

**SAMPLE PAPER-2015**  
**CLASS-XII**  
**SUBJECT- ENGLISH**

**Time : 3 hrs.**

**M.M. 100**

**General Instructions**

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

**1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :**

1. Many recent international studies suggest that single-sex may be better than co-ed after all. But the reasons are far removed from the socio-cultural factors that have bothered Indian parents all these years. Instead, research shows that the brains of boys and girls are wired differently, and so have different cognitive and emotional responses to different situations. Hence, a different learning environment makes sense.

2. The research has been piling up over the years. It showed how students from single-sex set-ups were more likely to proceed to college; how girls who attend single-sex schools are more likely to participate in competitive sports than are girls at co-ed schools; and how co-ed classrooms may be emotionally detrimental to teenaged girls. A study of 13,000 people conducted by University of London found that those who went to single-sex schools were more likely to study subjects not traditionally associated with their gender. Girls from single-sex schools also went on to earn more than those from co-educational schools.

3. And thus the gender differences, which have always lurked somewhere in the minds of most teachers anyway, have now become a subject of scientific researches, educational policies and bestsellers. At least two books—Michael Gurian's 'Boys and Girls Learn Differently!' and Leonard Sax's 'Why Gender Matters : What Parents and Teachers Need to know about the Emerging Science of Sex Differences'—have successfully contributed to a change of mindset and educational policy in the US. In 2006, the Department of Education had, in fact, passed new regulations that made it easier for districts to create single-sex classrooms and schools.

4. In the Indian context, of course, the situation only gets more complex. There are, after all, a lot more factors at play here, including a widespread social preference for male children, a lesser emphasis on women's careers and adults wary about the two sexes mixing. But like elsewhere in the world, here too opinions are diverse about whether co-ed is better or not. "Obviously, we have felt that single-sex education has great strengths."

5. "In India, many parents are not comfortable with the intermingling of boys and girls. So if you want all girls to be educated, it's better to have some separate schools for them." One cannot be categorical about this issue. "There are schools that are co-educational that have done extremely well. Having said that, there is a place in every educational system for single-sex schools because there will always be at least some students who do better in that environment, and they should have the choice of going to such schools."

6. Availability of this choice is what educationists and parents all over the world emphasise. Even Sax, a family physician-turned-author who has emerged as a champion of single-sex education in the US, has been reported to have stressed that one size does not fit all. "Our movement is about choice," Sax, the head of the National Association for Single Sex Public Education, told Time recently. And yet his website is full of pages that cite how co-educational settings actually reinforce gender stereotypes. Such a premise might actually be true in a country like India, where society at large still perceives males as primary bread-earners and women as bread-makers, where men are supposed to lead and women expected to follow.

7. "One does see that girls get relegated to a secondary role in a co-ed set-up." It is not a straightforward issue about girls and boys merely being with each other. "It's more important to see how a school handles the building up of gender roles in society." In Indian government schools, it's not uncommon to come across boys cleaning the blackboard while girls sweep the floor or bring water." The focus should be on respectful intermingling, rather than forceful coexistence." Bajpai too admits that teachers in India are not sensitized towards gender difference as part of their training in education. "Given the new research, it is important to take stock of the findings and adjust our teaching accordingly," he says.

8. Educationists also say that they understand that each child learns differently, and the differences don't just have to do with the gender. In such a scenario, experienced and sensitive teachers would automatically find the best way to interact with and bring out the best in, each student. Utopian expectations, some might say. For most Indian parents though, expectations only extend as far as getting admission in a good school, one that is not 15 km away from home.

- A.
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Mention the role played by the books by Michael Gurian and Leonard Sax.                               | 2 |
| (b) Why is a single sex education schools preferable to co-educational schools in India?                  | 2 |
| (c) What are the major roles assigned to men and women in general?  | 2 |
| (d) What are the demerits of studying in a single sex education system?                                   | 2 |
| (e) How can the teachers play a positive role in bringing out the best qualities in both kinds of school? | 1 |
- B. Find out the words from the passage which mean the same as the following :
- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) harmful (Para - 2)            |           |
| (b) cautious (Para - 4)           |           |
| (c) surviving together (Para - 7) | 1 × 3 = 3 |

**2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :**

Brian G Dyson, former President and CEO, Coca-Cola Enterprises, once said, "Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling five balls in the air namely—work, family, health, friends and spirit. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls—family, health, friends and spirit—are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life".

Industries have realised the importance of his words. Organisations are setting up policies for maintaining a work life balance. They are going in for innovative methods to keep their employees happy and satisfied, as it makes office a better place to work and also positively impact productivity.

The Concept of Work-life balance (WLB) is not a new one, but with the changing pace of but with changing pace of life and increase in stress levels, negatively affecting the quality of work, has made many organisations think about the strategies for maintaining a work-life balance.

Experts say that there is a strong link between work-life balance policies and reduced absenteeism, increased productivity and job satisfaction. Other benefits include improved recruitment and retention rates with associated cost savings, a reduction in employee stress, greater levels of job satisfaction. And loyalty and an improved corporate image.

The work-life balance strategy offers a variety of ways to reduce stress levels and increase job satisfaction of the employees. The fundamental principle of designing activities around the topic of work-life.

Companies are ready to do everything possible to keep their employees happy and are pampering them like never before with new policies like flexi-timings, day care centers for kids, extended maternity leave, health care centers, medical insurance, fun and games at work, team outing, spas and gyms at office etc.

Employees tend to feel motivated when they feel that the organisation is putting extra effort in providing a healthy, balance between work and life. Motivated employees not only enhance the productivity but also help creating a positive work environment at office.

Work life balance is a choice that an individual has to make. However, it is the organisation that needs to take an initiative to help the employees. Industry experts add that today, an employee is not looking at their employer just for job—they want the company to care for their work-life balance and their well being. If a company can address these needs, in addition to providing great career opportunities, they can be very successful in providing job satisfaction to the employee.

Companies are adopting new means to ensure that their employees get enough time to enjoy their personal life and spend time with family. Certain companies also support the policy of adopting a child by their employees. For this they have adoption leave policy, which allows the employees to avail eight weeks of paid leaves to spend some quality time with their newly adopted children.

Another recent trend is the sabbatical. Certain companies encourage employees on completion of certain period at work to take a sabbatical for a year to rethink and re-plan his/her career or just to take a break, relax and rejuvenate.

Firms are going for innovative practices to keep their employees happy, e4e a business solution providing company, promotes ROWE (Results Only Work Environment) culture within the organisation, negating the age-old dogma that equates physical presence with productivity and encouraging people to focus on working smarter rather than longer. Another attempt by the company to manage work-life balance is to encourage all employees to take a minimum of seven days annual leave in a year. It is the responsibility of the reporting managers or supervisors to ensure that the employees reporting to them take this leave.

Some organisations have initiatives to provide timely assistance to the employees in a crisis situation arising out of financial or personal problems. HEAL (Honeywell Employee Assistance for Life issues) is the counselling service of honeywell Technology Labs. HEAL has tied up with PPC World wide and provides round the clock advice and counselling on all issues ranging from financial, legal or emotional to all our employees. This service is totally confidential where the consultant respects the privacy of the employee and treats all details and issues as highly confidential.

At Accenture, they believe that telecommuting is one of the key tools for attracting and retaining employees especially Women employees. Our employees have the flexibility to exercise a need based work from home option as it helps them more in maintaining balance between work and home. The benefits of telecommuting include increased productivity, lower attrition, less number of leaves taken, cost savings on infrastructure and of course an extremely happy workforce.

Firms are not leaving it at this point. They are also evaluating the results of these initiatives to ensure that all these initiatives have the desired impact. Company heads talk informally with the staff to understand how they are balancing their personal and professional lives.

- (a) On the basis of reading the above passage make notes on the passage using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) Wherever necessary. Give suitable title to the passage. **5**
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. **3**

3. You are Rekha/Rehan, the secretary of the cultural club of Nalanda Public School, Nagpur. Your school is organising an inter-house English Essay Writing Competition on the topic "Use of Mobile Phones - A Boon or a Bane" on the occasion of YUVA Cultural Week. Draft a notice for school Notice-Board informing the students about the competition in 50 words. **5**

**OR**

You are Gagan/Gitika of A-69, Yojna Vihar, Delhi. You have been invited to attend the birthday party of your friend's brother on 23rd Aug., 2010. Draft an informal reply to the invitation regretting your inability to attend it in 50 words.

4. You are Jaya/Jayant, a resident of Sarita Vihar locality. The Youth Club of your area organised a programme for spreading awareness among the residents regarding peace and communal harmony. Write a report on the programme for publication in a local magazine. **10**

**OR**

You are Akash/Akshita, a reporter in India Today. You had been enjoying holidays in Mumbai in the month of August, when one day you saw two cargo ships colliding which resulted in an oil spill. Write a report on ship accident and oil spill in about 125-150 words for publication in your paper.

5. You are Vishakha/Vishwanath, a resident of A-101, Khayala, Delhi. You feel disturbed to read the cases of rage daily. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily on this issue. **10**

**OR**

You are Rukmani/Rajat from C-101, Patparganj, Delhi. You purchased a LCD, TV from Galaxy Electronics, Laxmi Nagar. After three weeks the working of TV became faulty. Write a letter to the dealer complaining about the problem and asking him to exchange it for new one as per terms and conditions of the sale.

6. You are Geetika/Gandharva, you feel that inspite of starting the Metro train service, the condition of traffic on road is still worse. You find it disturbing that the number of vehicles on roads are increasing steadily. You want people to contribute for tackling this problem. Write an article in about 150-200 words on the topic – "Traffic Woes – Solution".

10

OR

You are Babita/Bahadur, a student of Class XII of Sarvodaya School, Jamia Nagar. You feel that there is need of Career Counselling throughout the year not just for two days. You are asked to deliver a speech on "Need of Continuous Career Counselling in School". Write a speech on this topic.

- 7.(a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

3

The stunted, unlucky heir  
of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,  
His lesson, from his desk. At back of the dim class  
One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream,  
Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.

**Questions**

- (i) Who is the 'unlucky heir'? What will he inherit?  
(ii) Why the boy is called 'the stunted'?  
(iii) Who is sitting at the 'back of the dim class'?

OR

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen.  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- (i) Where do the tigers appear? What are they doing?  
(ii) Explain 'Bright topaz denizens of a world of green'?  
(iii) Name the two qualities of the tiger as shown in the extract.

- (b) Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each.

6

- (i) What is the poet's familiar ache and why does it return? (My Mother at Sixty Six)  
(ii) What are the things that cause suffering and pain to human beings? (A Thing of Beauty)  
(iii) What does the poet call "An exotic Moment" and Why? (Keeping Quiet)

8. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each (any 3)

6

- (i) What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? Where is he and where has he come from?  
(ii) Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?  
(iii) What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make up?  
(iv) What are some of the positive views on interviews?

**9. Answer the following in 125-150 words.**

Write a character sketch of Subbu. (Poets and Pancakes)

**10**

**OR**

Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life.

- 10.** "The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are. You trade in your reality for a role. You trade in your sense for an act. You give up your ability to feel, and in exchange, put on a mask. There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level. It's got to happen inside first." — **Jim Morrison**

Write an article on the topic "Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice".

**5**

- 11.** While hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable, especially during wartime, what makes a human being rise above narrow prejudices. Answer with reference to 'The Enemy'.

**7**

**OR**

Why is Antarctica the place to go to understand the earth's present, past and future.

- 12. Answer the following question in 30-40 words each**

**8**

- (a) What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?  
(b) What did the Maharaja do to find the required number of tigers to kill?  
(c) How is Evans not a typical criminal?  
(d) How was Bama influenced by the words of her brother, Annan?