

**Sample Paper – 2014**  
**Class – XII**  
**Subject – English**

**SET A**

Time 1 ½ hr

M.M. 50

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- i.* This paper is divided into four Sections: A, B and C All the questions in each section are compulsory.
- ii.* Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- iii.* Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
- iv.* Handwriting should be neat and legible.

**SECTION A: READING**

8 Marks

Q.1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow:

For three or four months in the year, you can walk across the Mississippi; in fact, you can walk along it too, or drive horses across it.

Motionless in the winter's icy grip, the surface of North America's most famous river lies hidden for weeks on end beneath a cold white blanket of snow.

But below the surface the water flows on in silence, moving relentlessly through the frozen heartland of North America, towards warmer and more colourful lands.

"Old Man River" is no more than a child in the state of Minnesota, where he is born among the lakes and the forests not far from the Canadian border. If he had chosen to move north or west, he would have finished up in the Atlantic Ocean, part of America's other great river, the Saint Lawrence. But the child that is to turn into Old Man River moves south.

He makes his way towards the Gulf of Mexico. It's a distance of 1,500 miles as the crow flies, but more like 2,500 miles along the meandering course that he chooses. It will be several weeks before the waters that rise in Minnesota eventually flow out past the ocean-going ships tied up at New Orleans, and mingle with the salt of the sea.

Of course, Old Man River has been making more or less the same southward journey for thousands of years: long before anyone thought of calling him "Old Man River", he had no name. It was the Algonquin Indians who gave him the name "Mississippi"; in their language, the name meant Great River. The name has stuck.

The first European to set eyes on the great river was a Spanish explorer, called De Soto, who came across the mouth of the river in 1541; yet it was not until over a century later that the Mississippi river began to take a significant place in the history of North America. In 1682 a French explorer called La Salle set off from the Great Lakes region, followed the Ohio river, and eventually reached the coast. Having established an alternate route from the Great

[www.cbseguess.com](http://www.cbseguess.com)

Other Educational Portals

[www.icseguess.com](http://www.icseguess.com) | [www.ignouguess.com](http://www.ignouguess.com) | [www.aipmtguess.com](http://www.aipmtguess.com) | [www.aieeeguess.com](http://www.aieeeguess.com) |

[www.niosguess.com](http://www.niosguess.com) | [www.iitguess.com](http://www.iitguess.com)

Lakes to the sea, La Salle claimed the whole of the Mississippi basin for the French king Louis XIV, and called it Louisiana in his honour.

For almost a century, the Mississippi valley was French territory, sandwiched between the British colonies to the east, and "New Spain" and the unexplored prairies to the west. Little French colonies appeared along the banks of the river, but in most cases their names are the only things about them that remain from their early days: St. Cloud, La Crosse, Prairie du Chien, St. Louis, and many more. It is only at the mouth of the river, round New Orleans and Baton Rouge, that the river's French past still lives on, to a limited degree. New Orleans' "Mardi Gras" celebrations are among the most colorful in the United States, a hybrid fusion of old French tradition and Afro-American celebration.

In 1783, the land to the east of the Mississippi became the western frontier of the newly born United States of America. As for the much larger area of land to the west, it was sold to the United States by Napoleon in 1803, for the sum of \$11.5 million, in the historic "Louisiana Purchase".

Nevertheless, even before the Louisiana Purchase, American settlers had begun pushing across the river, searching for places to settle in the virgin territory beyond. And as the great wide valley filled up with more and more farms, towns and markets, so the importance of the river grew.

During the cotton boom of the early nineteenth century, the river and its tributaries allowed plantation owners to get their produce easily down to New Orleans, where it could be exported to markets all over the world, and particularly to the textile mills of Lancashire, England.

1.1 Make notes of the above passage using an acceptable format including abbreviations, with suitable titles. 5m

1.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words. 3m

### SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

15 marks

Q2. You are Geetu Singh, the Incharge of your school "Painting Club". You have received an invitation from the nearby DAV School to participate in the activities of the Painting Club during the winter break. Write invitation and a reply declining the offer giving a valid reason. (Word limit 50-80) 5 marks

Q.3. The Manager, ICICI Bank, Lucknow requires a few business development Managers, for the credit card section. Write an application for the post, offering your services, giving bio-data. You are Pritam/Priti, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow. 10 Marks

### SECTION C: TEXT BOOKS

27 Marks

Q.4. Read the extract given below and answer the question that follow: 4 marks

[www.cbseguess.com](http://www.cbseguess.com)

Other Educational Portals

[www.icseguess.com](http://www.icseguess.com) | [www.ignouguess.com](http://www.ignouguess.com) | [www.aipmtguess.com](http://www.aipmtguess.com) | [www.aieeeguess.com](http://www.aieeeguess.com) |

[www.niosguess.com](http://www.niosguess.com) | [www.iitguess.com](http://www.iitguess.com)

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.

- Explain: 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever'.
- Explain: 'A bower quiet'.
- What idea does the poet want to convey in these lines?
- Trace a word that means ' a shady garden'

Q.5. Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words each:

(5x2=10)

- What doubts Edla have about the peddler?
- How according to the poet can Earth teach us ?
- How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.
- Do you think the poet advocates the total inactivity and death?
- Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad with the troops?

Q.6. Answer the following in about 80 - 100 words:

5m

"I have been trained not to let a man die if I can help him" Comment on this statement in the light of your reading of the story 'The Enemy'

Q7. Reproduce in your own words the incident related to Motihari.

8 m

**Paper Submitted By:**

**Name** Neelam Sehgal

**Email** [neelam07shanigaon@gmail.com](mailto:neelam07shanigaon@gmail.com)

[www.cbseguess.com](http://www.cbseguess.com)

Other Educational Portals

[www.icseguess.com](http://www.icseguess.com) | [www.ignouguess.com](http://www.ignouguess.com) | [www.aipmtguess.com](http://www.aipmtguess.com) | [www.aieeeguess.com](http://www.aieeeguess.com) |

[www.niosguess.com](http://www.niosguess.com) | [www.iitguess.com](http://www.iitguess.com)