



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA  
PERIODIC TEST-1  
Class : XII

Subject : English Core (301)

M.M : 40

Date : 13-07-2023

Time : 1 Hr. 30 Min.

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains three sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has a passage for comprehension.
3. Section B-Writing Section has 2 questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
4. Section C-Literature Section has 3 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION-A**

**Reading Section (12 Marks)**

1. Read the passage given below.
  - 1 You never saw such a commotion up and down a house, in all your life, as when my Uncle Podger undertook to do a job. A picture would have come home from the frame-maker's, and be standing in the dining-room, waiting to be put up; and Aunt Podger would ask what was to be done with it, and Uncle Podger would say "Oh, you leave that to me. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'll do all that." And then he would take off his coat, and begin. He would send the girl out for six penny worth of nails, and then one of the boys after her to tell her what size to get; and, from that, he would gradually work down, and start the whole house.
  - 2 "Now you go and get me my hammer, Will," he would shout; "and you bring me the rule, Tom; and I shall want the step-ladder, and I had better have a kitchen-chair, too; and, Jim! You run round to Mr. Goggles, and tell him, 'Pa's kind regards, and hopes his leg's better; and will he lend him his spirit-level?' And don't you go, Maria, because I shall want somebody to hold me the light; and when the girl comes back, she must go out again for a bit of picture-cord; and Tom!—where's Tom?—Tom, you come here; I shall want you to hand me up the picture."
  - 3 And then he would lift up the picture, and drop it, and it would come out of the frame, and he would try to save the glass, and cut himself; and then he would spring round the room, looking for his handkerchief. He could not find his handkerchief, because it was in the pocket of the coat he had taken off, and he did not know where he had put the coat, and all the house had to leave off looking for his tools, and start looking for his coat; while he would dance round and hinder them.
  - 4 "Doesn't anybody in the whole house know where my coat is? I never came across such a set in all my life—upon my word I didn't. Six of you!—and you can't find a coat that I put down not five minutes ago! Well, of all the—"  
Then he'd get up, and find that he had been sitting on it, and would call out:  
"Oh, you can give it up! I've found it myself now. Might just as well ask the cat to find anything as expect you people to find it."

Source: Excerpt from "Three men in a boat" by Jerome K Jerome

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions of total 12 marks.

- (i) “Uncle Podger takes up the task of hanging a picture, distributes work among all the family members, cuts himself on the glass, scolds everybody to find his coat, finds out he was sitting on it.” What necessary detail would you add to this summary? (1)
- (A) is extremely inefficient in task distribution  
 (B) drops the painting and tries to save the glass  
 (C) sends the girls to buy nails and the boys to tell them the size of the nails needed  
 (D) involves all the family members in the job unnecessarily.
- (ii) What would you say is the tone of the writer throughout the passage? (1)
- (A) grandiose (B) sarcastic  
 (C) tragic (D) cold and distant
- (iii) “Humour and Wit can be powerful tools to bring out nuances of human behaviour” Support the statement with the help of the passage? (2)
- (iv) If you were a manager in a firm, what lessons could you draw from the passage above? (2)
- (v) Which proverb do you think encompasses the moral of the story? (1)
- (A) An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep.  
 (B) It is easy to find a thousand soldiers, but hard to find a good general  
 (C) Too many chefs spoil the broth  
 (D) Too many chiefs and not enough Indians
- (vi) Uncle Podger is not one to accept his mistakes. Which incident from the story suggests this? (2)
- (vii) Which of the following words best describe uncle Podger? (1)
- (A) Self-important, overconfident, inefficient  
 (B) anxious, domineering, perfectionist  
 (C) Smart, short tempered, careless  
 (D) confused, inefficient, anxious
- (viii) Choose the correct statements. (1)
- i. Uncle Podger does not take responsibilities.  
 ii. Uncle knows how to hang a picture.  
 iii. Uncle loves to order people around.  
 iv. Uncle taking up any job is hazardous to the household.  
 v. Even giving orders requires skill and efficiency.
- (A) i, ii, iii (B) iii, iv, v  
 (C) i, iii, v (D) ii, iv, v
- (ix) “Oh, you leave that to me. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'll do all that.”. Which figure of speech is used in this sentence? (1)
- (A) Irony (B) Hyperbole  
 (C) Antithesis (C) Onomatopoeia
- (x) Fill in the blank with a phrase from paragraph 1 of the passage. (1)

*In the centre of all that \_\_\_\_\_ he sat straight, calm, with his eyes closed, as if he was experiencing pure bliss in the middle of that crowded bazaar.*

## SECTION-B

### Creative Writing Section (9 Marks)

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.
- A. National Geographic magazine is inviting entries from school students for a photo essay and the best entries will be given cash prizes. Write a notice as the head boy/girl of your school giving the students necessary details.

OR

- B. You are the sports secretary of your school. Students have been damaging the sports equipment and some equipment are missing from the inventory. Write a notice informing students about the incident and the intended action. You are Rabia/Rahman.

(4)

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

- A. On your recent visit to a historical site, you saw the poor maintenance of the heritage site and the poor maintenance of facilities like washrooms, wheelchairs for the elderly and the specially-abled, audio-description apparatuses etc. Write a letter to the editor highlighting the problems and suggesting possible solutions.

OR

- B. You are Prof. Manasvi/Murshid working in the field of education and teacher training. You are worried that the current training programmes are ill equipped in training teachers for the new and progressive education policies. Write a letter to the editor highlighting the problems and suggesting possible solutions.

(5)

## SECTION-C

### Literature Section (19 Marks)

4. Read the excerpts given below and answer the ANY THREE questions that follow after each excerpt. Attempt any 2 excerpts of the three given.

- A. "Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world — the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy! I think, too, that I had never listened so carefully, and that he had never explained everything with so much patience."

1x3=3

- (i) How does the author's use of metaphor of 'key' make the meaning easier to understand?
- (ii) Why does M. Hamel's attitude towards his students change?
- (iii) Why could the students understand the last lesson easily?
- (iv) Why does M. Hamel believe French to be the most beautiful language?

OR

- B. *"that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, 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....."*

1x3=3

- (i) What effect does poet's use of visual imagery have in the poem?
- (ii) What is poet's childhood fear?
- (iii) Why does the poet use the metaphor of moon in the poem?
- (iv) What is the rhyming scheme of this extract?

OR

- C. “Mukesh insists on being his own master. “I will be a motor mechanic,” he announces. “Do you know anything about cars?” I ask. “I will learn to drive a car,” he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India’s glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.” 1x3=3
- (i) “Dreams and hopes are flowers that can bloom in the harshest environments”. Explain using Mukesh’s example.
- (ii) “Once people accept misfortunes as fate, they are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty.” Comment.
- (iii) Why does the narrator compare Mukesh’s dream to a mirage?
- (iv) How is Mukesh different from Saheb?

5. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each. 4x2=8

- (i) Saheb’s name in itself is an irony. Explain.
- (ii) “The only animal gifted with reason can be the most unreasonable of all.” Justify the statement with the example of the Tiger King.
- (iii) “Life of workers working in the glass bangle industry of Firozabad is in jeopardy.” How does the writer express this by the use of irony in the chapter “The Lost Spring”?
- (iv) “When reality is confining, people find freedom in their imaginations.” Explain using the story ‘The Third Level’.
- (v) “One hardly knows the importance of things before they are lost.” Explain the statement in light of the story ‘The Last Lesson’.

6. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words each.

- A. “Both, the Tiger King and Kamala Das are haunted by death, but there is a difference between the nature of their fear and their method of dealing with it. Explain.

OR

- B. As the narrator of “The Third Level”, write a diary entry on finding the letter from Sam, his psychiatrist, in his old belongings. 1x5=5