

MP BOARD CLASS 12 PAPER 2014

ENGLISH (GENERAL)

SECTION 'A'

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it :

How did man discover salt ? We are not sure. Perhaps, the cattle of Stone Age tribesmen found and fed on salt licks or salt rocks. Their masters may have carried pieces of the salt rock to their caves. Salt springs were found to provide a more constant supply of salt. Villages grew around these springs. Man cut down trees for fuel for evaporating water to obtain salt. In China, the early human settlements were near salt pans on the Yellow River. Everywhere in the world, salt production has been going on for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans included salt in the offerings they made to their gods. The preservative quality of salt made it a specially fitting symbol of enduring fidelity. The word salt was used in phrases conveying high esteem and honour, in ancient and modern languages. In English, the expression, "the salt of the earth", describes a person greatly respected by the community.

It was considered a prestigious item of commerce and civilizations flourished because of it. The sea has always been man's most important source of salt supply. When oceans recede, salt ponds and salt marshes are left behind.

The Romans were famous roadbuilders. One of their roads called the Salt Route, built around 400 B.C. exists even today. In those days, salt from Rome was carried along this road to central Italy. The early Egyptians were supplied with salt from swamps at the mouth of the Nile.

Questions :

- (a) What is the meaning of 'prestigious' ? 1
(i) having respect (ii) religious
(iii) business (iv) necessary.
- (b) The noun form of the word 'describe' is : 1
(i) describe (ii) description
(iii) described (iv) redescribe.
- (c) The opposite of the word 'modern' is : 1
(i) new (ii) early
(iii) ancient (iv) recent.
- (d) The of the tribesmen may have carried salt to their caves. 1
(i) servant (ii) master
(iii) friend (iv) neighbour.
- (e) The constant supply of salt was made by : 1
(i) salt springs (ii) rivers
(iii) forests (iv) early man.

- (f) The early Egyptians used to get salt from swamps at the mouth of 1
 (i) Nile River (ii) sea
 (iii) Yellow river (iv) salt rocks.
- (g) In those times, around the springs, grew. 1
 (i) cities (ii) villages
 (iii) roads (iv) forests.
- (h) 'The salt of the earth' means : 1
 (i) a person greatly respected in the society
 (ii) the salt that we get from salt springs
 (iii) the salt offered to gods
 (iv) a person not respected in the society.
- (i) Why do you think salt is very important since early days ? 2
 Mention *two* points.
- (j) How was the 'Salt Route' important for the Romans ? 2
2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below it :

'Where there's a will, there's a way', is an old saying. He who resolves upon doing a thing, by that very resolution overcomes the obstacles to it. It is so in all the occupations of life—at school, at college or in

the world. To determine to succeed is the surest way to success. Difficulties disappear before an unswerving resolution. This was well exemplified in the life of Napoleon. He threw his whole force of body and mind upon his work. He was told that the Alps stood in the way of his armies. 'There shall be no Alps', he said and a road was made across them, over heights previously considered inaccessible. 'Impossible', said he, 'is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools'. And so it is; a determination not to give in is the surest condition of success in any undertaking. But the young student must carefully guard himself against the errors of mistaking a mere undisciplined energy and self-will for the needful firmness and self-command on which success depends.

Questions :

- (i) Make notes in points, from the above passage, using abbreviations, where necessary. 5
- (ii) Write a summary of the above passage in about 50-60 words. Suggest a suitable title also for it. 3

SECTION 'B'

3. You are Alok Gupta, the Cultural Secretary of your school. Draft a notice giving information about the selection of two participants from your school to take part in the Inter-school debate competition. (In about 40 words). 5

Or

Your father has been transferred to another city. You want to sell certain household goods. Write a suitable advertisement to be published in local newspapers. (In about 40 words)

4. Using the following input, produce a write-up on 'My neighbour' in about 150-200 words : 6

—His name, age, profession,
—His habits, nature,
—His qualities,
—Why you like him or dislike him.

Or

Write a report to be published in a newspaper giving the detailed account of inauguration ceremony of the annual function held in your school, use the following details :

- (i) Name of the event, occasion, date, time, place.
(ii) Chief guest, guest of honour and chairman of the function, welcome address, floral welcome, speeches by the guests, vote of thanks.

5. You are Mohit Verma residing at 15, Abhinav Homes, Raipur. Write a letter to your friend advising him to study English and General Knowledge for competitive exams. 6

Or

You are Naina Bhaswar residing at 2/80, Nayapura Colony, Indore. Write a letter to your friend Harshita congratulating her on her grand success in PET exams.

6. Last month you bought a digital camera from Shan Electronics, Bhopal. Now you find something wrong with it. Write a letter to the dealer complaining about the problem. 6

Or

Write a letter to the Collector of your district about the lack of facilities and malfunctioning of the Govt. Hospitals of your area.

7. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics in about 200-250 words : 7

- (i) Role of Computers in School Education
(ii) The festival you like most
(iii) Problem of Terrorism in India
(iv) The person I like most
(v) Science in our daily life.

SECTION 'C'

8. Fill in the blanks with correct option given below each sentence : 5

- (a) Have you complaint against us ?

- (i) much (ii) any
(iii) many (iv) both.

- (b) We are going a match today.

- (i) playing (ii) play
(iii) played (iv) to play.

- (c) English is in many countries.

- (i) speaking (ii) spoken
(iii) speak (iv) spoke.

- (d) Mr. Sharma is M.L.A.
 (i) a (ii) the
 (iii) an (iv) no article.
- (e) We keep our bread in the fridge it does not go bad.
 (i) after (ii) so that
 (iii) since (iv) although.
- Ans. (a)** (ii) any, (b) (iv) to play, (c) (ii) spoken, (d) (iii) an, (e) (ii) so that.

9. Do as directed (any five) :

5

- (a) He is ill. He can't go to office. (Combine the pair of sentences to make a complex sentence using adverb clause)
- (b) They were playing hockey. (Change into passive voice)
- (c) We saw a very good movie yesterday. (Change in the sentence into a negative sentence)
- (d) Who are they ? I don't know. (Combine the pair of sentences to make a complex sentence using a noun clause)
- (e) The bag was yellow. The bag contained money.
 (Combine the pair of sentences by using a relative pronoun)
- (f) Our neighbours (live) here for five years.
 (Rewrite the sentence using the correct tense of the verb)

SECTION 'D'

- 10. (A) Read the following extract from a poem and answer the questions given below it :**

3

The wonderful air is over me,
 And the wonderful wind is shaking the tree,
 It walks on the water, and whirls the mills,
 And talks to itself on the top of the hills.

Questions :

- (a) The opposite of the word 'bottom' in the stanza is :
 (i) wonderful (ii) shake
 (iii) top (iv) whirl.
- (b) The word that rhymes with 'tree' is :
 (i) hill (ii) me
 (iii) top (iv) mill.
- (c) What is shaking the tree ?

- (B) Some words have different meanings,
 and yet they're spelt the same.
 A cricket is an insect,
 to play it it's a game.
 On every hand, in every land,
 it's thoroughly agreed,
 The English language to explain,
 is very hard indeed.

3

Questions :

(a) The opposite of the word 'same' in the stanza is :

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (i) difficult | (ii) different |
| (iii) hard | (iv) every. |

(b) The meaning of the word 'hard' is :

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (i) difficult | (ii) easy |
| (iii) rough | (iv) plain. |

(c) What are the *two* meanings of 'cricket' ?

11. Answer any *two* of the following questions : **2 × 2 = 4**

- (a) How could listening to one's inner voice be helpful ?
- (b) What makes the poet think that man is God's greatest creation ?
- (c) What kind of life does the poet find in the woods in the poem "In the Country" ?

12. Answer *any seven* of the following questions in about 30 words each : **7 × 2 = 14**

- (a) What was Mini doing in the balcony ?
- (b) Who was Swami Arvasu ?
- (c) How was the bird fed ?
- (d) Write two ways in which the crows irritated the author.
- (e) What makes the author believe that India is ready for action now ?
- (f) Why should we leave our comfort zones and how ?
- (g) What instructions did the girl's parents give when they saw her off ?
- (h) Why did Margie hate school, specially at that time ?
- (i) Describe the people of Kashmir.

13. Describe the incident at the intellectual's house that made the author appreciate the place of religion in Indian life. **4**

Or

Make a list of civic duties as suggested by Dr. Kalam. Why does he suggest this ?

14. Answer any *four* of the following questions : **4 × 2 = 8**

- (a) What are the things education is linked with ?
- (b) What are the benefits of meditation ?
- (c) What do you understand by 'do's and don'ts' ?
- (d) What did the truck driver say after checking the car ?
- (e) From what did Wooden create the major portion of his coaching philosophy ?

15. Answer any *one* of the following in about 75-120 words : **4**

- (a) In what categories does the author divide the books ?
- (b) Why does the author say that the Gita is not for those who have no faith ?