

**I TERM EXAMINATION - 2023-24**  
**CLASS XII (CBSE)**

Time : 3 hrs.

**SUBJECT - ENGLISH CORE (301)**

M.M.: 80

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. The paper contains three sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION-A : READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)**

Q.1 **Reading comprehension through unseen passages text.** [12]

Many of us believe that 'small' means 'insignificant'. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step- by step or day- by- day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day- to- day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character- building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.

Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then it will grow, bear fruit and finally ripen, and be ready to eat.

Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day- to- day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the "Mahatma". In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day-by-day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from the mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.

People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline which was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his success possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory but not the struggle:

This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often, when our "ideal goal" looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, it becomes easy to achieve the goal.

**On the basis of the above passage answer the following questions**

1. What do many of us believe? [1]
  - a) Small choices and small actions are performed everyday.
  - b) There is no such thing as an overnight success.
  - c) Small actions and choices do not have much impact on over lives.
  - d) 'Small' means 'significant'.
2. What does the writer mean by saying 'chipped away their bad habits'? [1]
  - a) Steadily gave up bad habits.
  - b) Slowly produced bad habits.
  - c) Gradually criticized bad habits.
  - d) Did not like bad habits.
3. Which of the following statement is TRUE in the context of the third paragraph? [1]
  - a) Gandhi became great overnight.
  - b) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself.
  - c) Everyday, Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way.
  - d) Gandhi never made mistakes.
4. What have people always marvelled at ? [1]
  - a) Gandhi's effortless way to accomplish difficult tasks.
  - b) Gandhi's great deal of self- mastery and discipline.
  - c) Gandhi's fears, doubts and anxieties.
  - d) Gandhi's struggle.

5. What do great people do to transform their lives? [2]
6. Why do we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic? [2]
7. What changes occurred in Gandhiji's life in his mid- twenties? [2]
8. \_\_\_\_\_ always occurs through sequential series of stages. [1]
9. Pick another word from the last paragraph similar to the word 'influence'. [1]

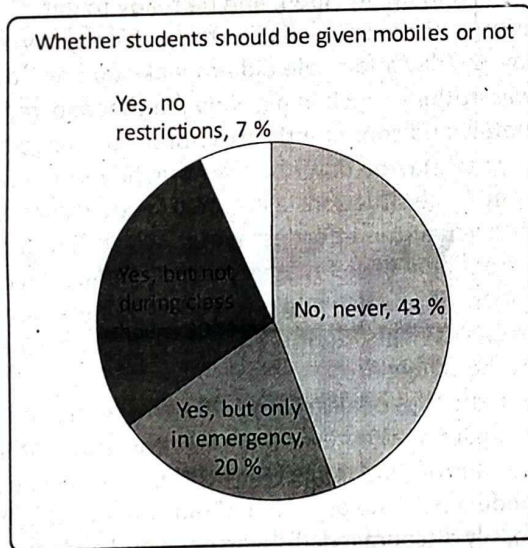
[2]  
[2]  
[2]  
[1]  
[1]  
[10]

**Q.2 Read the following text:**

Human life changes constantly over time, Mobile phones were previously seen only among a few high-class people and were considered something lavish. Then slowly, even the average or the common men on the street, like a cobbler or vegetable vendor, could be seen having a cell phone. In the world today, even young kids and school-going children are found busily chatting away on their mobile phones. Now kids as young as seven and eight, too, have started owning a mobile phone. Welcome to the new age world!

Studies recommend that mobile phones should only be given to children above 16 years of age. Children below the age of 16 should not be given mobile phones since their brain is too sensitive to withstand the effects of mobile radiation. Since the tissues in the brain and body are still developing, these radiations can cause cell damage. Due to the absorption of radiation, children can have severe health issues. Although adults also get affected by these radiations, it will be more severe in children because of increased absorption of these radiation levels. Experts also believe there is a link between childhood cancer and mobile phone usage among children.

A survey was conducted to get the views of the parents and teachers as to whether children below 16 years of age should be given mobiles or not was conducted. The responses received were formulated into a pie diagram as under.



**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

1. Do you think that human life really changes constantly over time? Support your answer with reference to the text. Answer in about 40 words. [2]
2. Select the option that displays the nearest percentage of parents and teachers who are unwilling to give mobile phone to students in any situation. [1]
 

a) 7%	b) 20%	c) 30%	d) 43%
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3. Now a days, who are found busily chatting on their mobile phones? [1]
 

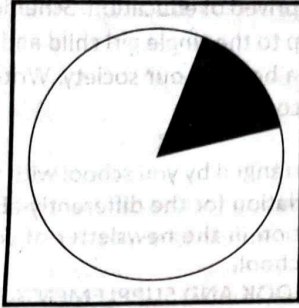
a) Vegetable vendors	b) Cobblers	c) Executives	d) Kids
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4. Why should the children below the age of 16 not be given mobile phones? [2]
5. Mobile phones affect students' \_\_\_\_\_ the most : [1]
 

a) Heart	b) Brain	c) Kidney	d) Lungs
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6. Complete the given statement, with reference to the text. 'The minimum age, prescribed by studies to give mobile phones to children is .....
7. Does the following statement agree with the information given in the passage? [1]
 

"Childhood cancer is not linked to mobile phone usage."

Yes- if the statement agrees with the information. [1]  
 No- if the statement contradicts the information.  
 Not given- if there is no information on this.

8. Which of the categories is represented by this pictorial representation? [1]



- a. Yes, no restrictions.                      b. Yes, but not during class hours  
c. Yes, but only in emergency              d. No never

**SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)**

**Q.3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words:** [4]

You are Sumit/ Savita of Lucknow Public College. Your college has decided to organize a Book Review Competition for the students of class XI and XII to ignite the literary flame in the hearts of students. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, inviting students to participate in this competition.

**OR**

Your College is organizing a career counseling session for the classes X, XI and XII. An eminent counselor, Mr. Vasudeva will guide the students. Write a notice giving details to be displayed on your college notice board in about 50 words. You are Jatin/Janki, the Head Boy/Girl of your school.

**Q.4 Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words:-** [4]

You are Dhruv/ Deepa. Your father, Shri Dheeraj Garg of Gurugram wants you to draft an invitation to be sent to friends and relatives on the occasion of your elder sister's marriage. Prepare the invitation giving necessary details in not more than 50 words.

**OR**

You are Amrit/ Amrita. Draft an invitation letter in not more than 50 words to be sent to your friend on the occasion of your brother's great performance in his examination. Give necessary details.

**Q.5 Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words:** [5]

You are Anil/ Anita of Viraj Khand, Lucknow. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter of application in 120-150 words along with detailed bio data.

**V A C A N C I E S**  
We are seeking for an energetic, result oriented individual who can work under pressure and meet deadlines.

**General Clerk**

**Requirements;**

- Experience in Invoicing.
- Age 23-30
- Good Analytical Skills
- Computer Knowledge (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point)
- Knowledge in English reading

If you are willing to take up the challenge, please send in your CV with contact details of 2 non-related referees to reach us within 7 days of this advertisement.

Please mention in the **General Clerk** subject line of your e-mail.

**KTK PVC** Human Resources Manager  
**Kamal PVC Industries (Pvt) Ltd**  
56, Kandawala Mawatha, Raibatalana.  
E-mail: careers@kamalpvc.com

Please mark the position on the subject line of your e-mail

**OR**

You are Harry/Eliza of 12- B Okhla, New Delhi. Recently many people of your locality were bitten by monkeys and one boy even died. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120-150 words expressing your concern over this monkey menace and given suggestions for getting rid of this problem.

- Q.6 Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words:** [5]
- In many parts of our country girls are still discouraged from going to school. Consequently, a sizable section of the population is deprived of education. Scheme like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, CBSE scholarship to the single girl child and the Government policy of giving free education to girls have come as a boon to our society. Write an article in 120-150 words on the education of the girl child in the country.

**OR**

Recently a cultural programme was arranged by your school with the help of the local artists of the city for raising funds to help an association for the differently-abled children of your city. Write a report in 120-150 words for publication in the newsletter of your school. You are Sunita/Sunil, secretary of the Social Club of your school.

**SECTION C : LITERATURE - TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)**

- Q.7 Read the given extract and answer the questions for ANY ONE of two given:-** [6]

A. ...I looked again at her, wan,  
pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that  
old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
but all I said was, see you soon,  
Amma,  
All I did was smile and smile and  
smile .....

- i What is the speaker's emotional state while looking at her mother? [1]
- A. Confused and disoriented  
B. Nostalgic and longing  
C. Empathetic and understanding  
D. Fearful and apprehensive
- ii What does the use of the word "but" at the beginning of the line, 'but all I said...,' suggest? [1]
- iii Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately. [1]  
The description of the mother as "wan, pale as late winter's moon" creates a vivid image of .....
- A. vulnerability B. sensitivity  
C. Frailty D. mortality
- iv State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. [1]  
The poetic device used in the line, 'pale as a winter's moon' is the same as the one used in the line, 'the winter wind wailed at night'.
- v. What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker's sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother? [1]
- vi Complete the sentence appropriately. [1]  
The repetition of the word, 'smile' suggests that .....

**OR**

B. If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with  
death.

- i. Find the figure of speech in the first line of the given extract: [1]  
a. alliteration b. consonance c. pun d. assonance
- ii. According to the poet to what extent do humans understand themselves? [1]  
a. not at all b. completely c. Partially d. none of these
- iii. Which of the following may lead to threatening ourselves with death? [1]  
a. constantly being silent b. constantly rushing about  
c. constantly being sad d. constantly worrying

- iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. [1]  
Silence and stillness lead to introspection and understanding.
- v. According to the poet who is to blame for the condition of threatening ourselves with death? [1]
  - a. stressful life
  - b. keeping quite
  - c. lack of understanding
  - d. state of confusion
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately [1]  
Introspection will help everyone to.....

Q.8 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given. [4]

- A. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station. [1]  
But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things were pretty nice and peaceful in his days, from all I hear, and he started my collection.
- i. What does the stamp collection symbolize in the story? [1]
  - ii. Charley was unhappy and that made his wife mad because ..... [1]
    - a. Charley was not going to his work.
    - b. it seemed to suggest to her that she was the cause of Charley's unhappiness.
    - c. she loved charley.
    - d. Sam is trying to create trouble in their married life
  - iii. The third level is a medium of ..... [1]
  - iv. Explain the phrase "a temporary refuge from reality": [1]

**OR**

- B. Six hundred and fifty million years ago, a giant amalgamated southern supercontinent- Gondwana- did indeed exist, centered roughly around the present- day Antarctica. Things were quite different then: humans hadn't arrived on the global scene, and the climate was much warmer, hosting a huge variety of flora and fauna. For 500 million years Gondwana thrived, but around the time when the dinosaurs were wiped out and the age of the mammals got under way, the landmass was forced to separate into countries, shaping the globe much as we know it today.
- i. What is Gondwana? [1]
  - ii. Six hundred and fifty million years ago, things were different because ..... [1]
    - a. humans had not arrived
    - b. climate was much warmer
    - c. huge variety of flora and fauna was found
    - d. all of these
  - iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. [1]  
Antarctica is the place to know more about the planet's .....
  - iv. Which species flourished after the extinction of dinosaurs? [1]

Q.9 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two given. [6]

- A. I heard M Hamal say to me, "I won't scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Everyday we have said to ourselves, "Bah ! I've plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow." And now you see where we have come out. Ah, that's the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow.
- i. Select the option that completes the sentence appropriately. [1]  
Franz could have been scolded for .....
    - a. being late to school.
    - b. not learning participles
    - c. not learning math's lesson
    - d. not cleaning M Hamel's garden.
  - ii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: [1]  
Reprimand: Scold :: Postpone : .....
  - iii. Why did M Hamel say to Franz that he won't scold him? [1]
  - iv. What does the statement 'Bah! I have plenty of time' indicate about the people of Alsace? [1]

- v. Select the correct option to fill the blank: [1]  
Franz would be feeling bad now because.....
- a. his teacher was retiring                      b. he would not learn French now  
c. he was rusticated                              d. of his inability to show his command in French
- vi. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Alsace has a habit of procrastinating. [1]

OR

- B. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home.
- i. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. [1]  
'They' in the given extract refers to .....
- a. policeman    b. Sahukars  
c. Middle man    d. All of these
- ii. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy. [1]  
Aware : Enlightened : : Beam : .....
- iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. The 'baggage' in the extract refers to ..... [1]  
a. the bag containing bangles.                      b. the job of bangle making  
c. the blame of their crimes                        d. the job of selling bangles
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Mukesh's dream will require determination and sincerity. ]
- v. The writer states that the boy accepts bangle making as naturally as his father to state that..... [1]
- vi. What kind of attitude does Mukesh show by saying that he will go to garage and learn. [1]  
Write your answer in one word. [1]

Q.10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each. [5 x 2 = 10]

- i. Summarise M. Hamel's views on the French language.  
ii. What does the difference in the point of view of adults and children regarding the garbage dump show?  
iii. In Anees Jung's 'Lost Spring' explain the societal problem that the bangle makers are caught in.  
iv. Which incidents made Douglas develop an aversion to water?  
v. Why does Kamala Das compare her mother to late winter's moon?  
vi. Why does one feel a 'sudden strangeness' in counting to twelve and keeping quiet?

Q.11 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions (40- 50 words) [2 x 2 = 4]

- i. What considerations influenced the Tiger King to get married?  
ii. What evidence made Charley sure that he was on the third level of Grand Central Station in the Nineteenth century?  
iii. How is Antarctica different from the place we live in?

Q.12 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 to 150 words. [1 x 5 = 5]

- i. 'Separation anxiety' is the psychological term for anxiety that children feel when away from their parents. Discuss with reference to the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'.  
ii. 'Where there is a will there is a way.' Examine 'Deep Water' in the light of this statement.

Q.13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 to 150 words. [1 x 5 = 5]

- i. 'The Tiger King' shows the general behavior of people towards animals. People like the tiger king are responsible for making some of the creatures endangered species. Express your views.  
ii. The earth teaches us that if we take care of small things, big things will be taken care of. Explain with reference to the 'Antarctica'.

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