



BALVANTRAY MEHTA VIDYA BHAWAN (A.S.M.A.)
MID- TERM EXAMINATION (2024 - 25)
CLASS: XII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE(Code No. 301)

Time: 3 Hrs

Max. Marks: 80

Name: Neelakshi

Roll Number 24

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 SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

12 marks

(1) Apollo, the Greek god of music and healing, always maintained that he was the greatest musician in the world, until Marsyas, who was part animal and part human, played the flute. Apollo's jealousy and insecurity drove him to eventually slay Marsyas so that his status as the greatest musician remained unchallenged. One's usual imagination of a god is a being who is all-knowing and pure in every intention. What makes the Greek gods interesting is that they are shown as flawed beings who do not always act like 'Gods'.

(2) In appearance, the gods resemble mortals, whom, however, they far surpass in beauty, grandeur, and strength; they are also more commanding in stature, height being considered by the Greeks an attractive feature in men or women. They resemble human beings in their feelings and habits, marrying and having children with them. They require daily nourishment to maintain their strength and sleep to restore their energy. Their blood, a bright magical fluid called Ichor, never causes disease, and, when shed, produces new life.

(3) The Greeks believed that the mental qualifications of their gods were much higher than those of men, but displayed human passions like revenge, deceit, and jealousy. In mythological tales, the gods always punish the evil-doer and administer dire punishments to any mortal who dares to neglect their worship. They often visit mankind and partake of their hospitality, and in many tales, both gods and goddesses become attached to mortals. Although there were so many points of resemblance between gods and men, there remained the one great characteristic distinction: immortality. Still, the gods were not invulnerable and were often wounded and suffered so much that they'd pray for death. The gods could transport themselves to incredible distances with the speed of thought.

(4) They could be invisible at will and could take the forms of men or animals as it suited their convenience. They could also transform human beings into trees, stones, or animals. Their robes were like those worn by mortals, but were perfect in form and much finer in texture. Their weapons also resembled those used by mankind. They often used spears, shields, helmets, bows and arrows. Most of these divinities lived on the summit of Mount Olympus, each having his or her own palace. Magnificent temples were erected to their honour, rich gifts were presented to them, and living creatures were sacrificed on their altars.

(5) In Greek mythology, the gods take every opportunity to reveal and establish their divinity but also fall prey to human impulses. Perhaps the Greeks did so to help generations of readers reflect on important life lessons to avoid tragic downfalls.

- E. M. Berens

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

1. ... they are shown as flawed beings who do not always act like 'Gods'. (Paragraph 1) 12

Which of these are examples of the above statement? 1

- I. Gods getting attached and falling in love.
- II. Gods punishing mortals for their wrong doing.
- III. Gods showing kindness and compassion to all.
- IV. Gods deceiving everyone for their personal gain.
- V. Gods killing a mortal out of jealousy and insecurity.

Select the correct option.

- A. Only I and III
- B. Only II and V
- C. Only I, IV, and V
- D. Only II, IV, and V

2. Which of these would Apollo most likely say about Marsyas' musical ability? 1

- A. 'Why does everyone think he plays music well? It is obvious that he doesn't have talent.'
- B. 'Why is he challenging me like that? I wonder what is troubling him that I can heal.'
- C. 'How can an animal play the flute? Such creatures must know their place.'
- D. 'How dare he play better than me? I am supposed to be the best in the world.'

3. Why does the author begin the passage with the description of Apollo?

1

- A. To show that the Greek Gods have immense power and influence over the mortals.
- B. To emphasize the point that the Greek Gods are based on interesting stories.
- C. To highlight the point that the Greek Gods are more human-like in nature.
- D. To state that the Greek Gods are also allowed to make mistakes.

4. What is ironic about Apollo being the one who slays Marsyas? Answer in about 40 words. *Para 2.* 2

5. Based on your reading of paragraph 3, explain what 'invulnerable' means. Answer in one sentence. 1

6. In about 40 words, state any two ways that the Greek gods are superior to human beings. 2

7. Complete the given sentence with ONE word. 1

From the fact that the Greek gods punish any mortal who neglects their worship, we can infer that they are _____.

8. Imagine that someone was born from Ichor. In which of these situations would the Ichor be most useful? 1

- A. A natural disaster that causes the earth to split apart.
- B. A pandemic that has been caused by a contagious virus.
- C. A war that requires transforming into another form quickly.
- D. A competitive entrance exam that is very tough to qualify.

9. What does the author mean by 'tragic downfalls' in paragraph 5? Give an example of a tragic downfall in current times in about 40 words. 2

2. Read the following text.

10 marks

(1) Zebras are known for their distinctive black and white stripes. The intriguing enigma of these stripes lies in their function and nature. Specifically, two scientific studies have sought to understand the purpose and underlying mechanisms of zebras' unique stripes.

(2) Study 1- The Case of Alison & Stephen Cobb's Study:

(Published in the Journal of Natural History, Volume 53, Issue 13-14)

- i) A Researcher couple, Alison and Stephen Cobb, conducted an experiment that explored the idea of zebras' stripes helping to keep them cool and shared that thermoregulation was the primary function of zebra stripes.
- ii) They measured the temperatures of black and white stripes on two zebras, throughout separate sunny days in Kenya. There was a 12–15°C difference between zebras' stripe temperatures throughout the middle seven daytime hours.
- iii) They shared that the movement of sweat away from the skin is accelerated by the surfactant squidprotein -latherin - a vital component of cooling in racehorses.
- iv) They noted that latherin decreases the surface tension of the sweat, facilitating evaporative cooling at the hair tips.

Their theory was that the abrupt temperature difference between the stripes causes chaotic air movement above the hair surface, thus enhancing evaporative heat dissipation.

(3) Study -2 The Case of Prof. Tim Caro's Experiment:

(Published in the Journal of Experimental Biology, Volume 226, Issue 4)

- i) Prof. Caro and four other researchers investigated what deters horseflies from landing on zebras.
- ii) Their experiment involved close-up observations of fly behaviour around zebras. They also observed the flies' interactions with domestic horses, some of which were dressed in striped jackets, and others left without.

- iii) The results of the study showed that flies approached all three groups—the zebras, the horses with striped jackets, and the plain horses—similarly. However, they behaved differently around the zebras and the horses with striped jackets. Flies approaching these animals merely bounced off, whereas they could land on plain horses.
The researchers concluded that the sharply outlined and thin stripes are the deterrent to horseflies as it is the occurrence of only large monochrome dark patches that are highly attractive to horseflies at close distances.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

10

- i. What might be the MOST likely purpose of the author's use of "intriguing enigma", while referring to the zebra stripes? 1
- ii. Supply the response to the following, in a phrase, from (Para 2) of the text given above. 1
According to the Cobb's study, what is the relation between zebras' stripes and thermoregulation?
- iii. Complete the sentence with an appropriate inference. 1
The choice of "middle...daytime hours" is likely driven by the need to study zebras under the condition _____.
- iv. Select the option that DOES NOT display the nature of these experiments correctly. 1
A. Collaborative
B. Observational
C. Analytical
D. Fictional
- v. In the absence of latherin, a surfactant protein, what is the likely consequence for an equid, such as a zebra or horse? 1
A. Improved thermoregulation in hot conditions.
B. Enhanced evaporative cooling.
C. Impaired sweating
D. Increased resistance to heat stress.
- vi. The text makes a mention of the studies being published. What implication does this hold for the readers (Answer in 30-40 words) 2
- vii. Which of the following can we cite as an example, to explain the meaning of "deterrent", as used in the line - *The researchers concluded that the sharply outlined and thin stripes are the deterrent to horseflies ...?* 1
A. Installing security cameras on a property will act as a deterrent for burglars.
B. Planting flowers in a garden will become a deterrent for pollinators like bees.
C. Painting a room bright, for a welcoming atmosphere will be a perfect deterrent.
D. Hanging wind chimes on a porch is a common deterrent for the area's visual appeal.

- viii. In terms of the purpose of the zebra stripes, examine, in 30-40 words, how the findings in Cobb's study and Prof. Caro's experiment align or differ?

2

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

5 marks

A. Maruti Public School will conduct an online course on news reading during the summer vacations for students of Class XI and XII. In this course, students will learn to understand news reports, build the habit of reading the news regularly, and have a chance to interact with well-known journalists. As Rutwik Sen, Editor of the school magazine, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention any other relevant details required for the notice.

OR

B. Delhi Government has launched a programme for all residents wherein a yoga teacher will be sent to societies where at least 25 people want to learn yoga. In the capacity of the President of RWA Mayur Vihar, Delhi, write a notice in about 50 words informing all the residents about the scheme and motivating them to register their names soon so that the classes may begin soon.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

6 marks

A. You are Rekha / Rakesh, a student of DPS Indrapuram, Class XII. After the pandemic, the mental health of students is declining and they are required to cope with a lot of stress in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor to highlight the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways and means to combat it.

OR

B. You are Kashvi / Krishan from House number 9, Mayur Vihar, Delhi. You have come across an advertisement in a national daily for the recruitment of Radio Jockey by Radio One, Noida. Apply in response to this advertisement giving your detailed bio-data.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

7 marks

A. With the rise of social media platforms and the ease with which information can be shared online, false information can have dire consequences. Write an article for the local daily, in 120-150 words, highlighting the problem of the growing menace of fake news and misinformation, analysing the issue and provide suggestions to tackle it. You are Kavita Bannerji, from Siliguri, West Bengal. Use the given cues, along with your own ideas to create the article.

1. What is fake news, and why has it become a significant concern in the age of social media?
2. Analysing the Issue –
 - How does misinformation affect public opinion and behaviour?
 - What challenges do individuals and society face in combatting the spread of false information?
3. Suggestions to Tackle Fake News -

- What measures can social media platforms take to address the issue of fake news?
 - How can individuals critically evaluate the information they encounter online?
4. Local Perspective -
- How does the issue of fake news affect the local community?
 - What local resources or organisations can help address this problem?

OR

B You are Geet / Geeta, head of the Health Club of GTB School, Shalimar Bagh. Your club organised a talk to make students aware of the alarming use of chemicals in vegetables and fruits. Experts from the medical field and consumer forums were invited to answer the queries of the audience. Write a report in about 120-150 words for your school magazine.

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

(40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6 marks

A. *What I want should not be
Confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death*

i. Which of these does the speaker imply through the following lines:

*Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.*

- A. Life is meant to be lived and death should not be the focus here.
- B. Life is meant to teach us lessons and near-death experiences are not always bad.
- C. Life is full of adventures and the fear of death should not stop us from exploring them all.
- D. Life is full of many choices and thoughts about death should not be a point of consideration.

ii. Complete the given sentence based on the extract appropriately.
Silence would help humanity to _____.

2024-9-25 13:21

- iii. What does the speaker mean when he describes people as 'single-minded'? 1
- People who only work towards understanding themselves.
 - People who are driven by only one passion in their life.
 - People who only focus on rushing through their lives.
 - People who can focus on only one task at a time.
- iv. Justify the following statement as FALSE. 1
- In the given extract, the speaker is ordering readers to do certain actions.
- v. Based on the extract, how do you think the speaker feels about humanity? 1
- Answer in one sentence.
- vi. Observe how the lines in the poem break off at certain words. Give one reason why the poet has structured the lines in this manner. 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, 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 first line of the extract. 1
- I'm as happy as I can be.
 - Life is a roller coaster ride.
 - Nature is God's gift to us.
 - The dazzling divas enchanted all.
- ii. What does the phrase 'a bower quiet' indicate? 1
- Serenity
 - Morality
 - Superiority
 - Diversity
- iii. The benefits of a thing of beauty for humans include: 1
- Healthy body
 - Calm mind
 - Struggle-free life
 - Better relationships
 - Hope to carry on
- Choose the most appropriate option.
- Only (5)
 - (1), (2), and (5)
 - (1), (3), and (4)
 - (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 with 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. Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

- a. Full to the Brim with Joy
- b. Beauty Galore
- c. Live Life King Size
- d. Hope Floats

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY one of the two, given. 4 marks

A. "Not by you, but by someone who does not know him. I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm- what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man's room open to the garden while he sleeps?"

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately. There is a need to assassinate 'him' because..... 1
- (ii) List the speaker's purpose behind getting the white man assassinated. 1
- (iii) The given lines indicate characteristic/s of the General. These characteristics are, 1
..... and.....
- (a) Care and kindness
- (b) Ignorance and self-centered
- (c) Humanistic and patriotic
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (iv) Who hatched the plan to kill the white man? Was it successful? 1

OR

B. In other words, the Tiger King is dead. The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die. "The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions. But..." they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. "This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death.

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author's purpose in using foreshadowing is to.....

1

(ii) In the given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they 'bit their lips and swallowed hard'?

1

(a) Humiliation

(b) Disbelief

(c) Grief

(d) Unease

(iii) Which trait are the astrologers lauding when they say 'warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions'?

1

(iv) How is the line, 'the most fantastic aspect of his demise', an example of contrast?

1

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6 marks

A. *It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork, and as soon as anyone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end. The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way.*

(i) How does the peddler describe the world?

1

(a) Unjust and hostile

(b) Unequal and brutal

(c) Kind and compassionate

(d) Sad and sorrowful

(ii) Select the option that matches the reference "riches and joys, shelter and food".

1

(a) Deceit

(b) Temptation

(c) Materialism

(d) Luxury

(iii) The given extract does not talk about _____.

1

(a) how people treated the peddler

(b) the philosophy of the rattrap seller

(c) the characteristics of the peddler

(d) the monotony of the peddler's life

(iv) Why do you think that the world was not very kind to him?

1

(v) How had the peddler come across the philosophy elucidated in the above extract?

1

(vi) What does the word 'unwonted' mean in the extract?

1

OR

B. 'I will learn to drive a car', he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, wielding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems. Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light; that the law, if enforced, could get him and all those 20,000 children out of the hot furnaces where they slog their daylight hours, often losing the brightness of their eyes. Mukesh's eyes beam as he volunteers to take me home, which he proudly says is being rebuilt.

- (i) 'I will learn to drive a car', he answers, looking straight into my eyes. This sentence highlights Mukesh was _____ 1
1. determined
 2. fearless
 3. hopeful
 4. valiant
 5. ambitious
 6. stern
- A. 1 & 5
- B. 2 & 4
- C. 2 & 5
- D. 3 & 6
- (ii) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE with reference to the extract? 1
- A. Children work in badly lit and poorly ventilated furnaces.
 - B. The children are unaware that it is forbidden by law to work in the furnaces.
 - C. Children toil in the furnaces for hours which affects their eyesight.
 - D. Firozabad has emerged as the largest producer of bangles in the country.
- (iii) The simile 'dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets' indicates that his dream was 1
- A. a reality yet seemed distant.
 - B. lost in the sea of dust.
 - C. illusory and indistinct.
 - D. hanging in the dusty air
- (iv) Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles indicates that 1
- A. bangle making is the only industry that flourishes in Firozabad.
 - ✓ B. the entire population of Firozabad is involved in bangle-making.
 - C. majority of the population in Firozabad is involved in bangle-making.
 - D. bangle-making is the most loved occupation in Firozabad.
- (v) Complete this statement -The main reason behind the child labour in the bangle industry is..... 1
-

(vi) Fill in the blank with a proper word: Agra: Leather goods :: : bangles

1

9. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5x2=10 marks

- i. What emotions does the banning of the French language evoke in Franz and his classmates?
- ii. Why did the peddler keep to the woods after leaving the crofter's cottage? How did he feel?
- iii. "I crossed to oblivion and the curtain of life fell". Why did the author make this remark?
- iv. The poet's mother is compared to the late winter's moon. Is the comparison justified?
- v. "It is his karam, his destiny," says Mukesh's grandmother. They can't break their lineage. Can the lineage be broken in your opinion?
- vi. How did Gandhi negotiate with the British landlords regarding compensation for the sharecroppers?

10. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4 marks

- i. 'Take care of small things; the big things will take care of themselves'. What is the significance of the statement?
- ii. What role does the first-day cover play in the story 'The Third Level'?
- iii. 'From that day onwards, it was celebration time for all tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram'. Bring out the irony in this statement.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

- A. The class on the day of the last lesson seemed very grim and unusual. Does it resonate with any of your school experiences? Write a diary entry about one such experience you came across in school.

Dear Diary

We were taken aback by this sudden news. The class seemed _____

OR

- B. The story "The Rattrap" shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love. Write a letter to Edla to convey your gratitude as a peddler.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

- A. The king was callous as a ruler and behaved whimsically. Thus, the people in his kingdom suffered while he fulfilled his desire to kill a hundred tigers. Do you find leaders or politicians in the world today being indifferent to the needs of the people and behaving in the same way? Comment with relevant examples.

OR

- B. Humanity is beyond any border or prejudice, whereas patriotism is the sense of faithfulness to our nation or place where we live. Which, according to you, is higher — humanity or patriotism? Write a paragraph on the topic: 'Humanity versus Patriotism'.