

Sample Paper-1

CLASS – XII, SUBJECT – ENGLISH CORE

1st PREBOARD EXAM

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

General Instructions:

- ⌚ The paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- ⌚ Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- ⌚ Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A- Reading Skills

(30 Marks)

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

(10 Marks)

In the buses of Delhi, all of us make use of one another for bodily comfort. In northern India, people have very great difficulty in keeping steady in moving vehicle, and therefore, they lean against one another or put their arms on a fellow passenger. Nobody is so ill-natured and if there is anyone with a wholly alien notion of private ownership in respect of his body objects, he is asked in offended tones. ‘What harm is there in it, you are not a woman?’ Again if anyone wants to know the time and has not got a watch, he simply takes up the left hand of another passenger and looks at his wrist watch. I wear mine on the underside, and therefore I often have my wrist twisted.

The buses are also full of conversations not only on public topics but also on embarrassingly private ones, and not only between acquaintances but also between people who have never met before. Among the former, the jokes are loud and hearty, and they are also permissible between total strangers. One day a fellow-passenger looked at my large sola topi and remarked that it was heavier than my whole body, and when I replied that it was no bigger than his turban, he said that he hoped I was not offended at his joke.

Another day, I even had an anxious inquiry about my health. In the hot season, I sometimes get an irritation at the back of my neck, especially because I wear a collar and tie even in summer, and this makes me jerk my head and even perk it like a bird. Last summer, I had an attack of this and when travelling in the bus, I suddenly heard the gentleman sitting next to me asking me in English. ‘Is it a habit or a disease?’ As I was somewhat surprised by the question and could not at first understand what it was about, he repeated the query. I asked in my turn, ‘Is what habit or disease?’ Then the gentleman mimicked exactly and said, ‘This.’ I was bound in common politeness to reply, ‘I suppose it is habit.’ ‘I thought so too,’ he rejoined. ‘You have done this too

many times, and it has now become a habit, and habit as you know is second nature.' So it is, 'I said in an embarrassed manner.

The passengers also help one another about the best way to get to a destination, because not infrequently the conductor has no clear idea of the topography of Delhi, and they often give contradictory directions, each maintaining that his is the right one. So far as newspaper reading is concerned, the fellow passengers never snatch away anybody's paper, but they take the pages he is not reading, in the most polite manner, and distribute them among themselves. These are, however, scrupulously returned. Books are often tugged at. One day a fellow passenger pulled hard at an edition of the Gita I was holding in my hand, and when I did not let it go, but objected, he said angrily. 'You have got a holy book in your hand and you are behaving like this! I don't want your book. 'And he did make a pariah of me.

I have the habit of leaving my seat and waiting at the door of the bus so as to be able to get down as soon as it comes to the stop, instead of keeping it waiting as most of us do. But when the others see me doing this, they cry out in the anxiety. 'Please have patience.' Some even catch hold of my coat-tails or grip the arm to prevent me from moving. They also help in more exceptional circumstances. One day, I found that I had only one soiled note with me, and the conductor would not take it. In such a situation, it is the custom with us to appeal to the 'general will' of the passengers. As I did not do that a fellow passenger snatched the coin from my hand, looked at it, and said, 'It is bad, but don't worry, I am going to exchange it for a good one. 'And he took out a one-rupee note, gave it to me, and put my bad note in his pocket. I was so amazed that I could not prevent him.

1. Choose the correct options:

(a) Why does the narrator often have his wrist twisted? (1)

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) When someone wants to talk to him | (ii) When someone wants to see the time |
| (iii) When someone does not have a watch | (iv) When someone wants to fight |

(b) What is our second nature? (1)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (i) Our behaviour | (ii) Our manners |
| (iii) Our habit | (iv) Our thoughts |

(c) Where does the narrator wait after leaving the seat? (1)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| (i) Near the seat | (ii) Near the door |
| (iii) Near the door | (iv) Near the driver's seat |

2. Answer the following questions briefly as possible:

(4)

- a. What happens if someone in a Delhi bus objects to a fellow passenger leaning against him?
- b. What kind of conversation goes on in the buses of Delhi?
- c. What does the incident of the 'sola topi' show?
- d. 'It is a habit or a disease?' (Para 3) What is being referred to here?

3. Find out the words from the passage which mean as same as words/phrases given below.

(3)

- a. Bad-tempered (para 1)
- b. Question (para 3)
- c. Worry (para 5)

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

(12 Marks)

A new born baby appears to be sleeping all the time. But as he grows up, the pattern of his sleep changes. It sleeps less and less, and stays awake longer playing or crying or babbling. By adulthood, the pattern is well established people sleep eight or nine hours a day. Well not quite that long, for our sleep habits have changed over the last century or so and we do not get as much sleep as we ought to.

In the eighteen and nineteenth century, people went to bed early, soon after it was dark. They had nothing to do in the evenings, and their sleep habits were fixed by the alternation of day and night, light and darkness. They woke up by day break, and thus they could get nine hours of sleep on the average.

Today the situation has changed. People, especially in industrialized countries get less than eight hours of sleep per day; many of them believe that six or six-and-a-half hours of sleep is enough for them. According to biologists and specialists in sleep disorders, a large number of people are not sleeping enough and this sleep deficit affects their health and their performance.

How did this change in our sleep habits come about? One cause was the introduction of the light bulb. When the electric bulb came into common use, people could work till late in the evening or even till past midnight. As the life of a civilized community became more complex, people began to deprive themselves of sleeping in order to squeeze their busy schedule into the late evening hours. Many factories introduced the shift system, by which people work in 8-hour cycles by rotation. A worker who has been working from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during one month is asked to work from midnight till 8 a.m. during the next month. The human brain cannot adapt easily to such a different sleep time, and as a result, the worker loses his sleep till the new pattern is established.

Millions of people travel by air across time zones, and suffer jet lag in the process. The world has become one big market, and businessmen have to be constantly travelling. This robs them of their sleep. Even at other times, businessmen have to stay awake keeping track of market developments in the business capitals of the world, like New York, London and Tokyo. If they fail to monitor the movements of prices in the foreign markets, they will be the losers.

Radio and television must bear their share of responsibility for depriving people of sleep. Even after local TV transmissions have closed by midnight, satellite transmission brings programs from other transmitting stations across the world through the night. Many people get addicted to television and consider themselves compensated for the loss of sleep by being able to watch interesting programs of entertainment, of live telecast of sports or political events from foreign countries.

Experiments where people have stayed awake for days at a time show that they soon become tired, confused, irritable, and eventually ill, with headaches and increased risk of infections and accidents. Many people who suffer from insomnia are worried or anxious or depressed. They may get stuck in a vicious spiral where they cannot sleep, so they worry about that as well, and so sleep even less. Treating the insomnia may help; doctors can prescribe various types of sleeping pills to aid sleep. However, it is usually better to get to the root of the problem, to find out what is causing the worry or depression, and to deal with that.

Research has shown that the performance of people suffers if they are deprived of sleep. They cannot concentrate, they cannot absorb what they are reading, they cannot make calculations; they make mistakes. Some traffic accidents can be traced to drivers falling asleep while at the wheel. Sleep-deprived people cannot be alert, and this can lead to accidents in factories when such people lose their concentration while monitoring machines.

What, then, is to be done to set things right? Obviously, people should learn to sleep more. One way is to take a siesta in the afternoon, as people often do in tropical countries. Extra sleep during weekends can help, but where there has been severe deprivation, it may take a long time to make up for lost sleep. The most sensible thing to do would be to go back to our old-time habits and sleep an hour longer every night. Sleep therapists advise us to take this extra sleep at bedtime in the evening rather than in the morning.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions as briefly as possible.

- a) What determined the sleep habits of people in earlier times? (2)
- b) What has affected our sleep habits in modern times? (2)

- c) What is insomnia? How is it caused? (2)
- d) What happens if we don't get enough sleep? (2)
- e) How can the modern man make for his lost hours of sleep? (2)

(II). Find out the synonyms of the words given below. (2)

B.1 Importance (Para 1)

B.2 Abandoned (Para 4)

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8 marks)

1. It is possible for teacher situated miles away to affect the spirit of the pupils by his ways of living. It would be idle for me, if I were a liar, to teach boys to tell the truth. A cowardly teacher would never succeed in making his boys valiant, and a stranger to self-reliant could never teach his pupils the value of self-restraint. I saw, therefore, that I must be an eternal object-lesson to the boys and girls living with me. They, thus, became my teachers, and I learnt I must be good and live straight, if only for their sake. I may say that the increasing discipline and restraint I imposed on myself at Tolstoy Farm was mostly for wards of mine.
2. One of them was wild, unruly, given to prone, and quarrelsome. On one occasion, he broke out most violently. I was exasperated. I never punished my boys, but this time I was very angry. I tried to reason with him, but he was adamant and ever tried to overreach me. At last, I picked up a ruler lying at hand and delivered a blow on his arm. I trembled as I struck him. I dare say he noticed it. This was an entirely novel experience for them all. The boy cried out and begged to be forgiven. He cried not because the beating was painful to him; he could, if he had been so minded, have paid me back in the same coin, being a stoutly built youth of seventeen but he realized my pain in being driven to this violent recourse. Never again after this incident did he destroy me. But I still repent that violence. I am afraid I exhibited before him that day not the spirit, but the brute, in me.
3. I have always been opposed to corporal punishment. I remember only one occasion on which I physically punished one of my sons. I have, therefore, never until this day been able to decide whether I was right or wrong in using the ruler. Probably it was improper, for it was prompted by anger and a desire to punish. Had it been an expression only of my distress, I should have considered is justified. But the motive in this case was mixed.

4. This incident set me thinking and taught me a better method of correcting students. I do not know whether that method would have been availed on the occasion in question. The younger soon forgot the incident, and I do not think he ever showed great improvement. But the incident made me understand better the duty of a teacher towards his pupils.
5. Case of misconduct on the part of the boys often occurred after this, but I never resorted to corporal punishment. Thus, in my endeavour to impart spiritual training to the boys and girls under me, I came to understand better and better the power of the spirit.

2.1 Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations, with suitable titles (5 Marks)

2.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. (3 Marks)

Section B- Advanced Writing Skills

(30Marks)

4. You are Dr. Madhu, Managing Director of Ringing Bells Pvt. Ltd. of 110, sector-63, Noida. Your company is launching a cell phone called 'Freedom 251'. Draft a display advertisement in not more than 50 words. (4 marks)

OR

You wish to change your name from 'Praveen' to 'Parveen' due to documental reasons. Draft a classified advertisement under the heading 'Change of Name' in about 50 words.

5. As Sports in-charge of Rishi Public School, Rewari. Write a letter to the Secretary of the Sports Authority of India, Delhi requesting him to cancel the order placed a fortnight ago for the sports good due to postponement of 'Sports Day' due to unavoidable circumstances. Do mention the details of the order for proper cancellation along with invoice number and date. (6 marks)

OR

You have recently heard about the burning of shops, malls, homes and govt. offices by the Jaat community in order to get reservation in the state. You feel people have become short tempered and ill-mannered to get what they don't deserve. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India suggesting ways to control anger and requesting people to have patience and faith in government. You are Sagar/Sarika of 56 R, Model Town, Sirsa (Hr.)

6. You came to know about one of mishaps in which a train derailed while going to Kanpur. Through eye witnesses, you came across the reasons of this terrible accident. As a newspaper reporter, write a report in about 125-150 words. You are Shama/Shaksham. (10 Marks)

OR

Your school recently celebrated its 'Investiture Ceremony' in your school's morning assembly wherein Prefects and other in-charges were sworn in for their respective duties. Write a report explaining the whole scene in about 125-150 words. You are Prerna/Pankaj.

7. You are Manoj/Vaishali. You have observed that many students go on increasing their academic qualification without proper direction. Most of them do not get any employment creating the problem of the educated unemployed. Some of them drift into unsocial activities. Write a speech on the topic 'Degrees don't count, only talent does' to be delivered in morning assembly (10 marks)

OR

Write a debate either in favour of the motion or against the motion on the topic '**Government should withdraw its decision of Demonetization back**'. You are Sohail/Samridhi from DPS, Panipat.

Section C- Literature Section

(40 Marks)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

(4 marks)

Fishermen in the cold sea
Would not harm whales
And the man gathering salt
Would look at his hurt hands

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) What does the poet expect of the fishermen and why? | 2 |
| b) What will the man gathering salt to do? | 1 |
| c) What do the hurt hands imply? | 1 |

OR

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.

- a) How does a thing of beauty remain a joy forever? 1
- b) Mention any two sources of joy that a thing of beauty provides? How? 2
- c) What does the phrase mean 'Pass into nothingness'? 1

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words.

(4x3=12 marks)

- (a) What does the poet mean by 'Fluttering Fingers' in 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?
- (b) Contrast Clare with Jack in all the terms?
- (c) Why do you think the peddler cheated on the crofter?
- (d) What was funny about Tiger King's upbringing?
- (e) What request does the poet make from the Inspector, Governor and Visitors?
- (f) Who do you think has outwitted the other-Evans or the Governor? Why?

10. Answer the following in about 125-150 words.

(6 marks)

What makes Dr. Sadao a dutiful son? How does he respond to the prejudice and biasness shown by Americans during his training in America?

OR

Do you think the Governor was good for a giggle? Give reasons in order to support your answer.

11. Answer the following in about 125-150 words.

(6 marks)

What is language chauvinism? Do you think Germany's adamancy to censor French language was justified?

OR

'The Rattrap' focuses on human's loneliness and its consequences. Substantiate your answer with reference to the chapter.

12. What does Mr. Cuss attain after his encounter with the stranger? Why does the latter maltreat him even after knowing his noble intention?

(6 marks)

13. How does the stranger manage to arrange all his apparels? Shed some light on the incident happened at 'Drury Lane'.

(6 marks)