

Sample Paper –2015

Sub: English

Class XII

Section A: Reading Max.

Marks : 20

1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow: 12 marks

In spite of all the honours that we heaped upon him, Pasteur, as has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace, and the longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him. In truth he did become a great artist, though after his sixteenth year he abandoned the brush forever. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For to him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that was to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win. The sight of injured children, particularly, moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in that suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at Villeneuve Etang, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, "practicing the Gospel virtues."

2. "He revered the faith of his fathers," says the same writer, "and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period."

3. The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: "The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant."

4. But even then in retirement he loved to see his former pupils, and it was then he would reiterate his life principles: "Work," he would say, "never cease to work." So well had he kept this precept that he began rapidly to sink from exhaustion.

5. Finally on September 27, 1895, when someone leant over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly: "I cannot," and with a look of perfect resignation and peace, seemed to fall asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of a world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday. 4 ENGLISH CORE - XII

6. Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote at a plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth.

7. No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner's son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

487 words

1.1 Answer the following questions:

- a. Even accolades and honours did not change the simple man that Pasteur was. Why? 2 marks
- b. How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases? 1 mark
- c. How did Pasteur engage himself in the estate? 2 marks
- d. What advice did he always give to his pupils? 2 marks
- e. How did France, the country of his birth, honour this great scientist? 2 marks

1.2 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: 3 marks

- a. To give up (para 1)
- b. People belonging to the same period (para 3)
- c. Vote by the people of the country to decide a matter of national importance (para 6)

Question 2. Read the passage given below: 8 marks

Residents of the Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year-old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah's land, recalled : "Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality". He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji's Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Quamaruddin and became Bismillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in Varanasi. His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him. For Bismillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bismillah Khan won't just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhanas to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was at testimony to the plurality that is India. A practicing Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of kusti in Benia Baga Akhada. Every morning, Bismillah Khan would do *riyaaz* at the Balaji temple on the banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn't desert Bismillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a *thumri* to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music. Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bismillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the very end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary.

2.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title.

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills

35 marks

Q.3 A.K International School is looking for a receptionist for the school. Write an advertisement on behalf of the administrative officer in the classified columns of the local newspaper giving necessary details. Draft the advertisement in not more than 50 words.

OR

Suman/Suresh has cleared the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental entrance examination. The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get-together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get-together.

Q.4. You are Shekhar/Tripta a student of A.P Public School. Principals of two schools from Pakistan visited your school as part of a cultural exchange programme. Students of the school put up a cultural show in their honour. Write a report about it for your school magazine. (100-125 words).

OR

As you were driving back home from work you were witness to an accident between a Maruti car and a truck. The driver of the car was seriously injured. There was confusion and chaos prevailing on the road. Describe the scene in about 100 to 125 words. You are Sameer/Samiksha.

5. You are Nitin/Natasha a student of Class XII at K.P.N. Public School Faridabad. The student is required to cope with lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways to combat the same.

OR

You are Suresh/Smita. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement.

6. Applications are invited for the post of a Nursery teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching tiny-tots. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/she should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, AKS International, Indirapuram, New Delhi within 10 days with detailed resume.

or

Some colleges conduct entrance test for admission to under-graduate courses like English (Hons.) and Journalism (Hons.). Do you think that the entrance test is the right method of selecting students? Write an article in about 150-200 words. You are Rohan/Rachita, a student of class XII at A.P. International School Agra.

Q.7. They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- a. Are Aunt Jennifer's tigers real ? Give reasons for your answer. 2
- b. Why do the tigers not fear the man beneath the tree? 1
- c. What do you understand by 'chivalric certainty'? 1

Or

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

A bower quiet for us.

- a. 'A thing of beauty is joy for ever'. Explain. 2
- b. Why does a beautiful thing 'pass into nothingness'? 1
- c. What does poet mean by 'a bower quiet for us' 17 ENGLISH CORE - XII

b) Answer any three of the following questions in about 30-40 words. 2*3= 6 marks

1. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from Nature?
2. Why does Spender call Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example?
3. What kind of ordeals is Aunt Jennifer surrounded by?
4. What is the significance of the parting words of the poet and her smile, in My Mother at Sixty-six?

Q.8. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words. (2*5=10 marks)

- a. For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?
- b. Mention any two hazards of working in the glass bangles industry.
- c. How did Douglas overcome the old terror?
- d. The crofter can be called as a good host. Why?
- e. What was unique and distinctive about Ecos academic writing style ?

Q.9. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. 10 marks

Franz's attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the take over of his village by Prussians. Do you agree ? Discuss with reference to the The Last Lesson.

OR

How did the Chamaparan episode prove to be a turning point in Gandhiji's life? Explain with the reference to the text, Indigo.

Q.10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. 7 marks

The modern consumerist world is full of fear, insecurities, stress and wars. What are the ways in which we try to combat them? Answer with reference to The Third Level.

OR

How can we say that Antartica is the best place to study and understand about Earth's present, past and future ? Answer with reference to, journey to the end of the Earth.

Q.11. Answer the following briefly (30-40 words) 8 marks

(1) Even though the Maharaja lost Rs. 3 lac, he was still happy. Why? (The Tiger King)

(2) In a short span of 12 thousand years man has managed to create a ruckus on this earth. How?
(Journey to the End of the Earth)

(3) Why did Roger Skunk go in search of the wizard? (Should Wizard hit Mommy)

(4) Mention any two reasons because of which it would take thirty minutes to an hour for Bama to reach home? (Memories of Childhood- We Too are Human Beings.)

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