

# Ist Term Examination (10 September 2015)

Subject – ENGLISH CORE

Class XII (Set – B)

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 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. There is no discounting that one learns some of the more important skills in the classroom but the lessons one learns about life when one leaves the comfort zone of the classroom and steps into the unknown, are incomparable. One of the best lessons, therefore, which is learnt outside the safe confines of the classroom, is what travel teaches you.
2. If you travel on your own by not opting for a group tour where everything is planned for you, then you are likely to tackle situations where you have to make a choice or a decision almost immediately. No amount of prior research or preparedness can come to your rescue. But on the bright side, travelling alone gives one the opportunity to discover things such as the cheapest and quickest way to travel from point A to B, how much you should trust your instinct when talking to a stranger, how much you should spend each day. All these handy exchanges go a long way in smartening up a person. Also when you are in another country and managing your own affairs you feel less judged and more courageous too.
3. Modern-day travel has also become a more even playing ground. Whereas previously travel was by and large a rich man's indulgence, today, anybody can travel. But that does not mean travelling on a shoestring budget literally. One of the golden rules of travel planning is to religiously save a certain amount from your allowance and you can easily save enough for a trip once a year. And the trip does not entail making bookings at ridiculously low or shamefully high hotels for accommodation. You can stay with a local work along the way, eat simple food, take public transport and, more importantly, stick to your budget. These are essential rules for making the journey hassle-free.
4. Although travel is about making plans and hoping things turn out exactly as one has planned, when you are travelling around, things are bound to go wrong. The best way out of a bad situation is to remain calm, when faced with such a calamity and learn to be flexible and to roll with the punches. As a travel blogger shared: I was once invited by a local in Rome to go and stay with him. I was super excited by the idea. After taking a two-hour tiring journey to the address he had mentioned I found out that he wasn't residing there and was only playing a prank on me. I was extremely frustrated but in hindsight it taught me acceptance. The time that was gone was gone. Why spoil my whole trip sulking over it?
5. Another plus point of travel is that every single time one travels one discovers the romance within oneself. As a tourist one enjoys the beauty of simple everyday life all around. You also become aware of nature all around and sharpen your powers of observation and appreciation. Also when you travel you realize that people all over the world are not very different, although they may do things differently. You realize that you are just another one in this vast world and the world does not revolve around you.

6. Travel thus helps you to get rid of race, religion and cultural stereotypes. When you travel it is most important to be smart and take some basic precautions while travelling but you also learn to trust good people and your faith in humanity increases. With better roads and better communication at your fingertips, travel is no longer a bogey. There are options galore and tickets can be had months in advance so people are more confident about making their travel plans that will not become nightmares any more.

a) **On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1×4=4)**

1. **Handy exchanges with strangers while travelling .....**

- a) Smarten up a person
- b) Make them suspicious of strangers
- c) tend to make one careless
- d) make one overtrusting

2. **The travel blogger had a bad experience .....**

- a) in India
- b) in The United States
- c) in Rome
- d) at home

3. **travel makes one realise that people .....**

- a) are very different around the world
- b) are not very different
- c) love to exchange notes
- d) have the same ambitions

4. **Travel helps one get rid of .....**

- a) fear of travelling
- b) travel being a bogey
- c) lavish spending on travel
- d) race, religion and culture stereotypes

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

- a) What are plus points of opting out of group travel?
- b) How has modern travel become an even playing ground?
- c) How can one tackle situations where travel plans get upset?
- d) What are some of the advantages an individual gains from travel?
- e) What are the precautions that one must take while travelling?
- f) Why is travel no longer a bogey now?

c) **Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following: (2)**

- a) a small amount of money (para 3)
- b) in large number or amount (para 6)

Q2. **Read the following poem carefully. (10)**

**If**

*If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired of waiting,*

*Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,*

*And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise.*

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*If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same;*

*If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;*

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*If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it in one turn of all pitch – and toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the will which says to them; "Hold on!"*

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*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch.  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you'll be a man, my son!*

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**(i) On the basis of your understanding of the above poem, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (2)**

**1. When people all around keep losing their heads they blame it on .....**

- a) the person who manages to remain calm
- b) the presence of untruth
- c) the person who is being blamed
- d) none of the above

**2. When one has a minute's time at one's disposal .....**

- a) one should relax
- b) fill it with running

- c) fill it with meaningful activity
- d) fill it with meaningful inactivity

**(ii) Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(1×6=6)**

- a) What proposition does the poet bring to the reader when everyone around him doubts his intentions?
- b) What test should a person put himself to when his sincerity of utterance is being doubted?
- c) What is the true test of a person who has lost everything he had?
- d) How should one talk to crowds, kings and ordinary folk, according to the poet?
- e) What is the final victory for a person who has fulfilled all the criteria expressed by the poet?
- f) How, according to the poet, should one utilize one's time?

**(iii) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following:**

**(2)**

- a) concession (lines 1-8)
- b) muscle (lines 16-24)

**3. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(8)**

**SECTION – C**  
**(Literature) (40 MARKS)**

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

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.....*

- i) What is Aunt Jennifer doing in the above lines? (1)
- ii) Why are her fingers 'fluttering'? (1)
- iii) Explain: 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'. (1)
- iv) What fact of marital life is depicted here? (1)

**OR**

*..., A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us....*

- i) A thing of beauty is a joy forever'. Explain. (1)
- ii) Why doesn't a beautiful thing 'pass into nothingness'? (1)
- iii) What does the poet mean by 'a bower quiet for us'? (1)
- iv) Name the poem and the poet. (1)

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

- a) Why did Gandhiji agree to 25% compensation?
- b) Why does the poet want us to keep silent and suspend all activity for a while? (Keeping Quiet)
- c) What was the attitude of the General towards the enemy soldier?
- d) What was Roger Skunk's problem? How did he get rid of it?
- e) What thoughts does Kamala Das put away while travelling with her mother in the car? Why do you think she puts them away?
- f) Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?

**Q10. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)**

How did procrastination (act of putting something off till some future time) in learning French cost the French people dearly? How can the vice of procrastination be overcome? (The Last Lesson)

**OR**

A person with a weaker mind might not have survived the misfortune that Douglas faced so bravely. What different values and traits of his character helped him survive his ordeal? (Deep Water)

**Q11. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)**

What is the bond that unites the two – the old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the small boy? How does the old man inspire the small boy? (On the Face of It)

**OR**

Through the whimsical behaviour of the king and the subservient attitude adopted by his officials and subjects, the writer makes a dig at the political setup devoid of the essential noble values in the contemporary times. Discuss. (Tiger King)

**Q12. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)**

What traits of character drove the Invisible Man to any extent for fulfillment of his demands?

**Q13. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)**

Describe the episode when Marvel came to take refuge in the inn the “Jolly Cricketers” followed by the Invisible Man.