



ANANDALAYA  
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION  
CLASS –XII

Subject: ENGLISH CORE  
Date : 27/11/2015

M.M: 100  
Time: 3 hrs.

**General Instructions:**

- i. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- ii. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- iii. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION A-READING (30 Marks)**

Q1. Read the passage given below.

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1. The idea that coffee is bad for heart pops up periodically. It was found that regularly drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researches even isolated fatlike chemicals, cafestol and kahweol, responsible for the rise.
2. It turned out that the European brewing method—boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining—produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee—five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers drink down only two cups.
3. Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.
4. ‘For heart disease, I think, the issue is closed,’ says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied many aspects of coffee and health. ‘Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk.’
5. Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson’s disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese-American men found that avid coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn’t drink the brew.
6. Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, found indirect evidence that Caffeine—the habit forming stimulant in coffee—may actually combat Parkinson’s. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine—the problem underlying Parkinson’s in humans. However, these are preliminary findings, human studies have not consistently supported caffeine’s protective role.
7. The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs—and are reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.
8. If there is a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it possibly applies just to coffee junkies. A reanalysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.
9. Caffeine is such a powerful stimulant that the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association set limits on how much can remain in the blood during competition. In addition to boosting physical endurance, caffeine increases alertness and improves mood. The buzz may come at a price, though. People who drink more than they are used to may become restless and unable to sleep.

Moreover, it's possible to become physically dependent on caffeine in days.

10. The question now arises; how much to drink? Those with heart-burn and anxiety may want to see if cutting back on coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there is virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard's Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: 'That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it.'

*-Reader's Digest (adapted)*

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. 12

- a) The writer states that the filter and percolation methods of brewing coffee
- remove every bit of chemicals like cafestol and kahweol entirely
  - leave some residues of these harmful chemicals
  - leave only these harmful chemicals in the coffee
  - make it absolutely healthy and consumable to drink this beverage
- b) To prevent suffering from Parkinson's disease, evidence suggests that
- coffee may be drunk regularly
  - coffee may be drunk sparingly
  - even two cups of coffee might bring in the disease
  - nothing conclusive can be said – hence a blanket ban
- c) A single study in the 1980s that linked coffee with pancreatic cancer was considered a false alarm because
- there was absolutely no link between the two
  - research was deliberately being exaggerated to gain publicity
  - studies show that the connection to be very slight –almost nil to be of any serious consequences
  - nobody took these findings very seriously
- d) The International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association stand on the assumption that drinking coffee is
- absolutely detrimental
  - that it may be consumed to a monitored extent
  - favourable to the players in every way possible
  - to shower on rival teams cups of coffee so that they become restless and cannot sleep

Answer the following

- In what respect does coffee harm human heart?
- What is the finding of latest researches about coffee and human heart?
- What problem causes Parkinson's disease?
- Give evidence from the passage to collaborate the theory that coffee might help to ward off Parkinson's disease.
- Name any two types of cancer listed in the passage.
- What are the positive effects of caffeine?
- Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:
  - Separated (para 1)
  - drug that increases physical or mental activity and alertness (para 6)

1. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months: at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn't been used to that sort of thing (for his father had kept a small cook-shop), hinted darkly to his companions, that unless he had another basin of gruel per day, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye; and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master after supper that evening, and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.
2. The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said: somewhat alarmed at his own temerity: 'Please, sir, I want some more.'
3. The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with fear. 'What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice. 'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some more. 'The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arm; and shrieked aloud for the beadle.
4. The board was sitting in solemn conclave, when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing the gentleman in the high chair, said, 'Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more!' There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance. 'For more!' said Mr. Limbkins. 'Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?' 'He did, sir,' replied Bumble. 'That boy will be hung,' said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. 'I know that boy will be hung.'

Choose the correct alternatives form the options given below:

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1. The decision to ask for more gruel fell on Oliver Twist because
  - a. he was scared that the boy sleeping next to him would eat him up out of hunger
  - b. Oliver was bold and forthright and wanted to put the authorities in their place
  - c. the others had wagered a bet with him, and he wanted to win it desperately
  - d. lots had been cast and his name had come up to ask for more gruel
2. The master was besides himself with astonishment because
  - a. according to him, Oliver had shown great impertinence in asking for more
  - b. he thought he had forgotten to serve Oliver the usual quantity of gruel
  - c. he thought Oliver was a very timid boy and represented a Union
  - d. he had a turn for theatricals and wanted Oliver and his friends to laugh and be mirthful

Answer the following questions :

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- c. What did the boy, whose father kept a cook-shop, hint at the other boys?
- d. What is implied in the sentence, 'a long grace was said over the short commons'?
- e. Why did Oliver get up after he had finished his gruel?
- f. What was the reaction of the master on hearing Oliver?
- g. What did Oliver tell the fat man?
- h. Mention very briefly what exactly was Oliver's crime in asking for more.
- i. Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following. 2

  - a. famished (para 1)
  - b. incredulous (para 4)

Q3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follows:

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1. One of the world's most renowned scientists is setting up a service to map individuals' entire genetic codes that could help predict how and when they might die.
2. For pounds 400,000, Craig Venter, who helped decipher the human genome—man's genetic code—plans to provide details of a person's genes within a week. Armed with such information, the individual will be able to check for mutations linked with illness such as cancer and Alzheimer's.
3. Although at present scientists know the genetic abnormalities to blame for only a few dozen disease, thousands more are expected to be discovered in the coming decades.
4. Venter, who has annoyed the scientific establishment with his commercial approach, said he had already signed up several millionaires, though he declined to name them.
5. 'I have been approached by a number of people who want to have their individual genome decoded,' he said. 'Initially, we will be able to decode people's genes in less than a week but hope eventually to bring it down to less than a day.'
6. Venter, an American, is spending pounds 25 million on the new facility, which will offer the service from later this year. Individuals will get a CD enshrining a full description of all their genes to pass on to their descendants. The technique maps the genes unique to the individual and then matches them with DNA common to all humans.
7. Venter says his main aim is to use the customer's genes—and money—to test out new ultra-fast techniques for analysing DNA that could one day enable everyone to have a map of their genome.
8. Other researchers are skeptical. Among geneticists, Venter is renowned as the brilliant but abrasive researcher who dropped out of the publicly-funded international Human Genome Project (HGP), which was set up in the mid-1980s to map humanity's genetic code.
9. He established his own rival laboratories and, to the fury of his former colleagues, started working on the human genome. He even suggested that he might take out patents on humanity's 'blueprint for life.'
10. The HGP accelerated its work on the genome to publish it before Venter until, after a series of rows, both teams agreed to make their work publicly available.
11. Venter's new facility will enable him to crack the genetic codes faster than ever before. His scientists are already working on the genomes of 40 species. However, other experts are skeptical about the value of mapping individuals' genes.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary) 5

(b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than about 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3

**SECTION B – ADVANCE WRITING SKILLS (30 Marks)**

- Q4. As the manager of ‘Excellent Coaching Centre’ run by you, prepare a poster calling the attention of students desirous of attending IIT, CPMT coaching class to join your coaching centre. 4

**Or**

You are Leena Sen. The wedding of your elder sister Reena Sen is going to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at Hotel Lake View, Udaipur. Draft an informal invitation to your friend Vinnie requesting her to attend the function.

- Q5. Write a letter to the Editor, ‘The New Indian Express’ drawing attention of the authorities concerned to the misused and poorly maintained subways in Ahmedabad. Give your suggestions. You are Ram/ Rani living at 10 Kamraj Street, Ahmedabad. 6

**Or**

Ravi Sharma of 59 Sea Side Road, Mumbai sees the advertisement of ‘New World Publication’, Mumbai, for the post of ‘Sales Executive’ in ‘The Everyday Times’ and decides to apply for the same. Write an application to the Personnel Manager, New World Publication, Worli, Mumbai.

- Q6. You are Varshini. This year your school arranged a special cultural programme on the theme ‘Service and Sacrifice’ in commemoration of the International Year of Volunteers. Write an article about this cultural programme for your school magazine in about 150 words. 10

**Or**

To enforce strict discipline in schools and colleges is a great problem now-a-days. As Mohan/Mohini, write an article in 150 words for The Hindustan Times, Delhi about the problems and your views on punishment as a corrective measure. *Hints: Proper counseling and convincing young people of their follies is important—forbid miscreants from participating in activities of their choice for some time—frequent talks and lessons on morality and kindness and consideration to humanity at large.*

- Q7. You are Vivek of St. Patrick School, Chennai. You have been told to deliver a speech during morning assembly on the topic, ‘A Stable Government—a Need of Today’. Draft the speech in 150-200 words. 10

**Or**

As Gopal Sharma of Shri Hinduja School, Gwalior, draft a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered during morning assembly on the topic ‘Library Week—a Forthcoming Event’.

**SECTION – C (Literature : Text Books and Long Reading Text)**

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- Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. 4

*Therefore, on every morrow, we are wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,*

- a. What are we doing every day? 1  
b. Which evil things do we possess and suffer from? 1  
c. Explain ‘In spite of all’. 1  
d. Who is the poet of these lines? What is the name of the poem? 1

**Or**

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand*

- a. What were Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through? 1  
b. How was she pulling the needle? 1  
c. What was lying heavily? Where? 1  
d. What was upon Aunt Jennifer's hand? How did it sit there? 1
- Q9. Answer (any four) of the following questions in 30-40 words each. 12
- a. Which matter of the Tiger King is of extraordinary interest?  
b. Both of them saw something black come out of the mists. What did they see, and how did they react to it? (The Enemy)  
c. 'We're not the same,' says Derry. How does Mr. Lamb try to convince Derry that there is no essential difference between them? (On the face of it)  
d. How did the governor react to the two phone calls he received in quick succession? (Evans Tries an O- Level)  
e. What sort of terror seized Douglas as he went down the 'water with a yellow glow'? How could he feel that he was still alive?(Deep Water)  
f. What job is Geoff engaged in? How does he differ from his sister Sophie in 'Going Places'? (Going Places)
- Q10. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words: 6  
Comment on the appropriateness of the title, 'The Last Lesson'.  
**Or**  
The story, 'The Rattrap' brings into focus the age-old saying—when opportunity knocks, one should be wise enough to seize it.' Substantiate this observation with reference to the story.
- Q11. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words: 6  
How far do you think Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all her creations of her own mind?  
**Or**  
Although Derry's life is embittered and miserable even as a boy of 14, one cannot help feeling that Mr. Lamb might have been the one key saviour of his hopes and aspirations in the young lad's struggle with life. Justify the statement with reference to the play 'On the Face of it'.
- Q12. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words: 6  
'The Invisible Man' has certain myriad elements to it like comedy, horror, pathos, suspense and so on. Do you agree with this statement? Give your reasons with specific instances from the text.
- Q13. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words. 6  
'The Invisible Man' is an anti-hero from the very beginning, yet his end is a triumph of his dreams and aspirations. Justify.