



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA
Pre Board Examination 2
Class : XII

Subject: ENGLISH (CORE)

Date : 08/01/2016

M.M: 100

Time: 3 Hours

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)

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

1. Too many parents these days can't say no. As a result, they find themselves raising 'children' who respond greedily to the advertisements aimed right at them. Even getting what they want doesn't satisfy some kids they only want more. Now, a growing number of psychologists, educators and parents think it's time to stop the madness and start teaching kids about what's really important: values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion. The struggle to set limits has never been tougher - and the stakes have never been higher. One recent study of adults who were overindulged as children, paints a discouraging picture of their future: when given too much too soon, they grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with life's disappointments. They also have distorted sense of entitlement that gets in the way of success in the work place and in relationships.

2. Psychologists say that parents, who overindulge their kids, set them up to be more vulnerable to future anxiety and depression. Today's parents themselves raised on values of thrift and self-sacrifice, grew up in a culture where 'no' was a household word. Today's kids want much more, partly because there is so much more to want. The oldest members of this generation were born in the late 1980s, just as PCs and video games were making their assault on the family room. They think of MP3 players and flat screen TV as essential utilities, and they have developed strategies to get them. One survey of teenagers found that when they crave for something new, most expect to ask nine times before their parents give in. By every measure, parents are shelling out record amounts. In the heat of this buying blitz, even parents who desperately need to say 'no' find themselves reaching for their credit cards.

3. Today's parents aren't equipped to deal with the problem. Many of them, raised in the 1960s and '70s, swore they'd act differently from their parents and have closer relationships with their own children. Many even wear the same designer clothes as their kids and listen to the same music. And they work more hours; at the end of a long week, it's tempting to buy peace with 'yes' and not mar precious family time with conflict. Anxiety about future is another factor. How do well intentioned parents say no to all the sports gear and arts and language lessons they believe will help their kids thrive in an increasingly competitive world? Experts agree: too much love won't spoil a child. Too few limits will.

4. What parents need to find, is a balance between the advantages of an affluent society and the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving and working hard to achieve goals. That search for balance has to start early. Children need limits on their behaviour because they feel better and more secure when they live within a secured structure. Older children learn self-control by watching how others, especially parents act. Learning how to overcome challenges is essential to becoming a successful adult. Few parents ask kids to do chores. They think their kids are already overburdened by social and academic, pressures. Every individual can be of service to others, and life has meaning beyond one's own immediate

happiness. That means parents eager to teach values have to take a long, hard look at their own.

(1) Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

- (i) Why do today's children want more? 1
- a) Parents are very rich so they can afford b) They don't feel contentment in anything
- c) Markets are flooded with things to lure them d) Both (b) and (c)
- (ii) What parents should do to solve the problem? 1
- a) Children's unnecessary demands should be strictly denied b) Children should be punished for their indiscipline
- c) Children should be taken to the counselors d) Parents should train their children to work hard for their goals
- (iii) Why do some parents ask their children to do every day jobs? 1
- a) They want them to realise social and academic pressure b) They want them to learn such jobs
- c) They want to punish them d) They want them to learn how to overcome challenges and become successful

(2) Answer the following :

- (i) What values do parents and teachers want children to learn? 2
- (ii) What are the results of giving the children too much too soon? 2
- (iii) What is the balance which the parents need to have in today's world? 1
- (iv) What is the necessity to set limits for children? 1

(b) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following :

- (i) a feeling of satisfaction (para 1) 1
- (ii) spoil or ruin (para 3) 1
- (iii) very rich (para 4) 1

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

The Power of a Dream

1. In order to make something happen, there must first be a dream. All great pioneers and visionaries were, first and foremost, dreamers whose dreams contained a touch of the impossible. Let us take the example of Gandhi, who also dreamed an "impossible" dream. To dream of freeing India from more than 100 years of British rule — a powerful imperial power — was novel enough, but to dream that freedom would be achieved without a single shot being fired was audacious.

2. Dreams (or day dreams) play a very important role in our lives. They provide us with a vision of what we want to achieve in life. Why is it important to have mighty goals, to dream great dreams? When our dreams and visions have a touch of the impossible, it stretches us. It grabs and pulls us out of our comfort zone. It forces us to employ new and innovative ways to achieve our goals. As Peter Senge states in his book, "The Fifth Discipline", "The loftiness of the target compels new ways of thinking and acting." We are forced to 'think outside the box'.

3. With Gandhi at the helm, India embarked on one of the most unique freedom struggles in the history of the modern world. With truth, compassion and non-violence as his only weapons, Gandhi took on the might of the British empire. Gandhi painted a compelling picture of a free India — a united and truly self-reliant nation. Although many people initially doubted the efficacy of his methods, they gradually changed their minds as they saw Gandhi

lead by example. People began to commit to this cause in larger numbers with each passing day. At one point, it was no longer Gandhi's vision; it had become a shared vision. Gandhi also helped them understand that this was a struggle of historic importance; if Indians could prove that freedom could be won through the non-violent way, then it would be a message of vital significance for future generations.

4. This shared vision lifted common men and women to greater levels of heroism and courage. These "ordinary" folk became so inspired that they bravely and willingly joined in the struggle for Indian sovereignty. They endured physical blows and assaults without retreating or retaliating. They joined in Gandhi's hunger strikes and marches. The feeling that they were participating in something sacred and profound elicited the very best from these men and women. Their courageous actions are not understandable unless one realises that a powerful vision can inspire heroic acts and extraordinary courage from even the most seemingly ordinary person.

5. Gandhi himself was a very fearful and painfully shy child. This shyness continued well into his late twenties. He was so shy and fearful that at social gatherings, he could not make the simplest of speeches. At meetings, somebody else would have to read aloud what he had written. To top it all off, his first appearance as a lawyer in court was an unmitigated disaster; as Gandhi's turn came to speak, he found himself overwhelmed and tongue-tied. In his autobiography, he speaks of the innumerable occasions when he found himself in similar embarrassing situations, all due to his shyness.

6. And yet this person became the leader of millions. He became an extremely proficient speaker. He grew so self-confident that he was soon meeting and negotiating with very important and influential leaders, such as British viceroys and generals who were in the top echelons of power. What happened? How did this painfully shy and fearful person end up as one of the greatest revolutionaries of the 20 century? What triggered such a powerful transformation?

7. The answer is simple: when we care about something deeply, it unleashes within us immense courage; it inspires in us great daring, and we venture forth boldly. The vision of a free India and a peaceful and harmonious world was so compelling to Gandhi that he was no longer a slave to his fears. Inspired by this dream, he rose to the occasion. It enabled him to overcome his shyness. He cared so deeply about issues of freedom and non-violence that he tapped into his inner reservoirs of courage, will power and self-confidence.

8. Only when we have a great dream — will we truly know the extent and the depth of our potential, our courage and creativity. Unfortunately, the reverse is also true: when we do not have an overarching vision, even the trivial becomes painful, molehills appear as mountains and mere winds seem like hurricanes.

Anand Kumarasamy

(1) Answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

(i) The Indian freedom struggle is exemplary because;

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|---|--|
| a) Freedom was achieved non-violently | b) Gandhiji came out as a world leader |
| c) Gandhiji could do it single handedly | d) India became the biggest democratic country |

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(ii) Day dreams are important as they;

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| a) help in making impossible into possible | b) help in building our personality |
| c) provide vision of what we want to do in our life | d) help in keeping our spirits high |

1

- (iii) The people who doubted Gandhi ji's ways changed their minds as; 1
- a) people were submissive to his autocratic behaviour b) they were impressed with the appreciation he used to get from foreign media
- c) he used weapons like truth, compassion and non-violence against Britishers and got success d) they saw he would lead by example
- (2) How did Gandhiji transform from a fearful and shy person to a very confident and courageous leader? 1
- (3) What happens to us when we lack overall vision? 1
- (4) How did Gandhiji envisage free India? 2
- (5) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following :
- (i) Courageous (para 1) 1
- (ii) Commence (para 3) 1
- (iii) Self-assurance (para 7) 1

3. Read the following passage carefully.

1. The topic of thought is one area of Psychology and many observers have considered this aspect in connection with robots and computers; some of the old worries about artificial intelligence were closely linked to the question of whether computers could think. The first massive electronic computers, capable of rapid computation and little or no creative activity, were soon dubbed 'electronic brains'. A reaction to this terminology quickly followed. To put them in their place, computers were called 'high-speed idiots', an effort to protect human vanity. But not everyone realized the implications of the 'high-speed idiots' tag. It has not been pointed out often enough that even the human idiot is one of the most intelligent; it was already a remarkable state of affairs.

2. One consequence of speculation about the possibility of computer thought was that we were forced to examine with new care the idea of thought in general. It soon became clear that we are not sure what we meant by such terms as thought in general. It soon became clear that we are not sure what we meant by such terms as thought and thinking. We tend to assume that human beings think, some more than others, though we often call people thoughtless or unthinking. Dreams cause a problem, partly because they usually happen outside our control. They are obviously some type of mental experience, but, are they a type of thinking? And the question of non-human life forms adds further problems. Many of us would maintain that some of the higher animals- dogs, cats, apes and so on, are capable of at least, basic thought, but what about fish and insects? It is certainly true that the higher mammals show complex brain activity, when tested with the appropriate equipment. If thinking is demonstrated by evident electrical activity in the brain, then many animal species are capable of thought. Once we have formulated clear ideas on what thought in biological creatures is, it will be easier to discuss the thought in artifacts. And what is true of thought is also true of the many other mental processes. One of the immense benefits of Artificial Intelligence, research is that we are being forced to scrutinize with new rigour, the working of the human mind.

3. It is already proved that machines have superior mental abilities to many life forms. No fern or oak tree can play chess as well as even the simplest digital computer nor can frogs weld car bodies as well as robots. The three fingered mechanical manipulator is cleverer in some ways than the three toed sloth. It seems that, viewed in terms of intellect, the computer should be set well above plants and most animals. Only the higher animals can, it seems, compete with computers with regard to intellect-and even then with diminishing success (Examples of this are in the games of backgammon and chess). Some of the world's best players are now computers.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, in points only, using recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4), wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title to it. 5

(b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 3

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

4. Star Academy, a foreign language institute has been set up in your neighbourhood. The institute is in collaboration with Trinity International and boasts of state of the art lab facilities and expert faculty. Draft a classified advertisement mentioning details about the various courses and languages being offered. The Institute also assures placement to diploma holders.

or

The English Department is organizing its Annual Inter-School Extempore. Write a letter to Mr. Sahil Choudhry, Chief Editor 'Times Daily', inviting him to be one of the judges for the event. You are Rita/ Ramesh, President, English Club, Symphony High School, Kolkatta.

5. You are Aman/Amrita Khanna, Principal, DAV School, Nagarpur. Use the input given below to write a letter of enquiry to the Chairman, Delhi Bus Company asking for details regarding availability of buses for school transport. (120-150 words)

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| Number of buses - capacity - flexible timings - charges per km/child - security. |
|--|

or

'What people read is what people believe.' You are concerned about the ongoing controversy regarding media's role in sensationalizing news, moulding public opinion and moral policing. Write a letter to the editor emphasizing on media responsibility. (120-150 words)

6. You are B. Balasubramaniam, a social worker, much concerned about the practice of keeping building materials on roadsides and pavements. Write an article in 150-200 words on how this encroachment not only leads to health and hygiene problems but also endangers life and property. Give suitable suggestions for putting an end to this practice.

or

You are Malini Jain. Many of your friends are getting expensive gifts from their parents but not the attention and time of their parents. Write an article to be published in a leading daily urging all parents to give their time and moral support to their children, especially the adolescent. Also stress on how a secure home atmosphere plays a key role in promoting success in life. (150-200 words)

7. You have been asked to participate in a debate competition on the topic "Community service once a week should be introduced in all schools and should be graded". Write the speech in about 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

or

You are Suraj/Sandhya of Gargi Senior Secondary School Delhi. Games and Sports should be made compulsory in schools. Write a speech for morning assembly on the Importance of Games and Sports in Personality Development in about 150 -200 words.

SECTION – C (Literature: Text Books and Long Reading Text) (40 Marks)

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

*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?*

- (i) Why Shakespeare is termed as wicked?
- (ii) What tempts them?
- (iii) What does the poet say about 'their' lives?
- (iv) What does the last line mean?

or

*And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read ;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.*

- (i) How 'grandeur' is connected with the 'mighty dead'?
 - (ii) Name the poem and the poet.
 - (iii) What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines?
 - (iv) What image does the poet use in these lines?
9. Answer (any four) of the following questions in 30-40 words each. 12
- (i) Why did the peddler derive pleasure from his idea of the world as a rattrap?
 - (ii) How is Mukesh different from the other bangle makers of Ferozabad?
 - (iii) What tempted Franz to stay away from school?
 - (iv) How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
 - (v) Which words of her brother made a deep impression on Bama?
 - (vi) Why did the maharaja ban tiger hunting in the state?

10. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words: 6
- The bangle-makers of Ferozabad make beautiful bangles and make everyone happy but they live and die in squalor. Elaborate.

OR

How did the Champaran episode end the sufferings of the share-croppers?

11. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words: 6
- With reference to the big boy who pushed Douglas into the pool we realize that many a times we fail to understand others fears and weaknesses and make fun of them without realising how much harm we are doing to the psyche of the person. What qualities does a person need to imbibe in order not to undermine others?

OR

To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act. To reach great heights dreams must manifest into actions. Mere dreams without action remain an illusion. Sophie dreamed of owning a boutique. What do you think should be the plan of action to fulfill such a dream?

12. The entire course of Griffin's life is that of wickedness, cruelty, rudeness and unscrupulous existence. However, at the end he ended with a tragic note. Explain the statement with Griffin's chasing his ambition, getting deceived and finally leading to his catastrophic death. (120-130 words) 6

OR

13. Illustrate whether the ending of the novel justified? What is your reaction when Griffin gets killed and Marvel gets to keep all the stolen money? Are you glad that the invisibility formula is hidden from Kemp, who could use it? (120-130 words) 6