

ENGLISH CORE

CLASS – XII

General Instructions:

1. This question paper is divided into three sections: A, B AND C. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary. Read the instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A: Reading

Max. Marks : 30

Question 1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions which follow: 14 Marks

- 1 Why are we, as a nation, so enamoured of computers in childhood? This one-size-fits-all fix for elementary schools does seem to meet a lot of adults needs. It makes politicians and school administrators appear decisive and progressive. It tempts overworked parents and teachers with a convenient, mesmerising electronic babysitter. And it is irresistible to high-tech companies that hope to boost sales in the educational market.
- 2 But a machine-centred approach does not meet the developmental needs of grade-school children, nor will it prepare them to muster the human imagination, courage, and will power they will as adults need to tackle the huge social and environmental problems looming before us.
- 3 Young children are not emotionally, socially, morally, or intellectually prepared to be pinned down to the constraining logical abstractions that computers require. This sedentary approach to learning is also unhealthy for their developing senses and growing bodies.
- 4 What's good for business is not necessarily good for children. we cannot afford educational policies that will expand the market for Microsoft, Compaq, IBM, Apple, and other companies at children's expense.
- 5 Nor can we afford the delusion that pushing young children to operate the very latest technological gadgets will somehow immunize them from economics and cultural uncertainties in the future. Nothing can do that – certainly not soon-to-be obsolete skills in operating machines.
- 6 In the long term, what will serve them far better is a firm commitment from parents, educators, policymakers, and communities to the remarkably low-tech imperatives of childhood. Those include good nutrition, safe housing, and high-quality health care for every child – especially the one in five now growing up in poverty. They also include consistent love and nurturing for every child; active, imaginative play; a close relationship to the rest of the living world; the arts; handcrafts and hands-on lessons of every kind; and lastly time – plenty of time for children to be children.
- 7 A new respect for childhood itself, in other words, is the gift that will best prepare our children for the future's unknowns. Empowered by this gift, our children can grow into

strong, resilient, creative human beings, facing tomorrow's uncertainties with competence and courage.

- 8 Some may feel that our prowess in science and technology will suffer if children are allowed to be children. The opposite is true. Consider the recent Microsoft ad, "Chasing the Future." The opposite is true. As companies rapidly turn out one high-tech product after another, it stresses, companies and nations must "constantly replenish their long-term reserves of intellectual capital." Research, Microsoft declares, is the engine driving technical advances. So research, it adds, "has never been more important."
- 9 To the extent that's true, then so, too, has childhood never been more important – or more endangered by the current push to transform children into technicians. For childhood is the one period in the human lifespan naturally designed for pursuing the most basic science of all. That's why pushing children instead to produce PowerPoint presentations that mimic the work of adults is short-sighted. It's as short-sighted as Microsoft argues it would be for United States to pull the plug on basic research and finance only short-term product development.
- 10 By supporting basic research, we give our most creative scientists the time they need to play with the fundamental qualities and questions of nature. In periods of great productivity, scientists say, this open-ended creative process can totally dominate their lives – whether they are working, eating, sleeping, or socializing. In short, they live their science. Granted that freedom, they generate the insights that lead to fruitful discoveries, sometimes even paradigm-shifting breakthroughs at the every edges of knowledge.
- 11 Childhood, rightly protected, is the same kind of creative process – the same kind of basic science. Children, too, need time to play with the most fundamental qualities and questions of nature – to "live" them with their whole beings: body, heart, mind, and soul. How closely related their wonder-full quest of childhood is to the expansive spirit of basic science is neatly captured in *The Scientist in the Crib: Minds, brains, and How Children Learn*: "Our otherwise mysterious adult ability to do science may be a kind of holdover from our infant learning abilities," suggest the authors. "Adult scientists take advantage of the natural human capacities that let children learn so much quickly. It's not that children are little scientists but that scientists are big children." (From "Fool's Gold: A Critical Look at Computers in Childhood")

1.1. Choose the most appropriate option:

1 x 3 = 3 marks

- (a) The author believes that people are fascinated by computers as
 - (i) they look for a solution that suits all their problems
 - (ii) they are overworked
 - (iii) they are irresistible
 - (iv) they are progressive
- (b) He thinks promoting the computers
 - (i) helps only their manufacturers
 - (ii) stimulates imagination and develops courage and will power
 - (iii) introduces children with the latest gadgets
 - (iv) teaches children how to master skills in operating machines

- (c) The eagerness to transform children into technicians is harmful because
- (i) they are not allowed to remain children
 - (ii) it is not wise to encourage them to mimic the works of adults
 - (iii) both (a) and (b)
 - (iv) it is not productive

1.2 Answer the following questions:

8 marks

- (a) What problems are the children likely to face in future ? 1
- (b) What qualities should be promoted among them to meet them? 1
- (c) Why does training children to operate the latest gadgets cannot safeguard children from economic and cultural uncertainties? 1
- (d) What low-tech imperatives should parents give their children instead of forcing them to learn the latest gadgets? Mention any two. 1
- (e) What benefits do we get by giving freedom to scientists? 1
- (f) What quality of children do scientists have? 1
- (g) Why should we respect childhood? 1

1.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

3 marks

- (a) Inactive (para 3)
- (b) Make something full again by replacing what has been used (para 8)
- (c) A false belief about your situation (para 5)
- (d) Search (para 11)

Question 2 Read the poem given below and then answer the questions which follow:

Punishment in Kindergarten

Today the world is a little more my own.
 No need to remember the pain
 A blue-frocked woman caused, throwing
 Words at me like pots and pans, to drain
 That honey-coloured day of peace,
 "Why don't you join the others, what
 A peculiar child you are!"

On the lawn, in clusters, sat my schoolmates sipping
 Sugarcane, they turned and laughed;
 Children are funny things, they laugh
 In mirth at other's tears, I buried
 My face in the sun-warmed hedge
 And smelt the flowers and the pain.

The words are muffled now, the laughing
 Faces only a blur. The years have
 Sped along, stopping briefly
 At beloved halts and moving

Sadly on. My mind has found
An adult peace. No need to remember
That picnic day when I lay hidden
By a hedge, watching the steel-white sun
Standing lonely in the sky.

- Kamala Das

2.1 Choose the most appropriate option:

3 Marks

- (a) The opening line of the poem shows that the poet
- (i) has won the appreciation of world now
 - (ii) is proud of her status at present
 - (iii) is least worried about the ways of the world
 - (iv) is an adult now and confident
- (b) The scolding words the woman are compared to 'pots and pans' because
- (i) they hurt the poet badly
 - (ii) they are noisy and harsh
 - (iii) they are permanent
 - (iv) they are uttered by a woman
- (c) The first three lines of the last stanza describe that
- (i) life moves on but only stopping at some places for a little while
 - (ii) the poet is grown up now
 - (iii) the woman and her schoolmates are quiet now and no longer bother her
 - (iv) life teaches us how to forgive and forget

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

5 marks

- (a) What did the woman call the poet?
- (b) How did her schoolmates hurt her?
- (c) How do we know the poet was hurt?
- (d) When is the sun 'steel-white'?
- (e) What is life compared to in the last stanza of the poem?

Question 3. Read the passage given below:

8 marks

Even though wild animals are by definition unsuitable for domestic settings, they end up being kept as pets by people who are not aware of the pitfalls of doing so. Dr Ranjit Daniels, a PhD in ecology, author and Managing Trustee of biodiversity conservation group Care Earth Trust believes that the reason people keep snakes, chameleons or other wild animals as pets is their interest in an 'exotic-looking' animal that is different from other pets.

Dr Daniels explains that these animals are protected by the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (buying them from pet shops is an offence) and that no matter how much we try to simulate their natural habitat or feeding, we are no match for nature. A chameleon, for example, feeds on live insects, and alternative food sources might not be hygienic and could harm the animal. He observes that the equations and social systems between wild animals in their original habitat can never be replicated by us.

He acknowledges that many well-meaning people rescue these wild ones as babies and grow attached to them over time. "The constitution says 'be kind to animals' and there is no harm in rescuing a wild animal. No one can punish you for that. But it's important to contact an expert about release and rehabilitation once the animal is fit to look after itself," he says. He cautions that an animal's chances of survival in the wild come down drastically if they are not rehabilitated in time (this happens when their rescuer continues to keep them after recovery). "This is harming an animal rather than helping it," he says, giving the example of rescued baby monkeys that become frustrated or aggressive as adults when their social needs aren't met, leading to them being perceived as a 'nuisance' and then being sent to a zoo. "That's like putting them in jail," he says.

Similarly, he gives the example of birds that are sold as pets in small cages. When the birds make noise, as is their nature, the owner often dumps the cage in a garage where the feathered one is out of sight and out of mind. "For no fault of its own, the bird suffers," he rues, drawing attention to the need for more nationwide sanctuaries that these birds can be rehabilitated into. Yet another example he gives is that of slider turtle. "They look pretty as babies," he says of the reason people covet them. However, these turtles often get abandoned as adults. "A dangerous thing about abandoning exotic animals is that they become invasive," he says. This is also true of non-native fish like piranhas that have been introduced into many South Indian reservoirs.

His organisation counsels people who have doubts about wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and spreads awareness and education about these fascinating creatures, so that their interests are protected in the long run. (From 'The Hindu') (477 words)

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings.

Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary. 5 marks

3.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3 marks

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills 30 marks

Q.4 You are Roopak/Roopa of 20/65, Ekta Colony, Parbhani. You have decided to sell off your 10-year old colour TV and purchase a new LED one. Prepare an advertisement to be published in the Lokmat Times under classified columns giving all important details and the expected price. (50 words) 4 marks

OR

You are a Nikki/Nikhita, Headboy/Headgirl of Shantiniketan Vidyabhavan, Aurangabad. Your English language department is starting an English Readers' Club and it is being inaugurated on 14 November, Children's Day. Draft an invitation inviting all staff and students. Provide details like the Chief Guest, sponsors, etc. 4 marks

Q.5 As a member of 'We Help', a students' social service club of your school, you visited Visakhapatnam, a coastal city in Andhra Pradesh, which has recently been devastated by the cyclonic storm Hud Hud. Write a report on the services rendered by your club to help the victims in about 120-150 words. 6 marks

OR

Your vidyalaya has organised an awareness programme in a neighbouring village to generate awareness about the need for cleanliness and bring about much-needed behavioural changes for achieving the goal of 'Swachh Bharat', a cleanliness campaign launched by the Government of India recently. Giving a report of your programme, elaborate the plans of your school to make the mission of Swachh Bharat successful at your vidyalaya level. (120-150 words) 6 marks

Q.6 Children these days are spending a lot of their leisure time sitting before the TV and watching sports, reality shows and other entertainment programmes. Emphasising on the urgent need to alert them from becoming couch potatoes and advising parents on the need to restrict children to a few selective programmes for a limited time, write a letter to the editor of the Times of India, Nagpur. 10 marks

(OR)

You are desirous of joining a degree course in designing offered by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. You have come across an advertisement offering intensive training for the aspirants of B.Design by Fresh Thoughts, MG Road, Pune. Write a letter to the Director of the Institute making an enquiry about the guidance offered by them. You are Sandeep/Saskriti, living at 54, Swapnalok Apartments, Latur. 10 marks

Q.7 Visiting historical places offers a great insight into the rich and varied culture of India. Write an article in about 150-200 words persuading students of your age to visit new places as often as they can and keep a record of their precious memories. You are Sachin/Sheetal, a student of class XII at Vidhyardhi Public School, Basmat Nagar. (150-200 words) 10 marks

OR

You are disturbed by seeing your school students wasting their pocket money on unhygienic food stuff, and things which are expensive and fashionable but not necessary. Some of them borrow money regularly from others. Some indulge in the acts of stealing. Prepare a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school urging all students to be economical and farsighted. (150-200 words) 10 marks

Section C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT 40 mark

Q.8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"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".

(a) What ordeals have mastered Aunt?

- (b) What is her ring symbolic of? 1
 (c) How are the tigers different from their creator? 1
 (d) What is sad about Aunt's death? 1

OR

"the mid forest brake,
 rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
 and such to is the grandeur of the dooms
 who have imagined for the mighty dead;
 All lovely tales that we love heard or read;
 An endless fountain of immortal drink,
 Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink."

- (a) What makes the mid forest brake beautiful? 1
 (b) What does the poet mean by the 'grandeur of the dooms'? 1
 (c) How is the beauty that we see is not short lived? 2

Q. 9 Answer any FOUR the following questions in about 30-40 words each: 4 X 3 = 12 marks

- (a) What is ironical about Saheb's name?
 (b) "The instructor was finished. But I was not." Why was the writer not finished?
 (c) Why did Gandhi think the Champaran episode a turning point in his life?
 (d) How were Sophie's future plan disconnected from reality?
 (e) Do you think that the Governor was wiser than his two subordinates? Give reasons in support of your answers.
 (f) What things fascinated Bama on her way back home from school?

Q. 10 Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 125-150 words: 6 marks

- (a) What is the turning point in the story 'The Rattrap'? Substantiate your answer.
 (b) How does Joe want the story to end? Why?

Q. 11 Read the following and answer the question that follows: 6 marks

"And yet, for these
 Children, these windows, not this map, their world
 Where all their future's painted with a fog"
 Stephen Spender gives a poignant picture of slum children in his poem "An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum". There are children in India who still do not go to schools. Many schools in villages, towns and cities discourage girl child education as they have no basic amenities like toilets. What do you think that more fortunate children like you, the community and the government should do to improve these miserable conditions? Write an article in about 125 words expressing your views.

Q.12 Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 125-150 words. 6 marks

- (a) How did Griffin, the invisible man, meet his end?
 (b) What did the people of Iping feel about the strange guest staying at the Coach and Horses Inn? Give some of the reasons why the people of Iping did not like the stranger?

Q.13 Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 125-150 words.

6 marks

- (a) How do you feel about Griffin? Is he a criminal mad scientist who should be killed? Or is he a guy who is trying to work things out, but other people and society keep getting in his way?
- (b) Give a character sketch of Doctor Kemp.