

Sample Question Paper - 7
English Core (301)
Class- XII, Session: 2021-22
TERM II

Time allowed : 2 hours

Maximum marks : 40

General Instructions :

1. *The Question Paper contains THREE Sections-Reading, Writing and Literature.*
2. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

SECTION-A (READING)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (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 I', '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 make-shift 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.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight questions.

(1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Why is the pronoun "we" termed 'crude' by the author?
- (ii) Why was the creation of the pidgin language needed?
- (iii) The word "baffled" is used to refer to the confusion of linguists. Give two synonyms of the word "baffled".
- (iv) How was the Atlantic slave trade instrumental in the evolution of language?
- (v) What is the one similarity of sign languages and spoken languages?
- (vi) State one disadvantage of the sign language used in the Nicaraguan schools for deaf in 1979.
- (vii) What was the language created by slave children with complex grammar system?
- (viii) Why did the author term pidgin "a make-shift language"?
- (ix) Why is grammar complex, according to the author?

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) This isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty. Nor one, which claims its greatness, based on just an overwhelming opinion of a large majority. For Sikkim is a treasure that few know about. However, the facts of its remarkable geography bear enough testimony to pitch Sikkim in a slot that no other mountain region, anywhere in the world, could duplicate or rival. What Everest is to peaks, Sikkim is to the mountains. Tragically, a region so wild and exotic and with such geographic and climatic extremes, that its amazing wilds and not its unremarkable hill stations, ensure its accessibility to the adventurous only.
- (2) Just delve on these facts a bit. From the plains, in a mere 80 kms as the crow flies, the altitude reaches 28,168 feet at the very top of Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Such a sharp elevation is unrivalled anywhere else and is the first geographical claim of Sikkim.
- (3) The second is an offshoot of the first. Nowhere else do so many 7,000 metre plus peaks crowd up such a confined space. And the third is really a consequence of the first and the second with the sharp gradation creating the most variegated flora and fauna possible anywhere in the mountains. The fourth uniqueness is also a consequence of the first and the second and lies in the extremes of the climate which ranges from the tropical to the typical arctic type. And the fifth claim is its thin permanent population and relatively fewer travellers by virtue of its remote far-eastern Himalayan location. The startling facts about Sikkim never seem to end. For starters, all of Sikkim lies in a mere 110 kms by 65 kms of mountains, peaks, glaciers, rivers and forests. A little dot on the map at a latitude 27 degrees North and longitude 88 degrees East. Its 7,000-sq kms make it about as large as the National Capital Region of India! To the North and extending to the East of Sikkim, is Tibet/China and to the West is Nepal.
- (4) To the South are the Himalayan and sub Himalayan regions of West Bengal. It is, in fact these geographical extremes and the resulting ambience, that makes mountaineers trek here, when they are not climbing, besides fueling mountaineering dreams in the minds of trekkers, what with the closest possible proximity to magnificent peaks while trekking.

- (5) On the subject of trekking here, it is strange but true that acclimatization is much tougher in Sikkim than elsewhere. It may have something to do with being closer in latitude to the Tropic of Cancer, beside the rather sharp stages involved in each day of trekking. The closeness to the Tropic of Cancer has meant that the snowline will always be much higher and therefore human settlements are seen even at altitudes of 16,000 feet!

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six questions.

(1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) What is the author talking about throughout the passage?
- (ii) As used in the first paragraph, what does the phrase “bear enough testimony” mean?
- (iii) What makes Sikkim such a unique place?
- (iv) The author referred to Sikkim as “a little dot on the map.” What can you infer from this?
- (v) What is the climate of Sikkim?
- (vi) What makes the geographical region of Sikkim favourable for trekkers and even mountain climbers?
- (vii) The northern borders of Sikkim is that of china/Tibet. But at the same time, what other states did Sikkim share its border with?

SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You are the Secretary of the Ritz Students’ Association, St. Peters School, Nainital. The 20th Alumni Meet will be held on Sunday, the 28th Sept. 20XX at 8.00 p.m. at Plaza Hotel. Write invitation letter to all the old students of the school to attend the meet. **(3)**
4. **Answer any one of the following questions.** **(5)**
The Teach for India foundation is recruiting graduates for a two-months internship programme-during the summer, in villages across India. You are Anuj/Anuja from 41, Cathedral Road, Kolkata. You are excited to see the advertisement and want to apply for the internship. Draft a letter in 120-150 words applying for the advertised programme. Attach a bio-data showing that you are suitable for the internship.

OR

Recently there was a handloom exhibition fair held in your town. Write a report in about 120-150 words describing how the 7 days event became a good platform for many independent and local artists and handicrafts people.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. **Attempt any five of the following questions in 40 words.**

(2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) What made the lieutenant-governor drop the case against Gandhiji?
- (ii) Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?
- (iii) Why does Aunt Jennifer create animals that are so different from her own character ?
- (iv) How does Mr Lamb react when Derry enters his garden?
- (v) How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort?
- (vi) How did the wizard help Roger Skunk?

6. Attempt any two of the following questions in 120-150 words.

(4 × 2 = 8)

- (i) How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
- (ii) Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment.
- (iii) Why did the crofter repose confidence in the peddler? How did the peddler betray that and with what consequences?

Solution

ENGLISH CORE 301

Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) The author termed the pronoun we “crude” because it lacks depth in explaining the difference between You, I, several other people, or another person.
- (ii) The pidgin language was created to help slave children understand and communicate with each other despite their differences in background and languages.
- (iii) Two synonyms of the word “baffled” are “confused” or “puzzled”.
- (iv) The Atlantic slave trade brought slaves from different ethnicities together, resulting in the creation of the pidgin language.
- (v) Sign languages and spoken languages both utilize the same grammatical machinery that enables the words or actions to be understood.
- (vi) The sign language used in the Nicaraguan school for the deaf was different from that of each deaf child and there was no consistent grammar among them, resulting in more confusion than understanding.
- (vii) Children of slaves created a new, expressive language among themselves, later to be known as creoles.
- (viii) Pidgin, according to the author, is a “make-shift language” because it is a made-up language that slave children created to get to understand each other without the need to understand each and every distinct language.
- (ix) Grammar is complex because there are numerous ways of expressing with even a slight variation in meaning. Also, a statement can be changed into a question, or change in word sequences will result in a different meaning.
2. (i) Throughout the passage, the author seems to be delving into the uniqueness of Sikkim, though small and seemingly insignificant. The whole passage lists the attributes of the tiny Indian state.
- (ii) The phrase “bear enough testimony” means to support or provide witness to a claim made. Here, it means to support the claim that Sikkim is great and isn’t just a mountain region of mere subjective beauty.
- (iii) The elevation and geography of the state makes it unique from the other mountain regions.
- (iv) The use of the phrase “a little dot on the map” is suggestive of the smallness of the state despite its uniqueness.
- (v) Sikkim’s climate ranges from tropical to the typical arctic climate.
- (vi) The extreme geographical conditions as well as the extreme ambience it provides make Sikkim favourable for trekkers and ambitious mountaineers.
- (vii) Sikkim shares its border with Nepal on the West and the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan regions of West Bengal on the South.

3. Ritz Students’ Association

St. Peters School

Nainital

Dear Alumna/Alumnus,

The 20th Alumni Meet of St. Peters School, Nainital will be held on Sunday, the 28th Sept. 20XX at 8 p.m. at The Plaza Hotel. Old students, along with their spouses will be our guests of honour.

Kindly assemble at 8.00 p.m. in the banquet hall for a get-together, dance and dinner party.

Please confirm your seats by sending ₹ 700 to the undersigned.

Meenakshi K.

Secretary

4.

41, Cathedral Road,

Kolkata

10 February 20XX

Human Resource Officer

The Teach for India foundation

New Delhi

Subject : Application for Internship programme.

Sir/madam,

In response to your advertisement on your website dated 5 February 20XX, I wish to apply for the two-month internship programme offered by your foundation for college graduates. I am a hard working individual who would like to give my best in the internship programme. I finished my graduation in 20XX and since then I have been teaching children in a school in my region. This programme will help me learn skills that are required for teaching school students and make them interested in learning. I am enclosing my bio-data and photocopies of certificate for your reference.

Hoping for a positive response.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Anuja Sharma

Enclosed : 1. Bio-data

2. Photocopies of Certificates

Bio-data

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Name | : | Anuja Sharma |
| Gender | : | Female |
| Father's name | : | Mr. Praveen Sharma |
| Date of Birth | : | 10 January, 1999 |
| Marital status | : | Unmarried |
| Current Address | : | 41, Cathedral Road, Kolkata |
| Contact No. | : | 1234xxxxxx |
| Educational | | |
| Qualification | : | BA in English Hons from Delhi University. |
| Work Experience | : | Worked in St. Joseph Priamry School (1 year), Kolkata |
| Award and Prizes | : | Recipient of HSC scholarship. |
| References | : | Dr. Premlatha, Principal, DU Dr. Nandhetta, HOD, English Dept., DU. |

5. (i) Thousands of peasants came in support of Gandhiji. The authorities felt that they could not control them and the condition of law and order could deteriorate. The pressure of the peasants was increasing. On the other hand, Gandhiji refused to have any bail. Therefore the lieutenant-general dropped the case against Gandhiji.

(ii) Edla did not think it proper on their part to chase away a human being whom they had asked to come to their house and had promised him Christmas cheer.

She understood the reality of the peddler's life and wanted him to enjoy a day of peace with them. Hence, she still entertained the peddler even after knowing the truth about him.

(iv) Mr Lamb welcomes Derry in his garden. He only asks him to mind crab apples lest he should trip. When Derry wants to run away from there Mr Lamb says that he need not go. Everyone is welcomed to come in his garden.

(v) A thing of beauty is present in the nature and brings us eternal joy whenever we need it. It keeps a quiet bower for us to take shelter in and comforts us so as to provide us a sound sleep full of sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing. A thing of beauty present in the nature comforts us also by removing the gloom and misery from our lives.

(vi) Roger Skunk had asked the wizard to make him smell like roses. The wizard took a magic wand and chanted a spell and all of a sudden, the wizard's whole house smelt of roses and so did Roger Skunk. This is how the wizard helped Roger Skunk.

6. (i) The skunk's story was different from the other stories narrated by Jack because other stories ended on a happy note. The wizard always resolved the problem by the end of the story, which appealed a

lot to Jo. However, Roger Skunk's story had a twisted ending. In this story, the wizard was unable to help Roger Skunk because mother skunk interfered in the process. Jo had not so much interrupted the narration earlier or challenged Jack's authority. It was also the only story, the ending of which was unacceptable to Jo. But above all, unlike any of Jack's stories, the ending of this story remained unresolved.

(ii) Aunt Jennifer is an obedient wife, often dominated by her husband. Her efforts to get rid of her fear of an unhappy and terrifying marriage proves to be futile because she would have to wear the 'weighty' wedding ring, which has made her feel trapped all her life, even when she is dead. In other words, there is no escaping the male dominated society or the ordeals of tyrannous marriage for Aunt Jennifer, even after death.