

**Sample Question Paper - 1**  
**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) Classical dance evolved from Tamil Nadu's temples across centuries. The revived and reformed Bharatanatyam keeps the art born of these ancient temples alive even to this day. Once sustained and nurtured in temples as part of a rich and vibrant temple tradition, classical dance in South India has remained over centuries a dynamic, living tradition that is continuously renewed.
- (2) Even 2000 years ago, dance in India was a highly evolved and complex art. It was an integral part of ancient Indian theatre as established by the Natya Shastra, the oldest and exhaustive treatise on theatre and dramaturgy. Dance dramas were performed in temple precincts. Dance movements were crystallised in stone as karanas in temple sculpture. Following the Bhakti movement in the 6th century, dance and music became powerful vehicles of veneration. The deity was treated like a much-loved king, praised and royally entertained with music and dance, as part of the daily sacred rituals of worship. Gifted, highly educated temple dancers or devadasis were supported by the temples that were richly endowed by the rulers. Some 400 temple dancers were dedicated to and maintained by the Brihadeswarar Temple in Thanjavur. Dance evolved as a composite art in temples as dancers, nattuvanars (dance gurus), musicians, poets, composers, architects, sculptors and painters shared a holistic approach to all the arts.
- (3) The evolution of Bharatanatyam derives from the invaluable contribution of The Tanjore Quartet. The four Pillai brothers – Chinnayya, Ponnayya, Sivanandam and Vadivelu – served as court musicians at the kingdom of Maratha king, Serfoji II in the early 19th century. Their legacy to Bharatanatyam has been their restructuring of the dance repertoire into the margam format and their vast and diverse music compositions set specifically for dance. Some of their descendants like Guru Meenakshisundaram Pillai evolved the famous Pandanallur bani (style) and trained many eminent dancers.
- (4) From the temples, dance made its way into the courts of kings and dancers were not just devadasis, but also rajanartakis. By the early 17th century dance forms like sadir or chinna melam, precursors to Bharatanatyam as we know it today had become popular in the courts of the Maratha rulers in Thanjavur. However, in the 19th century, colonial propaganda perceived such dance as vulgar and immoral. It led to the Anti-Nautch Movement and legislation against temple dance and dancers. Divested of all patronage and temple support, devadasis were thrown into dire straits. In the early 20th century, thanks to enlightened visionaries like EV Krishna Iyer and later, Rukmini Devi Arundale, and the dedication of a handful of devadasis and nattuvanars, classical dance was resuscitated and revived as bharatanatyam. Today, apart from a few cultural festivals in some temples, dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage.

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any eight of the given questions.**

**(1 × 8 = 8)**

- (i) What kept Bharatnatyam alive even to the present day, according to the passage?
- (ii) How did Natya Shastra help in evolvement of dance?
- (iii) Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined word with another one.

Their legacy to Bharatnatyam has been their restructuring of the dance repertoire into the morgan format...

- (iv) How was the deity treated in 6th Century?
- (v) ... dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage. The phrase proscenium stage means \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vi) Who were part of Tanjore Quartet?
- (vii) Who can be credited for evolving the famous style 'Pandanallur bani'?
- (viii) What led to Anti-Nautch Movement?
- (ix) 'Today, apart from a few cultural festivals in some temples, dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage'. What does the given line indicate?

**2. Read the passage given below.**

- (1) That large animals require luxuriant vegetation has been a general assumption which has passed from one work to another; but I do not hesitate to say that it is completely false, and that it has vitiated the reasoning of geologists on some points of great interest in the ancient history of the world. The prejudice has probably been derived from India, and the Indian islands, where troops of elephants, noble forests, and impenetrable jungles, are associated together in everyone's mind. If, however, we refer to any work of travels through the southern parts of Africa, we shall find allusions in almost every page either to the desert character of the country, or to the numbers of large animals inhabiting it. The same thing is rendered evident by the many engravings which have been published of various parts of the interior.
- (2) Dr. Andrew Smith, who has lately succeeded in passing the Tropic of Capricorn, informs me that, taking into consideration the whole of the southern part of Africa, there can be no doubt of its being a sterile country. On the southern coasts there are some fine forests, but with these exceptions, the traveler may pass for days together through open plains, covered by a poor and scanty vegetation. Now, if we look at the animals inhabiting these wide plains, we shall find their numbers extraordinarily great, and their bulk immense.
- (3) It may be supposed that although the species are numerous, the individuals of each kind are few. By the kindness of Dr. Smith, I am enabled to show that the case is very different. He informs me, that in lat. 24', in one day's march with the bullock-wagons, he saw, without wandering to any great distance on either side, between one hundred and one hundred and fifty rhinoceroses - the same day he saw several herds of giraffes, amounting together to nearly a hundred.
- (4) At the distance of a little more than one hour's march from their place of encampment on the previous night, his party actually killed at one spot eight hippopotamuses, and saw many more. In this same river there were likewise crocodiles. Of course it was a case quite extraordinary, to see so many great animals crowded together, but it evidently proves that they must exist in great numbers. Dr. Smith describes the country passed through that day, as 'being thinly covered with grass, and bushes about four feet high, and still more thinly with mimosa-trees.'
- (5) Besides these large animals, anyone the least acquainted with the natural history of the Cape has read of the herds of antelopes, which can be compared only with the flocks of migratory birds. The numbers indeed of the lion, panther, and hyena, and the multitude of birds of prey, plainly speak of the abundance of the

smaller quadrupeds: one evening seven lions were counted at the same time prowling round Dr. Smith's encampment. As this able naturalist remarked to me, the carnage each day in Southern Africa must indeed be terrific! I confess it is truly surprising how such a number of animals can find support in a country producing so little food.

- (6) The larger quadrupeds no doubt roam over wide tracts in search of it; and their food chiefly consists of underwood, which probably contains much nutriment in a small bulk. Dr. Smith also informs me that the vegetation has a rapid growth; no sooner is a part consumed, than its place is supplied by a fresh stock. There can be no doubt, however, that our ideas respecting the apparent amount of food necessary for the support of large quadrupeds are much exaggerated. The belief that where large quadrupeds exist, the vegetation must necessarily be luxuriant, is more remarkable, because the converse is far from true.
- (7) Mr. Burchell observed to me that when entering Brazil, nothing struck him more forcibly than the splendour of the South American vegetation contrasted with that of South Africa, together with the absence of all large quadrupeds. In his travels, he has suggested that the comparison of the respective weights (if there were sufficient data) of an equal number of the largest herbivorous quadrupeds of each country would be extremely curious. If we take on the one side, the elephants, hippopotamus, giraffe, bos caffer, elan, five species of rhinoceros; and on the American side, two tapirs, the guanaco, three deer, the vicuna, peccari, capybara (after which we must choose from the monkeys to complete the number), and then place these two groups alongside each other it is not easy to conceive ranks more disproportionate in size.
- (8) After the above facts, we are compelled to conclude, against anterior probability that among the mammalia there exists no close relation between the bulk of the species, and the quantity of the vegetation, in the countries which they inhabit.

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

**(1 × 6 = 6)**

- (i) What is the primary concern of the author?
- (ii) What does the flock of migratory birds suggest?
- (iii) Why does Darwin quote Burchell?
- (iv) What is significant about the southern part of Africa?
- (v) Which country initiated the prejudice that large animals require luxuriant vegetation?
- (vi) What was Mr. Burchell's reaction upon reaching South America?
- (vii) What according to you is the final outcome or conclusion of the given passage?

## **SECTION-B (WRITING)**

3. Write a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present in the birthday celebrations of your friend, Suresh's daughter, who lives at 1231, Chattarpur, Delhi. You are Abhishek Khanna. (50 words) **(3)**
4. **Attempt any one of the given questions.** **(5)**
- A. You are Shreya/Sanjay of 20/B Kamla Nagar, Delhi. You saw an advertisement for the post of Science Teacher. P.G.T. in Golden Valley School, Vasant Kunj, Delhi in your local daily. Write a letter to the principal of the school applying for the job. Enclose your bio-data.

**OR**

- B. You are Mridul/Mridula, an HT correspondent. You witnessed a protest rally by a youth organisation. Mentioning the purpose of rally, places covered and reaction of public, write a report in 120-150 words for your newspaper.

## SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

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

**(2 × 5 = 10)**

- (i) What made the Lieutenant Governor drop the case against Gandhiji?
- (ii) Why did Edla plead with her father not to send the vagabond away?
- (iii) What does Keats consider an endless fountain of immortal drink and why does he call its drink immortal?
- (iv) What are the difficulties that Aunt Jennifer faced in her life?
- (v) Why did Roger Skunk go to see the old owl?
- (vi) What kind of person was Evans ? Why did he want to sit for O-level German examination?

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

**(4 × 2 = 8)**

- (i) What precautions were taken for the smooth conduct of Evans' O-Level examination?
- (ii) How do symbols in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' help us understand her plight?
- (iii) The peddler declined the invitation of the ironmaster but accepted the one from Edla. Why ?

## Solution

### ENGLISH CORE 301

#### Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) Bharatnatyam's revived and reformed form keeps it alive even to this day.
- (ii) Natya Shastra established dance in India as an integral part of ancient Indian theatre. It was the oldest and exhaustive treatise on theatre and dramaturgy.
- (iii) Their legacy to Bharatnatyam has been their restructuring of the dance collection in the morgan format...
- (iv) The diety was treated like the king, being receiver of praise and royally entertained with music and dance, as part of everyday holy rituals of worship.
- (v) The front of stage.
- (vi) Chinnaya, Ponnaya, Sivanandam and Vadivelu the four pillai brothers who served as court musicians at the kingdom of Maratha King Serfoji II were part of Tanjore Quartet.
- (vii) Descendants of Pillai brothers - Guru Meenakshisundaram evolved this style of dancing and also trained many reknown dancers.
- (viii) Considering dance vulgar and immoral during the 19<sup>th</sup> century under the colonial propaganda led to Anti Nautch Movement.
- (ix) Dance is performed in temples only occasionally and it has occupied the forefront of the stage.
2. (i) The author is primarily concerned with discussing the relationship between the size of mammals and the nature of vegetation in their habitats.
- (ii) It suggests the size of antelope herds.
- (iii) Darwin quotes Burchell to prove a hypothesis.
- (iv) Apart from some fine forests on the southern part of Africa, the country is sterile. There are wide stretches of plains, covered by poor and scanty vegetation.
- (v) India
- (vi) Mr. Burchell was awestruck by the splendour of the country vegetation.
- (vii) It can be concluded that a country's vegetation and its bulk of species had no relation between them.

3. 1231, Aashirwad Apartment, Chattarpur,  
Delhi.  
15 Sept. 20××  
Dear Suresh  
I have received your invitation for your daughter's birthday celebration on 30 Sept. 20×× at 7 p.m. at Hotel Treebo. I am extremely happy to know that all our old friends are likely to be there.  
I would like to confirm my participation, looking forward to the momentous occasion.  
With love  
Abhishek

#### 4. B. Protest Rally Against Rampant Corruption

— By Mridul Gupta, HT Reporter

**New Delhi, 24 May, 20×× :** Members of the Young Urban Volunteers Association (YUVA), a youth organisation, held a protest rally on 23 May, 20××. Young boys and girls of YUVA organised the rally to raise their voice against rampant corruption in the society. The four hours long rally saw participants from various age groups who took to the road at 11:00 a.m. sharp. The rally started from Connaught Circus and moved further to Janpath. From there the rally group walked to various iconic places of capital city, singing patriotic songs and shouting slogans on anti-corruption. The rally finally stopped at Qutub Minar

where the youth representatives of YUVA performed a street play on corruption and how to curb it. The attempt to spread the message of protest against corruption proved quite successful with general public joining in and vowing to fight against it.

5. (i) The Lt. Governor dropped the case against Gandhiji because he was fighting a just cause because of which he had the support of the peasants and the local people. The authorities felt powerless. Mr. Fischer writes, "Civil disobedience had triumphed, the first time in modern India."

(ii) Edla had a kind and sympathetic heart that was pained by the plight of the poor peddler. She pleaded with her father not to send him away because first, it

was Christmas and Edla wanted to keep the spirit of Christmas alive and second, she wanted the peddler to spend a day of comfort and solace as a respite from his visual struggle.

(iii) It is nature's beauty, which Keats considers an endless fountain of immortal drink. According to him, the drink is immortal because of the joy and delight it provides, it never passes into nothingness; the joy is forever and its loveliness ever-increasing.

(iv) Aunt Jennifer lived her life in accordance with the rules laid down by her domineering husband. Her life was overburdened by the demands and duties of her married life and the patriarchal society. It lacked self-expression. Although old and weak, she had to face the ordeals of her oppressive marriage all her life, there was no escape from her husband.

(v) Roger Skunk went to see the old owl because he was upset that all the other animals refused to come near him or play with him because of his bad smell. Roger needed advice on how to get rid of his stink.

(vi) Evans was considered a pleasant sort of chap by the prison authorities. They called him 'Evans the Break' because of his prior attempts to escape from prison. He was a congenital kleptomaniac. Evans wanted to sit for the O-level German examination because he saw it as another opportunity to escape from the prison.

6. (i) Fearing that Evans might escape, the exam was conducted in Evans' prison cell itself. It was installed with a microphone so that the Governor could listen to every talk. The cell was fully checked

by the staff who took away anything that could pose a threat. Moreover, the staff was put on high alert, doors and gates were locked. Prison officers Stephens was to peep into Evans' cell after every few minutes. The parson who came to invigilate, was frisked at the prison gate and his briefcase was checked thoroughly.

(ii) The plight of Aunt Jennifer is constantly emphasised by the use of various symbols in the poem. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band symbolises the oppression she faced in her marriage. The image of tigers provides a contrast with Aunt's character who is timid, oppressed and victimized in her life. Aunt Jennifer tries to vent out her feelings by creating such majestic and fearless tigers.

(iii) The ironmaster, mistaking the peddler as an old acquaintance, invites him to his house for the Christmas celebration. He seems to be a sympathetic person in the beginning, trying to persuade the peddler as much as possible. However, the peddler refuses to accept the invitation because he was afraid to go to the manor house as he had stolen money from the crofter. Although the ironmaster leaves, he allows his daughter, Edla to bring the peddler home. Edla seems more persuasive than her father, being firm yet polite in her approach. She comes with a fur coat for the peddler and assures him that he is free to leave whenever he desires after the Christmas celebration is over. Edla is not conventionally beautiful. But she, with her polite confidence, friendly and compassionate attitude is able to win the peddler's trust and persuade him to accompany her to her house for the Christmas celebration.