

**Class XII**  
**Sample Paper**  
**ENGLISH (Core)**

**Time allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 100**

**General Instructions:**

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper consists of three Sections: A, B and C..
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**Section A : Reading : 30 Marks**

**1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**11**

1. The discovery that language can be a barrier to communication is quickly made by all who travel, study, govern or sell. Whether the activity is tourism, research, government, policing, business, or data dissemination, the lack of a common language can severely impede progress or can halt it altogether. 'Common language' here usually means a foreign language, but the same point applied in principle to any encounter with unfamiliar dialects or styles within a single language. "They don't talk the same language" has a major metaphorical meaning alongside its literal one.
2. Although communication problems of this kind must happen thousands of times each day, very few such as strikes, lost orders, legal problems, or fatal accidents – even, at times, war. One reported instance of communication failure took place in 1970, when several Americans ate a species of poisonous mushrooms. No remedy was known, and two of the people died within days. A radio report of the case was heard by a chemist who knew of treatment that had been successfully used in 1959 and published in 1963. Why had the American doctors not heard of it seven years later?

Presumably because the report of the treatment had been published only in journal written in European languages other than English.

3. Several comparable cases have been reported. But isolated examples do not give an impression of the size of the problem. In the English speaking scientific world, for example, surveys of books and documents consulted in libraries and other information agencies have shown that very little foreign language material is ever consulted. Library requests in the field of science and technology showed that only 13 per cent were for foreign language periodicals.
4. The language barrier presents itself in stark form to firms who wish to market their products in other countries. British industry, in particular, has in recent decades often been criticized for its linguistic insularity – for its assumption that foreign buyers will be happy to communicate in English, and that awareness of other language is not therefore a priority. In the 1960s, over two-thirds of British firms dealing with non-English speaking customers were using English for outgoing correspondence; many had their sales literature only in English and as many as 40 per cent employed no one able to communicate in the customers' languages.
5. The criticism and publicity given to this problem since 1960s seems to have greatly improved the situation. Industrial training schemes have promoted an increase in linguistic and cultural awareness. Many firms now have their own translation services; to take just one example in Britain, Rowntree Mackintosh now publish their documents in six languages (English, French, German, Dutch, Italian and Xhosa). Some firms run part-time language courses in the languages of the countries with which they are most involved; some produce their own technical glossaries to ensure consistency when material is being translated. It is now much more readily appreciated that marketing efforts can be delayed, damaged, or disrupted by a failure to take account of the linguistic needs of the customer.
6. The changes in awareness have been most marked in English speaking countries, where the realization has gradually dawned that by no means everyone in the world knows English well enough to negotiate in it.

**1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.**

3

1. What are the major effects of the language barrier on the progress of a nation?
  - a) It can slow down or stop progress.
  - b) It can affect tourism.
  - c) It can affect the foreign exchange situation.
  - d) It can affect health services.
2. When is communication failure publicized and why?
  - a) When the country's revenues fall
  - b) When major consequences occur
  - c) When a war breaks out
  - d) When periodicals are in English
3. What makes linguistic programme successful?
  - a) Industrial training schemes
  - b) Popularity of English courses
  - c) Lack of induction courses
  - d) Promotes linguistic chauvinism

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly : (1 x 6 = 6)**

- a) What evidence has been collected from the survey of libraries in the English speaking scientific world?
- b) What is the meaning of 'Linguistic insularity'?
- c) How have British companies tried to solve the problems of language barrier since the 1960s?
- d) How are some companies trying to satisfy linguistic needs of customers? Mention any two steps taken.
- e) Why do some companies provide their glossary?
- f) How can the marketing efforts of the companies result in failure?

**1.3 Find words in the passage which means the same as the following.**

**2**

- a) Hinder (para 1)
- b) Cherished (para 5)

**2. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

**11 marks**

Just now the lilac is in bloom,  
All before my little room;  
And in my flower-beds, I think,  
Smile the carnation and the pink;  
And down the borders, well I know,  
The poppy and the pansy blow....  
Oh! There the chestnuts, summer through,  
Beside the river make for you  
A tunnel of green gloom, and sleep  
Deeply above; and green and deep  
The stream mysterious glides beneath,  
Green as a dream and deep as death.  
.... Oh, damn! I know it! And I know  
How the May fields all golden show,  
And when the day is young and sweet,  
Gild gloriously the bare feet  
That run to bathe.....  
Du lieber Gott! (oh my God)  
Here am I, sweating, sick and hot,  
And there the shadowed waters fresh  
Lean up to embrace the naked flesh.

Temperamentvoll German Jews (spirited)  
Drink beer around; and there the dews  
Are soft beneath a morn of gold.  
Here tulips bloom as they are told;  
Unkempt about those hedges blows  
An English unofficial rose;  
And there the unregulated sun  
Slopes down to rest when day is done,  
And wakes a vague unpunctual star,  
A slippered Hesper; and there are  
Meads towards Haslingfields and coton  
Where das Betreten's not verboten. (entering is not forbidden)  
if only I could be)  
In Grantchester, in Grantchester! –

**2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices** **3**

1. The poet is recalling the scene at
  - a) his native village in England
  - b) his life among the Jews
  - c) the poppy and the pansy
  - d) the smile of the carnation and the pink flower
2. The chestnut trees are growing
  - a) on the mountaintops
  - b) beside the stream flowing through the village
  - c) in the waters of the stream
  - d) beneath the cornfields

3. The poet contrasts the planted rows of tulips with

- a) the stray rose blooming in a hedge
- b) a field of ripe corn in a hedge
- c) the green waters of the shaded stream
- d) a summer's day of the shaded stream

**2.2 Answer the following questions briefly:**

**6**

- a) What are the varieties of flowers blooming in the poet's home in the summer?
- b) Why does the stream look dreamy and green?
- c) How does the poet contrast his present location with that of his home?
- d) What does Gild do on a pleasant day?
- e) Why is the poet missing chestnut trees, cornfields....?
- f) Where is the poet at present, probably, in the poem?

**2.3 Find out words from the passage which mean the same as the following:**

**2**

- a) pleasing (lines 12-16)
- b) hug (lines 20-24)

**3. Read the following passage carefully.**

Leadership is manifestation of strong love and compassion for people; a commitment to principles. In that sense, a certain degree of leadership is dormant in every individual. The challenge comes when one has to nurture it.

A true leader – political, religious or social - has many challenges to face. The capacity to express one's commitment varies from individual to individual. It is often clogged by one's likes and dislikes. Yet a leader has to view everyone with the same outlook, appraise everyone with the same yardstick. He has to find discrimination as well as the much needed wisdom to act at the right time.

The society he lives in and the groups he represents are not homogenous and one cannot satisfy everybody. Yet, a leader has to carry everyone along and do justice to everybody; withstand criticism and not react emotionally to situations. Often leaders are surrounded by sycophants who try to boost their egos for their own personal agenda; they have to be guarded against.

One of the most desired qualities of a true leader is the courage to listen to critics, taking failures with as much equanimity as successes. These days leaders are defensive all the time, explaining their shortcomings or justifying their wrong actions. A true leader will neither complain nor explain, and is open to learning all the time. Admitting past mistakes and creating space for others with completely diverse viewpoints can make a leader more acceptable, universal. A leader does not pass the buck.

A true leader balances ideology and practicality, long term goals with short term needs. Those who stick only to idealism cannot become leaders and those who think they are very practical and without any ideology also fail. A leader should be neither generic nor specific. He has to strike a balance between personal attention to people and the generic vision for the group, community or country he leads.

A leader should have the courage to accept his weak moments. He should understand that people are magnanimous. They would appreciate his straightforwardness and accept his shortcomings rather than him trying to hide them.

Some leaders are too diplomatic while others are too straightforward in their approach. While people do not trust those who are very diplomatic, they do not want anything to do with those who are very blunt and justify their rudeness in the garb of straightforwardness. [Times of India, 24 Dec. 2013]

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum 4) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)
- b) Summarize the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

### **Section B : Advanced Writing Skills : 40 marks**

4. Janvi Info Co., Civil Lines, Ludhiana, needs two Front Office Assistants for their office. Draft a suitable advertisement for the 'Situation Vacant' column of a national daily. (50 words)

OR

'Times India Bank' wishes to increase awareness among youth about blindness and the importance of donating one's eyes. Draft a suitable poster. 4 marks

5. You are Bharat / Bharti of 119, Church Road, Kanpur. Write a letter to the librarian of the District Library in your town asking for details regarding membership. Also ask about the timings and rules and regulations of the library.

OR

You are Ram / Rama of 70, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Police Commissioner about the unauthorized construction of a block of 3 shops in the adjacent public park. (120-150 words)

06 marks

6. You are Vimal / Vimla. You are worried about the hike in the prices of essential commodities like gas, pulses, vegetables etc. Write an article in about 150-200 words about the price hike and suggesting certain steps to curb the price hike.

OR

Often households, hospitals and restaurants dump their waste indiscriminately. How would you create awareness about segregating and managing this waste? Write an article on 'Clean Thinking and Clean Living', as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Campaign'. 10 marks

7. You are Amita of Nehru Public School, Calcutta. You have been asked to deliver a speech on 'Say no to fast food' in the morning assembly of your school. Draft the speech in about 150-200 words.

OR

You are Naman of Nehru Public School, Calcutta. You have been asked to speak in favour of a debate competition on the topic 'Homework should be banned in schools' Draft the debate in about 150-200 words. 10 marks



**Section C : Literature & Long Reading texts : 40 marks**

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

**4 marks**

*Far far from gusty waves these children's faces  
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor:  
The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper-  
Seeming boy with rat's eyes. The stunted, unlucky heir  
Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,  
His lesson, from his desk.*

- What are the children compared to?
- Mention two phrases which tell us that the children are under-nourished.
- Why is the boy referred to as 'unlucky heir'?
- Explain the phrase 'paper seeming boy'

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*

- What is the special virtue of a beautiful thing?
- How does a thing of beauty bless us?
- Explain the expression "A bower quiet for us".
- What do we do every day?

**9. Answer the following questions briefly (30-40 words): (4 x 3 = 12 Marks)**

- What is the significance of uncle's wedding band? Why does Aunt Jennifer find it heavy?
- How did Jo want the story to end and why?
- Why has Rajkumar Shukla been described as illiterate but resolute?
- What advice did Anna give to Bama to get honour and dignity for their community?

**10. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120 -150 words: (6 Marks)**

- a) Saheb and Mukesh are brothers in penury and suffering. Discuss.
- b) Discuss the theme of 'Deep Water'.

**11. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120 -150 words: (6 Marks)**

- a) The story 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the conceit of those in power. Elucidate reflecting upon the values required to become a good leader.
- b) Discuss the values you have learnt from 'On the Face of it'.

**12.** Describe the meeting between 'Voice of stranger' and Thomas Marvel. (120-150 Words) **6 marks**

**13.** Discuss the theme of fear and sadistic pleasure in the novel 'The Invisible Man'.

(120-150 words) **6 marks**