

Sample Question Paper - 5
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) The fact that everybody enjoys a good mystery explains why magicians are such popular entertainers. We all know that a magician does not really depend on 'magic' to perform his tricks, but on his ability to act at great speed. However, this does not prevent us from enjoying watching a magician produce rabbits from a hat, swallow countless eggs, or saw his wife in two.
- (2) Probably the greatest magician of all time was Harry Houdini who died in 1926. His real name was Ehrich Weiss, but he adopted the name 'Houdini' after reading a book which influenced him greatly. This had been written by a famous magician called Robert-Houdini who had mastered the art of escaping. He could free himself from the tightest knots or the most complicated locks in seconds. Although no one really knows how he did this, there is no doubt that he had made a close study of every type of lock ever invented. He would carry a small steel needle-like tool strapped to his leg and he used this in place of a key.
- (3) Houdini once asked the Chicago police to lock him in prison. They bound him in chains and locked him up, but he freed himself in an instant. The police accused him of having used a tool and locked him up again. This time he wore no clothes and there were chains round his neck, waist, wrists and legs; but he again escaped in a few minutes. Houdini had probably hidden his 'needle' in a wax-like substance and dropped it on the floor in the passage. As he went past, he stepped on it so that it stuck to the bottom of his foot. His most famous escape, however, was altogether astonishing. He was heavily chained up and enclosed in an empty wooden chest the lid of which was nailed down. The chest was dropped into the sea in New York harbour. In one minute Houdini had swum to the surface. When the chest was brought up, it was opened and the chains were found inside.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any eight of the given questions. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Why is it that we 'entertain' the idea of being "entertained" by magicians even though we know it isn't magic?
- (ii) Magicians use 'stage names', names different from their real names. Why do you think this is so?
- (iii) What made Harry Houdini a.k.a. Ehrich Weiss, the greatest magician of all times?
- (iv) Give one evidence that shows how "magicians" don't really use magic to 'perform' or entertain?
- (v) What do you mean by the phrase "mastered the art of escaping"?
- (vi) What does the New York Harbour event show?
- (vii) What was the need to get the police involved in his 'escapes'?
- (viii) Ehrich Weiss adopted the name "Houdini". What do you think the word "adopted" suggest?
- (ix) What, according to the author, is the one quality that makes magicians 'great'?

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) The first man to jump out of an aeroplane when travelling at a speed greater than sound was Arthur Ray Hawkins, one of the most outstanding United States navy pilots. Jumps of this sort had long been regarded as impossible.
- (2) During an air show over Mississippi in 1954, Hawkins was flying an entirely new type of plane. At 40,000 feet, the nose of the plane dipped sharply. No matter how hard he tried, Hawkins could not pull it out of the dive and it gathered such speed that it was soon travelling faster than sound. Strapped in his seat, and hanging upside-down, the pilot could not reach the button which would destroy the top of the plane. Near him however, there was another button which was to be used only in times of very great danger. Hawkins pressed it. There was an explosion and his seat — which shielded him to some extent — burst through the glass shell above his head.
- (3) While still half conscious, Hawkins tried to pull the ribbon which would open his parachute. It was fortunate that he failed in his attempt, for at such a rate of speed, the parachute would have been torn to pieces. As he sped towards the earth, he realised that the breathing-tube which supplied him with air had also been torn away. Rapidly losing consciousness because of the lack of air, he knew that he had to open the parachute — otherwise he might not get another chance to do so. At about 29,000 feet, the parachute opened and Hawkins pulled a handle which freed him from the pilot seat. While swinging through the air in slow motion, he began to tremble with cold and everything went grey: he was not getting enough air! Just then, he remembered a rule for breathing at great heights. He took short, sharp breaths and so forced air into his bloodstream. This kept him alive until, at 10,000 feet, he could breathe without difficulty. Soon afterwards, he landed safely in a field of cotton. His plane crashed into woods nearby but luckily no one was hurt.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any six questions.

(1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) What was significant about navy pilot Arthur Ray Hawkins' air-jump?
- (ii) The jump that Hawkins had made was one of the most dangerous jumps ever done too. What makes it so?
- (iii) What do you understand by the word "air show"?
- (iv) What do you think the author meant by the word "the dive"?
- (v) The presence of the one button "to be used only in times of very great danger" is the one saving grace of Hawkins' life. Why is it so?
- (vi) Why did the author said "it was fortunate" that the parachute did not open on the first attempt?
- (vii) What was the breathing rule that Hawkins remembered while he was fighting to stay alive and breathing mid-air?

SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You are Harini/Hari. You are invited to attend the wedding function of your friend's sister during the Christmas holidays. Respond to the invitation, regretting your inability to attend it. (50 words) (3)
4. **Attempt any one of the given questions.** (5)
- A. You are Shivi/Shubham of 116, Good Lion Colony, Mathura. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of a Sous chef in a 5-star hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data.

OR

- B. You are Marina, Cultural Secretary of your school, D.B. Senior Secondary School, Nagpur. A week-long Arts and Culture festival was organised by your school. Write a report in 120-150 words for your school magazine. Invent the details.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. Attempt any five of the six questions in 40 words each.

(2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) How did the ironmaster react on seeing the stranger lying close to the furnace?
- (ii) What did the landlords do when they know that Germany had developed synthetic indigo?
- (iii) What did Evans tell the Governor about the blood on his head?
- (iv) How did the wizard solve the skunk's problem?
- (v) How is a thing of beauty a joy forever ?
- (vi) How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her?

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

(4 × 2 = 8)

- (i) What is suggested by the phrase, 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band'?
- (ii) How did the peddler betray the confidence reposed in him by the crofter in 'The Rattrap'?
- (iii) Although a lot of precautions had been taken by the prison authorities to prevent Evans from escaping, yet, it proved to be insufficient. What made it possible for Evans to escape so easily?

Solution

ENGLISH CORE 301

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1. (i) We entertain the idea of being entertained by magicians because we love being entertained with good mysteries. It provides us with the perfect 'entertainment' that will keep us 'occupied'.

(ii) Stage names provide them with the 'appropriate' image of what they represent. The names represent what they will be or who they are, giving them a sense of 'identity' away from their real names.

(iii) Harry Houdini was able to perform great magic feats, making him one of the greatest magicians of all times. He was able to get out of all 'chains' without any tool or help from others.

(iv) The statement in paragraph 3 "[Houdini] would carry a small steel needle-like tool strapped to his leg and he used this in place of a key" shows that there is really no magic in the work of magicians.

(v) The phrase "mastered the art of escaping" meant that Houdini had known a great deal about the locks or any chains that he was able to escape unharmed and unscathed from anything that was used on him to restrict him.

(vi) It shows that Houdini was not only able to escape from the chest without any tool but defeat the odds of being drowned. The chains that were used to constrict him were also found inside the chest which makes his escape all the more astonishing.

(vii) With the police, Houdini was able to show that his 'escapes' were not just mere acts of fun or 'set up'. Rather, the involvement of 'real-people' shows the level of expertise that he had in escaping even from the scrutinizing eye of the most vigilant people in society.

(viii) The word "adopted" is used here to talk of Weiss' change of his name to a stage name that he

wanted. This means that "Houdini" is the name that he chooses to be addressed as.

(ix) The ability to perform in great speeds and accurate acts instead of any real 'magic' is one quality that makes magicians great.

2. (i) Arthur Ray Hawkins' jump was significant for he was the first man to have successfully jump out of an aeroplane travelling at a speed greater than the speed of sound.

(ii) The jump was dangerous because it was regarded an impossible act to jump out of a moving aeroplane travelling at that speed and still be alive.

(iii) An air show is an event organized where there are several or numerous stunts and skills displayed by aircrafts. These public displays showcase the expertise and skill of pilots in managing or maneuvering their aircrafts.

(iv) "The dive" is the act of an aircraft in climbing up to the highest extent it can reach in the sky and then dramatically come diving downwards at a speed that seemed impossible. Then pilot will pull the aircraft up at the last minute to get it safe, which is a part of an airshow.

(v) That one button enabled the pilot's seat to eject, putting a safe distance between the pilot and the aircraft. This is to keep pilots safe from any impending crash or accidents.

(vi) It was indeed fortunate that the parachute did not open because then it would have torn the parachute into bits and leave the pilot in more danger and without any safety.

(vii) The one breathing rule that Hawkins remembered was to take short yet sharp breaths to force air into his bloodstream. This was what kept him alive and breathing.

3. 101, Safdarjung Colony,
New Delhi,
4 January, 20XX
Dear Sangeetha,

Thank you for your cordial invitation on the occasion of your sister's wedding. I, however, regret that I will not be able to be with you on the happy occasion, because we are leaving for Mumbai for the holidays (Christmas). Please excuse my absence. Do convey my best wishes and regards to the couple.

Yours sincerely,
Harini/ Hari

4. A. 116, Good Lion Colony
 Mathura 124006
 10 August, 20××
 The Chairman
 The Green Tree
 Gurgaon
 Subject: Application for the Post of Sous Chef
 Sir/Madam,
 In response to your advertisement in The Hindu dated August 8, 20××, I wish to apply for the post of Sous chef. I have done a two years post graduate course in culinary and pastry art from ABC Institute of Hotel Management, Lucknow.
 I would like to add that I am a very hardworking boy with a keen interest in cooking. I have three years work experience at The XYZ, Gurgaon. If selected, I assure you that I shall work with utmost devotion and sincerity. I am enclosing my bio-data for your reviewing and consideration.
 Anticipating a favourable response.
 Thank you
 Yours faithfully
 Shubham Shah

Bio-Data

Name : Shubham Shah
 Father's Name : Mr. Lalit Shah
 Address : 116, Good Lion Colony, **Jai Colony**, Mathura
 Phone : 98102×××××
 Date of Birth : 9th Jan, 1990
 Marital Status : Single
 Educational Qualification : M.Sc. in Culinary and Pastry Arts (Graduated with top rank) ABC Institute of Hotel Management, Lucknow (20××).
 B.Sc. Home Science (University Topper) ABC College, Mathura (20××)
 Multi Cuisine Certification TUV Restaurant School, Miami (20××)
 Experience : 3 years as Assistant Chef at The XYZ, Gurgaon (July 20×× - July 20××) Crafted a variety of customised and specialty dishes using specialty techniques
 Skills : Mastery in various cooking techniques
 Strengths : Detail oriented craftsman, passionate cook, competent in business operations, office management, staff supervision, sales and event planning
 Computer skills : Proficient in MS Office
 Language : English, Hindi
 Reference : 1. Mr. D. K. Paul, Senior Manager, The XYZ, Gurgaon,
 2. Malvika Ray, HOD, ABC Institute of Hotel Management, Lucknow.

5. (i) The ironmaster saw the peddler at the forge. The ironmaster walked close to him. He thought the peddler was his one of the regimental acquaintances. He called him by the name of Nils Olof. The ironmaster felt sorry to see his miserable condition and he invited the peddler to his home.
- (ii) The landlords came to know that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. Now producing natural indigo was not profitable for them. But very cunningly they hid that fact from the peasants. They instead obtained agreements from the sharecroppers to pay them compensation for being released from the 15 per cent arrangement.
- (iii) The Governor asked Evans how he got that blood to pour over his head. At this Evans replied that it was a pig's blood that the person disguised as McLeery brought with him in a little rubber ring. They had got to mix with trisodium citrate to stop it clotting.
- (v) A thing of beauty is a joy forever because its loveliness increases and lasts long. It never passes into nothingness and moves away the pall from our dark spirits.

(vi) Unlike Aunt Jennifer, who feels trapped in a loveless and unhappy marriage, who is terrified of her domineering husband and the patriarchal society, her tigers prance around freely, full of confidence, fearless of the men watching them. The tigers seem to possess all the qualities, which Aunt Jennifer does not.

6. (i) The phrase 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band' refers to the burden of an oppressive marriage in which Aunt Jennifer was trapped. The wedding band is also symbol of bondage; Aunt is bound to her dominating husband by marriage because of her wedding vows. She can't escape this male dominated society even after she is dead. As a dutiful wife, she must continue to be devoted to her husband. The

society has seen many cases of women oppression in marriage, like Aunt Jennifer.

(iii) Even after taking various drastic precautions, for the smooth conduct of the exam, Evans fools the Governor and the prison authority in every step of the way. Stephens notices that Evans is wearing a hat but does not ask him to remove it. The hat concealed Evans' cropped hair. Similarly, the prison staff do not check McLeery's identity or verify the phone call or recognise Evans impersonating McLeery. All this helps him to escape prison easily. Later, though the Governor is able to catch him red-handed, at the capital, Evans escapes once again, this time audaciously in the prison van. Therefore, it proves that it is sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helps Evans to escape.