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**ST. ANTHONY'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL**  
**TERM I EXAMINATION**  
**2024-25**  
**CLASS -XII**  
**ENGLISH CORE (SET-A)**

**TIME ALLOWED: 3 HRS**

**MAX. MARKS: 80**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- i. The Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections- Section A: reading skills, Section B: creative writing skills and Section C: literature.
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.

**SECTION A- 22 MARKS**  
**READING SKILLS**

**1. Read the given passage.**

What do we typically do when we find our children doing something we don't approve of? We become reactive parents. Often, we pepper our reactions with lectures. When it doesn't work and predictably so; we end up screaming and dole out a punishment. And our children react with anger, resentment or 'can't-be-bothered' attitude.

**12 Marks**

(2) Buddhist Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh put it beautifully when he described how each child has both negative seeds - of anger, despair, hatred, fear and violence - and wholesome seeds - of love, happiness, compassion and forgiveness. According to him, what will blossom depends on the seeds we nurture.

(3) A parenting and educational approach that's gaining a large following internationally, called the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) by Howard Glasser, is very much in keeping with this Zen approach. The three main aspects of this approach are:

- \* Refuse to energise negativity.
- \* Relentlessly energise their positives.
- \* Reset: Do not react negatively and stay calm when the child does something wrong.

Parents following this approach commit to not saying or doing anything that may fuel negativity in the child. But the parent has to make sure she/he does this very calmly, without any anger or resentment.

(4) While on a mission to cut the negative, the parent looks for every opportunity to energise the positive in the child. This is done through persistently appreciating the goodness in the child in the smallest of ways: You were really generous about sharing your pizza with your sister; I appreciate the hard work you have put in your project; It takes courage to stand up to a bully. If you observe, the appreciation is not about saying "excellent", "amazing" or "good", which is really an empty praise and does not speak much to the child. Qualifying a praise, on the other hand, gives the child direction and she/he begins to understand what qualities, values and strengths are appreciated. These are also necessary ingredients of life skills and success.

(5) This approach is not merely about noticing when the child is being good, it is about recognising the child's worth at every step. It's about aligning his energy in believing that he has great qualities, which are being identified and validated by the parents at every step. He realises that there is no point choosing negativity, as there are no pay-offs in it. So, start building your child's inner wealth -there is nothing to lose.

**On the basis of your reading, answer the questions given below. (12)**

(i) Complete the following sentence with an appropriate word:

"-we end up screaming and dole out punishment."

In the above sentence, the author criticizes the \_\_\_\_\_ approach of the parents.

(ii) Explain in about 40 words, when and how do parents become reactive. (2)

(iii) In the line 'what will bloom will depend on the seeds we nurture' — what seeds does the author refer to? (1)

(a) Seasonal seeds (b) Societal news (c) Parental attitude (d) Values and emotions

(iv) Explain in about 40 words why does NHA focus on reforming parents to reform children. (2)

(v) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that parents appreciate the goodness of the child at every opportunity. (2)

(vi) In paragraph 5, in what way does 'This approach' differ from the earlier approach? (1)

(vii) Select the option that can be classified as qualifying a praise as explained in the passage: (1)

(a) You can be more helpful (b) You demonstrated patience while teaching your junior  
(c) Use your skill to be an excellent sportsman (d) You have to be amazing in your work

(viii) The phrase 'to cut the negative' in para 4 most nearly means: (1)

(a) to reduce wasteful expenditure (b) to stop criticizing (c) to eliminate challenges (d) to humiliate someone

(ix) Read the five headlines (A) - (E) given below: (1)

- (A) New Age Parenting
- (B) Children - A Rebellious Generation
- (C) Channelising Energy
- (D) Teacher - A Nation Builder
- (E) Skill Development - Careers Ahead

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that Does/Do not correspond with the occurrences in the text.

(a) (A) and (E) (b) (C) and (E) (c) (B) only (d) (A) and (C)

**2. Read the given passage.**

**10 Marks**

(1) We're all familiar with the usual reasons workers cite for wanting to stay away even after lockdowns have long ended: flexible schedules, not having to commute, and of course, increased productivity. However, productivity isn't the only reason people want to stay away from the office. We recently surveyed 1,000 remote workers to find out what's really keeping them tied to their work-from-home lives.

(2) The findings include: 72% want to be able to take a nap or exercise during the day. Nearly three out of four remote workers surveyed stated that the ability to take a nap or workout during the workday was one of the reasons they wanted to stay home. Though these activities may very

well increase worker productivity, there's no doubt that a nap on the kitchen couch would be frowned upon in the office.

(3) 73% want to be able to watch TV while they work. Three out of four respondents again say that being able to entertain themselves with TV, podcasts, music, or other media is one of the reasons they want to keep their work-from-home lifestyle.

(4) 62% cite concerns about their appearance. Well over half of respondents stated that they are concerned about their co-workers seeing them in-person again after such a long time apart. Whether it's weight loss or gain, not having the right clothes, or another concern about appearance, most would rather not have to worry about the way they look to their co-workers outside a Zoom call.

(5) When asked to choose the reason that most affects their desire to keep working from home, predictable answers like caring for children and lack of a commute were still the most common number one reasons. 14% of respondents stated that working remotely was so important to them, that they would not go back to work in-person even if their employers required it.

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:**

- (i) '.... these activities will increase productivity! By 'productivity' the author refers to (1)  
(a) products produced (b) efficiency of the employee, (c) time spent by the employee  
(d) number of activities
- (ii) What change in the work place would bring those people back to office who want amusement? 1  
(a) Giving long breaks (b) Free coffee and tea (c) Building entertainment lounge, (d) Spacious conference hall
- (iii) As per the survey, why do health conscious people prefer to work from home? (1)
- (iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately: (1)  
The passage ends on a note that some people are resolved to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (v) Explain one inference that can be drawn from para 1 about the reason for people's preference to work from home. (1)
- (vi) State whether the statement given below is True or False: (1)  
The survey reveals that people deeply miss socialising in the work from home style. F
- (vii) Explain in your own words how appearance is one of the factors for people's preference for work from home. (2)
- (viii) As per the survey, what top priorities of people prevent them from going to office? (2)

### SECTION B- 18 Marks

#### CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

- Q3. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in about 50 words. (4)
- a) You are the secretary of the English Literary Association of Deep Memorial School. Write a notice for the noticeboard, inviting names of those who would like to participate in the proposed inter-house debate, oratorical and elocution contest.

OR

- b) You are Simran of Ahlcon International School, Delhi. Your school has decided to contribute in controlling traffic near your school and require the names of volunteers from IX to XII. Write a notice to be displayed on the school noticeboard.

- Q4. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in about 50 words. (4)
- a) As the President of the Debating Club of St. George's School, Jaipur, write an invitation to Mrs Sudha Murthy, the renowned author to preside as the judge for an Inter School Debate Competition being organized by your school to celebrate the Language Day.

OR

- b) Your friend, Raghu Rajan, has invited you to attend his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. You find that you are occupied on the day and cannot attend the event. Write a reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Hazel, P60, Bank Lane, Bengaluru.

Q5. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words. (5)

a) To maintain work life balance, there is a surge of people going on short and budgeted vacations. Seizing this opportunity more people are offering the home stay (ex, air bnb) option. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily sharing your views on this trend. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Ankit/Ankita.

- Home Stay
- Budgeted travel option
- Home cooked meals
- Opportunity to enjoy local culture, cuisines, life-style
- Emerging opportunities for locals

OR

- b) You are Jyoti/Jagan of Park Avenue, Karampur. You feel sad to notice that people litter the roads with utter disregard for sanitation and cleanliness. As a responsible citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the need for educational institutions to instill civic responsibility among school children.

Q6. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words. (5)

- a) With the advancement of science and technology, basic communication has adversely impacted the social skills of today's youth. You are Girish/Girija of class XII. Write an article for your school magazine highlighting the adverse effects of technology and the ways to enhance social skills among the younger generation to prevent social awkwardness.

*You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the article:*

**Impact-** decrease in face to face communication, lack of engagement, inability to converse and poor inter-personal skills

**Suggestions-** improve conversational and communication skills, outdoor activities, personal interaction

OR

- b) The members of your school Drama Club, recently put up a street play at the Central Park of your city. The theme of the play was Education- An equal Opportunity. As president of Drama Club, write an article on the given theme to be published in your school magazine.

### SECTION C- 40 MARKS LITERATURE

Q7. Answer any ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

7A. ... I saw my mother,

(6\*1=6)

beside me,

doze, open mouthed, her face

ashen like that

of a corpse and realised with  
pain

that she was as old as she  
looked but soon

put the thought away, and

looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, ...

- (i) Why does the poet compare her mother's face to a corpse?
- (ii) What effect does the phrase 'open mouthed' have on the poem?
- (a) It builds a mood of surprise and shock in the poem.  
(b) It reveals the speaker's fear of her own death and mortality.  
(c) It adds to the imagery of the speaker's mother appearing dead.  
(d) It highlights the speaker's attempt at hiding her emotions from her mother.

(iii) Complete the given sentence appropriately:

The contrast present in the given extract is between \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) State a reason for the following:

The speaker looks out of the window while travelling with her mother.

(v) Which of these phrase uses the same poetic device as the following line from the extract?  
looked out at Young Trees sprinting ...

- (a) that restaurant is nice as the Big Fish  
(b) the pen became my highway to success  
(c) that fluffy cloud crying with sadness  
(d) the tall trees with many branches

(vi) Why do you think the poet has placed the word 'pain' on a separate line? Give reason.

OR

7B. *What I want should not be  
confused*

*with total inactivity.*

*Life is about 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 appropriately:

Based on the extract, silence would help humanity to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (iii) What does the speaker mean when he describes people as 'single-minded'?
- (a) People who only work towards understanding themselves.
  - (b) People who are driven by only one passion in their life.
  - (c) People who only focus on rushing through their life
  - (d) People who can focus on only one task at a time.

(iv) Justify the following statement as false:

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?
- (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.

8. Answer any ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

(4\*1=4)

8A. *To make sure, I walked over the newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was The World; and The World hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894. I turned toward the ticket windows knowing that here- on the third level at Grand Central- I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go. In the year 1894. And I wanted two tickets to Galesburg, Illinois.*

- (i) The newspaper the covered the lead story about President Cleveland was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) The Pioneer (b) The New York Times (c) the World (d) The Times
- (ii) The narrator wanted to buy tickets to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) Which of the following in the extract most nearly means the opposite of 'stare'?  
(a) glance (b) peek (c) ignore (d) examine
- (iv) Charley wanted two tickets because he wanted to go with \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sam (b) Cleveland (c) Louisa (d) the Psychiatrist

OR

8B. *Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our times. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end on the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate- not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice.*

- (i) How does the absence of human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate?
- (ii) Why is 'climate change' described as a 'hotly contested' issue in the extract provided?  
This is so, because there \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change  
(b) is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change  
(c) are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change

are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change

- (iii) The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon records in the study of climate change because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative.

9. Answer any ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

(6\*1=6)

9A. Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was.

- (i) List any two sensory details present in this extract.
- (ii) Why does the protagonist feel anxious about entering the classroom on this particular day?
- (a) The classmates have started the lesson.  
(b) The teacher is in a bad mood.  
(c) The classroom is too quiet.  
(d) The protagonist is running late.
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately:  
The phrase "as quiet as Sunday morning" suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that this was not the protagonist's first time being late to school.
- (v) What does the term 'terrible iron ruler' indicate about M. Hamel?
- (vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?  
(a) The Fears of a Latecomer (b) The Importance of Punctuality (c) The Rigidity of the School System (d) The Anxiety of a Young Student

OR

9B. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear; it wiped out terror. There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of. This is nice... to be drowsy... to go to sleep... no need to jump... too tired to jump... it's nice to be carried gently... to float along in space... tender arms around me... tender arms like Mother's ... now I must go to sleep...  
I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

- (i) Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:  
Statement 1: The author tried his best to jump out of water.

Statement 2: After a while, the author was not anxious in water.

- (a) If statement 1 is the cause, statement 2 is the effect.
- (b) If statement 1 is the effect, statement 2 is the cause.
- (c) Both the statements are the effects of a common cause.
- (d) Both the statements are the effects of independent causes.

(ii) The 'curtain of life fell' corresponds to an aspect of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) geometry (b) history (c) sports (d) drama

(iii) the purpose of using "... " in the above passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Show omission (b) indicate pauses (c) shorten a dialogue (d) replace an idea

(iv) Which option indicates that the author lost consciousness?

- (a) It was quiet and peaceful (b) I crossed to oblivion (c) Tender arms like Mother's (d) It wiped out fear

(v) The line, "I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell" can be best classified as:

- (a) A fact (b) An opinion (c) A theme (d) A plot point

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately using one word ONLY for each blank:

Death brings \_\_\_\_\_ and fear brings us face to face with \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Answer any FIVE out of the six questions given below in 40-50 words. (5\*2=10)

(i) Why does Keats associate grandeur with the mighty dead?

(ii) The world has become a global village, and people across boundaries, nationalities and communities are now connected to one another.

*With the advancement of technology, and the advent of social media, do you think that the task keeping quiet, as envisaged by Neruda, has become easier or more complicated? Justify your stance.*

(iii) What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'?

(iv) The world is "nothing but a big rattrap" as the tramp stated in the story 'The Rattrap', who might the rattrap peddler be? Discuss.

(v) What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that?

(vi) When do the residents of Alsace realise how precious their language is to them?

Q11. Attempt any TWO out of the following three questions in 40-50 words each. (2\*2=4)

(i) The Maharaja justified his actions based on the maxim: 'You may kill even a cow in self-defence,' so there would be no objection to killing tigers in self-defence.' do you think it is right to justify our actions this way? Elaborate.

(ii) Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad with the troops?

(iii) Describe Gandwana as mentioned in Journey to the End of the Earth.

Q12. Attempt any ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words each. (1\*5=5)

a) How would you compare the peddler's actions in relation to the crofter and Edla?

Would you say kindness does not always beget kindness, and that the conditions for receiving kindness are important for it to truly transform people? Elaborate.

Support your answer with textual evidence.

OR



b) How does the story Lost Spring highlight the apathy of society and those in power to end the vicious cycle of poverty? Support your answer with textual evidence.

Q13. Attempt any ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words each. (1\*5=5)

a) In the story, The Third Level by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry.

As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However...

OR

b) Dr. Sadao emerges as a savior of humanity. Substantiate your answer with evidence from the text.

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