



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA  
PERIODIC TEST-2  
Class : XI

Subject : English Core (301)

M.M : 80

Date : 30-09-2023

Time : 3 hours

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains three sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has three passages for comprehension. One of them is for making notes.
3. Section B-Grammar and Writing Section has 6 questions. For grammar questions only write the answers and adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question of the writing tasks.
4. Section C-Literature Section has 7 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

**SECTION-A**

**Reading Section (22 Marks)**

1. Read the passage given below. (10 marks)

- 1 Let me tell you a story. "A powerful wizard, who wanted to destroy an entire kingdom, placed a magic potion in the well from which all the inhabitants drank. Whoever drank that water would go mad. The following morning, the whole population drank from the well and they all went mad, apart from the king and his family, who had a well set aside for them alone, and which the magician had not managed to poison.
- 2 The king was worried and tried to control the population by issuing a series of edicts governing security and public health. The policemen and the inspectors, however, had also drunk the poisoned water and they thought the king's decisions were absurd and resolved to take no notice of them.
- 3 When the inhabitants of the kingdom heard these decrees, they became convinced that the king had gone mad and was now giving nonsensical orders. They marched on the castle and called for his abdication. In despair, the king prepared to step down from the throne, but the queen stopped him, saying: "Let us go and drink from the communal well. Then, we will be the same as them."
- 4 And that was what they did: the king and the queen drank the water of madness and immediately began talking nonsense. Their subjects repented at once; now that the king was displaying such wisdom, why not allow him to continue ruling the country?
- 5 The country continued to live in peace, although its inhabitants behaved very differently from those of its neighbours. And the king was able to govern until the end of his days."
- 6 After telling the story Zedka paused to gauge Veronika's reaction. Veronika laughed. "You don't seem mad at all."  
"But I am." said Zedka. "I lack a certain chemical and am suffering with chronic depression, and although I am undergoing a cure to get rid of it, I want to continue being mad, living my life the way I dream it, and not the way other people want it to be."

Source: Excerpt from a book *Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions. (Any 10)

- (i) Find a befitting moral to the story narrated by Zedka. (1)
- (A) In a mad world, only the mad are sane.
  - (B) It is only through mystery and madness that the soul is revealed
  - (C) Too much sanity may be madness
  - (D) Madness is the acme of intelligence.

- (ii) Which of the following can be considered true in case of Zedka? (1)  
 (A) She has given up hope of getting better.  
 (B) She does not want to cure herself.  
 (C) She has found freedom and comfort in her madness.  
 (D) She has lost all control of her mind.
- (iii) “Madness and Sanity are perspectives based on standard beliefs.” Justify the statement using the story narrated by Zedka. (2)
- (iv) Do you agree with Zedka’s decision of embracing her madness? Justify your answer with valid arguments based on the passage. (2)
- (v) Which of the following words best describe the queen? (1)  
 (A) Cunning, instinctive and brutal (B) Smart, wise and good analyser of human behaviour  
 (C) Smart, short tempered, careless (D) Confused, inefficient, anxious
- (vi) Choose the correct statements. (1)  
 i. Zedka is suffering from depression.  
 ii. The queen understands that it is best to dress like the Romans, when in Rome.  
 iii. Veronika is suicidal and depressed .  
 iv. Madness is a socially constructed phenomena.  
 v. Veronika and Zedka are good friends.  
 (A) i, ii, iv (B) iii, iv, v  
 (C) i, iii, v (D) ii, iv, v
- (vii) Find a word from the paragraph-2 which means “an official order or proclamation issued by a person in authority”? (1)
- (viii) Statement 1: The royal family was left unaffected by the poison of the wizard. (1)  
 Statement 2: The king was worried about his subjects.  
 Conclusion: The king also drank the poisoned water.  
 (A) Both statement one and two are correct and the conclusion can be derived from them.  
 (B) Both the statements are correct but the conclusion does not necessarily follow.  
 (C) Statement 1 is correct but 2 is incorrect.  
 (D) Statement 2 is correct but 1 is incorrect.

2. Read the passage given below. (8)

1 Whoever speaks of 'Indian' or 'India', must hasten to add that India contains many Indias. Over a hundred languages, ten major script systems and several minor ones, many old religions with innumerable sects and cults, racial mixtures over millennia, a variety of landscapes and climates and so on have contributed to an incredibly complex braiding of traditions and countertraditions. It has been said more than once that whatever you can truly say about India, you can also say the exact opposite with equal truthfulness.

2 Nothing exemplifies the variety of the Indian scene better than the languages. In the 1961 census, 1,652 mother tongues were recorded with the names of speech varieties that the speakers said they spoke. Linguists have classified these speech varieties, or dialects, and subsumed them under 105 or so languages, which belong to four language families. Of these 105 or so languages, 90 are spoken by less than 5 per cent of the entire population; 65 belong to small tribes.

3 To these should be added Sanskrit, the father tongue, the language of religious texts, literary classics, and native sciences--and also the English of colonial and postcolonial India, a widely used second language. Fifteen of the languages are written, read, and spoken by 95 per cent of the people of India, and each of them is spoken by several million people. The literatures of these fifteen languages, some of which have long histories, are just beginning to be taught and translated in the West.

4 Literature in a language such as Tamil goes back two thousand years, and in several others such as Bengali and Gujarati, at least eight hundred years. In addition to these written literatures there are oral traditions--riddles, proverbs, songs, ballads, tales, epics, and so on--in each of the 1,600-odd dialects or mother tongues that we have classified under the 105 languages. Indeed, one way of defining verbal folklore for India is to say it is the literature of the dialects, those mother tongues of village, street, kitchen, tribal hut, and wayside tea shop. This is the wide base of the Indian pyramid on which all other Indian literatures rest.

Extract from the Introduction to Folk Tales from India by A.K. Ramanujan

(i) What does the passage mean when it says that India contains many “Indias”? (1)

- (A) There are many fragments in this nation that do not get along
- (B) The diversity in this nation creates many different conflicting groups
- (C) There are many diverse groups which have different cultural identities
- (D) There is no unified identity in the nation

(ii) What is the linguistic characteristic of Indian folk literature? (1)

- (A) It is rich in stories and fables
- (B) It is performed by Dalits in rural India
- (C) It is narrated orally in dialects spoken by the masses
- (D) It tells unrealistic and fictitious stories based on classical literature

(iii) Adbhut: I don't understand what all the fuss is about. Hindi must be declared the national language. It is spoken by 95% of Indians. (2)

Do you think Adbhut is right? Express your opinion based on the passage given above.

(iv) “Folk literature is the literature of the masses.” Justify the statement with the help of the data in the passage. (2)

(v) Which among the following are true? (1)

- i. English is widely used as a second language due to India's colonial history.
- ii. Folk literature is mostly orally transmitted among through dialects.
- iii. Sanskrit has contributed immensely to the structure of other Indian languages
- iv. Sanskrit is older than Tamil
- v. India must have a standardised language and script system

- (A) i, iv, v
- (B) i, ii, v
- (C) ii, iii, iv
- (D) i, ii, iii

(vi) Which word in paragraph two of the passage means the same as “illustrate, demonstrate by example”? (1)

3. Read the passage given below. (8)

1 A boss is an individual who is in charge of the organisation. He is someone who takes control over employees, orders, and assigns tasks and duties to them. A leader is an individual who has the ability to influence and leads others by example. He/She is someone who holds a dominant position with a vision and stays committed to his/her goal.

- 2 Leadership refers to an individual's ability to influence, motivate, and enable others to contribute toward organizational success. A leader is a person who guides his employees to grow and develop problem-solving abilities and other skills that add value to an institution. A leader is a person who appreciates small achievement and also gives constructive criticism whenever necessary. Praise and appreciation can motivate employees to perform better but it has to be done without keeping biases.
- 3 A leader creates value by setting an example while a boss focuses on counting value. A boss discourages people straight on their face which could cause them to disengage. Boss has the tendency to control workers. This behaviour can undermine productivity and growth. A leader leads a team, engages with workers and inspires them to work. Leaders set the framework for workers to grow, improve their skills and assume leadership roles themselves and inspire their employees to become leaders.
- 4 Bosses always struggle to listen! Listening skills is one of the most important aspects that a leader requires. Leaders listen to their employee's concerns and feedback. To be a successful leader one must listen more and speak less. A leader takes responsibility when deadlines aren't met, stands with them and helps them to reach the goal.
- 5 Bosses push their staff too hard and set unrealistic standards that the workers can't live up to. This can cause issues inside the organization as employees try to find ways to deal with the demands. A leader must practice patience and help employees do their jobs more effectively and understand where employees are experiencing issues.
- 6 Effective leaders are good teachers! Leaders teach their employees in a most efficient way while bosses expect their employees to know the best way to accomplish tasks, even if they're new to them. Any good leader can be a boss, but every boss can't be a leader! This role is something one embraces mentally and emotionally that inspires the organization and employees to scale greater heights.

- (i) Make notes of the above passage, using abbreviations and appropriate indentation. Supply a suitable title. (5)
- (ii) Make a summary of the passage (3)

### **SECTION-B**

#### **Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (23 Marks)**

4. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words/phrases given in the bracket. (4x1=4)
  - (i) He told me you..... feeling unwell. (be)
  - (ii) If anyone ..... (ring up), tell them I'll be back by 5.30 p.m.
  - (iii) He spoke so softly ..... (can't hear)
  - (iv) The boy ..... (sit near me) is my cousin.
5. Rearrange the following words/phrases to make meaningful sentences. (3x1=3)
  - (i) have been/by/infuriated/I/of/etiquette/lack/people's
  - (ii) cannot/freedom/away/be/taken/one/from/of speech
  - (iii) cannot/speaking/yet, one/all the time/keep on
- 6a. A company from the telecom and insurance sector requires customer service executives for its branch in Navi Mumbai. The company is looking for young dynamic people with good communication skills and graduate in any discipline. Candidates with management background will be preferred. Write an advertisement to be published in the classified columns of a local paper. (1x3=3)

**OR**

- 6b. You are the director of Hinduja Sales Corporation Ltd. You want a suitable residential accommodation in a good locality for yourself and your manager on a rent or lease basis. Draft an advertisement suitable to be printed in the Accommodation Wanted column of a local daily in not more than 50 words.
- 7a. Repeated natural calamities in India and elsewhere have resulted in unprecedented damage and destruction to both life and property. Educating people on the precautions to be taken is the need of the hour. Prepare a poster on behalf of an NGO 'SAATHI', in not more than 50 words, for creating this awareness. (1x3=3)

**OR**

- 7b. Fireworks and crackers are known to create pollution during festivals. As an environmentalist and a member of the Lions Club, Anand, design a poster in about 50 words to create awareness of their ill effects.
- 8a. You are Preeti/Pawan Singhania, Head Girl/Boy of your school. Write a speech to be delivered at the career counselling session for students of classes IX-XII of your school advising students on the benefits of thinking seriously about their goals and aptitudes before choosing a stream of study. You may use the hints given below. (120-150 words) (1x5=5)
- Consider interests and strengths
  - Look at future career opportunities
  - Analyze strengths and weaknesses
  - Keep an open mind
  - Money shouldn't be the most important factor

**OR**

- 8b. You are Jacquelin/George D'Souza and a voracious reader. You got an opportunity to speak to the students of your school in an assembly. Write a script of the speech on the benefits of reading using following hints.
- helps in improving vocabulary
  - improves communication and conversation skills
  - reduces stress
  - improves imagination
  - improves analytical skills
  - strengthens Language skills
- 9b. You are Ratan/Radha of Class XI. You have been asked to write a debate on the motion: 'Extracurricular activities should be accorded equal importance as academics'. Write a script of the debate (for/against) to be delivered in an interschool debate competition. (120-150 words) (1x5=5)

**OR**

- 9b. Consumerism is increasing day by day. Luxuries of yesterday have become necessities of today. The result is that the more we want the more miserable we become. Write a script of the debate (for/against) in 120-150 words on the topic 'The only way to minimise human suffering and pain is to control our needs'. You are Naveen/Navya Shukla.

### **SECTION-C**

#### **Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text (31 Marks)**

10. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY ONE excerpt. (3x1=3)

*I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,*

*Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.*

*Upward to heaved vaguely form'd altogether changed whence and yet the same.*

- (i) What are the sources of rain.
- (ii) The poetic device used in the last line of the extract is .....
- (iii) Find a word from the extract that means 'that cannot be felt physically'.

**OR**

*Where did my childhood go?  
It went to some forgotten place,  
That's hidden in an infant's face  
That's all I know.*

- (i) What is the difference in the first line of the given stanza with that of the rest of the stanzas?  
(ii) What is the tone of the poet in the stanza?  
(A) Melancholy (B) Panicky  
(C) Excited (D) Relieved

(iii) Where do you think the poet will find his lost childhood?

11. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY ONE excerpt. (3x1=3)

*I checked our charts and calculated that there were two small islands a few hundred kilometres to the east. One of them, Ile Amsterdam, was a French scientific base. Our only hope was to reach these pinpricks in the vast ocean. But unless the wind and seas abated so we could hoist sail, our chances would be slim indeed. The great wave had put our auxilliary engine out of action.*

- (i) What was the voyage undertaken by the writer and his wife?  
(ii) What was the name of the boat used by the crew to complete the voyage?  
(iii) Select an option from the options below in which the word 'slim' is used as it is used in the excerpt.  
(A) A slim gold band encircled her wrist  
(B) Now a days people are obsessed with slim body figure.  
(C) There was just a slim chance of success.  
(D) He wore a pair of slim, immaculately cut trousers.

**OR**

*The Egyptian Mummy Project, which began an inventory in late 2003, has recorded almost 600 so far and is still counting. The next phase: scanning the mummies with a portable CT machine donated by the National Geographic Society and Siemens, its manufacturer. King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned — in death, as in life, moving regally ahead of his countrymen.*

- (i) How the modern imagining technology is helping the archaeologists to know the secrets of Egypt?  
(ii) What does the line 'in death, as in life, moving regally ahead of his countrymen' mean?  
(iii) Select the correct use of the word 'inventory' as it is used in the extract.  
(A) In our warehouse you'll find a large inventory of new and used bicycles.  
(B) The store is closed while we're taking inventory of the essential items on this Saturday.  
(C) I inventoried his collection of drawings.  
(D) The shop recorded its inventory of the first customer just after its inauguration.

12. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY ONE excerpt. (4x1=4)

*Consequently, even though I could see the horse, so magnificent; even though I could smell it, so lovely; even though I could hear it breathing, so exciting; I couldn't believe the horse had anything to do with my cousin Mourad or with me or with any of the other members of our family, asleep or awake, because I knew my cousin Mourad couldn't have bought the horse, and if he couldn't have bought it he must have stolen it, and I refused to believe he had stolen it.*

- (i) Select the most appropriate option which defines the mood of the narrator.  
(A) He is excited as his cousin has stolen a magnificent horse.  
(B) He is sad as he couldn't steal a horse himself.  
(C) He is overwhelmed and excited thinking about riding the horse.  
(D) He is afraid to see such a magnificent horse being stolen by his cousin.

- (ii) Why can't the narrator believe that Mourad had bought the horse?
- (iii) Why does he reject the idea of horse being stolen?
- (iv) Explain the line 'any of the other members of our family, asleep or awake'.

**OR**

*Oh no —thank you very much, Mrs Fitzgerald —but that wouldn't do at all. It couldn't possibly be somebody else — they'd resent it at once and wouldn't listen— and really I couldn't blame them. I know I ought to do it — but you see how it is?*

- (i) Which one of the options depicts the character of the narrator in the given extract?
  - (A) condemner, depressing, low self esteem
  - (B) apologetic, submissive, low self esteem
  - (C) low confident, introvert, joyless
  - (D) critical, hypersensitive, temperamental
- (ii) What problem does the narrator face in her family?
- (iii) Why does the narrator hesitate to ask a help from Mrs. Fitzgerald?
- (iv) Why does the narrator say, "I know I ought to do it — but you see how it is?"

13. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 40-50 words. (2x3=6)

- (i) "When people are pious and good, even nature mourns their death." Justify with reference to 'The Portrait of a Lady'.
- (ii) Were the children afraid during this ordeal? (We're Not Afraid to Die...If We Can All be Together)
- (iii) What gives a unique character to the Laburnum tree top?
- (iv) Sum up the main ideas of the poem 'Childhood'.

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 40-50 words. (1x3=3)

- (i) What do you think induced the boys to return the horse to its owner?
- (ii) Why did the old possessions of the narrator lose their value?

15. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x6=6)

The poem 'A Photograph' contains the line 'And the sea, which appears to have changed less, washed their terribly transient feet'. The idea conveyed is that human life is subject to change in terms of age and circumstances.

A philosopher once said, "Nothing is permanent except change."  
Briefly express your views on how a human being should handle change.

**OR**

Imagine you are Howard Carter. You were fortunate to find King Tut's tomb intact. Describe your experience in the form of a diary entry.

16. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x6=6)

Justify the title of the story 'The Address'.

**OR**

What impression do you form of Mrs Annie Pearson? How does Mrs Fitzgerald bring about a change in her personality? Do you agree with the Mrs Fitzgerald's way of dealing with Mrs Pearson's family, why/why not?