

Sample Question Paper - 22

English Core (301)

Class- XII, Session: 2021-22

TERM II

Time Allowed: 2 Hrs.

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 (14 marks)

I. Read the passage given below.

1. There are many among us who, given the opportunity to leave India, are only too happy to go. But whenever I have had the chance to go away, I have held back. Or something has held me back.

What is it that has such a hold on me, but leaves others free to where they will, sometimes never to come back?

2. A few years ago I was offered a well-paid job on a magazine in Hong Kong. I thought about it for weeks, worried myself to distraction, and finally, with a great sigh of relief, turned it down.

3. My friends thought I was crazy. They still do. Most of them would have jumped at a comparable offer, even if it had meant spending the rest of their lives far from the palmfringed coasts or pine-clad mountains of this land. Many friends have indeed gone away, never to return, except perhaps to get married, very quickly, before they are off again! Don't they feel homesick, I wonder.

4. I am almost paranoid at the thought of going away and then being unable to come back. This almost happened to me when, as a boy, I went to England, longed to return to India, and did not have the money for the passage. For two years I worked and saved like a miser (something I have never done since) until I had enough to bring me home.

5. And 'home' wasn't parents and brothers and sisters. They were no longer here. Home, for me, was India.

So what is it that keeps me here? My birth? I take too closely after a Nordic grandparent to pass for a typical son of the soil. Hotel receptionists often ask me for my passport.

'Must I carry a passport to travel in my own country?' I ask. 'But you don't look like an Indian,' they protest.

'I'm a Red Indian,' I say.

6. India is where I was born and went to school and grew to manhood. India was where my father was born and went to school and worked and died. India is where my grandfather lived and died. Surely that entitles me to a place in the Indian sun. If it doesn't, I can revert to my mother's family and go back to the time of Timur the Lame. How far back does one have to go in order to establish one's Indianness?

7. It must be the land itself that holds me. But so many of my fellow Indians have been born (and reborn) here, and yet they think nothing of leaving the land. They will leave the mountains for the plains; the villages for the cities; their country for another country, and if other countries were a little more willing to open their doors, we would have no population problem—mass emigration would have solved it.

8. But it's more than the land that holds me. For India is more than a land. India is an atmosphere. Over thousands of years, the races and religions of the world have mingled here and produced that unique, indefinable phenomenon, the Indian: so terrifying in a crowd, so beautiful in himself.

And oddly enough, I'm one too. I know that I'm as Indian as the postman or the paanwala or your favourite MP.

Race did not make me an Indian. Religion did not make me an Indian. But history did. And in the long run, it is history that counts.

—*Ruskin Bond*

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **ANY EIGHT** questions from the nine given below.

(1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What did the author's friends take his decision about opportunity to leave India?
- (ii) How did the hotel receptionists torture the author?
- (iii) What was the author's craziness for his friends?

- (iv) How is the author a typical son of India?
- (v) What can be learnt from the text?
- (vi) According to the author, what has made him an Indian?
- (vii) Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with another, from paragraph 3.
The employee eagerly took the opportunity to show her manager what she could do.
- (viii) Select a suitable phrase from paragraph 6 to complete the following sentence appropriately.
The dietician said to the boy, "If you _____ your old eating habits, you'll gain weight again."
- (ix) Select the word from paragraph 2 which means the same as 'something that stops one from paying attention to'.

Answers:

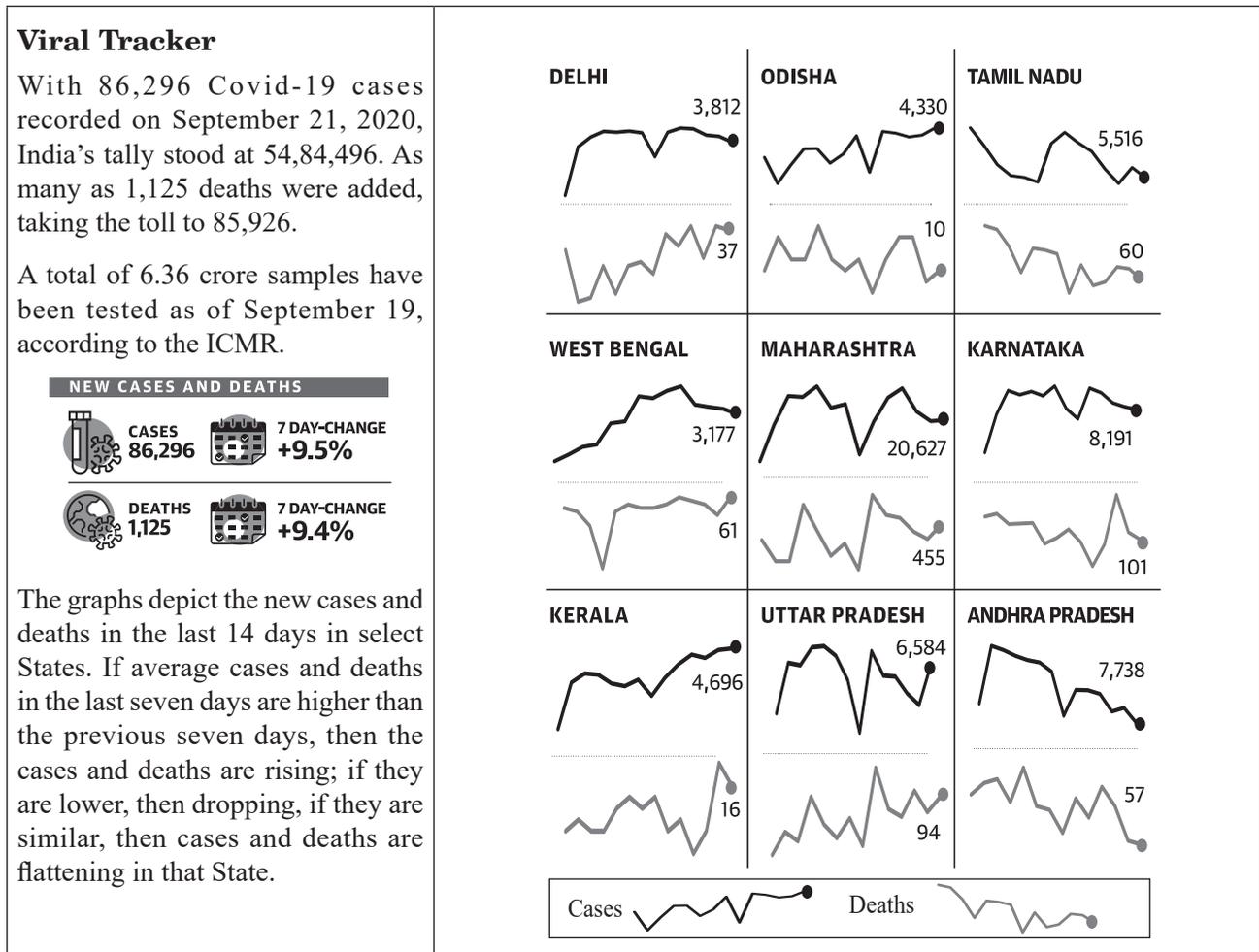
- (i) They thought that the author was crazy. They still think about him in the same manner.
- (ii) The hotel receptionists often asked the author to show his passport. He did not appear to be an Indian for them.
- (iii) Unlike his friends the author never accepted foreign jobs. He had no desire to spend the rest of his life in the land far away from his country.
- (iv) India is the birth place of the author. He has no desire to leave his country at any cont. He wants to pass his life, where his ancestral family lived and died.
- (v) From the text we can learn that the author felt proud to be an Indian. Answers:
- (vi) According to the author, history has made him an Indian.
- (vii) The employee *jumped at* the opportunity to show her manager what she could do.
- (viii) revert to
- (ix) distraction

II. Read the passage given below.

1. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has completed its second national sero-survey to gauge the prevalence of COVID-19. The first survey was conducted in May across 400 districts and about 28,000 were sampled — most of them in rural India — to gauge the spread of the infection.
2. After a long delay, the ICMR finally published its results this month that suggested that nearly 6.4 million were likely infected with the virus by May. There were 82,130 infections that went undetected for every confirmed case in May. However, newspaper reports on September 21, 2020, citing unnamed authors of that study, alleged that a portion of their results were expunged, which showed high prevalence of the infection in hotspots in 10 cities that were originally part of the paper. This suggested that in May the possible prevalence of the infection was 36% in Dharavi, Mumbai; 48% in Ahmedabad and 30% in Kolkata.
3. "Containment zones, that refer to a specific geographical area where positive cases are found, are dynamic in nature. They do not fit into nationally representative sampling," the ICMR tweeted on Sunday evening but did not refer to the newspaper reports. "Containment zones, that refer to a specific geographical area where positive cases are found, are dynamic in nature. They do not fit into nationally representative sampling," the ICMR tweeted on September 21, 2020 evening but did not refer to the newspaper reports. "The second round of countrywide sero-survey led by ICMR has been successfully completed. The final phase analysis of the survey is now under way and will offer a comparison with the results of the first survey."
4. **The objective:** Before it embarked on its national survey, the ICMR had explicitly specified that the survey's objective was to estimate national prevalence and spread of the infection in hotspots. "The study has two parts out of which the primary task of estimating the fraction of population who has been infected with SARS-CoV-2 in general public has been completed. The second objective of estimating fraction of population who has been infected in containment zones of hotspot cities is in the process of completion," the Health Ministry said in a statement released on June 11, which has been available on the website of the Press Information Bureau.

On that day, Balam Bhargava, Director General, ICMR, had said the prevalence of the disease was 0.73% nationally and that compared to rural areas, risk of spread was 1.09 times higher in urban areas and 1.89 times higher in urban slums.

5. **Lockdown effect:** These findings undermined the effectiveness of the lockdown in containing the spread of the virus and the government’s insistence that abrupt shutdown of the country had restricted the virus transmission to only a few dense urban agglomerations. The government also emphasises that there is, as of today, no evidence of community transmission in India.



Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **ANY SIX** out of the seven questions given below.

(1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) What was the effect of lockdown?
- (ii) What did the abrupt shutdown of the country restrict?
- (iii) When is the community transmission said to be taking place?
- (iv) According to the passage, how many infections went undetected for every confirmed case in May?
- (v) According to ICMR, how many samples had been tested as of September 19?
- (vi) State a valid reason for conducting the second sero-survey by ICMR.
- (vii) With reference to the graphs, identify the following:
 - (a) State with maximum number of cases
 - (b) State with minimum number of deaths.

Answers:

- (i) It contained the spread of the virus.
- (ii) It restricted the virus transmission to only a few dense urban mass.
- (iii) When the source of contagion is not known.
- (iv) 82,130 infections.

- (v) 6.36 crore samples
(vi) To determine the prevalence of Covid-19.
(vii) (a) Maharashtra (b) Odisha

Section B – WRITING (8 marks)

- III.** You are Akshay/Aakriti. You have been invited to participate in a seminar on ‘Fundamental Rights of Children’, organised by the Lions Club of your district. Respond to the invitation by writing a letter to the Secretary of the club. (1 × 3 = 3)

Ans. 25, Aram Bagh Road

Meerut

5 May 20XX

The Secretary

Lions Club, Meerut

Sub: Acceptance of Invitation

Sir

Thank you for your invitation to a seminar on ‘Fundamental Rights of Children’, and your concern for the under-privileged children. I would like to utilise this opportunity to share my experiences with other like-minded enthusiasts and experts.

I hereby confirm my participation in the seminar.

Yours sincerely

Aakriti

Or

Sub: Inability to accept the invitation

Sir

Thank you very much for inviting me to participate in a seminar on ‘Fundamental Rights of Children’. I feel honoured and obliged. However, I shall not be able to accept your invitation due to some previous commitments which keep me confined to my place on that day.

Thanking you once again for your kind invitation.

Yours sincerely

Akshay

- IV. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.** (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. India Assurance Company, New Delhi has given an advertisement in ‘The Hindustan Times’ for recruitment of management trainees to be groomed as managers of their company. Apply for the same, giving your detailed bio-data (curriculum vitae). Invent all necessary details. You are Aman/Aditi, 54-A, Gulab Road, Lucknow.

Ans. 54-A, Gulab Road

Lucknow

10 March 20XX

The Personnel Manager

India Assurance Company

New Delhi

Sub: *Recruitment of Management Trainee*

Sir

With reference to your advertisement in The Hindustan Times dated 5th March, 20×× for management trainees to be groomed as managers for your company, I would like to be considered for the said post.

My Bio-data is enclosed for your perusal and consideration. If I am found suitable, I can appear for the interview at any time suitable to you. In case of selection, I assure you of my unstinted co-operation and devotion in the discharge of my duties.

Yours faithfully
Aditi
Encl.: Bio-data

Bio-Data	
Name	: Aditi Kukreja
Father's Name	: Prof. S.N. Kukreja
Address	: 54-A, Gulab Road, Lucknow
Date of Birth	: 7th August, 19××
Educational Qualifications	: 1. B.Com., Delhi University 2. MBA from Symbiosis, Pune 3. Diploma in Computer Application from NIIT, Lucknow
Experience	: 1 year
Present Employment	: Working with Global Telesystems, Lucknow
Marital Status	: Unmarried
Personal Details	: Age 27 years Height 5'-3" Weight 60 kg Mother Tongue—Hindi
Languages known	: English, Punjabi, French
Hobbies	: Reading, Listening to music, Painting
References	: 1. Professor Suresh Mohan, IT College, Lucknow 2. Professor Kapil Ranjan, Symbiosis, Pune

OR

- B. You are Sneha/Anshu of Army Public School, Meerut. Recently you had the honour of having participated as the contingent leader of your school team in the Republic Day parade in Delhi, in which your school was adjudged the best participating team. Write a report in about 120-150 words about the memorable event for publication in your school magazine.

Ans.

REPUBLIC DAY HONOURS

[by Anshu]

This year's Republic Day will ever be cherished as a red letter day by our school. On this historic occasion our school team had the good fortune to participate in the Republic Day parade at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. More than fifty teams representing different parts of India displayed their varied, colourful and romantic items of songs, dances and aerobics. Their feats made people glued to their feet. The enthusiasm and cheerfulness of the participants was beyond description. The celebrations were also a test of performance of the participating teams. When the name of our school was announced as the best participating team, I felt overjoyed. For a moment, disbelief overpowered me. Then, I, as contingent leader went forward to receive the shield. I dedicated this award to our Principal and the Physical Instructor who had provided us such an excellent training.

Section C — LITERATURE (18 marks)

V. Attempt ANY FIVE of the six questions given below, within 40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) Why did the peddler think of the world as a rattrap? What became his cherished pastime?

Ans. The world had never been kind to the peddler. So, he got unusual joy to think ill of the world. His pastime was to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare of the world, and of others who were still circling around the bait.

- (ii) Why do you think Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from Rajendra Prasad's well at Patna?

Ans. The servants of Rajendra Prasad thought Gandhi to be another peasant. They did not know him. They were not certain whether he was an untouchable or not. They feared that some drops from his bucket might pollute the entire well. So, he was not permitted to draw water from the well.

(iii) How does a thing of beauty provide us shelter and comfort?

Ans. John Keats is a great Romantic poet. He is rich in sensuous imagery. Nature provides us things of rare beauty. It keeps a bower quiet for us. A bower is a pleasant place in the shade under a tree. A thing of beauty also provides us peace and security. We enjoy a sound sleep which is full of sweet dreams, health and peaceful breathing.

(iv) What difficulty does Aunt Jennifer face while making her tigers and why?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer is making her tigers in the panels. She is using ivory needles. Her fingers are fluttering through the wool. She finds it difficult (hard) to pull even the ivory needles. The reason is obvious. The weight of unhappy and unfortunate experiences of her married life sits heavily on her hands.

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

Ans. Jack insisted that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother because he wanted to prove a point to Jo that the little Skunk loved his mother more than he loved all the other little animals and his mother knew what was right for him.

(vi) How does Mr Lamb react to Derry's query: 'Aren't you interested'?

Ans. Mr Lamb tells Derry that he is interested in anybody and anything. There's nothing God made that does not interest him. Fruit and flowers, trees and herbs, grass and weeds all interest him. Even stuff or rubbish is interesting. He finds no essential difference between a 'weed' and another 'flower' as both represent life—developing or growing.

VI. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 120-150 words each. (4 × 2 = 8)

(i) "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." This is what John Keats says in the poem. Do you think in the present times of acute stress and violence, proximity to beautiful things can lead man to everlasting happiness? Discuss.

Ans. A thing of beauty gives us permanent happiness. When we look at objects of beauty we feel happy, and the lasting impression that such objects leave on our mind continues giving pleasure, even after they are gone.

In the present times of acute stress and violence, the objects of beauty attain even greater significance. When our mind is anxious and troubled, the very sight of beautiful things often comes as a relief and provides us comfort and happiness.

Appreciating beautiful things is like appreciating God who has bestowed them upon mankind as a gift so that we can derive happiness and solace from them. Proximity to beautiful things brings us closer to the creator, in whom lies the ultimate power to grant us relief from all anxieties and troubles. Therefore, it is sure to bring everlasting happiness at all times.

(ii) What precautions were taken for the smooth conduct of the O-Level German examination in prison and why?

Ans. James Roderick Evans was a smart fellow. He was known as 'Evans the Break' among the prison officers. He had escaped from prison three times. Now he was taking O-Level German Examination in prison.

His solitary cell was located in D-Wing, which had two heavy gates—outer and inner. Both were locked securely. Evans's cell was kept under strict observation. Prison officer Mr Stephens watched his activities every minute through the peep-hole. Mr Jackson, the in charge of D-Wing, was in constant touch with the Governor on phone. The Governor himself listened in to the conversation in the cell. During his stay in prison, Evans was not allowed to have any visitor or letters.

All potential weapons such as knife, scissors, nail-file and razor had been removed from the cell of Evans. The contents of the suitcase of the invigilator, Reverend S. McLeery were also thoroughly searched. Even the paper-knife was taken away. In short, all precautions had been taken to see that Evans did not get a means to escape.

(iii) The peddler thinks that the whole world is a rattrap. This view of life is true only of himself and of no one else in the story. Comment.

Ans. The peddler doesn't think kindly of the world and its people. For him the world is a big rattrap to trap the people in. The luxuries of the world are the baits that tempt the people to get trapped. The world has been very unkind to him. So it gives him a great pleasure to think ill of it. Ironically, he finds himself trapped like a rat when he steals the thirty kronor of the credulous crofter. Subsequently it leads him to Edla's home where he receives nothing except kindness. It is true that this bitter view of the world is his own subjective one. In fact the world has no dearth of genuinely kind people like the crofter, Edla and even the ironmaster. All treat him kindly. Edla believes in compassion and Christian values and eventually touches the goodness in him and helped him see the world in a positive light.