

Sample Question Paper - 19
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) Whether work should be placed among the causes of happiness or among the causes of unhappiness may perhaps be regarded as a doubtful question. There is certainly much work which is exceedingly irksome, and an excess of work is always very painful. However, work is not, to most people, more painful than idleness. There are, in work, all grades; from more relief of tedium, up to the profoundest delights, according to the nature of the work and the abilities of the worker. Most of the work that most people have to do is not interesting in itself, but even that work has certain great advantages. To begin with, it fills a good many hours of the day without the need of deciding what one shall do. Most people, when they are left free to fill their own time according to their own choice, are at a loss to think of anything sufficiently pleasant to be worth doing. And whatever they decide on, they are troubled by the feeling that something else would have been more pleasant here. To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization and at present very few people have reached this level. Moreover, the exercise of choice is tiresome in itself. Except to people with unusual initiative, it is positively agreeable to be told what to do at each hour of the day, provided the orders are not too unpleasant.
- (2) Most of the idle rich suffer unspeakable boredom. At times, they may find relief by hunting big game in Africa or by flying around the world, but the number of such sensations is limited, especially after youth is past. Accordingly, the more intelligent rich men work nearly as hard as if they were poor. Work, therefore is desirable, first and foremost as a preventive of boredom, although uninteresting work is as boring as having nothing to do. With this advantage of work, another associated advantage is that it makes holidays much more delicious when they come. Provided that a man does not have to work so hard as to impair his vigour, he is likely to find far more zest than an idle man would possibly find. The second advantage of most paid work and some of unpaid work is that it gives chances of success and opportunities for ambition. In most work, success is measured by income and while our capitalistic society continues, this is inevitable. However dull work too, becomes bearable, if it is a means of building up a reputation. Continuity of purpose is one of the most essential ingredients of happiness and that comes chiefly through work.

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

(1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What is the central concern of the passage?
- (ii) What happens to most people, when they are left free to fill their own time according to their own choice?
- (iii) What is described as the last product of civilisation?
- (iv) According to the author, how is an uninteresting work still good for anyone?

- (v) What do most rich people suffer from?
- (vi) How do the more intelligent rich people work?
- (vii) How is most work measured?
- (viii) What is the most essential ingredient of happiness?
- (ix) How do the idle rich find a relief from unspeakable boredom?

2. Read the given passage carefully.

- (1) Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
- (2) Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
- (3) Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoided responsibility.
- (4) People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
- (5) This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

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

- (i) According to the passage, what can be learned from the lives of all great people?
- (ii) What are the examples the author mentions to explain the stages of growth?
- (iii) What did Gandhi do in his mid twenties?
- (iv) What did people not see in Gandhi’s ability to accomplish the most difficult tasks?
- (v) What is the author’s formula for growing oneself and one’s personality?

(vi) What is the suitable title for the given passage?

(vii) Why do we easily become disheartened and pessimistic according to the passage?

SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. Your friend, Manish Tripathi has invited you to attend his wedding anniversary. You cannot attend it as you have a family get-together on the same day. Write a polite letter, in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function and wish him all the happiness on this joyous occasion. You are Mita/Mahendra Juneja of 25, Vasundra Colony, Patna. (3)

4. Answer any one of the following questions. (5)

The Gandhi Foundation is recruiting graduates for an intensive leadership-training programme during the summer, in villages across India. You are Anjana/Benji from 21, Ratnapur Village, Bilaspur. You are very excited to see the advertisement and decide to apply for the same. Draft a letter in 120–150 words applying for the advertised programme. Include a biodata showing how suitable you are for the training.

OR

Your school, Sun Public School, Poona, celebrated 'Environment Day' on 5th November. Write a report on the programme in 100-125 words for your school newsletter. You are Neeta/Naveen, Cultural Secretary of the school. Invent the necessary details.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. Attempt any five questions in 40 words. (2 × 5 = 10)

(i) Why was Gandhiji opposed to C.F. Andrews helping him in Champaran?

(ii) Why was the crofter happy when the peddler knocked on his door?

(iii) Mr. Lamb told Derry the story of a man who hid himself in his room. Why did the man do so and with what result?

(iv) Why does Jack insist that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother?

(v) How do we get joy from life which is otherwise full of sorrows ?

(vi) How did Evans have the last laugh at the Governor?

6. Attempt any two questions in 120-150 words. (4 × 2 = 8)

(i) How did a visit to Champaran become a turning point in Gandhi's life? How does this show Gandhi's love and concern for the common people of India?

(ii) A child's standpoint invariably is different from that of an adult. Justify the statement with reference to the story, Should Wizard Hit Mommy?

(iii) It was sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helped Evans to escape. Comment.

Solution

ENGLISH CORE 301

Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) The passage is concerned as to whether work should be placed among the causes of happiness or among the causes of unhappiness.
- (ii) When most people are left to fill their own time according to their own choice are at a loss to think of anything sufficiently pleasant to do.
- (iii) To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization.
- (iv) An uninteresting job is still good because one will still have something to do with one's time.
- (v) Most rich people suffer from unspeakable boredom.
- (vi) The more intelligent rich people work nearly as hard as if they were poor.
- (vii) In most work, success is measured by income and while capitalistic society continues, it is inevitable.
- (viii) Continuity of purpose that comes chiefly through work creates happiness.
- (ix) The idle rich people find relief by hunting big game in Africa or by flying around the world and exposing them to new sensations.
2. (i) We can learn that great people built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions.
- (ii) The stages of growth can be understood from observing the growth of a child and growth of a plant.
- (iii) During his mid-twenties, Gandhi deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way everyday.
- (iv) The people saw the victory and not the struggle that Gandhi underwent in the process.
- (v) The author suggests that we should choose to grow in small ways taking small steps one at a time.
- (vi) "What makes great men great" is the suitable title for this passage.
- (vii) Very often our "ideal goal" looks too far from us and that is why we become disheartened and pessimistic.

3. 25, Vasundra Colony

Patna

16 August, 20xx

Dear Manish,

I feel honoured to be invited to attend your wedding anniversary. Please accept my best wishes and congratulations to both of you on this auspicious occasion. Unfortunately, my uncle is coming from London and the family is throwing a get-together in his honour on the same day. Therefore, I shall not be able to attend your anniversary celebration. Please do accept a small anniversary gift that I am sending for both of you along with my best wishes.

Yours

Mahendra

4. 21, Ratnapur Village

Bilaspur

7 March, 20xx

Human Resource Officer

The Gandhi Foundation

Rai Barailly

Subject : Application for Leadership Training Programme

Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement in Ujala, Bilaspur dated March 5, 20xx, I wish to apply for the intensive leadership training programme offered by your foundation to graduates. I am an honest and hard working individual who would give her hundred percent to this training programme. I completed my graduation in 2018 and since then I have been working with an NGO for widows. This programme will help me learn skills which I can further inculcate in these ladies making them more confident and independent. I am enclosing my bio-data and photocopies of certificates for your reference.

Hoping for a favourable response.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Anjana Batra

Encl.: 1. Bio-data 2. Photocopies of Certificates

Bio-data

Name : Anjana Batra
Gender : Female
Father's Name : Mr. Jayant Batra
Date of Birth : 20 March 1999
Marital Status : Unmarried
Current Add. : 21, Ratanpur village, Bilaspur
Contact No. : 91914xxxxx

Academic Record

| Examination | Institution | Board/Uni. | Marks |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|-------|
| BA. (English Hons.) | Bilaspur College | | 68% |
| XII (Hum.) | Kendriya Vidyalaya | CBSE | 75% |
| X | Kendriya Vidyalaya | CBSE | 80% |

Work experience: Working as programme coordinator in Janseva NGO for women from June 2018 till date.

Scholarship Awarded – Have been a Scholarship holder in XII.

References: 1. Mrs. J.S. Sharma, Principal, Bilaspur college, Bilaspur 98187xxxxx
2. Dr. Parth Banerjee, Director, Janseva NGO 991071xxxx

OR

Environment Day Celebration

by Neeta, Cultural Secretary

Sun Public School celebrated 'Environment Day' on 5 November, 20xx with great zeal in the school campus. The school campus wore a green look and the day long celebrations saw many fun and educational activities. The aim was to sensitise the students to preserve and conserve the environment.

The plantation drive was inaugurated by Smt. Menaka Gandhi, who graced the occasion with her presence as the Chief Guest along with the Chairman of the school, Dr. K.H. Jain and it marked the beginning of the event. 'Each one, plant one, adopt one' was the motto infused among everybody present there as they planted the saplings in the school ground. Smt. Gandhi presented awards to the winners of various environment related competitions held during the celebration. She appreciated the school's endeavours to make the youngsters environment conscious and nature lovers. She even spoke about 'why protection of animals is essential towards the protection of the environment'. Afterwards, the Eco-Club held a screening of Al Gore's famous documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth' in the school auditorium. The event came to an end with a

vote of thanks speech delivered by the Principal, who urged everyone to use eco-friendly products from now on.

5. (i) Gandhiji chided the lawyers for charging fees from the poor farmers. He even questioned them asking who would help the poor peasants after Gandhiji is arrested. Seeing that Gandhiji, being an outsider, was fighting for justice for the poor farmers and was willing to go to jail too, the lawyers felt ashamed. Later, when lawyers suggested taking help from Mr. C.F. Andrews, Gandhiji strictly opposed the idea and encouraged them to be self-reliant. In these ways and with his ideas and action, Gandhiji was able to influence the lawyers at Champaran.

(ii) The old crofter was a lonely man without wife or child. He was generous and compassionate by nature, always in search of a good company. When the crofter saw the wearied peddler at his door, he welcomed him into his house out of compassion. By doing so, he also found a companion to do away with his loneliness for the night. The crofter was extremely generous at serving dinner and cutting tobacco for his guest, the peddler, without once thinking that he might be a thief.

(iii) Mr. Lamb seems to be a noble soul. He greets Derry in a humble manner and shows no shock or fear on seeing his burnt face. He welcomes him and offers to pluck apples from his garden. He says that things look outwardly different, but inwardly they are all the same. His positive attitude towards life and encouraging words attracted Derry towards Mr. Lamb.

(iv) Jack insists that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother because he wanted to teach a moral lesson to Jo that parents know what is best for their children. Jack also wanted, Jo to understand that one should be content with the way one is born and not change just because the society does not accept him/her the way he/she is.

(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) Evans already had a well thought out plan B in case his initial plan failed. When the Governor recaptured Evans and handed him over to the silent prison officer, the Governor was unaware that the officer as well as the driver of prison van were actually Evans' accomplices. As Evans finally escaped, he had the last laugh at the Governor.

6. (i) Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life perhaps because he declared that the British could not order him in his own country. It was for the first time that Gandhiji

introduced a non-violent resistance, which came to be known as Satyagraha, against the Britishers. During this struggle, Gandhiji decided to urge the departure of the Britishers for the first time. The Champaran episode grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large number of poor peasants and farmers and became the first civil disobedience movement led by Gandhiji. He, with local support, convinced poor farmers that they too had rights. When his lawyer friends suggested that having Mr. Andrews around would prove to be beneficial for them, Gandhiji told them taking help from a Britisher only shows the weakness in the hearts of the Indians. Gandhiji taught self reliance to his fellow Indians. The Champaran episode proved that if the cause was just, there was nothing to fear, not even the Britishers; the victory was inevitable.

(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.