



APEEJAY SCHOOL PANCHSHEEL PARK

MID TERM EXAM (2024-25)

ENGLISH - Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 hrs

M.M. 80

General Instructions

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A-READING -22 MARKS

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the passage carefully

(12 Marks)

In 1908, when he had just turned sixty, came the ultimatum. "Mr. Chipping, have you ever thought you would like to retire?"

Chips stared about him in that book-lined study, startled by the question, wondering why Ralston should have asked it. He said, at length: "No—umph—I can't say that—umph—I have thought much about it—umph—yet."

"Well, Mr. Chipping, the suggestion is there for you to consider. The Governors would, of course, agree to your being adequately pensioned."

Abruptly Chips flamed up. "But—umph—I don't want— to retire. I don't—umph—need to consider it."

"Nevertheless, I suggest that you do."

"But—umph—I don't see—why—I should!"

Ralston said, icily: "Since you force me to use plain words, Mr. Chipping, you shall have them. Your methods of teaching are slack and old-fashioned and your personal habits are slovenly."

"But—" Chips began, in sheer bewilderment.

"Mr. Chipping—since you decline to give way, there can't very well be any alternative. I aim to make Brookfield a thoroughly up-to-date school. I understand, Mr. Chipping, that your Latin and Greek lessons are exactly the same as they were when I began here ten years ago. Because they are dead languages is no reason why they should be dealt with in a dead educational technique."

Chips stayed on. In 1911 Ralston left. Then came the War years. There was a lot of war talk—the trouble between Austria and Serbia.

1917, 1918. Chips lived through it all. He sat in the headmaster's study every morning, handling problems, dealing with complaints and requests. On Sundays in Chapel, it was he who now read out the tragic list.

*John
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The above statement weakens the conclusion that Chips was wrong in reading out Max Staefel's name at the chapel service. Rationalise in about 30-40 words.

ix) Select the option that best describes the tone of the speaker in the following: (1)

Oh, just one of Chips's ideas, I expect.

a) exasperated

b) surprised

c) inquisitive

d) dismissive

2. Read the following passage carefully.

(10 Marks)

A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16-24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating their overall happiness as high or very high. Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.

These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.

It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people's overall contentment.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveal? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(ii) Explain the given statement in about 40 words.

It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures. (2)

(iii) Provide data to elaborate the statement- "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth." (1)

(iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does not play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth? (1)

(a) Family support and strong ties

(b) Social connection and technology

(c) Academic Performance

(d) Economic stability

(v) State whether True or False, with reference to the given passage :

Only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level. (1)

(vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth ? (1)

I. Sense of Purpose

II. Social media

III. Individualistic society

IV. Family ties

(a) I and II

(b) II and III

(c) I and IV

(d) II and IV

(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____ and _____ (1)

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order : (1)

(a) purposefulness

(b) financial status

(c) family support

(d) work

SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS- 18 MARKS

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in about 50 words. (4 marks)

A) Lotus Valley Public School has recently created *CureGreen*, a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Saras/Sneha Gupta, Captain of the Eco-Club, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of classes XI-XII, about a guided walk through *CureGreen*, post assembly, on Friday, 20 September. Also invite enthusiastic students to volunteer as care-givers for *CureGreen*.

OR

B) The Teen Well-Being Association of Sun Rise Society, Jaipur will be holding free yoga classes on Sunday mornings in the Multipurpose Hall. As Aditya Jain, a member of the association, draft a notice informing the young residents about it. Give all the necessary details.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in about 50 words. (4 marks)

A) Draft an invitation on behalf of your aunt, Renuka Soni, which she has to share to invite her friends and former work colleagues to the inaugural event of her own investment consultancy firm, in the Acer Mall, Kozhikode, Kerala.

OR

B) You and your parents have received an invitation for your cousin's wedding to be held in Jaisalmer on 6th and 7th October. All of you would be delighted to attend. Draft a reply to be sent to your cousin accepting the invite and sharing your excitement while congratulating him.

5. Answer the following in 120-150 words.

(5 Marks)

Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart diseases have increased in India. According to a recent report, 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the issue and the reasons for it. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce the risk of having such diseases and cope with them. You may use the following cues to compose the letter. You are Manan Rawat, a concerned citizen.

Consequences:

- leads to a poor quality of life mentally and physically
- increases the cost of health care
- can reduce life expectancy and cause early deaths

Solutions:

- follow a balanced diet
- incorporate some form of exercise that is sustainable
- get regular blood tests to check health status

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.

(5 Marks)

A) You are Sonali/ Sohail Sen of class XII. Write an article for your school magazine, sharing the importance of young adults, as volunteers in one's local community, the need to do so and the benefits involved. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

Important for personal growth+ community development

Benefits-For self: new skills, experiences, a sense of purpose

For community: positive impact

What are the ways one could get involved?

OR

B) Road Safety is one of the top priorities of the government, for accidents result in the incalculable loss of lives and property. Your school recently observed a Road Safety Week in collaboration with the District Traffic Police.

As a student correspondent of your school magazine 'The Sentinel', write a report giving details about the various activities carried out by the school students during the week.

You may include the following points in your report:

- Inauguration by Nilesh Shrivastav, IPS, DCP, Traffic Police
- Road Show
- Poster Making
- A written Test of Road Signs
- A Short Film on Road Safety
- Road Safety Declamation Contest
- Bicycle Rally flagged off by the school Principal

SECTION C- 40 MARKS
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

(1 x 6=6 marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE.

A) 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, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth.

i) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) I'm as happy as I can be. | b) Life is a roller coaster. |
| c) Nature is a divine gift to us. | d) The dazzling divas enchanted all. |

ii) What does the phrase 'a bower quiet' indicate?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a) serenity | b) morality |
| c) superiority | d) diversity |

iii) The benefits of a thing of beauty for humans include

1. healthy body
2. calm mind
3. struggle-free life
4. better relationships
5. hope to carry on

Choose the most appropriate option.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a) Only 5 | b) 1,2 and 5 |
| c) 1,3 and 4 | d) 2 and 4 |

iv) Answer in ONE word.

When the poet says that 'a thing of beauty' will never pass into nothingness, he means that it is _____

v) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

- (1) We are surrounded by beautiful things.
 - (2) Beautiful things provide us joy.
- a) (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
b) (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.
c) Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
d) (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

vi) Pick out the option which is NOT true about the theme of the poem

- a) A thing of beauty transcends time and doesn't fade away
- b) A thing of beauty affects both physically and spiritually

- c) A thing of beauty can remove evil from the world
d) A beautiful thing has therapeutic quality and brings in a ray of hope.

OR

B) When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

i) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the first line of the extract.

- a) I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers.
b) The fog comes on little cat feet.
c) I felt butterflies in my stomach.
d) The prisoner was transferred to the condemned cell.

ii) What does the phrase 'ringed with ordeals' indicate?

- a) A life marred by misunderstanding
b) A life lived in loneliness
c) A life of pain and suffering
d) A life lived in one's own way

iii) According to the second line, the relationship between Aunt Jennifer and her husband was more like the relationship between

- a) a pet animal and his/her loving owner
b) a wild animal and a human
c) a circus animal and a ring master
d) an abandoned animal and his/her adoptive human

iv) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

- 1) Aunt Jennifer's life was in utter contrast to the fearless and free tigers in the panel created by her.
2) Most people get to choose the life they want to live.

- a) (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot be.
b) (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot be.
c) Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
d) (2) is an example of (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

v) Explain the use of irony in the above extract.

vi) Which of the following can be easily concluded from the extract?

- a) Animal lives are generally happier than that of human beings.
b) Art that human beings create always lives longer than the artists who create it.
c) Marriage brings more misery and suffering to women than to men.
d) The speaker does not see any hope of Aunt Jennifer's life changing for the good.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x4=4 marks)

A) Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream Ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial

- c) Rag picking has accomplished itself as a skill and form of art.
d) Ragpickers live in unsteady shanties on the outskirts of Delhi.

(iv) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking'?

(v) What does the phrase 'for a child it is even more' reveal about the children's dreams?

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract?

- (a) Seemapuri- A Pot of Gold
(b) Rag-picking - Different Perspectives
(c) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri
(d) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x5=10)

i) Summarise John Keat's view of 'beauty' in your own words.

ii) "You realise the true value of a thing only on losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, 'The Last Lesson'.

iii) Give two reasons why, according to Pablo Neruda, 'keeping quiet' is essential for attaining a better, more peaceful world.

iv) If the Christmas spirit is about selflessness, forgiveness and kindness. Edla Willmansson is the epitome of this spirit. Justify with two points of evidence from 'The Rattrap'.

v) Describe both the physical and emotional impacts that the misadventure at the YMCA pool had on the narrator.

vi) It is said that the 'Face is the mirror of one's emotions'. Why did the poet smile and smile and smile? (*My Mother At Sixty Six*)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)

i) Answer the question in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'

"Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority, she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered.

Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about.

ii) My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies," says Tishani Doshi. Which experience does she consider the best and why?

iii) What is common between Charley and Sam. Discuss.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. (5x1= 5 Marks)

A) Rajkumar Shukla wanted Gandhi to come to Champaran and help them fight the unjust sharecropping arrangement. For that purpose, he followed Gandhiji wherever he went till he acceded to his request. As Rajkumar Shukla, write a diary entry describing how you succeeded in convincing Gandhiji to visit Champaran.

You may begin like this:

Wednesday

21st December, 1916

7.30 pm

Dear Diary

OR

B) Create a comprehensive comparison of the themes present in 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'. Specifically discuss the different ways each poem addresses the concept of struggle and resilience.

13. Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (5x1=5 marks)

Imagine Tom reaches home safely. He has fully recovered and the war has now come to an end. He owes his life to Dr Sadao and Hana and is forever indebted to them.

A few months later, he is invited on a radio show as a war hero where he recounts his tribulations and the experience of being granted a new lease of life by the Japanese couple.

Imagining yourself as Tom, write his narration.