

BCM SCHOOL CHANDIGARH ROAD

A Senior Secondary School of BCM Foundation

Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi

Time 3 HRS

ENGLISH CORE Class XI (SET A)

MM 80

Section – A Reading Skills (10+8+8=26 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive' tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and ye, 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I'. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So the question which has baffled many linguists is - who created grammar?

2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed; the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.

3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each other's languages, they developed a makeshift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders; they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed Creoles, and they are invented by children.

4. Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, in the playgrounds they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way. A new Creole was born.

5. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were Creoles at first. The English past tense -ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do'. 'It ended' may once have been 'It end-did'. Therefore it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children.

Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: 1×4 = 4

- (a) In paragraph 1, why does the writer include information about the Cherokee language?
- (i) To show how simple, traditional cultures can have complicated grammar structures.
 - (ii) To show how English grammar differs from Cherokee grammar.
 - (iii) To prove that complex grammar structures were invented by the Cherokees.
 - (iv) To demonstrate how difficult it is to learn the Cherokee language.
- (b) What can be inferred about the slaves' pidgin language?
- (i) It contained complex grammar.
 - (ii) It was based on many different languages.
 - (iii) It was difficult to understand, even among slaves.
 - (iv) It was created by the land-owners.
- (c) All the following sentences about Nicaraguan sign language are true EXCEPT:
- (i) The language has been created since 1979.
 - (ii) The language is based on speech and lip reading.
 - (iii) The language incorporates signs which children used at home.
 - (iv) The language was perfected by younger children.
- (d) Which idea is presented in the final paragraph?
- (i) English was probably once a Creole.
 - (ii) The English past tense system is inaccurate.
 - (iii) Linguists have proven that English was created by children.
 - (iv) Children say English past tenses differently from adults.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: 1×4=4

- (a) What is common to all languages?
- (c) According to the passage what can be attributed as a consequence of the Atlantic slave trade?
- (d) What is pidgin?
- (e) What are Creoles?

1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: 1×2=2

- (a) simple and temporary (Para 3)
- (b) uniform (Para 4)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

My Vision of My India

In 3000 years of our history people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, the Greeks, the Turks, the Moguls, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others.

That is why my first vision is that of FREEDOM. I believe that India got its first vision of this in 1857, when we started the war of independence. It is this freedom that we must protect and nurture and build on. If we are not free, no one will respect us.

My second vision for India is DEVELOPMENT. For fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. I have a third vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand in hand. My good fortune was to have worked with three great minds, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai of the Dept. of space, Professor Satish Dhawan, who succeeded him and Dr. Brahm Prakash, father of nuclear material. I was lucky to have worked with all three of them closely and consider this the great opportunity of my life.

Here I am reminded of an old instance - One day an orthopaedic surgeon from Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences visited my laboratory. He lifted the material and found it so light that he took me to his hospital and showed me his patients. There were these little girls and boys with heavy metallic callipers weighing over three kg. each, dragging their feet around. He said to me: " Please remove the pain of my patients". In three weeks, we made these Floor reaction Orthotics 300 gram callipers and took them to the orthopaedic centre. The children didn't believe their eyes. From dragging around a three kg. load on their legs, they could now move around! Their parents had tears in their eyes. That was bliss to me.

I have a question : Why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognize our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why?

Another question: Why are we, as a nation so obsessed with foreign things? We want foreign TVs, we want foreign shirts. We want foreign technology. Why this obsession with everything imported? Don't we realise that self-respect comes with self-reliance? I was in Hyderabad giving this lecture, when a 14 year old girl asked me for my autograph. I asked her what her goal in life is: She replied: I want to live in a developed India.' For her, you, I will have to build this developed India. You must proclaim. As an aside from yours truly: India is not an underdeveloped nation, it is a highly developed nation in an advanced state of decay! (A.P.J.Abdul Kalam)

Q2.1. Choose the best alternative from the answers given below:(1 × 5 = 5)

a) India has been plundered by :

- i) the Greeks and the Portuguese
- ii) the French and the Dutch
- iii) the British
- iv) all of the above.

b) What does the author mean when he says - Yet we have not done this to other nations?

- i) India has not conquered and plundered other nations
- ii) India has not snatched away the history and culture of other nations
- iii) Both(i) and (ii)
- iv) None of the above

c) India has not conquered other nations because

- i) India is afraid of other nations
- ii) India respects the freedom of other countries
- iii) India lacks military strength
- iv) All of the above

- d) When did Indians first have the vision of freedom?
- i) In 1857 during the first war of independence
 - ii) During the first World War
 - iii) During the Quit India Movement
 - iv) None of the above
- e) Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam envisages India which is....
- i) Free and developed
 - ii) Militarily and economically strong
 - iii) Self- reliant
 - iv) All of the above

Q2.2. Answer the following questions in reference to the above passage. (1 × 3 = 3)

- i) The great scientists who inspired A.P.J. Abdul Kalam are (i)(ii)and (iii)
- ii) Find the synonym of the following from the above passage,
- a) Nurse
 - b) supersede

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

Leadership does not exist without followership. A leader has to be accepted by the group which the former is supposed to lead. To gain acceptability, the leader should cause an emotive impact on the group members.

The strength of character exhibited by leaders makes them dear to their followers. A leader is one who effectively inspires followers to achieve worthwhile things. What character of the leader motivates the followers? It is not pomp and show, neither flattery nor sanctioning more incentives. Pomp and show create a sense of awe and the leader is deified rather than emulated. Flattery is unrealistic and cannot serve as a long term motivational tool. A leader's style should be one that can be emulated by all irrespective of cadre, class and calibre. Simplicity in one's day-to-day conduct is the only thing that can be adopted by all. When the leader is simple, he is counted as one belonging to the group of which he is the leader. That's enough to motivate the people. Motivation is the innate quality that enables an individual or group to contribute unlimitedly with limited means. It is the proud prerogative of enlightened human beings.

A leader needs to assume the role of a guide; quintessential of fulfilling the role is knowledgeability. Technical and administrative knowledge of the guide in balanced quantity and of right kind are essential. Technical knowledge is too vast to be acquired by a leader. At best he is either 'Jack of all' or 'Master of few'. But he has to master the human relations aspect of administration in all detail. And when the leader is good at this, his guidance is sought and accepted, then he fulfils the role of a guide. The leader is a negotiator within and outside the organisation.

The leader shapes people and moulds character. To achieve this, a leader should maintain equanimity. Equanimity is keeping oneself poised and balanced at all times. A leader is simply great if he can mould his followers with his frame of mind. He does this by his own example.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.(3)

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (7+16 Marks)

4. Fill in the following blanks given below choosing the most appropriate options from the ones that follow.

Two out of every five school, going children (a)_____ have a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI) and 50% of children (b)_____ adequate lower body strength. Some schools (c)_____ found to offer three or (d)_____ physical education periods per week.

- a) i) does (ii) does not (iii) don't (iv) do
- b) i) lack (ii) lacked (iii) have lacked (iv) had lacked
- c) i) was (ii) are (iii) is (iv) have
- d) i) much (ii) many (iii) more (iv) less

5. Look at the sentences given below in a disorderly form. Re-order (Rearrange) them to form meaningful sentences:

- 1. We / live / eat / we / may / that /so
- 2. we / I / succeed / am / will / sure
- 3. brothers /an /wants/ be/ my /astronaut /to/of/one

6. You are R.V. Singh looking for an independent house in East Delhi on rent. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in Hindustan Times stating all your requirements and expected rent.(3)

OR

You are Ashok/Ashima of Lucknow. You have got a foreign assignment and will be going abroad soon for at least 10 years. You propose to sell your flat before going. Draft an advertisement for it to be published in the classified columns of The New Times, New Delhi.

7. As Cultural Secretary of Ryan's International School, Gurgaon, design a poster to announce the staging of a play Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice' in your school. Invent necessary details. (3)

OR

You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school is organizing a workshop on 'Prevention of Drug Abuse' in the coming week. Prepare a poster with complete information for the students of class X-XII.

8. A recent health check-up in your school revealed that many among your classmates were suffering from weak eyesight. You feel concerned. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on how to protect your eyesight. (5)

OR

Narcotics Control Bureau is organizing a declamation contest in your school as part of its observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Write a speech in about 150 words on the topic, 'Youth and Drug Abuse'.

9. 'Cell phones should be allowed during class'. Write a debate either for or against the motion. (120 – 150 words) (5)

OR

The Debating Club of your school is organizing a debate on the topic 'Violent video games should be banned'. Draft a speech in about 150- 200 words either for or against the motion.

3. How did the pharaoh demonstrate his opposition to the god Amun?

- a) By building new temples for Amun
- b) By promoting Amun's worship
- c) By smashing Amun's images and closing his temples
- d) By ignoring Amun's existence

OR

“I get you! You are suggesting that I made a transition from one world to another and back again?”
Gangadharpant asked. “Fantastic though it seems, this is the only explanation I can offer. My theory is that catastrophic situations offer radically different alternatives for the world to proceed. It seems that so far as reality is concerned all alternatives are viable but the observer can experience only one of them at a time.

- i. Who made a transition from one world to another and back again?
a) Gangadharpant b) Rajendra Deshpande c) Vinay Gaitonde d) None of these
- ii. By ‘all alternatives’ the speaker mean....
- iii. Write a word that can be replaced with ‘viable’.

C. Extract from Snapshot (1x4=4)

Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family.

- 1. Who is the speaker of the above lines?
(a) Aram (b) William Saroyan (c) Uncle Khosrove (d) None of the above
- 2. Why has the poverty been mentioned as “most amazing and comical”?
(a) they never resorted to any unfair deeds to earn money or food
(b) they never placed their happiness before others
(c) they never prayed to get rid of their deprivation
(d) none of the above
- 3. What was the tribe famous for?
- 4. How did the boys follow the rules of the tribe?

OR

I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back. Just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had was a gold border on the lid, I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. ‘That’s a nice box.’ I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room.

- 1. Who is the girl?
a. the daughter of Mrs. S b. the daughter of Mrs. Dorling
c. cousin of the narrator d. Mrs. Dorling
- 2. What did the narrator remember?
a. that the tea pot was hers b. that the things no longer belonged to her
c. what she had forgotten about the tea pot d. all of the above
- 3. Why was each sound different?
a. because of the strange and different atmosphere b. due to different languages
c. because of the mixed feelings d. as the things no longer belonged to her
- 4. Why did the narrator find her own voice ‘strange’?

Q 11. Answer any TWO out of the following four questions in 30-40 words each: (3x2=6 marks)

- a. Why do you think Khushwant Singh compares his grandmother with the winter landscape?
- b. What natural way was used by Carter to release the mummy from its coffin? Did it work? Why/Why not?
- c. How did the crew prepare for the onslaught of the storm?
- d. How did Prof. Deshpande try to explain Prof. Gaitonde's experience after he had met with an accident?

Q 12. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in 30-40 words: (3x1=3 marks)

Why did Aram want to keep the horse for a year? How did Mourad react to this request of Aram?

OR

How does the changed Mrs. Pearson shock her husband George?

13. Answer any ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words: (6 marks)

Both 'We're Not Afraid to Die' and 'The Adventure' are adventurous stories. How is the adventure that the former relates different from and/or similar to the adventure related to the latter?

OR

What different qualities and values of Khushwant Singh's grandmother impress you the most and why? Do you think we need more people like her in our world now?

14. Answer any ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words: (6 marks)

War can make people selfish, mean and greedy. Do you agree Discuss with reference to Marga Minco's story 'The Address'?

OR

Doris and Cyril are just like spoilt children of today's young generation. The negative values of selfishness, rudeness and ingratitude rob them of all goodness of human heart. Comment.