

Sample Question Paper - 20
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 carefully.

- (1) Though the U.S. prides itself on being a leader in the world community, a recent report shows that it lags far behind other industrialised countries in meeting the needs of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The U.S. has a higher infant mortality rate, a higher proportion of low birth weight babies, a smaller proportion of babies immunised against childhood diseases and a much higher rate of adolescent pregnancies. These findings, described as a “quiet crisis” requiring immediate and far-reaching action, appeared in a report prepared by a task force of educators, doctors, politicians and business people. According to the report, a fourth of the nation’s 12 million infants and toddlers live in poverty.
- (2) As many as half confront risk factors that could harm their ability to develop intellectually, physically and socially. Child immunisations are too low, more children are born into poverty, more are in substandard care while their parents work and more are being raised by single parents. When taken together, these and other risk factors can lead to educational and health problems that are much harder and more costly to reverse. The crisis begins in the womb with unplanned parenthood. Women with unplanned pregnancies are less likely to seek pre-natal care.
- (3) The problems continue after birth where unplanned pregnancies and unstable partnerships often go hand in hand. Since 1950, the number of single parent families has nearly tripled. More than 25 percent of all births today are to unmarried mothers. As the number of single parent families grows and more women enter the work force, infants and toddlers are increasing in the care of people other than their parents. Most disturbingly, recent statistics show that American parents are increasingly neglecting or abusing their children. In only four years from 1987-1991, the number of children in foster care increased by over 50 percent.
- (4) Babies under the age of one are the fastest growing category of children entering foster care. The crisis affects children under the age of three most severely, the report says. Yet, it is this period-from infancy through preschool years-that sets the stage for a child’s future.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight of the following questions. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What does the recent report on US show?
- (ii) Who prepared this US report?
- (iii) What are described as ‘quiet crisis’ according to the report?
- (iv) What is the root cause of the crisis US is facing?
- (v) What is the rate of increase in the number of children in foster care?

- (vi) Who is the most severely affected group due to the crisis?
- (vii) Why is the period from infancy through preschool years most crucial?
- (viii) What does the report say about poverty?
- (ix) How do the risk factors caused by silent crisis affect children's growth?

2. Read the given passage carefully.

- (1) Archaeology is the scientific study of the remains of past human culture. Archaeologists investigate the lives of early people by studying the objects those people left behind. Such objects include buildings, artwork, tools, bones and pottery. Archaeologists may make exciting discoveries, such as a tomb filled with gold or the ruins of a magnificent temple in the midst of a jungle. However, the discovery of few stone tools or grains of hardened corn may reveal even more about early people.
- (2) Archaeological research is the chief method available for learning about societies that existed before the invention of writing about 5,000 years ago. It also provides an important supplement to our knowledge of ancient societies that left written records. In America, archaeology is considered as a branch of anthropology, the scientific study of humanity and human culture. European archaeologists, however, think of their work as closely related to the field of history. Archaeology differs from history in that historians mainly study the lives of people as recorded in written documents.
- (3) Archaeologists look for information about how, where, and when cultures developed. Like other social scientists, they search for reasons why major changes have occurred in certain cultures. Some archaeologists try to understand why ancient people stopped hunting and started farming. Others develop theories about what caused people to build cities and to set up trade routes. In addition, some archaeologists look for reasons behind the fall of such early civilizations as the Maya in Central America and the Romans in Europe.
- (4) Archaeologists examine any evidence that can help them explain how people lived in past times. Such evidence ranges from the ruins of a large city to a few stone flakes left by someone making a stone tool long ago.
- (5) The three basic kinds of archaeological evidence are artifacts, features and ecofacts. Artifacts are objects that were made by people and can be moved without altering their appearance. Artifacts include objects like arrowheads, pots and beads. Artifacts from a society with a written history may also include clay tablets and other large structures built by ancient people. Unlike artifacts, features cannot be separated from their surroundings without changing their form. Ecofacts reveal how ancient people responded to their surroundings. Examples of ecofacts include seeds and animal bones.
- (6) Any place where archaeological evidence is found is called an archaeological site. To understand the behaviour of the people who occupied a site, archaeologists must study the relationship among the artifacts, features and ecofacts found there. For example, the discovery of stone spearheads near the bones of an extinct kind of buffalo at a site in New Mexico showed that early human beings had hunted buffalo in that area.
- (7) If objects are buried deep in the ground, their position in the earth also concerns archaeologists. The scientists study the layers of soil and rock in which objects are found to understand the conditions that existed when the objects were placed there. In some places, archaeologists find many levels of deposits called strata. The archaeological study of strata, called stratigraphy, developed from the study of rock layers in geology.
- (8) Archaeologists use special techniques and equipment to gather archaeological evidence precisely and accurately. They also keep detailed records of their findings because much archaeological research destroys the remains being studied. Locating sites is the first job of the archaeologist. Sites may be above ground, underground or underwater. Some large sites are located easily because they are clearly visible or can be traced from descriptions in ancient stories or other historical records. Such sites include the pyramids of Egypt and the ancient city of Athens in Greece.

- (9) Archaeologists use systematic methods to discover sites. The traditional way to find all the sites in region is through a foot survey. In this method, archaeologists space themselves at measured distance and walk in preset directions. Each person looks for archaeological evidence while walking forward. Scientific methods are used to help discover underground sites. Aerial photography, for example, can reveal variations in vegetation that indicate the presence of archaeological evidence.
- (10) Archaeologists describe, photograph and count the objects they find. They group the objects according to type and location. Three steps are followed to interpret the evidence found. They are classification, dating and evaluation.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six of the following questions. (1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) What is Archaeology?
- (ii) How do Archaeologists investigate the lives of early people?
- (iii) What is Anthropology?
- (iv) What are the three basic kinds of archaeological evidence?
- (v) What are Artifacts?
- (vi) What are the systematic methods used by archaeologists to discover sites?
- (vii) What is stratigraphy a study of?

SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You have received an invitation to be the judge for a literary competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance. You are Mohan/Mohini. (3)
4. **Answer any one of the following questions. (5)**

You are Prem/Parul of 16, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chantac Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 125-150 words giving your bio-data.

OR

You are Anand/Anandi, a Times of India correspondent. You attended the inaugural function of Tamil Nadu Hospital, Chennai. Mentioning the specialities of the hospital, the number of beds, all available facilities, etc. and details about the ceremony, write a report in 100-125 words for your newspaper.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. **Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)**
- (i) What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster had thought he was?
- (ii) What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?
- (iii) What part of the story did Jack himself enjoy the most and why?
- (iv) What did the Detective Superintendent inform the Governor about Evans?

(v) Life is full of sorrows. What brings joy in it?

(vi) Why does Derry's mother not want him to go back to visit Mr. Lamb?

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

(4 × 2 = 8)

(i) Given his temperament, Edla's father would have failed in reforming the peddler. How did Edla succeed?

(ii) Derry said, "It (acid) ate me up." How did this fact affect his attitude towards life?

(iii) Why is Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

Solution

ENGLISH CORE 301

Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) The recent report on US shows that it lags far behind other industrialised countries in meeting the needs of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

(ii) It was prepared by a task force of educators, doctors, politicians and business people.

(iii) The findings of the report stating that there is higher infant mortality rate, low birth weight babies and adolescent pregnancies are referred to as “quiet crisis”.

(iv) The root cause of the US crisis is unplanned pregnancy.

(v) In four years from 1987-1991, the number of children in foster care increased by over 50 percent.

(vi) The crisis affects children under the age of three most severely, the report says.

(vii) Yet, it is this period from infancy through preschool years that sets the stage for a child’s future.

(viii) According to the report, a fourth of the nation’s 12 millions infants and toddler live in poverty.

(ix) As many as half of the children confront risk factors that could harm their ability to develop intellectually, physically and socially.

2. (i) Archaeology is the scientific study of the remains of past human culture.

(ii) Archaeologists investigate the lives of early people by studying the objects those people left behind.

(iii) Anthropology is the scientific study of humanity and human culture.

(iv) The three basic kinds of archaeological evidence are artifacts, features and ecofacts.

(v) Artifacts are objects that were made by people and can be moved without altering their appearance.

(vi) Archaeologists discover sites through a traditional way called the foot survey.

(vii) Stratigraphy is an archaeological study of strata.

3. 22/4, P.Q. Puri
New Delhi
23 February, 20xx
Respected Principal,
Thank you for your thoughtful invitation. I am honoured on being invited to judge the literary competition that is to be held at St. Ann’s School. I accept the invitation and consider it will be a pleasure to attend the programme.

Yours sincerely,
Mohini Singh

4. **Chennai, August 8, 20xx** : Tamil Nadu Hospital, was inaugurated by hon’ble Health Minister of Chennai, Dr. C.Vijaya Bhaskar, yesterday, August 7, 20xx. The 400-bed hospital is equipped with most advanced, state of the art machines and equipments with the latest infrastructure to attend to emergency cases efficiently. Advanced cardiac life support ambulances have been made available round the clock. Besides having an in-house Blood Bank, its information system has been linked to other major blood banks in the country to enable the right group of blood to be made available at short notice. Internationally trained physicians and best staff have been hired to treat, look after and assist patients.

The hospital is spread across 8000 sq. m. and is five stories high. Addressing the people, Dr. C.V. Baskar reinforced the need for better treatment facilities made available to rich and poor both at nominal prices. He sincerely hoped that the hospital would provide the best health services to all. A blood donation and free health check-up camp was also organised to encourage people to keep doing so in future.

5. (i) The peddler reminded the ironmaster that he was pleading to be allowed to stay in the forge. Then he offered to change into his old clothes and leave immediately. He became ready to leave and said that the whole world is a rattrap.

(iii) The part of the story, which Jack himself enjoyed the most was where Roger goes to the wizard’s house. Jack imitated the wizard’s voice. He felt being an old man suited him. He mixed his own childhood humiliations and experiences with the narration of the story.

Jack enjoyed doing so because he liked seeing his daughter holding on to his words, liked seeing her apprehensive and expecting something unexpected.

Jack enjoyed the fact that Jo loved the stories narrated by him.

(iv) Superintendent Carter informed the Governor that McLeery had spotted Evans driving off along Elsfield Way. They had got the number of the car all right. They had given a chase immediately, but they had lost him at the Headington roundabout. He assumed that Evans must have doubled back into the city.

(v) Life is full of sorrows. However, the beautiful things given by God give us immense joy. They bring peace and calmness to the mind. One can remove one's sorrows by admiring sights of nature.

(vi) Derry's mother does not want him to go back to visit Mr. Lamb because she has not heard good things about him and hence, she does not have positive views about him. She thinks that Mr. Lamb is not a nice man and forbids Derry to get acquainted with him or even see him.

6. (i) The peddler, who has never been treated with kindness and compassion, first comes across it when the lonely crofter welcomes him into his house. Next, it is the ironmaster and his daughter Edla, who are seen showing compassion towards the weary peddler. Although, the ironmaster expresses concern towards him only until he realises that he has mistaken the peddler for an old and close friend, Edla's attitude towards men and matters is different from her father's attitude. The ironmaster behaves rudely with the peddler and questions him about his dishonest behaviour, he even threatens to inform the sheriff about the peddler's actions as he does not want the vagabond in his house anymore. However, Edla empathises with the tired and dishevelled looking peddler. She invites him to celebrate Christmas with them and enjoy the Christmas feast. She is more persuasive than her father; she seems firm yet polite in her approach when she insists that he should stay with them for as long as he wants. She asked him to keep her father's suit, which is given to him to wear and invites him to come back next year for Christmas. The peddler

used to be someone with a grudge against the world. However, compassion and understanding shown by Edla transforms this selfish thief into a man with conscience. He not only returns the crofter's money, but also leaves a letter and a gift, a rattrap, for Edla. In the letter, he thanks Edla for treating him like a true gentleman, with great honour and respect and assures her that he shall change his old ways. This shows that kindness pays, rudeness never. The peddler was not bad at heart but only a victim of his circumstances.

(ii) Derry a young boy, angry withdrawn and defiant. One side of his face was burnt because of which he lacked self-confidence. He was lonely because he had no friends. People either feared him, found him disgusting to look at, treated him with pity or made fun of him. Derry had alienated himself from the society completely. One day, Derry sneaked into Mr. Lamb's garden and it became a turning point in his life. One of Mr. Lamb's legs was made out of tin. Due to his physical impairment, he could not move around much. As a result, Mr. Lamb too was isolated from the rest; children called him lamey-Lamb. However, it did not affect him. Instead, he always kept the gates of his garden open.

Seeing Derry suffer so much at such a young age, Mr. Lamb struck up a conversation with him, spending time with Mr. Lamb made Derry look at the world and love and admire everything he saw and heard. Mr. Lamb encouraged Derry to make friends and not be bothered by their comments. He told the boy not to hate people. Mr. Lamb's life and attitude inspired Derry quite a lot. In spite of his handicap, Mr. Lamb lived an independent and happy life seeing his positive approach to life, Derry decides to get rid of the habit of self-pity and face the world boldly with his newly gained self-confidence.

(iii) The Champaran episode is considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence because it was for the first time that Gandhiji introduced a non-violent resistance, which came to be known as Satyagraha. It was a long drawn out but patient and peaceful agitation against the British.

During this struggle, Gandhiji decided to urge the departure of the Britishers for the first time. Therefore, it was also a turning point in Gandhiji's life. The struggle did not begin as an act of defiance, but it grew out of an attempt to make the sufferings of the poor peasants less severe. The farmers learnt courage to

face their fears. They learnt for the first time that they too had rights and that self-reliance is the key to fight any battle. The Champaran episode was the beginning of their liberation from the fear of the Britishers and its success, a triumph of the first civil disobedience movement.