

**Sample Question Paper - 12**  
**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) The monsoon is such a welcome respite from the scorching summer thanks to the overcast sky, gentle rain and lush greenery all around. Almost all of us love to savour spicy and crunchy food items, such as fritters (pakoras) and chaats like panipuri, sevpuri teamed with cutting chai as the rainwater lashes against the windowpane. However, the season also brings along a lot of diseases, such as dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough and cold and jaundice due to bacteria in the environment. The challenge lies in going about your daily routine without falling ill. If you suffer from low immunity, you are at a higher risk of contracting these diseases.

However, the right dietary tips can strengthen your immunity and help you stay hale and hearty.

- (2) Due to the humid climate, you may not feel too thirsty and consume just one litre of water every day. But you need to be well hydrated as sweat doesn't evaporate quickly in monsoon. Consequently, this prevents the body from releasing heat. So consume a lot of water as it helps to flush out toxins from the body. Ensure that the water is clean, pure and safe to drink. Avoid aerated drinks; instead consume warm beverages, such as green tea with holy basil leaves, ginger, pepper and honey as they have anti-bacterial properties. A bowl of hot vegetable soup is also a good option. The hot beverages increase your body temperature (which will in turn give you warmth) while the ingredients will boost your immunity.
- (3) Consume fruits, such as cherries, bananas, apples, pomegranates, plums, litchis and pears as they are packed with anti-oxidants and are rich in vitamin A, E, C and minerals. Vegetables, such as cauliflower, potatoes, cluster beans, lady's finger, kidney beans, pigeon pea and sprouted grains get spoilt easily due to the humidity. So, they should be avoided. Opt for cooked or steamed veggies. Avoid salads as they comprise raw vegetables that contain active bacteria which lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity. Avoid strong smelling or extra sweet fruits, such as mangoes and jackfruit that attract flies as their excess intake can cause skin irritation and stomach ache. It's also important to store vegetables the right way during the rains. Do not wash the veggies thoroughly before storing, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus. These bacteria can spread to other susceptible food items as well, making them unhygienic. Instead, pat dry and store separate food items in different containers. Buy them in limited portions and use them as soon as possible.
- (4) Dehydration makes your hair brittle and scanty. So hydrate yourself. Zinc and iron help to keep your tresses healthy and beautiful. Consume nuts, eggs and walnuts to maintain hair strength. Walnuts are rich in biotin and vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants. Proteins are important for hair strength too. So add curd to your diet, as it is a great source of protein. Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich

in vitamin C. Vitamin C keeps your hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that among other things strengthens the hair capillaries (ensuring proper nutrient supply to our hair). Also, ensure that you wash your locks on alternate days and cover them well during the monsoon. Dried apricots, roasted sunflower seeds and lentils are better foods to consume during monsoon than other iron-rich foods which are susceptible to microbial attack. Do not forget to eat yummy corn on cob as corn is also rich in iron and zinc.

- (5) So, the secret to enjoy the rains, without the fear of affecting your health is to go light on eating. Have a safe and healthy monsoon.

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

**(1 × 8 = 8)**

- (i) Which of the diseases are brought with the onset of monsoon?
- (ii) What creates a higher risk of contracting diseases in monsoon?
- (iii) Why should one drink a lot of water in humid climate?
- (iv) Why does the passage suggest that we should avoid raw vegetables?
- (v) What is the correct way to store veggies according to the passage?
- (vi) What are the minerals that will help to keep the tresses healthy and beautiful?
- (vii) How does Vitamin C keep our hair strong?
- (viii) What does the consumption of walnuts do to one's body?
- (ix) What are the nutrients and minerals present in corn?

**2. Read the passage carefully.**

- (1) The United States Postal Service (also known as USPS, the Post Office, informally known as the P.O., or the U.S. Mail) is the third largest employer in the United States, after the Department of Defense and WalMart. It employs over 785,000 workers in over 14,000 U.S. postal facilities.
- (2) The Postal Service has certainly grown and changed since 1775 when the first Postmaster General – Benjamin Franklin – was named to head the Post Office Department, the forerunner of the current USPS. At that time, members of the Second Continental Congress agreed that the Postmaster General headquarters, or most important offices, would be stationed in Philadelphia, and that the Postmaster would be paid \$1,000 a year for his or her service.
- (3) As the country grew westward, it became necessary for the railroad system to carry the mail. The Railway Mail Service (RMS) was initiated in 1862. The RMS workers sorted mail on the train, and became some of the fastest workers in the system. They sorted about 600 pieces of mail per hour. All the mail had to be sorted before the train reached the first stop, since some of the mail was destined for that first stop on the route.
- (4) By 1918, the Post Office took over air mail from the U.S. Army. The first airplanes used in U.S. air mail were surplus planes from World War I. The Post Office started with only four pilots flying these leftover planes in August 1918, but by the end of that year, the Post Office had hired 36 more pilots. By 1920, over 49 million air mail letters had been delivered.
- (5) The Post Office has used alternate methods of transmission during its history. It owned and operated the first telegraph lines from 1884 to 1887 – when the lines were privatized. It utilized “V-Mail” (Victory Mail) during World War II when U.S. military mail was put on microfilm in the U.S. and printed near its destination, in order to save space on military transport. During the 1980s, Electronic Computer Originated Mail, called ECOM, was used for some bulk mailings. Computer generated mail was printed near its destination, and bore a blue ECOM logo on its special envelopes.

- (6) In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act, signed by President Richard Nixon, replaced the Post Office Department (a Cabinet-level department) with the independent US Postal Service.
- The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload and modernized operations. Today's multi-line optical character readers (MLOCs) can read the entire address on an envelope, print a barcode on the envelope, and sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second. The zip code +4, a four digit code added to the end of the existing 5-digit code, has decreased the number of times a piece of mail needs to be handled.
- (7) Special barcode sorters assign an 11-digit zip code to each address, apply a barcode to each letter, and sort the mail in order of delivery.
- The Postal Service has installed automated customer-service equipment in lobbies, and is planning to automate even more of its work, including more machines which will process parcels and forwarded mail. The price of a first-class stamp - recently approved at 44 cents and good for up to one-ounce domestic mail- seems relatively inexpensive compared to its predecessor; the first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847. The first stamps, adorned with a picture of Benjamin Franklin, sold for 5 cents apiece. They were used for letters weighing less than one ounce with a travel distance of less than 300 miles. By way of comparison, pay records available for the 1890s indicate that a typical year's pay for a schoolteacher was around \$500, or 10,000 times the price of a stamp. Stamp prices then seem relatively high when compared to today's average teacher pay, in the \$40,000 per-year range, or about 1,000,000 times the price of a postage stamp!

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any six of the following questions:** (1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) Abbreviate USPS.
- (ii) Who is the three largest employers in the United States?
- (iii) When was the Postal Service founded and who was its first Postmaster General?
- (iv) How did the RMS become the fastest workers in the service?
- (v) What was the postal services act signed by President Richard Nixon?
- (vi) Whose picture did the first stamps of U.S. postage service have?
- (vii) What is the function of special barcode sorters?

## SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You are the secretary of the literary club in your university and you have decided to invite Mr. Mahesh Dattani, a famous playwright to preside over the literacy event. Write a formal invitation requesting him to grace the occasion in 50 words. You are Sharon. (3)
4. Answer any one of the following questions. (5)

You are Nitish of 52, Karol Bagh, New Delhi you have seen an advertisement in The Hindu newspaper for the post of chef in the The Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.

OR

The eminent psychologist, Dr. Madhumita was invited by your school authorities to speak to the students on the topic, 'How to maintain robust mental health'. She delivered a lively speech without using any medical technical terms. After the lecture the students asked many questions especially about how to cope with stress during examinations. Dr. Madhumita addressed their concerns very patiently and gave them some very useful tips. Write a report in 120 – 150 words for your school magazine describing the session with the psychologist. You are Noor/Hilal Head-girl/Head-boy, National School, Sonapat.

## SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

**5. Attempt any five out of six given questions in 40 words.**

**(2 × 5 = 10)**

- (i) How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty?
- (ii) What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?
- (iii) Why did Mr. Lamb help Derry?
- (iv) Why is Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?
- (v) For Aunt Jennifer, what do the tigers symbolise?
- (vi) Write a character sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison based on the story, 'Evans Tries on O-Level'.

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

**(4 × 2 = 8)**

- (i) Why according to Gandhi the amount of refund didn't matter as much as the act of getting the refund?
- (ii) What efforts does Mr Lamb make to strike up a friendship with Derry, the small boy, who enters his garden ?
- (iii) How far was Stephens helpful for Evans' escape?

## Solution

### ENGLISH CORE 301

#### Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) Many diseases like dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough, cold and jaundice are brought with the onset of monsoon.

(ii) Suffering from low immunity creates a higher risk of contracting diseases in monsoon.

(iii) Drinking a lot of water in humid climate can help to keep the body hydrated and also to flush toxins out of the body.

(iv) We should avoid raw vegetables because they contain active bacteria which can lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity.

(v) According to the passage, one shouldn't wash the veggies thoroughly before, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus.

(vi) Zinc and iron are the minerals that will help keep the tresses healthy and beautiful.

(vii) Vitamin C keeps our hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that strengthens the hair capillaries.

(viii) Walnuts are rich in biotin and Vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants and help in maintaining hair strength.

(ix) Corn is rich in iron and zinc.

2. (i) United States Postal Service.

(ii) The USPS, the Department of Defense and Walmart are the three largest employers in the United States.

(iii) The Postal Service was founded in 1775 with Benjamin Franklin as its first Postmaster General.

(iv) They became the fastest by sorting the mail on the train before every stop.

(v) The Post Reorganisation Act of 1970 was signed by President Nixon.

(vi) The first stamps of U.S. postage service were adorned with a picture of Benjamin Franklin.

(vii) Special barcode sorters assign an 11-digit zip code to each address apply a barcode to each letter and sort the mail in order of delivery.

3. 17, Sprindale Colony,  
Christ University,  
Mumbai

Respected Sir,

The literary club of Christ University, takes immense pleasure in inviting the famous playwright, Mr. Mahesh Dattani to grace the occasion of the Annual literary event of the year from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on 14, March 20XX. Looking forward to your presence in the occasion.

Sharon

Literary Club Secretary.

#### 4. A Speech by Dr. Madhumita on Mental Health

*By Noor Sheikh, Head-girl*

The authorities of National School, Sonapat organised a speech on the topic 'How to maintain robust mental health'. The programme started with the brief introduction of the guest by our principal. The eminent psychologist Dr. Madhumita delivered the speech in a very lively and interactive way. She spoke about the importance of mental health and also the stigmas

attached to mental health issues. She talked about how the mental health is significant for a student in this competitive world and also shared insights on how to maintain sanity. She advised students to practice meditation and yoga. Later the students and the psychologist got involved in Q and A session where students asked their concerns and the Dr. replied without the use of any medical terms. She also told them about the importance of sharing one's mental

health issues and being compassionate towards others. The students were very happy to have their doubts cleared and know about the unknown facts. The event ended with a vote of thanks by our principal.

5. (i) The 'mighty dead' refers to our forefathers. The glorious tales of our valor fill us with a sense of pride and are also things of beauty as they fill us with pleasure and motivation. Their death though tragic continues to inspire us through their brave sacrifice.

(ii) As Edla lifted the peddler's hat, he jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. Even her kind looks, disclosure of her name and purpose of visit failed to calm him. From his fear, she thought that either he had stolen something or he had escaped from jail.

(iii) Mr. Lamb helped Derry because he too was handicapped, therefore he understood how Derry felt. Also, he was concerned about Derry's negative attitude towards life. Mr. Lamb wanted to save the little boy from the habit of self-pitying.

(v) Aunt Jennifer, lived an unhappy life in constant fear of her authoritative husband and the fact that she would never be freed not even after her death. Therefore, for her, the tigers symbolised fearlessness, confidence and freedom, something she lacked but hoped to possess.

(vi) The Governor of the Oxford prison was a kind-hearted man, who requested the Secretary of the Examination board to allow Evans to appear for the O-Level German Examination. He also seemed smart and efficient fellow, who, knowing that Evans had a tendency to escape prison, took every precaution to prevent that from happening. Yet, by the end of the story, he turned out to be a gullible man with qualities, which are 'good-for-a-giggle'. The Governor was alert on some occasions, but on others, quite negligent and

over-confident man, with a bad judgment of character. It is for this reason, Evans was able to escape from his prison multiple times.

6. (i) Gandhi fought the case on behalf of the sharecroppers and the evidence that he collected was so overwhelming that the landlords were asked to repay. When Gandhi asked for 50% repayment, the landlords offered to pay only 25% as they wanted to create a deadlock and thus prolong the dispute. Gandhi agreed to a refund of 25%. According to him the amount of refund had very little impact as compared to the idea of the British govt and the landlords giving in to the rightful demands of the farmers. What mattered was that these people in power and position after years of exploiting the helpless farmers were obliged to surrender a part of their money and with it, part of their prestige. The peasants understood their rights and how people were there to support them in upholding their rights. They learned courage. Gradually, indigo sharecropping disappeared from the area and the land came back to the poor peasants.

(ii) Mr Lamb is quite gentle, accommodating and protective. He asks Derry to mind the apples as he might trip. Instead of feeling angry over the way of his entry, he points out that the gate is always open and he is welcome. His cordial manner and conciliatory tone touch the inner most chords of a defiant boy like Derry who does not want to mix up with others. On learning about his burnt face, he does not react like others. Instead of exhibiting fear and revulsion, he shows understanding and affection. He admits that he is the same as the boy. If the boy has a burnt face, he has got a tin leg. Gradually, he tries to win over the confidence of Derry by reminding him of Beauty and the Beast. He then tells him the story of a man who feared everything and shut himself in a room. His positive attitude towards life inspires the boy to talk to him like a friend.