respondents indicated that they were travelling for leisure. The graph below depicts the motivations of homestay travellers.



4. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination. This traveller is served by a host who recognizes that opening one's home to guests is enriching and life-changing. [Sources: Homestay.com]

**Choose the most appropriate option.**

**1x10=10**

(i) In the line "...thanks in part to online aggregators that specialize in connecting...", the word

"aggregator" does not refer to:

- a. Web based collection of information about a topic
- b. Web based banking
- c. Web based application to gather and provide data
- d. Website based communication about a particular topic

(ii) According to research presented in PhoCus Wright's U.S. Consumer Travel Report Sixth Edition:

- a. Almost 50% of homestay guests travel for leisure
- b. Almost 50% of homestay guests are students
- c. Almost 29% of students travel for leisure
- d. Nearly 29% of homestay guests travel for leisure

(iii) One of the elements that is important to a homestay is:

- a. Guests are required to spend time with owners
- b. Guests stay with the homeowners of the house
- c. Guests have to cook their own food
- d. Guests stay in a cheap place with basic amenities

(iv) Read the two situations given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

(1) Rita might have to shift to Goa if she accepts offer for a new job. However, she wants to experience the culture, meet people, interact with them and get a feel of the place before she makes the final decision.

(2) At the same time her friend Reena just wants to travel for sightseeing and click pictures. She also likes a place to herself.

- a. Both of them would stay at a five-star hotel.
- b. Rita would stay in a hostel while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- c. Rita would prefer homestay while Reema would stay in a hotel.
- d. Both of them can prefer homestay.

(v) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of homestays:

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Provides a unique cultural experience                           |
| 2. Allows you to stay alone in an apartment                        |
| 3. Provides an opportunity to stay with a local person             |
| 4. Provides an opportunity to live in great luxury                 |
| 5. Offers good quality, affordable living space with the homeowner |

- a. 1,2 and 5
- b. 1,3 and 4
- c. 1,5 and 4
- d. 1,3 and 5

(vi) As per the data of all the people who opt for home stays the ones who like it the most are:

- a. those who travel for fun or education.
- b. those who travel for education or business.
- c. those who travel for business or events.
- d. those who travel for relocation or internship.

(vii) Choose the option that is 'Not True' as per the report.

- a. Homestays are the new alternative of stay for travellers.
- b. Home stays are affordable and a great option for budget travellers.
- c. Homestays are often in far corners and they're difficult to locate.
- d. Home stays offer vast space and a home-like environment.

(viii) Based on your reading of the passage, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.

*Argument: I would not prefer to opt for homestay as it would mean spending time with strangers who are very different from you.*

- a. Homestay offers perfect accommodation for those travellers who wish to learn about different cultures.
- b. Homestay caters to a new breed of traveller, one who places the experience of the travel over the price or destination.
- c. Knowledge and culture are the key takeaways for the people who opt for homestays.
- d. Students and all other language junkies only should opt for homestays as it provides a home-like atmosphere.

(ix) Substitute the word 'genuine' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph – 2:

**The documents collected by the Special Task Force are genuine.**

(x) Answer in one sentence-

In what way do hosts differ from one another?

II

**SECTION B**  
**Creative Writing Skills**

**18 Marks**

3. You are Selina /Jitesh, the manager of the East Coast Mart, Mumbai. You have opened a new branch of your provision store and you want the local people to visit it. Put up a notice letting them know about the new store. Draft the notice in about 50 words giving all necessary details. 4

OR

You are Anoop/Arya, the cultural secretary of your school. As part of the national heritage programme, the school has decided to put up a show on ancient art forms. Write a notice in 50 words for the school notice board inviting students to watch the show and encourage the artists.

4. You are the secretary of the Delhi Civil Medical Doctors' Association. You have organised a seminar on Medical Ethics and Professionalism for the members of the association and invited a specialist guest speaker. Draft an invitation in 50 words for publication in the newspapers. You are Ritesh/ Reema 4

OR

Your friend, P.V. Sathish, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You find that you have an important paper for the pre-board examination on the day of the wedding. Thus, you cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words a formal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Puneet/ Puneeta Vij, M 114, Fort Road,

5. You are Suman of 19, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chantap Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your biodata. 5

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of The Times Newspaper, highlighting increasing technological addiction among the young generation and appealing to the youth worldwide to maintain a balance in all spheres of life. Word limit-120-150

6. Travel is an important part of a man's education. It enables a person to learn manners, customs, languages and history of different people and places and also widens the circle of one's acquaintances. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Travel, an Important Source of Education". 5

OR

Your School organized a workshop on personality development for students. Many eminent personalities had been present. Write a report in 125-150 words on how the workshop proved to be beneficial. You are Manish/ Malini.

### III

#### SECTION-C

##### Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text

7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

- A. For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.  
It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

- (i) The poet uses the word "let's" to \_\_\_\_\_
- initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
  - invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity.
  - welcome readers into the world of the poem.
  - address readers as fellow members of the human race.

(ii) Margaret Atwood said, "Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole." Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract – "let's not speak in any language"

- Atwood endorses Neruda's call to not speak in any language.
- Atwood justifies Neruda's request to not engage in any speaking.
- Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language.
- Atwood surrenders to Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language.



- (iii) Why do you think the poet employs words like “exotic” and “strangeness”?
- To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once.
  - To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life.
  - To indicate the familiarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
  - To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence.

(iv) Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A

1. On the face of the earth
2. What on earth something
3. Move heaven and earth
4. The salt of the earth

Column B

- (i) In existence
- (ii) To do all possible to accomplish
- (iii) To express surprise or shock
- (iv) To be good and worthy

- a. 1 – (i); 2 – (iv); 3 – (iii); 4 – (ii)
- b. 1 – (i); 2 – (iii); 3 – (ii); 4 – (iv)
- c. 1 – (ii); 2 – (i); 3 – (iv); 4 – (iii)
- d. 1 – (iv); 2 – (ii); 3 – (iii); 4 – (i)

(v) How does the speaker describe the atmosphere during this moment?

- a. Rushed and chaotic
- b. Peaceful and still
- c. Noisy and loud
- d. Frantic and disorganized

(vi) What does the speaker's attitude toward the idea of not speaking in any language demonstrate?

- a. Resistance to change
- b. Willingness to embrace change
- c. Inflexibility in communication
- d. Dependence on routine

**OR**

B. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits.

(i) In which of the following options can the underlined words be replaced with 'despondency'?

- a. The man paced about the room showing restlessness.
- b. A chat with a close friend can take away our blues.
- c. I was in jitters, seeing the boy trapped in the trench.
- d. Being dogged is what led him to negotiate the challenges.

(ii) Pick the option that is NOT an example of 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways'.

- a. A person who is egoistic and looks down upon others.
- b. A person who seeks eternal happiness.
- c. A person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
- d. A person who is corrupt and manipulative.

(iii) Pick the option that enumerates what 'noble natures' would include.

- |                 |                   |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Selflessness | 2. Insensitivity  | 3. Enthusiasm    |
| 4. Aggression   | 5. Meticulousness | 6. Judiciousness |

- a. 1, 4 and 5
- b. 2,3 and 6
- c. 2, 4 and 5
- d. 1,3 and 6

(iv) Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: The earth without the beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.

Statement 2: The ornate band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.

- a. Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- c. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- d. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

(v) Why are things of beauty compared to a flowery band?

- a. Things of beauty keep us connected to earth.
- b. Things of beauty look good on us.
- c. Things of beauty serve as trivial embellishments.
- d. Things of beauty are truly unnecessary.

(vi) What is the central theme of the passage?

- a. The importance of finding beauty in life's challenges
- b. The role of nature in uplifting our spirits
- c. The inevitability of hardships in the human experience
- d. The significance of noble virtues in society

8. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 4x1=4

A. 'That's easy to do. I've been in and out of the grand central hundreds of times, but I'm always bumping into new doorways and stairs and corridors.'

(i) Where was the speaker going?

- a. Roosevelt Hotel
- b. The third level
- c. His/her apartment
- d. Galesburg

(ii) "That's easy to do". What does the speaker refer to?

- a. Finding the third level
- b. Navigating the Grand Central station
- c. Reaching Galesburg
- d. Getting lost

(iii) What can be inferred from the speaker's statement?

- a. The speaker has excellent navigation skills.
- b. The speaker is always lost in unfamiliar places.
- c. The speaker is a frequent traveller.
- d. The speaker dislikes crowded places.

(iv) Choose the sentence with does NOT reflect the phrasal verb- 'bump into'

- a. You'll never guess who I met at the store this afternoon.
- b. Mark apologized to Brooke and as dance parties go, people are bound to collide with one another.
- c. What I do is keep updating it, make corrections, and publish when the need arises.
- d. These devices should be installed on coffee and end tables so that the people don't rub into the sharp edges while they are walking through them.

OR

B "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty." He looked anxiously at his doctor. "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly, Your Excellency," Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. "I swear to your loyalty. Excellency," he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy."

(i) Pick the option that best describes the word 'dereliction' as used in the passage.

1. evasion	2. Deterioration	3. negligence
4. Carelessness	5. dilapidation	6. management

- a. 2, 3 and 6
- b. 1, 4 and 5
- c. 2, 4 and 6
- d. 1, 3 and 4

(ii) At the end of the conversation with the General, Sadao felt

- a. rejuvenated and guilt-free.
- b. conceited and egotistic.
- c. refreshed and self-conscious.
- d. relieved and guilt-free.

(iii) Read the analysis of the General based on the given extract. Choose the option that fills in the given blanks most appropriately:

The General (i) \_\_\_\_\_ power but is (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of the obligations of his job. He is so (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ with his health that he forgets to send the assassins to kill the prisoner. Due to his (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ interests, he doesn't want to expose Sadao and agrees to keep the prisoner's escape a secret.

- a. (i) fantasizes; (ii) lonely ; (iii) consumed ; (iv) vested
- b. (i) relishes; (ii) weary; (iii) self-absorbed ; (iv) selfish
- c. (i) fancies; (ii) apathetic ; (iii) negligent ; (iv) worthless
- d. (i) desires; (ii) concerned ; (iii) indisposed ; (iv) narrow

(iv) Pick the option that best matches the idioms with their meanings.

#### Idioms

#### Meanings

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. hand in glove  | A) in the care of somebody good and knowledgeable |
| 2. in good hands  | B) to reveal a secret about one's plans           |
| 3. tip one's hand | C) to win something indisputably                  |
| 4. hands down     | D) two or more people who are in collusion        |

- a) 1-A; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B
- b) 1-B; 2-C; 3-D; 4-A
- c) 1-D; 2-A; 3-B; 4-C
- d) 1-C; 2-A; 3-D; 4-B

9. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. 6x1=6

A. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds – one of the families, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the *sahukars*, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down.

(i) Identify the literary device in the phrase 'web of poverty'.

- a. Personification      b. Irony      c. Metaphor      d. Simile

(ii) What are the two distinct worlds?

- a. Poor and rich
- b. Poor and powerful
- c. Dominant and powerful
- d. Dominant and wealthy

(iii) Which factor adds to the burden faced by the families in Firozabad?

- a. Lack of political representation
- b. Stigma of caste at birth
- c. Inadequate law enforcement
- d. Competition with the middlemen

- (iv) How does the stigma of caste affect families?
- a. It restricts them to their family trade.
  - b. It isolates them from the sahuikars' influence.
  - c. It strengthens their position in the vicious circle.
  - d. It causes them to migrate to other regions.

- (v) Find out the synonym of the word 'disgrace' from the passage.

- a. Disillusion      b. Disgruntled      c. Disseminate      d. Dishonour

- (vi) What does not contribute to the 'baggage' as mentioned in the extract?
- a. Caste system,
  - b. Manipulation by the vicious circle
  - c. Poverty
  - d. Insufficient law regulations

OR

- B. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!" And off I'd go for another length of the pool. This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So, I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

- (i) Why did Douglas go to swim at Lake Wentworth?

- a. To showcase his skills for all who had doubted him.
- b. To honour the efforts of his swimming instructor.
- c. To build on his ability of swimming in a natural water body.
- d. To know for sure that he had overcome his fear of drowning in water.

- (ii) Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the extract.

- a. Triggs Island and Stamp Act Island are both located in Lake Wentworth.
- b. Lake Wentworth is a part of Triggs Island.
- c. Stamp Act Island is two miles away from New Hampshire.
- d. Lake Wentworth is connected via docks to New Hampshire.

- (iii) What was the reason for the 'return' of terror?

- a. Superstitions about the dock at Triggs Islands
- b. Recent reports about drowning incidents
- c. Prior drowning experiences
- d. Warnings by experienced swimmers

(iv) Douglas mentions that the old sensation returned in miniature. He means that he felt the familiar feeling of fear .....

- a. at irregular intervals.
- b. on a small scale.
- c. repeatedly.
- d. without notice.

(v) How did Douglas handle the 'old sensation'?

- a. Addressed it.
- b. Avoided it.
- c. Submitted to it.
- d. Stayed indifferent to it.

(vi) The title of William Douglas' account of 'deep Water' is appropriate because it denotes

- a. being overwhelmed by a situation
- b. bringing disaster
- c. being in serious trouble
- d. being a situation that cannot be handled

10. Answer any 5 out of 6 questions in 40-50 words each.

5x2=10

(i) 'A smile does not always indicate happiness.' Does My Mother at Sixty-Six reflect this statement? Justify your response with an example from the poem.

(ii) How does the story 'The Lost Spring' explore the theme of hope and resilience amidst the harsh realities of life?

(iii) What deep conclusion did Douglas draw from his various experiences of fear?

(iv) 'See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves, 'Bah! I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow.' What broader life lessons does the story present through this statement.

(v) Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness" in the poem Keeping Quiet?

(vi) How does the poem view 'beauty' in relation to the sorrows of life?

11. Answer any 2 out of 3 questions in 40-50 words each.

2x2=4

(i) But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward"". What was the reward?

(ii) 'The manner of The Tiger King's death is a matter of extraordinary interest.' Comment.

(iii) How does Charley describe Galesburg as it used to be in 1894?

12. Attempt ANY ONE question given below in 120-150 words.

(i) There are occurrences where older kids engage in bullying younger ones, particularly within school environment. How can we draw a connection between this behavior and William Douglas' encounter at the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool? Furthermore, what does this trend reveal about the attitudes of the youth involved and the consequences of their actions?

1x5=5

OR

(ii) How does Alphonse Daudet showcase one's love for the native language during the time of crisis? Explain with close reference to the characters in the story providing examples.

13 Answer in 120-150 words

1x5=5

(i) Imagine you were a fellow traveller with Tishani Doshi on the journey to Antarctica. In this adventure you made unexpected discoveries and came across new challenges that changed your perspective. Write a letter to a friend discussing the impact of the Students on Ice programme on your life and thinking pattern. **Begin this way:**

Delhi  
20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why/Why not? Explain with reference to the story, 'The Enemy'.

**End of the Question Paper**

Dr. S. S. S.