

Sample Paper-5

CLASS – XII, SUBJECT – ENGLISH CORE

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 Section

(30Marks)

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

(13 Marks)

To make our life a meaningful one, we need to mind our thoughts, for our thoughts are the foundation, the inspiration, and the motivating power of our deeds. We create our entire world by the way we think. Thoughts are the causes and the conditions are the effects. Our circumstances and conditions are not dictated by the world outside; it is the world inside us that creates the outside. Self-awareness comes from the mind, which means soul. Mind is the sum total of the states of consciousness grouped under thought, will and feeling. Besides self-consciousness we have the power to choose and think. Krishna says: *“no man resteth a moment inactive”*. Even when inactive on the bodily plane, we are all the time acting on the thought plane. Therefore if we observe ourselves, we can easily mould our thoughts. If our thoughts are pure and noble, naturally actions follow the same. If our thoughts are filled with jealousy, hatred and greed, our actions will be the same.

Karmically, however, thought or intent is more responsible and dynamic than an act. One may perform a charitable act, but if he does not think charitably and is doing the act just for the sake of gain and glory, it is his thoughts that will determine the result. Theosophy teaches us that every thought, no matter how fleeting, leaves a seed in the mind of the thinker. These small seeds together go to make up a large thought seed and determine one's general character. Our thoughts affect the whole body. Each thought once generated and sent out becomes independent of the brain and mind and will live upon its own energy depending upon its intensity. Trying to keep a thought from our mind can produce the very state we are trying to avoid. We can alter our environment to create the mood. When, for instance, we are depressed, if we sit by ourselves trying to think cheerful thoughts, we often do not succeed. But if we mix with people

who are cheerful we can bring about a change in our mood and thoughts. Every thought we think, every act we perform, creates in us an impression, like everything else, is subject to cyclic law and becomes repetitive in our mind. So, we alone have the choice to create our thoughts and develop the kind of impressions that make our action more positive.

Let us choose the thought seeds of right ideas, noble and courageous aspirations that will be received by minds of the same nature. Right introspection will be required of us to determine what we really desire to effect. Everything in the universe is inter-related and inter-dependent, that we live in one another and by accepting the grand principle of universal brotherhood we shall be in a position to appreciate what a heavy responsibility is ever ours to think right. Let us reflect and send loving and helpful thoughts and lighten the load of the world's suffering.

Answer the following questions:

- a. How can we make our life meaningful? (2)
- b. Why does Krishna advise us to do in the paragraph? (2)
- c. How do our thoughts affect the whole body? (2)
- d. How can we change our mood when we are depressed? (2)
- e. How can we bring about the desired effect? (2)

Find the words from the passage that mean the same as: (3)

- a. Shape (Para 1)
- b. Fugitive (Para 2)
- c. To look into one's own thoughts and feelings (Para 5)

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

(9 Marks)

The government appears to have woken up to the problem of acute agrarian distress. In a flurry of activity surrounding the prime minister's visit to Vidarbha, the government had declared its intent to seek remedies for the crisis affecting the peasantry, symbolized by the spate of farmers' suicides over the last few years. This is indeed welcome, though the response should have come sooner. Reports and studies from various sources, including government commissions, on farmers' suicides and their proximate causes have analysed the issue to the bone. What was missing was concerted action on the part of the Centre.

The package being put together now recognizes that the immediate problem is not one of excess to credit or the level of the interest rate (though these are indeed medium-term issues) but of a legacy of debt that cannot be borne. Low farm gate prices, rising input cost and inadequate increase in productivity has combined to make interest and debt repayment commitments too onerous to bear. This explains the government's decision to write off debt at least in the case of marginal and small farmers, and, if the Finance Ministry agrees, to insure them against crop failure so to prevent the legacy of debt from becoming an unbearable burden for many more. These are significant steps forward. However the government also adopts policies that militate against long term redressal of the agrarian crisis that underlies farmer's distress. The first of these is a fiscal policy stance that precludes the adoption of measures that are crucial to revitalize agriculture. : Massive public investment in rural infrastructure, including irrigation, drainage and flood control; lowering of input cost through subsidies where necessary; and a hike in expenditure to restructure the provision of a host of extension and support services to improve agricultural productivity. With the government focused on fiscal deficit reduction rather on raising India's bysml tax-GDP ratio and expanding much needed expenditures, these measures are being virtually ignored. Rather the emphasis, as reflected in this year's budget for example, is on increasing the flow of credit to rural areas, without recognizing why even the current limited flow has taken the farming community into a debt trap.

The second is the decision to use free imports as a means to dampen inflation. The evidence on inflation is clear. While aggregate inflation on an annual point to point basis (as measured by the official Wholesale price index) stood at just 5.24 percent over the week ending June 10, 2006, the rate of inflation in the case of individual essential commodities was much higher: Between 9 and 10 percent in the wheat, fuel and sugar and as much as 35 percent in the case of pulses.

A factor underlying these trends is long term deterioration in agricultural performances. In most cases lower demand resulting from limited purchasing power among some sections of the population has ensure that poor agricultural performance has yet to result in a short fall in supply related to demand. Even so, speculative hoarding has indeed resulted in an artificial short fall. Speculation has been added by a number of decisions of the government such as removal of control on the movements of agricultural, commodities and liberalization of rules relating to the operation of the private traders and agri-business firms, which in turn have resulted in the failure to procure adequate government stocks at the minimum support price where applicable.

The government have sort to augment supply with imports. Besides deciding February to import wheat to replenish dwindling government stocks, it has now decided to permit private actual users of wheat like flour millers biscuit manufacturers and bread makers to import wheat duty free till the next rabi harvest. It has also allowed custom duty free import of sugar till the beginning of the next crushing season which starts in October. And it has put a ban on

exports of pulses this efforts to enhance domestic supply with import may be successful in dampening in inflationary expectations and holding the price level in the short run. But it could also adversely affect revenues garnered by the already- distressed peasantry with attended implications for private expenditure needed to sustain and improve agricultural production. E.g., Reliance on PL-480 imports in the 1950s and early 1960s, while dampening price in inflation during Second Plan Years, was partly responsible for the inadequate yield growth that preceded the agrarian crisis of the mid-1960s.

Reliance on imports to dampen price increases can, therefore, worsen the agrarian crisis and the distressed condition of farmers in the medium term. What is needed is to directly curb speculative activities; reverse policies with regard to freer agricultural trade that have brought in large private players driven by opportunities for profit and combine this with an investment- led agricultural strategy. If not, the small relief is being offered the prime minister of farmers in the worst affected areas would amount to little other than temporary relief and a declaration of concern.

Answer the following questions.

- a) What is the actual problem of agrarians in Vidarbha? (1)
- b) How can the government help for their redressal? Write at least two major steps. (1)
- c) Mention the steps initiated by the government to tackle the situation? (1)
- d) What solution has been put forth by the writer in the concluding paragraph? (2)

B) Find out the same words from the passage. (4)

- i. Havoc (paragraph 1)
- ii. Burdensome (paragraph 2)
- iii. Collection (paragraph 5)
- iv. Farming (paragraph 1)

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

There is nothing more frustrating than when you sit down at your table to study with the most sincere of intentions and instead of being able to finish the task at hand, you find your thought wandering. However, there are certain techniques that you can use to enhance your concentration. "Your concentration level depends on a number of factors," says Samuel Ghosh, a social counselor. In order to develop your concentration span, it is necessary to examine various facets of your physical and internal environment," she adds. To begin with, one should attempt to create the physical environment that is conducive focused thoughts. Whether it is the radio, T.V or your noisy neighbors identify the factors

that make it difficult for you to focus. For instance, if you live in a very noisy neighborhood, you could try to plan your study hours in a nearby library.

She disagrees with the notion that people can concentrate or study in an environment with distractions like a loud television, blaring music etc. "if you are distracted when you are attempting to focus, your attention and retention powers do not work at optimum levels." cautions Ghosh. "Not more than two of your senses should be activated at the same time." she adds. What that means is that music that sets your feet tapping is not the ideal accompaniment to your books. Also do not place your study table or desk in front of a window. "While there is no care for a mind that wants to wonder, one should try and provide as little stimulus as possible. Looking out of a window when you are trying to concentrate will invariably send your mind on a tangent," says Ghosh. The second important thing, she says, is to establish goals for oneself instead of setting a general target and then trying to accomplish when you can in a haphazard fashion. It is very important to decide what you have to finish in a given span of time.

The human mind recognizes fixed goals and targets and appreciates schedules more than random thoughts. Once your thoughts are goals are in line, a focused system will follow. She recommends that you divide your schedule into study recreation hours. When your study, choose a mix of subjects that you enjoy and dislike and save the former for the last so that you have something to look forward to. For instance, if you enjoy verbal skills test more than mathematical problems, finish Math first. Not only will you find yourself working harder, you will have a sense of achievement when your wind up. Try not to sit for more than forty minutes at a stretch. Take a very short break to make a cup of tea or listen to a song and sit down again. Under two circumstances, should one sit for more than one and half hours. Short breaks build your concentration and refresh your mind. However, be careful not to overdo the relaxation. It may have undesired effects.

More than anything else, do not get disheartened. Concentration is merely a matter of disciplining the mind. It comes with practice and patience and does not take very long to become a habit for life.

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

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

Section B- Advanced Writing Skills

(30Marks)

4. You are Panka s/o M K Sharma of Rohini, New Delhi. Your father wants you to draft a formal invitation reply (Accepting) to be sent on the occasion of your father's friend's 50th birthday. Prepare the invitation reply in 50 words.

(4 marks)

5. You are Naresh/Neetu. Recently, you came across a newspaper report on the honor killing of a young woman as she got married to a inter caste boy. You feel that even after 60 years of independence we have not really progressed as a nation. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your views and also giving suggestions to stop the killing of women just for the sake of honor in Indian Society.

(6 marks)

6. Last week, while coming back from school, you happened to see somebody from a luxurious car flinging a plastic bag full of leftovers of food in the middle of the road. You wondered how people can be so devoid of civic sense. Write an article in 150 words on why we lack civic sense and how it can be inculcated in children at a very young age. You are Shiva/Shivani.

(10 marks)

7. An inter school debate is being arranged on the topic "Mothers should stay at home and look after their children." You are Srinivas of Jubilee International School, Hyderabad. You have been selected to express your views against the motion in 150 words.

(10 marks)

Section C- Literature Section

(40 Marks)

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

(4 marks)

And yet, for these
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,
Where all their future's painted with a fog,
A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky
Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words.

- (a) Name the poetic device used in this stanza. 1
- (b) Explain "Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words"? 2
- (c) What does the poet want for the children of slum? 1

9. Answer all the four questions in about 30-40 words.

(4x3=12 marks)

- (a) Deep water is a story about the conquest of fear. Discuss.
- (b) What was the 'conflict of duties' Gandhi said he was confronted with?
- (c) Why does the poet not advocate total inactivity in 'Keeping Quiet'?
- (d) Who was Judewin? Why was she ready to give up against the authority of Carlisle Indian School?

10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words.

(6 marks)

Individuals who belong to enemy countries tend to hate each other even if they do not know each other personally. At times it is seen that some of them rise above such prejudices. What makes a human being do so?

11. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words.

(6 marks)

There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to 'The Enemy'.

LONG READING TEXT (The Invisible Man)

12. Excessive ambition is behind all that happens in the story. Griffin, devoid of any traces of humanity has become blind in his pursuit. Justify the statement.

(6 marks)

13. What feelings does Colonel Adye manage to generate in the readers? Is it bravery or cowardice? Give reasons to support your answer.

(6 marks)