



**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. Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and contribute to the society to the best of their capacity.
2. The constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities-political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.
3. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The reports say that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.
4. The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of the girls. Orthodox mentality and

negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.

5. The educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialisation process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. The educational system should be used to revolutionise the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

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

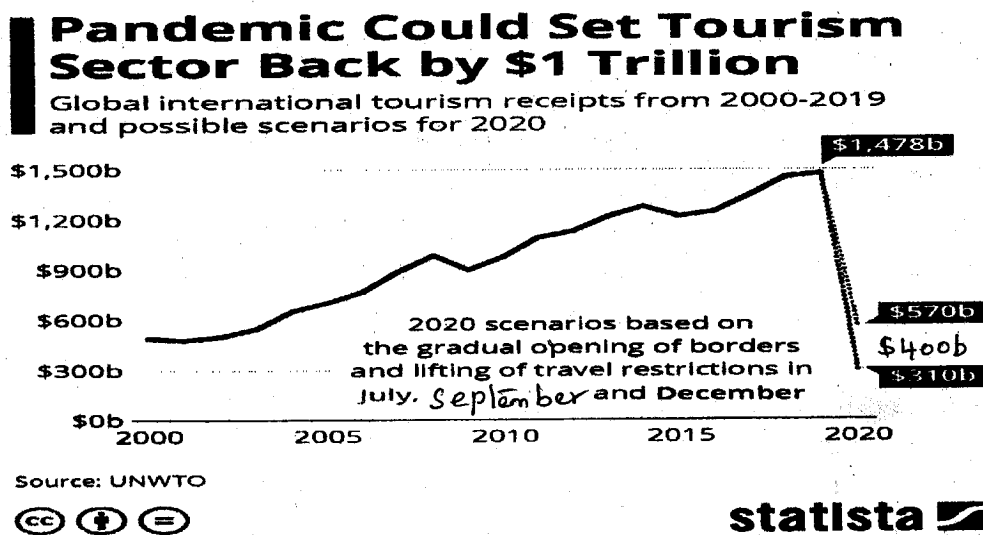
1x10=10

- (i) In handling situations, women are _____ in approach.
(a) emotional (b) quixotic
(c) rational (d) technical
- (ii) No lasting solution of society's problems could be found without _____.
(a) respecting women (b) giving equal status to women
(c) Enlightening women (d) giving them right to choose their life partner
- (iii) Many women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities because of:
(a) lack of securities for women
(b) oppressive traditions and exploitation
(c) lack of literacy and awareness among women
(d) lawlessness in society
- (iv) How can the prevailing inequality between men and women be narrowed down?
(a) By educating women (b) By providing them financial aid
(c) By recognizing their worth (d) By encouraging them to participate in politics
- (v) The girl's participation in education is adversely affected by _____.
(a) negative attitude towards girl's education
(b) early marriage
(c) illiteracy of parents
(d) all of these
- (vi) The word in 'paragraph 2' which means the same as 'cruel and unfair' is
(a) enduring (b) threatening
(c) oppressive (d) reproductive
- (vii) How, according to the passage, can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of the people?
(a) With the help of good teachers (b) With the help of good students
(c) With the help of brilliant girl child (d) With a proper educational system
- (viii) Which sentence from the following do you think is NOT CORRECT?
(a) Educating girls is a step to eradicate poverty.
(b) Educating girls is a charity
(c) Orthodox mentality affects the girl's participation in education.
(d) Girls also play an important role in the making of society.

- (ix) According to the passage, how can we eradicate poverty?
- By recognizing the potential of our neighbouring countries
 - By educating girls
 - By providing free education up to 14
 - By educating girls about their special rights
- (x) Pick out the word from the following which means the same as 'eradicate'.
- orthodox
 - domain
 - eliminate
 - counteract
- (xi) Based on your reading of the passage, pick out the sentence from the following which you think is INCORRECT.
- The Constitution of India has conferred equal rights for women.
 - Education can uplift the status of women in our country.
 - Conducive environment can be created for girls through good economy
 - Education is the most important instrument of human resource development

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.



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 (ie. 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 the eleven given below. 1x10=10

(i) According to the passage, what have the governments done to contain the virus 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) "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

(B) "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
- (b) 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
- (c) Because he sneaked into his house without permission
- (d) Because he was afraid of him

(iv) Which country does the speaker belong to?

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

(C) "Why not organise yourselves into a cooperative?" I ask a group of young men who have fallen into the vicious circle of middlemen who trapped their fathers and grandfathers. "Even if we get organised, we are the ones who will be hauled up by the police, beaten and dragged to jail for doing something illegal," they say. There is no leader among them, no one who could help them see things differently. Their fathers are as tired as they are. They talk endlessly in a spiral that moves from poverty to apathy to greed and to injustice.

(i) 'Why not organise yourselves into a cooperative?' Who is 'yourselves' referred to in this line?

- (a) The bangle-makers (c) Saheb and his friends
- (b) The rag-pickers (d) Saheb and Mukesh

(ii) What was the reply of the group of young men?

- (a) That they don't have the courage as they have no social back up
- (b) That they are happy with whatever they have
- (c) That they don't wish to confront with their destiny
- (d) That they will be beaten and dragged to jail if they formed any cooperative

(iii) What does 'hauled up' mean here?

- (a) driven out (b) kidnapped
- (c) framed in charges (d) grilled

(iv) 'They talk endlessly in a spiral that moves from poverty to apathy to greed and to injustice.' What does this line tell you about the speaker?

- (a) They are helpless.
- (b) They are satisfied with the way they are living
- (c) They want to take risk.
- (d) They want to come out of this mess

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

1x4=4

(A) 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.

OR

(B) Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night? On their slag heap, these children
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

- (i) Pick out the poetic device employed in the second line of the stanza given above.
- (a) personification (c) alliteration
(b) simile (d) metaphor
- (ii) What is the significance 'From fog to endless night'?
- (a) The slum children wake up in the foggy morning.
(b) The slum children are stuck in the traps of poverty till the end of their lives.
(c) They sleep in foggy nights.
(d) They are enjoying their endless night.
- (iii) Identify the rhyme scheme of the given stanza.
- (a) free verse (c) abab
(b) baca (d) acbc
- (iv) What does 'slag heap' refer to?
- (a) The hunger stricken, thin bodies of the children, which look like heaps of garbage.
(b) A heap of garbage
(c) A heap of garbage where their school is
(d) Slag heap of garbage where they survive

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

1x8=8

- (i) Why did Gandhiji agree to the offer of 25% refund to the farmers?
- (a) Because the planters were urgently in need of money
(b) Because the planters were longing for the compensation
(c) Because there was no other alternative
(d) Because prestige of farmers was more important than money
- (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) What does the phrase 'reproach ourselves with' mean in the chapter 'The Last lesson'?
- (a) equip ourselves (b) repair ourselves
(c) blame ourselves (d) introspect

- (vi) What does the expression 'slog their daylight hours' mean in the lesson 'Lost Spring'?
- work very hard all through the day
 - enjoy during the daylight hours
 - work tirelessly at the biscuit factory
 - spend time in dingy shells
- (vii) 'Sour cream walls' is an example of :
- anaphora
 - paradox
 - metaphor
 - pun
- (viii) What are 'the merry children spilling out of their homes' symbolic of?
- happiness
 - playfulness
 - energy
 - all of these
- (ix) What does morrow mean in the line 'Therefore on every morrow, are we wreathing'?
- The previous day
 - The day long past
 - The following day
 - 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?
- The Rattrap
 - The Last Lesson
 - Deep Water
 - Lost Spring

PART B – DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

40 Marks

Writing Skills

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

3

You want to rent a shared accommodation for your younger brother who has recently shifted to Bangalore and taken admission in Christ college, Bangalore. Write an advertisement for the same, to be published in the classified column of The Deccan Herald.

OR

As the Principal of Wordsworth International School, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of Grade XII about the Graduation Ceremony which is going to take place after the Annual examination. Inform the students about the practice schedule and other necessary details.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

3

You are Dr. Nutan, a certified motivational speaker, Panaji. You have been invited by Lady Fatima Public School, Jammu to conduct a seminar for students on 'Children's Duties towards the Nation'. Write a reply in about 50 words accepting the invitation.

OR

As the Secretary of the Literary Club of St Anne's School, Ahmedabad, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the inauguration of the club in the school. Ruskin Bond, famous author has consented to inaugurate the club.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

5

You are Himanshu/Harshita. Secretary Environment Club, Akash Public School, Ajmer. You along with a group of students went on a three-day tour to Corbett National Park. You found how the tourists misuse the available facilities and thus endanger the environment. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the situation. Suggest ways in which the environment of the park can be saved.

OR

You are Rahul/Rani Deewan, resident of C- 1605, Ashram Street, Thane. You have come across the following advertisement in a national newspaper. You consider yourself suitable for the advertised post. Write an application along with a resume in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a Lab Assistant in a reputed school of Midnapur, Maharashtra. Candidate should be B.Sc, Biotechnology/Microbiology with a minimum of 5 years of experience. Attractive salary. Apply to Principal, New Horizon Public School, Thane.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

5

Several Indian Pharma companies are working to develop a vaccine against coronavirus as they join global efforts to find a preventive way to check the spread of the deadly disease which has infected more than 14 million globally. But to the best of your knowledge, you know that vaccines requires years of testing and additional time to produce at scale. Write an article to be published in a national daily, giving your opinion in 120-150 words. You are Arsha/ Ritika.

OR

Vehicular traffic moved at a snail's pace due to the incessant rain that caused irrevocable damage in your area. As an active participant, write a report in 120-150 words on the different flood relief measures that were carried out. You are Manish/Manisha.

Literature

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

2x5=10

- i) How has the author expressed her disapproval to see Saheb working at a tea stall?
- 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) What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums? How can their lives be made to change?

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

- i) Why does Roger Skunk's mother not approve of her son's smell of roses?
- 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. Why was there so much of despondence in Alsace and Lorraine? What was the dereliction highlighted in the chapter 'The Last Lesson'?

OR

B. How does the story, 'Rattrap' highlight the importance of community over isolation? Support your rationale with textual evidence.

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

A. No country wants war as it brings misery and sufferings to the soldiers who fight for the country and sacrifice their lives. Some don't even receive the last respects. We need to be thoughtful of such soldiers. How far do you agree with this statement? Discuss with reference to the chapter 'The Enemy'.

OR

B. 'Society moulds man.' Do you think Derry might have transformed into an optimistic personality if he didn't stay away from people? Why/Why not?

End of the Question Paper