

Ist Term Examination (10 September 2015)

Subject – ENGLISH CORE

Class XII (Set – A)

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 questions wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully before attempting to answer.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A (Reading) (30 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12)

1. When plastic waste is burnt, a complex wave of toxic chemicals is released. Breaking down polyvinyl chloride (PVC) – used for packaging, toys and coating electrical wires. – produces dioxin, an organochlorine which belongs to the family of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
2. A recent Dioxin Assessment Report brought out by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) says the risk of getting cancer from dioxin is ten times higher than reported by the agency in 1994.
3. Yet the Delhi government is giving the green signal to a gasification project which will convert garbage into energy without removing plastic waste. Former transport minister Rajendra Gupta, the promoter of this project, says this is not necessary.
4. He claims no air pollution will be caused and that the ash produced can be used as manure. An earlier waste-to-energy project set up in Timarpur failed. The new one, built with Australian assistance, will cost Rs. 200 crore. It will generate 25 megawatts of power and gobble 1,000 tonnes of garbage every day.
5. “Technologies like gasification are a form of incineration,” says Medhumita Dutta, central coordinator with Toxics Link, New Delhi. Incineration merely transfers hazardous waste from a solid form to air, water and ash, she points out.
6. Toxin produced during incineration include acidic gases, heavy metals as well as dioxins and furans. “The ‘manure’ will be hazardous and a problem to dispose,” says Dutta. Municipal solid waste contains a mix of plastics. Breaking down this waste emits hydrochloric acid which attacks the respiratory system, skin and eyes, resulting in coughing, vomiting and nausea.
7. Polyethylene generates volatile compounds like formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, both suspected carcinogenic. Breathing styrene from polystyrene can cause leukaemia. Polyurethane is associated with asthma. Dioxin released by PVC is a powerful hormone disrupter and causes birth defects and reproductive problems. There is no threshold dose to prevent it and our bodies have no defense against it.

8. “Even the best run incinerators in the world have to deal with stringent norms, apart from contaminated filters and ash, making them hugely expensive to operate,” says Dutta. In Germany, air pollution devices accounted for two-thirds the cost of incineration. Despite such efforts, the European Dioxin Inventory noted that the input of dioxin into the atmosphere was the highest from incineration. “India does not have the facility to test dioxin and the cost of setting one up is prohibitively expensive,” Says Dutta.
9. Besides, Indian garbage has a low calorific content of about 800 cal/kg, since it has high moisture and requires additional fuel to burn. Toxics Link calculates that the electricity generated from such technology will cost between Rs. 5-7 per unit, which is six times higher than conventional energy. India has chosen a dioxin preventive route and burning of chlorinated plastics is prohibited under Municipal Solid Waste and Biomedical Rules.

Nearly 80 percent of Indian garbage is recyclable or compostable. Resident associations, the informal sector and the municipal corporation can make Delhi’s garbage disappear in a sustainable manner. “Instead, the government promotes end of pipeline solutions,” says Dutta.

(I) Choose the most appropriate option. (1×3=3)

1. Dioxine causes

- a) cancer c) heart attack
b) sickness d) hypertension

2. The gasification process transforms

- a) Energy into garbage c) garbage into energy
b) Water into energy d) none of the above

3. Garbage can be converted into energy by

- a) gasification c) gratification
b) a chemical process d) incinators

(II) Answer the following questions briefly: (1×6=6)

- a) Which toxic chemical is released on burning plastic waste? How is it harmful?
b) What is the aim of waste-to-energy project? What is likely to happen during incineration?
c) How will burning plastic adversely impact the health of citizens?
d) What two arguments are advanced against the use of incinerators?
e) Why would gasification of waste prove a wasteful luxury in India?
f) What facts are revealed in the passage pertaining to Indian garbage?

(III) Find words in the passage similar in meaning as: (1×3=3)

- a) Waste material (para 1)
b) Swallow (para 4)
c) To burn something until it is completely destroyed (para 5)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. For 33-years-old Srivyal Vuyyuri, the inspiration to set up Sphoorti, came about a decade ago. Back then, he was studying for his Master’s degree in Economics at the University of Ohio, United States. ‘Sphoorti’, which means ‘inspiration’ in Sanskrit in an NGO that he started in an old rented house near Cherlapally, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, to take care of forsaken children.
2. One day in 2005, he got chatting with G. Ashok, the driver of an autorickshaw he was in. Ashok told him that his two small children had been thrown out of an English-medium school because he could no longer afford the increased fees. Ashok was now thinking of moving them to a government school. “The poor man was devastated,” recalls Srivyal, “and so was I.” With three young friends, he decided to sponsor the children’s education and help put them back in the English-medium school.
3. Srivyal and his three friends, all very young men at the time, felt they had to do much more. They thought of starting a good English-medium school of their own for underprivileged children – an idea they soon abandoned after realizing they had neither the experience nor the funds. Yet something had to be done. “Why not start a home for kids with no parents?” suggested Srivyal. “We could educate them as well.” That’s how Sphoorti began. Srivyal gave up his comfortable job and the four friends became Sphoorti’s trustees.
4. The first couple of years were challenging, Srivyal got more friends to donate and get things moving. “But it was not easy. People were unsure of our intentions and reluctant to send their wards to us. Even my parents were worried about my ability to take charge of children, “recalls Srivyal. “But as more children trickled in and their numbers grew to about 40 by 2008, The Hindu featured us, and it made a difference.”
5. As word spread, people were stepping in like angels. By 2009, the JJ Metta Memorial Foundation, a US-registered charity, started to help with some of the fundraising. There are also a few private sponsors. Today, all the 108 children are integrated to Sai Model High School, a private English medium establishment. Sphoorti takes care of their fees, stay, food and other needs. About 35% of the children have no parents while the rest have either one parent or both, but are unable to afford a good education for their child. Nine staff, including Srivyal, look after the children.
6. Meanwhile, Sphoorti has been expanding. In September 2009, its 48 girls moved from the old rented place to a just-finished two-storey, 5000-square-foot quarters built with money from donors on leased land. And the Andhra government has given them three acres, where Srivyal plans to build a boarding school for underprivileged children. The JJ Metta Memorial Foundation will fund it. For the four friends who founded Sphoorti, that is a once abandoned dream coming true! “It will be a first-rate boarding school, “says Srivyal, “and I can see a lot of poor children getting the kind of education now available only to the privileged few.”

(I) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following question by choosing the best of the given choice. (2)

a) Srivyal’s subject of study was

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| (i) English | (iii) Child Psychology |
| (ii) Economics | (iv) Sociology |

b) Sphoorti became a trusted name because of the following reasons, except

- (i) the efforts of Srivyal to get more donations
- (ii) the sincere efforts of all trustees
- (iii) a feature by the Hindu
- (iv) international recognition

(II) Answer the following questions briefly.

(1×6=6)

- a) What was Srivyal's intention of starting Sphoorti?
- b) What inspired Srivyal to establish an NGO?
- c) Why did the three friends abandon the idea of starting a school?
- d) Why were the first few years challenging for Srivyal and his friends?
- e) How did Srivyal manage to get the things moving initially?
- f) How was the abandoned dream coming true for Srivyal and his friends?

Q3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

1. Drug abuse is that social evil which has ruined many a life and is gradually on the rise. The youth have been affected by it the most. One of the problems afflicting most nations of the world is drug abuse. It is a social evil which can destroy the very vitals of the society. It can make it weak and hollow as it nibbles slowly at the quality of human resource of a country.
2. Today, there is an alarming increase in drug abuse in schools and colleges. Drugs such as cocaine, heroin, LSD, hash, crack, opium and marijuana are taken for their stimulating and relaxing qualities, little realizing that this misadventure can lead to addiction – a trap from which it is difficult to get out.
3. Initially, these drugs may give you kicks but ultimately they become a threat to the addict's life. A drug called 'ecstasy' can kill a person in one dose. Addiction to drugs of any kind, even alcohol or pain killers, tranquilizers develops suicidal tendencies, affecting a person's mind, moods, emotions and feelings. They are also responsible for making drug users, take to a life of crime, violence and aggression. A man becomes pathetic because under the influence of drugs he is unable to control his thoughts and actions. Not only do they make themselves a laughing stock but their performance also becomes impaired. They become a liability rather than useful members of the society.
4. Physical and mental harm caused to them is irreparable as breaking this habit requires a lot of determination, courage and patience. The process of coming out of it is extremely painful as it involves frequent jitters and pain. Addicts cannot function as normal members of the society; they neglect and abuse their families who also are traumatized. Not only this, it is one of the root causes for encouraging crime.
5. Criminal gangs and Mafia underworld flourish with the money from drugs requiring countries to spend heavily on police resources, for getting the information of such crimes like smuggling and dealing in drugs. The danger from drugs cannot be ignored because of the multiple problems which countries and communities face. It is a much greater problem than disease and poverty. It saps the nation of its manhood, eliminating this social evil may appear to be impossible, still steps can be taken to weaken the hold of drugs on society.
6. This menace of drugs can be tackled by educating children at home and in schools about drugs. They need to be made aware of the ill effects of drugs so that they can make a conscious decision of avoiding this problem. It is common knowledge that very often young children get into this habit because of the influence of their friends and the desire to become part of the so-called fashionable, liberal and modern society.
7. Thus, the youth have to be trained to make the right choices, learn to resist temptations and not succumb to peer pressure – all this boils down to the responsibilities of parents and schools to lay a strong foundation of moral character and discipline.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheading. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. (5)
- (b) Make a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words, using the notes made, and also suggest a suitable title (3)

SECTION– B

(WRITING SKILLS) (30 Marks)

- Q4.** New Era College, Gwalior, is about to enter its new academic session. As the Principal, you are concerned about the issue of ragging both inside and outside college premises. Draft an antiragging notice to be put up on the college notice board, sensitizing students about the issue and asking them to report any misbehavior in this regard to the authorities. (Word limit: 50) (4)

OR

United Chemical Company is launching a new detergent. Create an attractive display advertisement announcing the launch and highlighting its qualities.

- Q5.** The Prime Minister’s initiative to turn Gandhi Jayanti into a Cleanliness Day was welcomed by one and all. Many celebrities also became part of this drive. Write a letter to the editor of the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, appreciating this drive and reflecting on the need to maintain clean surroundings and thereby a clean nation. (6)

OR

You are Pawan Junelia, staying in R-353, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi. Two months back you bought a Telephone Answering System with Facsimile from the Electronic World, 33, Daryaganj, New Delhi, with a warranty of 2 years. Now you discover that the machine doesn’t record the callers message and the screen also remains blank. Write a letter of complaint requesting for replacement, if needed. (Word limit: 120-150)

- Q6.** In the mad rush of today’s fast-paced life, we often forget to enjoy the simple pleasures of life like reading a good book, going out for a walk in the nearby park, a simple conversation with an old friend or just watching a good movie with family. Write an article titled – ‘The Simple Pleasures of Life’ as Riya/ Rakhsit, expressing your views on the topic. (Word limit: 150-200) (10)

OR

Population of any country is a boon for it. But this is not true of India where many of the modern day problems are closely related to its burgeoning population. What are your views on the issue? Write them in the form of an article for a newspaper.

- Q7.** You have been selected to speak in an Inter-school Debate Competition. The topic is ‘Technology Can Never Replace Teachers’. Write your debate for the motion in 150-200 words.

OR

You are Rakhee/Rakesh and you feel disturbed at the growing violence among children. Write a speech on ‘Growing Violence among Children’ (Word limit: 150-200)

SECTION – C
(Literature) (40 Marks)

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4)

*I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with
pain
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,*

- i) What did the poet notice about her mother? (1)
- ii) What were her feelings at this stage? (1)
- iii) How did she try to take her mind off from her thoughts and what was it that caught her attention? (1)
- iv) Explain, “young Trees sprinting out of their homes” (1)

OR

*For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
Let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much,
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness*

- i) What does speaking in ‘any language’ imply? (1)
- ii) Why does the poet feel that it is important to keep quiet and suspend all activities? (1)
- iii) What ‘exotic moment’ does the poet refer to? Why do you think that he deems it to be exotic? (1)
- iv) How would man benefit if there was no ‘rush’ and ‘no engines’? (1)

Q9. Answer the four of the following in about 30-40 words each. (4×3=12)

- a) What is ironical about the end of the Tiger King?
- b) What insensitivities did people express at the sight of Derry and Mr. Lamba.
- c) What did M. Hamel announce? How did his words sound to the narrator?
- d) “And then in the midst of the terror came a touch of reason”. What terror is Douglas referring to? What touch of reason did he experience?

- e) What was the outcome of protracted interviews that Gandhiji had with the Lieutenant- General?
- f) What is Aunt Jennifer trying to search for in her art? How?

Q10. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)
Lost childhood means lost hopes, lost dreams, a lost generation and the beginning of a dormant society. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer. (6)

OR

‘The Rattrap’ is a story about conflict between good and bad values. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Q11. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)
Dr. Sadao skillfully uses diplomacy and tact to prove his loyalty not only to his nation but also to his profession. Justify. (6)

OR

How did Gandhiji work for rural upliftment during his stay in Champaran?

Q12. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)
Reflect upon Mr. Marvels’s attempt to free himself from the clutches of the invisible man. (6)

Q13. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)
Describe the burglary committed by the invisible man at Bunting’s place. (6)