

Pre-Board Examination

Class XII

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: 12

1. Consider the hands. Like other human appendages and organs that come in pairs, they are strikingly similar. Thus, it is strange that men and women would choose one hand over the other as the instrument of their will, leaving the second in the role of assistant and understudy. In addition, it is even stranger that throughout history they would consistently favour the right over the left. But the strangest thing of all is that small minority of mankind, ignoring prejudice, taboos, social pressure and a hostile physical world, insists on using their left hands.
2. During the first half of the 20th century, prejudice against left-handers was formidable. Still quite a few adults remember receiving a ruler across their left knuckles in school. But, at least in the west, there has been a steady decline in anti-lefty sentiments. But while the old biases against left-handedness have given way to enlightened attitudes in much of the rest of the world, in Asia it can still be downright difficult. This is due to long-standing cultural and social prejudice against using the left hand, especially for writing and eating.
3. These biases carry over to many other activities, and as a result, the number of left-handers in most Asian countries is less, by about half, than in Europe and North America. Usually, the first obstacle lefty's face is their parents. When I was growing up in the US in the 1950s, mine were mildly concerned but tolerant. Less fortunate was Sridhar Palande, now a 75 year old retired government official from Pune, whose father was so intent on preventing him from being left handed that he tied a wooden rod to his arm like a splint to force him to use his right hand. If young southpaws survive attempts by parents to tinker with their choice of hands they soon encounter the right minded world in school in such ordinary devices as desks, band instruments, lockers, microscopes and pencil sharpeners.
4. I can remember turning red as my school grade teacher help up my handwriting exercise as an example of how not to do it. I tried but soon gave up. I could no more write with my right hand than with my left hand.
5. How bad is the Asian resistance to left-handedness? Fewer than ten years ago, Bipin Chandra Chaugule, who led a lefty advocacy group in Pune, had a beggar who refused a small coin because it

was offered with his left hand. In Korea, as India, it is considered rude to offer payment with left hand at a shop or a restaurant.

6. The only certainty among the experts is this: there is nothing “wrong with left handedness, and parents who attempt to change their left- handed offspring to right handers run the risk of damaging their psyches.
7. Far from the stereotype of awkward Southpaw, lefties in fact cope daily in a booby trapped world by using their non-preferred hands more often and skilfully than left handers. Watches are hard to wind because the stem is on the right, spouts are on the wrong side of the ladles, and all instruction books are tailored for righties. Other everyday devices that have posed special problems for lefties include TV knobs, door knobs, camera, fishing reels, computer mouse.
8. Lefties say ‘excuse me’ a lot. We bump into people in crowds because on a collision course with a righty we both tend to duck the same way. We find ourselves elbowing our neighbours’ at dinners, drinking somebody else’s coffee. Even waiters present the credit card slip in the position for a right hander to sign, forcing us to flip it counter-clockwise so we can sign it. So give us a break, right-handers. Take a lefty to lunch. Just don’t sit next to him.

(Adapted from *Reader's Digest*, June 2006)

1.1. Choose the correct alternatives from the options given below : $1 \times 4 = 4$

- i) Preferring one hand over the other, the second hand becomes _____,
 - (a) An assistant
 - (b) A taboo
 - (c) An appendage
 - (d) A pressure
- (ii) In the west, there has been a steady decline in _____.
 - (a) Anti-lefty sentiments
 - (b) Pro-lefty sentiments
 - (c) Anti-righty sentiments
 - (d) Pro-righty sentiments
- (iii) Who is Bipin Chandra Chaugale?
 - (a) Supporter of lefty advocacy group
 - (b) Head of lefty advocacy group
 - (c) Member of lefty advocacy group
 - (d) Advisor of lefty advocacy group
- (iv) How were the lefties punished in school in the 20th century?
 - (a) By tying their left hand with a wooden rod
 - (b) By abusing them in front of the class
 - (c) By being beaten on their left knuckles
 - (d) By threatening and abusing them

1.2 Answer the following questions : $1 \times 6 = 6$

- a) Why is human beings’ preference for one hand over the other ‘strange’?
- b) Why are left-handers present more in West than in Asia?
- c) Give two examples of everyday situations where lefties have to face problems because of their choice of hands.
- d) Explain why left- handers have to say ‘excuse me’ a lot.

- e) Give an example of Asian resistance to left-handedness.
- f) Why does the narrator ask the readers not to sit next to a leftie while having food?

1.3. Pick out words from the passage that mean the following : $1 \times 2 = 2$

- a) bias (Para 3)
- b) Difficult (Para 7)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: 10

1. You're walking home from school on a windy November day when-whoosh-a breezy blast smacks you in the face. As your teeth start to chatter and you pull your jacket closer, you notice your eyes are tearing up. Your eyes are tearing, but you are not sad. What's going on? Your eyes are "watering".
2. When your eyes water, they're making tears, just like when you cry. The tear from watering eyes helps protect your eyes. How? By keeping them moist and washing out dust and other foreign stuff that gets in there. The tears from watering eyes might only fill your eyes or they might trickle down your face.
3. Whether you're crying or your eyes are just tearing, the liquid in your eyes is created in the same way. All tears come out of tear glands, or lachrymal glands, found way up under your upper eyelids. Tears wash down from the glands and over your eyes.
4. Some of the tears drain out of your eyes through tear ducts, or lachrymal ducts. These ducts are tiny tubes that run between your eyes and your nose. Each tear duct is like a tiny bathtub drain. When the tears fill up your eyes, they drain out through the tear ducts. You have two tear ducts - one near the inside corner of each eye. You can see these holes if you gently pull down your lower eyelid a bit.
5. If tears are flowing quickly, like when you're crying pretty hard, the ducts can't drain them all, so tears run down your face. And have you ever noticed that your nose something runs when you cry? That's because some of the tears making their exit through the ducts end up coming out of your nose. Eyes water for lots of different reasons besides crying. Anything that irritates the eyes can bring on tears because the eyes will try to wash it out. So when something gets stuck in there - like dirt or an eyelash - here come the tears!
6. You can't always see the stuff that gets in your eyes. Have you ever walked into a smoky room? If so, you may have noticed your eyes tearing up as protection against the smoke. Even through the particles that make up smoke are too small to see, they can still bug your eyes. Eyes might also water if you're around an onion that's being peeled or chopped. The fumes onions give off actually contain tiny chemical that can get in your eyes and make them hurt.
7. Things that can dry out your eyes, like cold air or wind, will make eyes water, too. To protect the eyes from getting too dry, the tear glands crank out the tears. Imagine skiing down a hill with dry eyes as all that wind rushed at you. That would really hurt!
8. People's eyes also tear when they have allergies; infections like a cold; or pink-eye, known as conjunctivitis. All of these irritations can inflame the eyes and make them water.

9. You might not think twice about your watering eyes, but some people do have trouble making tears because their tear glands don't produce enough tears. Certain medical conditions or medicines can cause dry eyes.
10. Another problem is not being able to drain the tears, so the eyes can get too full of liquid. This may happen because someone has a blocked tear duct. Babies can be born with blocked lachrymal ducts. They usually open on their own, but some babies need a small operation to clear the ducts. So now you know what your eyes are up to when they get all wet.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. $1 \times 2 = 2$

- i) Where are the lachrymal glands situated?
- (a) On the pupil
 - (b) under the eyelid
 - (c) On the eyelashes
 - (d) on the iris
- ii) How many lachrymal glands are present in humans
- (a) One
 - (b) Two
 - (c) Three
 - (d) Multiple

2.2 Answer the following briefly: $1 \times 6 = 6$

- a) How do tears protect the eyes?
- b) What are lachrymal glands?
- c) When do tears run down the face?
- d) What do onion fumes contain?
- e) Why do eyes water during conjunctivitis?
- f) What happens when someone has a blocked tear duct?

2.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following : $1 \times 2 = 2$

- i) hits (Para 1)
- ii) annoy (Para 5)

3. Read the following passage carefully. 8

Last week, I was in Uttar Pradesh and standing on the banks of the Ghagra, which meanders through what was once the regal Awadh, listening to stories about the river's bouts of madness (it changes course often, destroying lives) and demands for better rehabilitation packages for its victims, my colleague said: "Take in as much fresh air as you can... you'll be back in polluted Delhi soon."

By the time we reached the Capital, the air, as I found out soon, hadn't changed. While the city government announced a couple of measures to contain air pollution, it is the courts that have been wielding the big stick and hauling up both the central and state governments.

First, the National Green Tribunal has asked the government to set up centralised and state-level monitoring committees to prepare action plans to combat pollution and directed four northern states to consider banning 10-year-old diesel vehicles.

Second, it has asked Delhi and its four neighbouring states to sprinkle water from choppers, stop construction activities and shut down polluting power plants and gensets whenever air pollution reaches severe levels.

Third, the Supreme Court pulled up the Central Pollution Control Board for not devising an action plan in time to deal with the alarming smog situation and asked the Centre to come out with time-bound measures to tackle the graded level of worsening air quality.

Fourth, the Delhi High Court slammed the government and other agencies over the alarming pollution in the city and held government in action and stubble burning in Punjab as the real culprits, saying somewhat dramatically that the lax attitude of the government amounts to “genocide” and “murder”.

At office, things had moved faster while I was away. Several colleagues are now battle ready: They have bought air purifiers and masks.

It is disheartening to note that in north India, several cities — Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Gwalior, Patna and Ranchi — are equally if not more polluted than Delhi. When I was in Lucknow, the city’s air was far more polluted than that of Delhi.

“What’s missing in this narrative are the more complex causes like the highly concentrated industrial belt, high density of population, concentrated locations of thermal power plants, combined with a very poor focus on air quality management; which are central to poor air quality across the entire Indo-gangetic belt in North India, impacting cities like New Delhi, Varanasi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Gwalior, Patna, Ranchi and Kanpur,” says a report by Global Strategic Communications Council, a global network of communications professionals in the field of climate and energy. This lack of consensus on what must be done and conflicting opinions continue to choke Delhi and other north Indian cities every winter.

What is now needed is a stringent measure to tackle this monster and improve the quality of the city’s roads so that the dust factor can be controlled. And our other challenges are polluted water sources and the chemical-laden food chain. This will impact our health, bring down productivity levels and is a huge blot on our reputation as an investment and travel destination.

As citizens, we must not allow the State this time to get away with piecemeal actions. It cannot be business as usual anymore.

- Hindustan Times, 13 Nov 2016

- 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 : 30 marks

4. You are the secretary of Environment Club. Write a notice for the school notice board asking for volunteers to help you to organize a rally against the use of plastic bags. Give the necessary details.

(Word limit: 50) **4**

OR

Suman/Suresh has cleared the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental entrance examination. The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get-together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get-together in not more than 50 words.

5. You would like to join NDA coaching classes. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Director Model Coaching Centre, Andheri, Mumbai to enquire about the coaching classes for the next examination. Ask for all necessary details. You are Sunita / Suraj, 4, Grant Road, Dadar. **6**

OR

Through free mid-day meals are provided to poor children in government schools, their needs and choice are never taken into consideration. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your opinion on the topic. You are Sanya/Sahil.

6. A spurt of violence previously unknown in Indian schools makes it incumbent on the educationists to introduce value education effectively in schools. Write a speech as Principal of your school in 150-200 words on the need of value education. You are Kamalpreet/Arun. **10**

OR

Your school, Manav Vikas Public School, Gurgaon, hosted a cultural extravaganza which lasted a week. Various activities like painting, debating, singing and writing saw enthusiastic participation. Around twenty-five schools took part in it. Several prizes were given to honour the winners. As Cultural Secretary of the school, write a report on the event for the school magazine. You are Manish/Manisha. (Word Limit: 150 - 200 words)

7. Today the high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising and not the real needs of the society in which they are sold. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against this view. **10**

OR

Global Warming has adversely affected the climate of the world. Glaciers are melting. For the survival of humanity, the environment has to be protected at any cost. Write an article on 'Need for Green Earth through Environmental Protection'.

Section C : Literature & Long Reading texts : 40 marks

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: **4**

***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) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified?
- (b) Why did she make the tigers?
- (c) What will happen to her tigers after her death?
- (d) How are tigers different from her?

OR

***And yet, for these
Children, these windows, not this world, are world,
Where all their future's painted with a fog.***

- (a) What does 'these children' refer to here?
- (b) How is 'their world' different from the world shown to 'these children'?
- (c) Explain 'all their future's painted with a fog'.
- (d) Name the poem and the poet.

9. Answer **any four** of the following questions in **30 – 40** words each : **3 × 4 = 12**

- a) Why could the bangle makers not organize themselves into a cooperative?
- b) Why did Evans call his cap 'lucky'?
- c) What does Jack want to convey through the story of Roger Skunk?
- d) How did the Maharaja overcome the difficulty created by a high-ranking British Officer ?
- e) 'Deep Water' is a story about the conquest of fear. Discuss.
- f) What does the poem, 'Keeping Quiet' teach us ?

10. Answer any one of the following in **120 – 150** words :

How did a visit to Champaran become a turning point in Gandhi's life ? How does this show Gandhi's love and concern for the common people of India ? **6**

OR

The resistance of Zitkala-Sa to the cutting of her hair and Bama's determination to study are sparks which can ignite a change. Discuss in the light of 'Memories of Childhood.'

11. Answer any one of the following in **120-150** words :

It was sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helped Evans to escape. Comment.

OR

The order from Berlin aroused a particular zeal in the school. Comment.

12. Write a short note on Mrs. Hall, the owner of the inn, 'Coach and Horses' in 120-150 words. **6**

13. Describe the burglary that took place at Mr. Bunting's house in 120-150 words. **6**

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