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SET A



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT  
SECOND PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION  
ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

08.04.2021

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 faithfully.*
- 3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**PART A -MCQS****40 Marks****Reading Comprehension****1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

1. The dawn of 2020 saw the rise of the infamous coronavirus and jeopardised our professional and social life to a great extent and we were forced to go online and discuss important strategies. Advancement in technology proved to be a boon, be it in academic, social or commercial life. The unprecedented pandemic compelled us to shift to Webinars that allowed us a safe way to keep our professional engagements going on maintaining social distance at the same time. Now that digital-first events are the new normal and have become our regular affair, we have been busy finding new ways to promote our products and services, generate insights and communicate with our clients and customers without exposing ourselves to any peril.

2. Webinars are not a new discovery, there is a definite increase in their use and we see more brands opting for this method to reach out to their audiences and customers. In fact, according to a study conducted by Go to Webinars in 2019, months before the coronavirus outbreak, a massive 73% of marketers and managers had already started the use of webinars. Additionally, 57% of them have decided to continue creating more webinars in order to generate brand awareness. But to our surprise, by fast forward to March 2020, the number of such online events hosted has increased by 30%, and the numbers of attendees are doubling with each passing month.

3. A few commonly-used types of webinars are educational webinars, sales webinars and workshop webinars where a host plays a very prominent role. What is imperative to understand webinars is to understand the audience and cut short irrelevant bragging about what is not required, keeping in mind the time constraint. A vibrant and colourful webinar should be ensured to keep your audience interested by integrating statistics, pie charts, bar graphs etc. The viewers

are provided with the synopsis of the webinar before going into details so that the viewers get an idea of the insight.

4. Coronavirus has changed everything in our lifestyle, including our business strategies, market values and consumer demands. There are a number of webinars on school safety, food safety, travel and weddings with regard to safeguards against coronavirus and the prevention of its catastrophic spread and how you can still avail a brand's service while maintaining social distance.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. 1x10=10**

- (i) The above passage is an account of the rise of
  - a) virus                      (b) webinars                      (c) seminars                      (d) all of these
- (ii) Why are we compelled to discuss important strategies through webinars?
  - (a) Because the Covid outbreak has shattered our hopes and optimism
  - (b) Because webinars have a greater impact than physical meetings and conferences
  - (c) Because the Covid outbreak doesn't allow us to be social
  - (d) Because webinars cost nothing but time
- (iii) What according to the passage, is the new normal in your life with the outbreak of corona virus?
  - (a) To be digital-first
  - (b) To use face mask and sanitisers
  - (c) To hold a meeting maintaining social distancing
  - (d) To avoid meeting whenever necessary
- (iv) What does the Go To Webinars Survey 2019 suggest?
  - (a) That 57% of managers have decided to hold more webinars to raise awareness among people to defeat the pandemic.
  - (b) That there is a steep rise of online events that has increased by 30%.
  - (c) That 73% of marketers and managers had already started the use of webinars before the Covid outbreak
  - (d) Only (b) and (c)
- (v) A few commonly-used types of webinars enlisted in the passage are:
  - (a) educational webinars    (b) sales webinars    (c) workshop webinars    (d) all of these
- (vi) How does a vibrant and colourful webinar help the host?
  - (a) It helps the host to remain conscious.
  - (b) It ensures the attention of the viewers.
  - (c) It makes the presentation nice.
  - (d) It makes the host learn how to prepare pie charts and graphs.

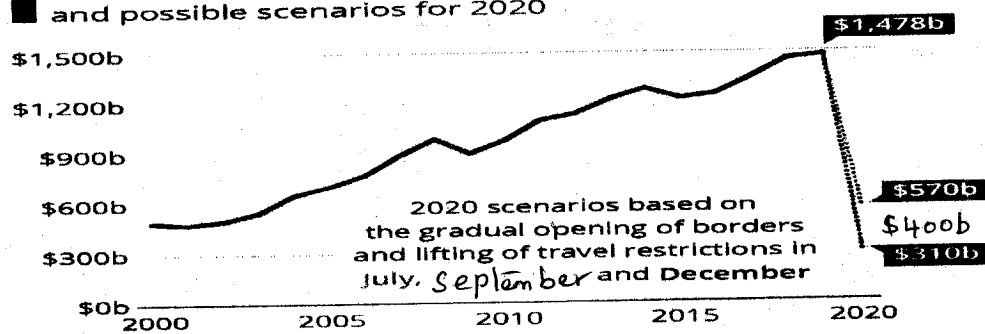
- (vii) The synopsis of the webinar is given to the viewers or audiences before going into details so that they get an idea of the insight. Here the word 'synopsis' can be substituted with:  
 (a) summary      (b) contract      (c) outcome      (d) reaction
- (viii) According to the passage, which TWO statements from the following can't be determined?  
 A. There is a definite increase in the use of webinars post covid.  
 B. Webinars have the capacity to boost the economy of the nation.  
 C. Webinars have replaced seminars.  
 D. The attendees of webinars are doubling with each passing month.  
 (a) A and C                      (b) B and D  
 (c) B and C                      (d) A and D
- (ix) There was a steep rise in the use of webinars by  
 (a) December 2019  
 (b) March 2020  
 (c) May 2020  
 (d) January 2020
- (x) According to the passage, which sentence from the following is NOT CORRECT?  
 (a) Advancement in technology has proved to be a boon in the challenging time of Covid.  
 (b) Trades and businesses are taking the help of webinars.  
 (c) We have been integrating statistics, pie charts and bar graphs, etc. in webinars.  
 (d) Webinars have given a wonderful economy to the country.
- (xi) Pick out the word from the following which means the same as 'devalued':  
 (a) imperative                      (b) jeopardise  
 (c) bragging                      (d) constraint

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

1. Tourism is a significant part of many national economies; and the immediate and immense shock to the tourism sector resulting from the coronavirus pandemic is affecting the wider economy. As governments around the world have introduced unprecedented measures to contain the virus; restrictions on travel, business operations and people-to-people interactions have brought the tourism economy to a standstill. Many countries are now entering a new phase in fighting the virus while at the same time managing the re-opening of the tourism economy. This is a complex and challenging task and quantifying the impact on the tourism economy is difficult.

## Pandemic Could Set Tourism Sector Back by \$1 Trillion

Global international tourism receipts from 2000-2019 and possible scenarios for 2020



Source: UNWTO



statista

2. The pandemic warns that up to 120 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$1 trillion in 2020 alone. It is imperative to rebuild the tourism sector by regaining its position as a provider of decent jobs, stable incomes and the protection of our cultural and natural heritage. The UN Secretary-General stressed tourism's role as one of the most important economic sectors, providing livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people while boosting economies and enabling countries to thrive.

3. International travel came to a screeching halt in April and May, resulting in international tourist arrivals that trailed last year's total by almost 60 percent through the first five months of 2020. Depending on when travel restrictions will be fully lifted, the World Tourism Organization expects international tourism receipts (i.e. spending by international tourists) to drop between \$910 billion and \$1.2 trillion this year, which would set the global tourism industry back by 20 years. Revised scenarios indicate that the potential shock could range between a 60-80%, decline in the international tourism economy in 2020 depending on the duration of the crisis.

4. Domestic tourism flows have also been heavily affected by restrictions on the movement of people, but are expected to recover more quickly once containment measures are lifted. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that domestic tourism could compensate for the decline of international tourism flows, particularly in destinations heavily dependent on international markets.

5. Tourism generates foreign exchange, drives regional development, directly supports numerous types of jobs and businesses and underpins many local communities but to experience a sea change, this should include considerations on lifting travel restrictions, restoring traveller confidence and rethinking the tourism sector for the future.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from 1x10=10 the eleven given below.**

- (i) According to the passage, what have the governments done to contain virus the around the world?
- (a) The governments have restricted malls operations and promoted sales of masks and sanitisers.
  - (b) The governments have restricted flight operations and appealed to maintain social distancing.
  - (c) The governments have restricted business operations, travelling and people-to-people interactions.
  - (d) The governments have promoted business operations, travelling and people-to-people interactions
- (ii) How does tourism contribute to a nation's economy?
- (a) It promotes foreign exchange, drives regional development and businesses.
  - (b) It mitigates foreign exchange, drives regional development and businesses.
  - (c) It eliminates foreign exchange, drives regional development and businesses.
  - (d) It generates foreign exchange, drives regional development and businesses.
- (iii) What, according to the passage, should the countries do to experience a sea change in the economy during this hour of distress?
- (a) The countries should lift travel restrictions restoring the travellers' confidence.
  - (b) The countries should promote social distancing.
  - (c) The countries should lift restrictions from flight operations.
  - (d) The countries should be providing subsidies to the travellers.
- (iv) The term 'unprecedented measures' in paragraph 1 can also be substituted with:
- (a) unexpected openings      (b) unimaginable crisis
  - (c) disrupted measures      (d) exceptional measures
- (v) What is imperative about the tourism sector?
- (a) To analyse the data of the loss of economy
  - (b) To rebuild it by regaining its position as a provider of decent jobs and stable incomes
  - (c) To analyse the data of the jobs lost during the pandemic
  - (d) To rebuild it by regaining its position as a provider of hope and optimism
- (vi) What is the estimated loss of the economy in 2020 alone?
- (a) 120 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$9 trillion.
  - (b) 121 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$1 trillion.
  - (c) 120 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$7 trillion.
  - (d) 120 million tourism jobs are at risk, with the economic damage likely to exceed \$1 trillion.

- (vii) What does the revised scenario indicate?
- (a) That the potential shock of economy loss could range between a 60-80%, decline in the hospitality industry.
  - (b) That the potential shock of economy loss could range between a 60-80% decline in the flight operations.
  - (c) That the potential shock of economy loss could range between a 60-80% decline in the international tourism.
  - (d) That the potential shock of economy loss could range between a 60-80% rise of poverty.
- (viii) The World Tourism Organization expects international tourism receipts to drop between:
- (a) \$910 billion and \$1.2 trillion this year
  - (b) \$970 billion and \$1.2 trillion this year
  - (c) \$917 billion and \$1.2 trillion this year
  - (d) \$910 billion and \$2.2 trillion this year
- (ix) How are the domestic tourism flows expected to recover?
- (a) If the restrictions on the operations of malls and containment measures are lifted.
  - (b) If the restrictions on the small-scale industries and containment measures are lifted.
  - (c) If the restrictions on the movement of domestic flights and containment measures are lifted.
  - (d) If the restrictions on the movement of people and containment measures are lifted.
- (x) Tourism's role is to provide livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people while:
- (a) ensuring sites' promotion
  - (b) lifting travel restrictions
  - (c) boosting communities' movements
  - (d) boosting economies and enabling countries to thrive
- (xi) Which word from the following precisely means the same as 'remunerate'?
- (a) quantify                      (b) imperative
  - (c) compensate                (d) significant

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

**(A)** "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just, rely upon yourselves to win the battle."

- (i) Who is the Englishman referred to in the above extract?
- (a) The Counsellor of the court                      (b) Charles Freer Andrews
  - (c) Stephen Spender                                      (d) Rajendra Prasad

(ii) Who is the speaker talking to?

- (a) The Englishman      (b) The Magistrate  
(c) The crowd            (d) His lawyer friends

(iii) Which word in the passage is the antonym for ‘distrust’?

- (a) unequal                      (b) rely  
(c) weakness                    (d) faith

(iv) What value did Gandhiji want to instill in them?

- (a) self-reliance      (b) self-love  
(c) self-obsession      (d) dependency

(B) "Honoured and noble Miss, Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain - for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers."

(i) Who is the noble Miss referred to in the above lines?

- (a) Wife of the crofter                      (b) Edla Willmansson  
(c) Wife of the Ironmaster                (d) Daughter of the peddler

(ii) What message does the speaker try to convey through this line?

- (a) That the speaker should not be nice to all  
(b) That we must be nice to the people who are nice to us  
(c) That the real captain should be honoured  
(d) That the old man on the roadside should have been a little courteous to him

(iii) Name the author of the lesson from which the above extract has been taken.

- (a) Susan Hill                      (b) Louis Fischer  
(c) Selma Lagerlof                (d) Jack Finney

(iv) Why does the speaker call the money pouch as a bait in the above lines?

- (a) Because he couldn't move any further from there  
(b) Because he was taken to the police  
(c) Because he himself was enticed with it as a prey  
(d) Because the crofter's daughter took him to be a crook

**(C)** “If the man were whole, I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemies and he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded...”

(i) Who is the speaker in the above lines?

- (a) Hana      (c) Dr Sadao      (c) Yumi      (d) Sadao's gardener

(ii) What does the speaker mean when he says, 'if the man were whole'?

- (a) if the wounded man was full in his senses
- (b) if the man was alive
- (c) if the wounded man was the General's friend
- (d) if the wounded man was wealthy

(iii) Why does the speaker say he could turn him over to the police?

- (a) Because he was a thief
- (b) Because he was a prisoner of war and enemy of his country
- (b) Because he sneaked into his house without permission
- (c) Because he was afraid of him

(iv) Which country does the speaker belong to?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Korea
- (c) America
- (d) Holland

**4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the 1x4=4 questions that follow.**

(A) Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything else seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.  
Now I will count up to twelve  
And you keep quiet, and I go.

(i) What does the Earth teach us?

- (a) The Earth teaches us how important it is to promote universal brotherhood.
- (b) The Earth teaches us the lesson of introspection.
- (c) The Earth teaches us how silence is productive.
- (d) The Earth teaches people to be absolutely dead.

(ii) What will the outcome be if stillness is observed?

- (a) It will lead us to introspect and attain tranquility.
- (b) We'll have no green wars.
- (c) The poor at work in the sea will have a positive impact.
- (d) There will be no grudge.

(iii) Why does the poet ask to count to twelve?

- (a) So that we can have ample time for introspection
- (b) So that we can start a new project
- (c) So that we can wake up with new energy
- (d) None of these

(iv) Identify the poetic device employed in the last line of the stanza.

- (a) personification
- (b) antithesis
- (c) alliteration
- (d) hyperbole

B. A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

i) How does a thing of beauty impact our minds?

- (a) It gives us an appalling effect.
- (b) It keeps us rejuvenated.
- (c) It doesn't affect us.
- (d) It gives us a reason to be rational.

(ii) Identify the rhyme scheme employed in the given stanza.

- (a) aabbc (b) ababc (c) baabc (d) acbcb

(iii) 'It will pass into nothingness', surmises:

- (a) That it will leave us spellbound
- (b) That its effect never decreases but increases with the passage of time
- (c) That it never attains perfection
- (d) That beautiful things around us have no meaning

(iv) How does the bower help us in our life?

- (a) It provides us shade in the scorching heat, giving us relief.
- (b) It helps us with financial freedom.
- (c) It provides us with wise decisions.
- (d) It provides shade to the trees.

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

1x8=8

(i) Why did the prosecutor request the judge to postpone the trial against Gandhiji?

- (a) Because the prosecutor did not have ample evidence to prove Gandhiji wrong
- (b) Because the peasants had staged a huge protest against the trial
- (c) Because Gandhiji agreed to make peace with the British
- (d) Because Gandhiji wanted to withdraw the case

(ii) 'Terrified fingers' in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is an example of \_\_\_\_.

- (a) onomatopoeia (c) oxymoron
- (b) transferred Epithet (d) hyperbole

(iii) What do 'gusty waves' symbolise in the poem 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'?

- (a) energy and movement that are missing in the lives of the slum children
- (b) waves of laughter that are missing from the lives of the slum children
- (c) diseases and unprivileged conditions of the slum children
- (d) gust of waves when the children are at school

- (iv) How was Dr Sadao and Hana's marriage solemnised?
- (a) Traditional American style (c) Traditional Japanese style  
(b) Traditional army style (d) Traditional Korean style
- (v) 'Linguistic Chauvinism' in the story 'The Last lesson' means:
- (a) the domination of only French language  
(b) an unreasonable and aggressive loyal attitude towards one's own language  
(c) the domination of German language  
(d) the domination of Prussian language
- (vi) What does the expression 'slog their daylight hours' mean in the lesson 'Lost Spring'?
- (a) work very hard all through the day  
(b) enjoy during the daylight hours  
(c) work tirelessly at the biscuit factory  
(d) spend time in dingy shells
- (vii) 'Sour cream walls' is an example of :
- (a) anaphora (c) metaphor  
(b) paradox (d) pun
- (viii) What are 'the merry children spilling out of their homes' symbolic of?
- (a) Happiness (c) Energy  
(b) Playfulness (d) All of these
- (ix) What does morrow mean in the line 'Therefore on every morrow, are we wreathing'?
- (a) The previous day (c) The following day  
(b) The day long past (d) None of these
- (x) 'It is the fear that deprives us of all the joys of life.' Which chapter from the following can be best justified with this sentence?
- (a) The Rattrap (c) Deep Water  
(b) The Last Lesson (d) Lost Spring

## PART B – DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

**40 Marks**

### (Writing Skills)

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.**

**3**

You are Soumil/Shreya Sinha, an English teacher. You've recently shifted to a new city and you are looking for a job. Draft an advertisement to be published in the newspaper highlighting your specifications and domain. Do not exceed 50 words.

**OR**

You are Ahaan/Ayana Oberoi, Chief Editor of your school magazine, 'Envoy'. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, inviting the students to share articles, self-composed poems and artworks for the school magazine.

**7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.**

**3**

Delhi Public School, Gurgaon is going to celebrate 'International Literary Day' in your school auditorium. Write an invitation to Ms. Rita Solanki, a noted author and professor from St. Mary's College to grace the occasion and deliver the keynote address. You are Geeta/Gaurav Bhardwaj, Coordinator, Literary Club.

**OR**

Your friend Swati has invited you to attend the engagement of her sister Rohini. You find it a little difficult to attend it as you have an important meeting with the teammates of your company. Write a reply to the invitation expressing your regret. Assign yourself as Sugandha/Suraj Mishra-T-19, Heritage 102, Ahmedabad.

**8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.**

**5**

You are Veronica/Varun, a resident of D-214, Block A, Aparna Apartments, New Delhi. You come across an advertisement inviting applications for the position of a Business Development Manager, ICICI Bank, New Delhi. Write an application along with an updated resume to apply for the same.

**OR**

You are Asha/Ashok. You have recently witnessed the unattended cows consuming plastic and other animals disrupting the traffic on the road. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily drawing the attention of the authorities and expressing your concern about the safety of these animals.

**9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.**

**5**

Homeless people, trying to earn enough to keep hunger away from the door of their destitute families, are spending nights on the footpaths of Delhi. Write an article to draw the attention of the authorities and the public raising concern towards this and suggesting ways to uplift the standard of the destitute. (120-150 words)

**OR**

COVID-19 cases have been rising in recent weeks across the globe and young people have been perceived to be at fault. Analysis has shown that infection rates for people under the age of 35 have increased over the time. You are Raghav/ Radhika, Staff reporter, The Hindu. Write a report in 120-150 words since you have noticed this increase is due to young people flouting social distancing regulations.

## LITERATURE

**10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below in 30-40 words each. 2x5=10**

- i) Bangles are considered to be mandatory for newly-wed brides. Why was it meaningless to Savita?
- ii) Why is it important to introspect and retrospect? Answer with reference to the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.
- iii) What had little Franz counted on to enter the school unnoticed?
- iv) How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?
- v) William Douglas' aversion of water helped him accept a challenge. What was the challenge?
- vi) Explain the term 'awarding the world its world' in the poem 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'.

**11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. 2x2=4**

- i) Why was Jack not convinced with his daughter about the story with a different ending?
- ii) Why did Sadao operate on the enemy?
- iii) What was the opinion of Charley's friend Sam about the existence of the Third Level?

**12. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions given below in 120-150 words each. 5**

A. What were the reasons of the farmers' discontentment and disillusionment in the chapter 'Indigo'?

**OR**

B. 'Man is merely a puppet in the hands of his own destiny'. Justify the statement with reference to the story 'The Rattrap'.

**13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions given below in 120-150 words each. 5**

A. The story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy' portrays Jack as a strict disciplinarian and a vigilant father. How does his character justify this statement?

**OR**

B. The modern world is full of fear and insecurity and Charley wanted to escape and hunt for a world where he could live in peace without any feeling of insecurity. Why does he feel insecure? What did he do to overcome his ordeal?

**End of the Question Paper**