

8/2/2

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SET A



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION  
ENGLISH CORE**

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

24.02.2021

Max. Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. 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.

**PART A - MCQs**

**40 Marks**

**Reading Comprehension**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

1. India can really become a tourist's paradise on Earth as we have so much to offer to the visitors. No other country in the world possesses so much variety. The breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas, its valleys and rivers, the numerous wildlife sanctuaries dotted all over the country, our still un-spoilt sea-beaches, our great temples and caves and historical monuments, our music and dance, our festivals and national celebrations, would attract any tourist in the world. They are all our potential foreign exchange earners.

2. If we wish to earn more from our tourists, we must build up more infrastructure. The Government of India has intensified efforts to build more hotels in the country. Those in the hotel business are allowed to have foreign collaborations. Our hotels must offer such facilities that foreigners love: these are 24-hour service, swimming pools, tennis courts, club houses, massage centers, indoor and outdoor restaurants playgrounds for children, dance floor with live music in season and so on. These would make for an exciting tour.

3. The Government is also providing new and better facilities. It would do us good if certain irritants connected with customs formalities could also be removed.

4. But tourism is everybody's business as all benefit from it. Wealth flows from affluent countries to the less affluent. Within the country itself it moves from the developed areas to the less developed ones. It flows from the rich to the poor, thus producing a better distribution of wealth. Private agencies can do a lot to promote the tourist trade in this country. They can arrange group tours for foreigners on a large scale. Those selling goods to the tourists should not charge them higher rates. Even a humble taxi driver can do something for tourism if he does not cheat a visitor.

5. So, let us give the tourist the facilities he is used to in his own country. If he goes home irritated and unhappy, he will surely discourage others from visiting our country. We will lose a friend and also some foreign exchange. But if the tourist is satisfied with the facilities offered to him, what he tells his people back home will do publicity for us. Then others would also be tempted to come to our country when we say, "Welcome to India".

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below.**

**1x10 =10**

(i) India can become a tourist's paradise:

- (a) by flow of wealth from other countries.
- (b) by its rivers, valleys and Himalayas.
- (c) by building more hotels in the country.
- (d) by welcoming foreigners to India.

(ii) Better infrastructure will help in improving India's:

- (a) Collaborations
- (b) Finances
- (c) Transport
- (d) Facilities

(iii) Pick the option that lists the statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

- (a) The breath-taking beauty of the Himalayas would attract any tourist to India.
  - (b) Taxi drivers do not cheat the visitors.
  - (c) Better tourist facilities will make the tourists happy.
  - (d) Government agencies can arrange group tours for foreigners to promote tourism.
- (a) a and b                      (b) b and d                      (c) b and c                      (d) a and d

(iv) How is tourism everybody's business?

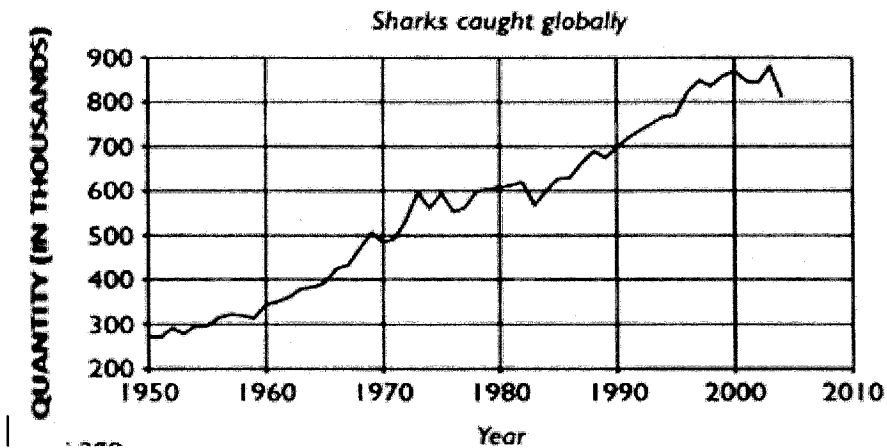
- (a) Flow of wealth produces its better distribution among rich and poor.
- (b) We wish to earn more from our tourists.
- (c) Because we say, "Welcome to India".
- (d) Because India is a tourist's paradise.

- (v) Which word in para 1 means the same as 'many in number'?
- (a) variety                      (b) dotted                      (c) numerous                      (d) potential
- (vi) Good facilities for tourists will tempt people to come to visit India. Which word does not describe the underlined word?
- (a) lure                      (b) excite                      (c) repel                      (d) invite
- (vii) Wealth flows from affluent countries to the less affluent. The statement shows:
- (a) Reverse distribution of wealth.  
(b) Proper distribution of wealth.  
(c) Uneven distribution of wealth.  
(d) Improper distribution of wealth.
- (viii) According to the passage, does any country in the world possess so much variety as India?
- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Perhaps                      (d) None of these
- (ix) Which word in para 5 is opposite in meaning to 'dissuaded'?
- (a) irritate                      (b) tempted                      (c) discourage                      (d) publicity
- (x) What will the tourists do if they go home irritated and unhappy?
- (a) Urge others to visit our country  
(b) Long-awaited travel to visit our country  
(c) Dissuade others from visiting our country  
(d) They will only remain mute spectators
- (xi) Which agencies can also play an instrumental role in promoting tourism?
- (a) Government agencies                      (b) Private agencies  
(c) Semi-government agencies                      (d) Non-government agencies

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

1. Andy Dehart is a shark expert and TV presenter who lives in United States of America. He has had a lifelong interest in sharks and is always trying to look for ways to educate the public about them. Many people think that sharks have little to no intelligence, but Andy points out that recent studies have shown that many shark species possess powerful problem-solving abilities and social skills. "Sharks do not want to attack humans," he asserts. "There is no shark species that eats humans as part of its regular diet. In most shark attack cases, the shark leaves after realizing that it has mistakenly bitten a human and not

its intended prey.”



2. In Andy’s opinion, all shark fishing should be stopped until the shark population has had time to grow again. We then need to do a better job of managing the fishing of sharks. However even if the direct fishing of sharks is topped, many will still be killed when they are caught up in the nets of boats fishing for other species of fish.
3. When Andy was a boy, his father worked for a national oceanic organization, and Andy travelled with him all over the Caribbean. He grew up by the coast and he has been connected with the sea for as long as he can remember. He also lived near one of the best aquariums in America. Andy then went on to build a career working with sharks in an aquarium environment. More recently, he has been involved with television and the making of programs about the sharks.
4. Andy and his wife had their first child two years ago. They were amused and amazed to see what extent their work with animals has proved to be useful in bringing up their daughter. They know how to observe her behaviour and teach her how to do things by rewarding her.
5. Andy loves sharks and is very passionate about their survival and protection. He feels extremely lucky to have had opportunities working at the National Aquarium and the television station which presents the Nature Channel. He never wastes a moment in either place that could be spent educating people about sharks. He does admit that it is probably not possible for everyone to love sharks as he does. However, he does hope to persuade people personally or through the media to respect sharks and the critical role they play in our environment. His main objective is to keep spreading awareness that sharks are not dangerous man-eaters but essential creatures in our oceans, as they provide ecological balance and help to control other species.

**Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:**

**1x10 =10**

- (i) How long has Andy been interested in sharks?
- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a) Life long        | b) Since he was a boy  |
| c) Both (a) and (b) | d) Neither (a) nor (b) |

- (ii) What evidence is there that sharks may be intelligent?
  - a) Their problem-solving skills and social skills
  - b) Their social skills
  - c) Eat humans
  - d) Their oceanic organization
- (iii) Why does Andy believe that sharks only attack humans by mistake?
  - a) They don't eat humans as a part of their diet.
  - b) They leave after realizing that it has mistakenly bit humans.
  - c) Human is not its intended prey.
  - d) All of these.
- (iv) What does Andy expect to happen if all shark fishing is stopped for a while?
  - a) Sharks' population will grow.
  - b) They will be in great demand.
  - c) People will go for fishing of other species.
  - d) Risk of their extinction will go away.
- (v) As a child, what influenced Andy's later choice of career?
  - a) His father's working for a national oceanic organization.
  - b) His travelling with his father all over Caribbean.
  - c) He was connected with sea.
  - d) All of these.
- (vi) How did Andy's work help him when bringing up his daughter?
  - a) They know how to teach her things by rewarding her.
  - b) They taught her by reprimanding her.
  - c) They taught her to observe behaviour of others.
  - d) Connection of animals to the daughter's keenness.
- (vii) According to the graph, how many sharks were caught in 1990?
  - a) 650,000                      b) 700,000                      c) 700                      d) 800
- (viii) How does Andy hope to educate people about sharks?
  - a) Through his work at the National Aquarium
  - b) Through the media
  - c) By making programs on sharks
  - d) All of these
- (ix) In which ways are sharks useful?
  - a) They help to know how to bring-up children.
  - b) They play a critical role in environment.
  - c) They provide ecological balance.
  - d) All of these.
- (x) In which decade were maximum sharks caught globally?
  - a) 1960s                      b) 1970s                      c) 1980s                      d) 1990s
- (xi) Even after the ascending trend, in which year the number of sharks caught remained the same?
  - a) 1970                      b) 1975                      c) 1980                      d) 1985

## LITERATURE

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. 4x2=8

A. My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn anymore! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up.

- (i) Why was it the speaker's last French lesson?
  - (a) Because his French teacher was retiring.
  - (b) Because of a government order to teach only German.
  - (c) Because the speaker was migrating.
  - (d) Because French has become a language to be taught in higher classes.
- (ii) What is the speaker feeling after getting to know that it his last French lesson?
  - (a) sad
  - (b) regretful
  - (c) frightened
  - (d) distraught
- (iii) What did Franz do to skip his French lessons?
  - (a) Seeking birds' eggs
  - (b) Going on the slides
  - (c) Working on the mill
  - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iv) How do Franz's feeling regarding his books change?
  - (a) He feels that they were his friends.
  - (b) He believes that they were nuisance.
  - (c) He feels that his identity is related to his books.
  - (d) He believed that they are of no use to him.

B. "It is his karam, his destiny," says Mukesh's grandmother, who has watched her own husband go blind with dust from polishing the glass of bangles. "Can a God-given lineage ever be broken?" she implies. Born in the caste of the bangle makers, they have seen nothing but bangles- in the house, in the yard, in every other house, every other yard, every street in Firozabad.

- (i) Who does 'they' refer to here?
  - (a) Mukesh and his family.
  - (b) Children of Firozabad.
  - (c) The young wives.
  - (d) The female population living in Firozabad.
  
- (ii) What was 'the Karam' talked off in the given extract?
  - (a) To go blind.
  - (b) To become a bangle maker.
  - (c) To live in poverty.
  - (d) To teach the art of bangle making to his children.
  
- (iii) How did Mukesh's grandmother go blind?
  - (a) Because of an accident
  - (b) Born blind
  - (c) Because of the dust from polishing glass bangles.
  - (d) An eye disease.
  
- (iv) 'Born in the caste of bangle makers.....'. The word 'caste' in the given line has a different meaning, choose its correct meaning from the options.
  - (a) state
  - (b) result
  - (c) profession
  - (d) construction

C. Not that Evans was a real burden: just a persistent, nagging presence. He'd be all right in Oxford, though: The Governor would see to that-would see to it personally. And besides, there was possibility that Evans was genuinely interested in O-level German. Just a slight possibility. At 8:30 PM on Monday 7 June, Evans's German teacher shook him by the hand in the heavily guarded Recreational Block, just across from D wing.

- (i) Why would the Governor look into the situation of Evans?
  - (a) He wanted to make Evans comfortable.
  - (b) He did not want Evans to disgrace him.
  - (c) He wanted to make sure that Evans does not do anything stupid.
  - (d) He wanted to make sure that the exam could take place under security.
  
- (ii) What does 'O' in 'O-level German mean?
  - (a) Ornamental
  - (b) Oral
  - (c) Occult
  - (d) Ordinary

(iii) The narrator's statement that Evans was not real burden indicates that Evans was

- a) A criminal                      b) A violent person
- c) A happy man                  d) An anxious man
- e) Hated by everyone          f) Irritating by nature.

- (a) a and b                      (b) d and e                      (c) Only c                      (d) Only f

(iv) Why was the location heavily guarded?

- (a) To make sure that Evan does not try to run away.
- (b) To make sure that everything in the place was in order.
- (c) To make sure that Evans was safe.
- (d) To make sure that the German Teacher was safe.

**4. Read the extracts given below and answer ANY ONE of the following questions.**

**1x4=4**

A. .... but soon

Put that thought away, and

Looked out at young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out their homes,

(i) "The merry children spilling out of their homes" symbolic of.....

- (a) her old age
- (b) youthful energy
- (c) happiness
- (d) childhood joys

(ii) Which thought did the speaker put away?

- (a) The thought of the sprinting trees.
- (b) The thought of dying.
- (c) The thought of her mother's old age.
- (d) The thought of leaving her home.

(iii) The young trees were sprinting because:

- (a) Time was passing at a fast rate.
- (b) The car was travelling fast in the opposite direction
- (c) The young trees were growing fast
- (d) None of the above

(iv) 'Trees sprinting' is an example of

- (a) Simile
- (b) Oxymoron
- (c) Personification
- (d) Alliteration



B. Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.

Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor:

The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper-

Seeming boy, with rat's eyes. The stunted, unlucky heir

Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,

(i) The children described in the given lines, are sitting in .....

- (a) A slum-school
- (b) An NGO
- (c) A private school
- (d) A makeshift school

(ii) The tall girl with her head weighed down mean the girl

- (a) is ill and exhausted
- (b) has her head bent with shame
- (c) has untidy hair
- (d) has beautiful and thick hair

(iii) The paper seeming boy with rat's eyes means the boy is

- (a) sly and secretive
- (b) thin, hungry and weak
- (c) unpleasant looking
- (d) suffering from a disease

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

- (a) weeds
- (b) pallor
- (c) gnarled
- (d) reciting

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions from the ten given below.

1x8=8

(i) How did the experience at YMCA swimming pool affect Douglas?

- (a) He became confident of swimming
- (b) He became fearful of swimming
- (c) He had no experience at YMCA
- (d) It had good effect on him

(ii) Choose the statement that is NOT TRUE with reference to Derry.

- (a) He loved meeting Mr. Lamb
- (b) He did not have any self-worth
- (c) He had a burnt face
- (d) He thought no one loved him

- (iii) What does 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band' mean?
- (a) It means that Aunt Jennifer is trapped in gender oppression.
  - (b) It means that the band gifted by Uncle to Aunt is very heavy.
  - (c) It means that Aunt Jennifer is free.
  - (d) It means that Aunt Jennifer does not like to have children.
- (iv) Kamla Das compares her mother to the late winter's moon in the poem, My Mother at Sixty-Six. With reference to this statement which of the following options is NOT TRUE?
- (a) The mother was growing old.
  - (b) The poet was fearful of her mother's passing away.
  - (c) The poet wanted her mother to be forever young.
  - (d) The poet was going to the Cochin airport when she makes the comparison.
- (v) What makes the city of Firozabad famous?
- (a) Its ragpickers
  - (b) Its old monuments
  - (c) Its bangles
  - (d) Its kites
- (vi) Why do you think Jackson asks Evans to remove 'pin-ups' from the cell?
- (a) Because he wants to whitewash Evans' cell
  - (b) Because he wants to shift Evans' to another cell.
  - (c) Because he wants Evans to be disciplined
  - (d) Because someone was supposed to visit Evans' cell for invigilation
- (vii) It is clear that the speaker in Aunt Jennifer's Tigers felt her marriage was.....
- (a) full of love
  - (b) full of responsibilities
  - (c) full of sorrows
  - (d) full of suppression
- (viii) How does Charley describe himself?
- (a) As an extra ordinary 31 years old guy.
  - (b) As an ordinary 31 years old guy.
  - (c) As an ordinary 30 years old guy.
  - (d) As an ordinary 33 years old guy.
- (ix) Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers?
- (a) In order to appease the British.
  - (b) In order to appease the Landlords.
  - (c) In order to break the deadlock between the landlords and tenants.
  - (d) In order to break the deadlock between the landlords and the Britishers.

(x) How does the poet describe the old age of her mother?

- (a) As early winter's moon.
- (b) As late winter's sun.
- (c) As early winter's sun.
- (d) As late winter's moon

**PART B - DESCRIPTIVE WRITING**  
**WRITING SKILLS**

**40 Marks**

6. You are Asma/Ashish, the Head Girl/Boy of Aryabhata, International School, New Delhi. Your school is soon going to publish the annual magazine next month. Write a notice for the notice board of your school inviting students to submit write-ups. (50 words) **3**

**OR**

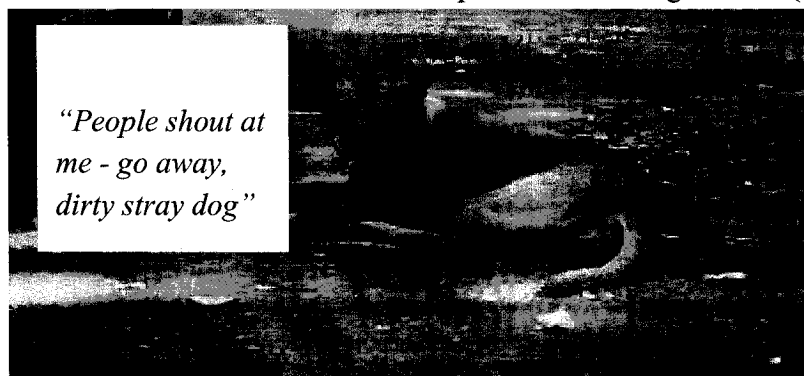
You are Ankur/Akshita, a travel agent with Wanderland Travels, Delhi. Write an advertisement to be published in the local daily for a tour package to Singapore. (50 words)

7. You are Ashish/Ritika. You have received a letter from your close friend inviting you to attend the marriage of his sister. But unfortunately, you cannot attend it due to your previous commitments. Write a reply to the invitation regretting your inability to attend the marriage ceremony. (50 words) **3**

**OR**

Draft an invitation on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Karan of 38, Kamal Kunj, Varanasi, to invite their friends and relatives on the wedding of their son Nikhil at their residence on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. (50 words)

8. You are Anu/Arun, 13 WEA, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. You see all around that people buy pets of foreign breed for hefty amount and then also boast about that they really care for animals. You strongly believe that people should instead adopt stray animals and then take care of them, to be called animal lovers in the true sense. Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily giving your views on the issue. You can take help of the following visuals. (120-150 words) **5**



*"I keep hoping that one day, I'll meet a friend who's willing to give me a nice home."*

**OR**

You are Ritvik/Ritika of 131, Jagriti Vihar, Gurugram. You recently read about a post of Chemist being advertised by Chanakya Research Ltd. Noida. You wish to apply for it. Apply with full details to the Manager of the production unit. You can also use the following clues. (120-50 words)

*Chanakya Research Ltd is looking for a Chemist for their Company*  
*Eligibility Criteria*

*B.Sc./M.Sc. in Chemistry -Minimum 2 year of experience in the same field*  
*- Language proficiency in English and Hindi.*

9. You are Swati/ Sandeep, a member of the Environment Club of your school. After visiting many places, you have realized that it is the need of the hour to protect the environment. Write an article on this topic to create awareness among people. You can use the following clues. (120-150 words) 5
- Clues

- Maintain ecological balance
- Plant trees
- Increasing pollution
- Reduce deforestation
- Stop dumping industrial waste in rivers

**OR**

A lot of youngsters are connecting to various social networking sites for one reason or the other. It brings more evils than serving good to innocent students. Your school organized a seminar on 'Bad Effects Social Networking Sites' for the students of classes IX-XII. Write a report for your school magazine on 'Bad Effects of Social Networking Sites'. Write a report for your school magazine in 120-150 words. You are Sahil/Swati of class XII-A. You can take help from the following clues. (120-150 words).

Clues

- Keynote Speaker
- Mania of sites
- Topics covered
- Information in distorted form
- Keeps distracted
- Necessity of counselling

### LITERATURE

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in 30-40 words:

2x5=10

- (i) What is conveyed through the stories of stolen childhood in the lesson 'Lost Spring'?
- (ii) Describe Douglas's condition when he was thrown into the pool.
- (iii) Write about the plight of the peasants and how did the Champaran episode change it.
- (iv) Why is the class dim in the poem 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'? What does it signify?
- (v) What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla?
- (vi) Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment.

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 30-40 words.**

**2X2=4**

- (i) For what purpose were the question paper and the correction slip served?
- (ii) It's all relative 'Beauty and the Beast'. What does Mr. Lamb mean by this statement?
- (iii) What made Louisa, Charley's wife, believe that the third level was a reality?

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words:**

**1x5=5**

The peddler's story speaks on a general level to society, urging for a different outlook towards those maligned individuals who can be redeemed by compassion and understanding. In the light of the story 'The Rattrap', how do you think society can help individuals, especially juvenile delinquents, from falling prey to crimes and bad habits?

**OR**

Feminism refers to a collection of movements and ideologies that advocate women's rights and seeks to establish equal opportunities for women in all spheres. Discuss with reference to 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.**

**1x5=5**

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'.

**OR**

The same situation can be viewed through two different perspectives. How does 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' establish this point through the views of Jack and Jo?

**End of the Question Paper**