

**Sample Question Paper - 17**  
**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) Today, India looks like it is on course to join the league of developed nations. It is beginning to establish a reputation not just as the technology nerve centre and back-office to the world, but also as its production centre. India's secularism and democracy serve as a role model to other developing countries. There is great pride in an Indian that easily integrates with a global economy, yet maintains a unique cultural identity.
- (2) But what is breathtaking is India's youth. For despite being an ancient civilization that traces itself to the very dawn of human habitation, India is among the youngest countries in the world. More than half the country is under 25 years of age and more than a third is under 15 years of age.
- (3) Brought up in the shadow of the rise of India's service industry boom, this group feels it can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world. This confidence has them demonstrating a great propensity to consume, throwing away ageing ideas of asceticism and thrift. Even those who do not have enough to consume today feel that they have the capability and opportunity to do so.
- (4) The economic activity created by this combination of a growing labour pool and rising consumption demand is enough to propel India to double digit economic growth for decades. One just has to look at the impact that the baby boomers in the US had over decades of economic activity, as measured by equity and housing prices. This opportunity also represents the greatest threat to India's future. If the youth of India are not properly educated and if there are not enough jobs created, India will have forever lost its opportunity. There are abundant danger signs.
- (5) Fifty-three per cent of students in primary schools drop out, one-third of children in Class V cannot read, three quarters of schools do not have a functioning toilet, female literacy is only 45 per cent and 80 million children in the age group of 6-14 do not even attend school.
- (6) India's IT and BPO industries are engines of job creation, but they still account for only 0.2 per cent of India's employment. The country has no choice but to dramatically industrialize and inflate its domestic economy. According to a forecast by the Boston Consulting Group, more than half of India's unemployed within the next decade could be its educated youth. We cannot allow that to happen.
- (7) India is stuck in a quagmire of labour laws that hinder employment growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Inflexible labour laws inhibit entrepreneurship so it is quite ironic that laws ostensibly designed to protect labour actually discourage employment.
- (8) Employment creation needs an abundant supply of capital. Controls on foreign investment have resulted in China getting five times the foreign direct investment, or an advantage of \$200 billion over the past five years. The growing interest in India by global private equity firms offers well as they represent pools of patient and smart capital, but they too face many bureaucratic hurdles.
- (9) When it comes to domestic capital availability, budget deficits adding up to 10 per cent of the national GDP impede capital availability for investment and infrastructure.

- (10) Raising infrastructure spending, coupled with rapid privatization, may not only create employment but also address the growing gaps in infrastructure. China has eight times the highway miles and has increased roads significantly in the past few years while India has only inched along. Freight costs at Indian ports are almost double the worldwide average, just to, give two examples.
- (11) Moreover, like the Lilliputians that kept the giant Gulliver tied down there are some 30,000 statutes in India of which only a portion are even operational and these keep the employment creation engine tied down. Since there are no sunset provisions in any laws the regulatory morass only grows every year.
- (12) In the meantime, we as citizens of the world and descendants of India have to make a difference. We have to ensure that India and its youth attain that potential both through our business pursuits and the support of educational charities, on-the-ground proponents of participative democracy as well as other deserving organizations and initiatives.
- (13) I believe that hope can triumph and that this can be India's century — not one that will happen as surely as the sun will rise each day, but one that many willing hands will need to create together.

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

**(1 × 8 = 8)**

- (i) What do you think “India is among the youngest countries in the world” means?
- (ii) What are the major issues that India is facing in terms of academic excellence?
- (iii) What prediction was made by the Boston Consulting Group?
- (iv) What does a “quagmire” mean?
- (v) The narrator made a reference to Jonathan Swift’s “Gulliver’s Travels”. Why was the comparison made?
- (vi) Which sectors are the main job creation engines in India?
- (vii) What is the one factor that obstructs the growth of employment in the manufacturing sector in India?
- (viii) What, according to the narrator, makes India a role model to other developing countries?
- (ix) Which country got more foreign direct investment as compared to India?

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

- (1) Torrential rains and swollen rivers have caused chaos across central and eastern Europe, while a massive heat wave in southern Europe has helped reduce the Portuguese wood land to tinder. Tens of thousands of people face a massive relief operation as the extent of the devastation slowly becomes clear. The death toll continues to mount steadily across the continent. The latest estimate puts the number since mid-August, 2005 at over 150. “Unfortunately, we are expecting the number of victims to rise by the hour,” said Romanian interior minister Vasile Blaga. Though the heat wave persists in Portugal and Spain, forest fires in Portugal have been brought under control. By August 26, 2005, the waters began to recede across Germany and the Czech Republic, the countries hardest hit, by the floods. The situation also improved in Croatia, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. But some areas of Switzerland and Germany remained on alert. Huge damages were reported from all over Europe. Thousands of people had to be evacuated from their homes. Many villages were abandoned in Portugal, while helicopters were used in Switzerland and Austria to airlift people from flooded houses and landslides. The floods’ worst impact was along the Danube, Morava and Elbe rivers and their tributaries. Dresden in Germany was one of the hardest hits. Germany puts the damages at around US \$14 billion, but the German state of Saxony alone puts its own costs at around US \$16 billion. Austria quotes a clean-up bill of US \$2 billion, and the Czech Republic US \$3 billion. But all these figures are speculative. What is disturbing is that relief operations appear stretched. In Germany, only US \$200 per adult is currently available from both the EU and the government. The reason behind the bedlam is the jet stream, high-speed winds usually found just below the tropopause, which drives the depressions and fronts that affect the weather. Usually found between 7,620 metres (in) and 13,716(m) altitude, it flows

eastwards at speeds up to 200 m per hour around the Earth. It is formed when cold air from the Arctic meets warm air from the tropics. Because the jet stream fluctuates, its track makes huge differences to the weather. This year it positioned around Europe locking high pressure over southwest Europe which in its turn is responsible for creating intense drought in some parts and deluges of rain in other parts.

- (2) While many blame global warming for the disaster, some scientists are reluctant to draw a direct link. "We are linking these events to climate change... There are also other things happening building up of the land, bad land use plans, bad fire prevention in the south... But all the factors together are more and more exacerbated by global warming," explains Martin Hiller, spokesperson for Worldwide Fund for Nature. Malcolm Haylock of the University of East Anglia the UK, is more dithering. "You can say that due to the Earth getting warmer there will be on an average more extreme events but you can't attribute any specific event to climate change".
- (3) Despite growing consensus about global warming, it is hard to find long-term trends in rainfall that would have direct effect on the droughts and floods. Some experts believe the North Atlantic Oscillation climate system has caused a drift towards drier conditions in southern Europe and more rainfall in the north during winters; its effects during summers are not as clear.

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

- (i) What was responsible for the reduced state of the Portuguese woodland to tinder?
- (ii) What was the main reason the different calamities were regarded as a result of global warming?
- (iii) The narrator stated "despite the growing consensus about global warming". What is the "growing consensus" referred to here?
- (iv) "But all these figures are speculative." What do you think this means?
- (v) What do you think Malcolm Haylock meant when he says "you can't attribute any specific event to climate change"?
- (vi) What, according to some experts, is the main cause of the differing climatic conditions?
- (vii) Despite the heat wave raging, which country was able to control the forest fire?

## SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You are Manoj /Mini. You have been invited to attend a birthday party of your closest friend. Respond to this invitation, accepting it. (3)
4. **Answer any one of the following questions** (5)

You are Prem/Parul of 16, TT Nagar, Bhopal. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chantac Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 125-150 words giving your bio-data.

OR

Traffic police has launched a special drive against pollution causing vehicles. This has led to traffic jams and crowds at important intersections. Write a report in 100-125 words to be published in '*Chennai Times*'. You are Prince/Priya, 12 M.G. Road, Adayar, Chennai.

## SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. **Attempt any five out of six given questions in 40 words.** (2 × 5 = 10)
- (i) When did the ironmaster realize that the peddler was none of his regimental acquaintances?
- (ii) Why did Gandhiji meet Secretary of the British landlord's association? How was he treated by him?

- (iii) What did Derry's mother think of Mr Lamb?
- (iv) How did the wizard help Roger Skunk?
- (v) What image does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth ?
- (vi) Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel ?

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

**(4 × 2 = 8)**

- (i) To be grateful is a great virtue of a gentleman. How did the peddler show his gratitude to Edla?
- (ii) Give an account of Gandhiji's efforts to secure justice for the poor indigo sharecroppers of Champaran.
- (iii) How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?

## Solution

### ENGLISH CORE 301

#### Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) It means that more than half of the country's population is under 25 years of age while more than a third of the population is under 15 years of age.
- (ii) In terms of academics, 50% of students drop-out in primary schools, 1/3rd of children in Class V cannot read, 3/4th of the schools have no functioning toilets, while female literacy is only 45% and 80 million children in the age group of 6-14 do not even attend school.
- (iii) The Boston Consulting Group predicted that within the next decade, more than half of the country's unemployed will comprise of the educated youth.
- (iv) The term "quagmire" refers to a sticky, dangerous, or complicated situation that may not end well.
- (v) The narrator uses the reference to Gulliver to show how like Gulliver was tied down by the Lilliputians, India's laws and statutes prohibits the growth and working of the employment sector.
- (vi) The IT and BPO industries are the main job creation engines in India, though at a mere 0.2 percent of the whole nation's employment figure.
- (vii) The labour laws in the country is one factor that prohibits or obstructs the growth of employment in the manufacturing sector.
- (viii) The secularism and democracy of India makes it a role model for other developing countries.
- (ix) China got more foreign direct investment as compared to India, five times more FDI.
2. (i) A massive heat wave in Southern Europe was mainly responsible for the reduced state of the woodland to tinder in Portugal.
- (ii) Because of the differences in how the calamities were occurring, they were credited to be a result of global warming. There was a flood on one side while the other parts are suffering from heat waves.
- (iii) The "growing consensus" referred here is that global warming is responsible for the extreme events happening in and around Europe.
- (iv) The figures or bill presented by the different countries as relief or damages cost are speculative and not exact.
- (v) Malcolm Haylock meant to say that climate change cannot be the lone cause of or be blamed for what is happening in Europe.
- (vi) Some experts believe that the North Atlantic Oscillation climate system is responsible for the calamities that occurred in Europe by causing a drift towards drier conditions in southern Europe and more rainfall in the north during the winters.
- (vii) Despite the heatwave, Portugal was able to bring the forest fires under control.

3.

B-12, Raja Nagar  
Moradabad

15<sup>th</sup> July, 20XX

Dear Raj,

I feel honoured to be invited to attend your 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Please accept my wishes on this auspicious occasion. It will be great to be a part of the fun and frolic and meet all our friends. I hereby confirm my presence. Looking forward to being there.

With best wishes

Yours

Manoj

4.

16, TT Nagar,

Bhopal

20 February 20xx

Public Relations Officer

Chantac Enterprises

Mumbai

Subject: Application for the Post of Marketing Manager

Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement in The Hindu dated February 15, 20××. I wish to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in your prestigious organisation. I am a hard working and honest person who is passionate about marketing. I completed my MBA in 2012. Since then, I have been working with RP Communications as a marketing manager. I am enclosing my bio-data, photocopies of certificates and testimonials for your reference. If selected, I assure you that I shall work with devotion and sincerity to your full satisfaction. Hoping for a favourable response.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Parul Pathak

#### BIO-DATA

Name : Parul Pathak

Father's Name : Mahesh Pathak

Address : 16, TT Nagar, Bhopal

Phone : 91xxxxxxxx

Date of Birth : 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1989

Marital Status : Unmarried

Educational

Qualification : MBA in Finance, Management DT Institute, Gurgaon (2012), B.Com. in Accountancy, BU (2009)

Experience : Manager at RP Communications

Skills : Excellent communication and management skills, team player, sincerity, ability to convince and influence people

Languages

known : Fluent in English, Hindi and German

Reference : Mr. D. K. Paul Senior Manager, RP Communications, Bhopal

Or

#### Drive Against Pollution Causing Vehicles Unsuccessful

*by Priya, Staff Reporter*

**Chennai : 2nd March, 20×× :** Traffic Police launched a special drive against pollution causing vehicles on March 1, 20××. The commissioner of Chennai formed a special team who were checking each vehicle on M. G. Road. About 2000 vehicles were checked in which more than half of the vehicles were found to be causing pollution. However, the pollution checking drive

resulted in severe traffic jams and crowd gathering at important intersections.

Some vehicle owners daily commuting on that road, thought that though the drive was for a good cause, it made them late for their work. Several others felt the government should have made proper arrangements prior to the beginning of the drive. Doing so would have helped avoid the unnecessary traffic jam.

5. (i) Next day when the peddler took bath and changed into fresh clothes, the ironmaster realized that he was not his friend from his old regiment. Edla

also told him that she did not find anything in the guest which could assure that he was an educated man.

(iii) Derry's mother did not have a good impression of Mr. Lamb for she thought that he was not a good man. She did not want Derry to get acquainted with him or see him for any purpose.

(iv) Roger Skunk had asked the wizard to make him smell like roses. The wizard took a magic wand and chanted a spell and all of a sudden, the wizard's whole house smelt of roses and so did Roger Skunk. This is how the wizard helped Roger Skunk.

(v) The earth is beautiful in terms of lovely scenes and sights. It produces lovely green trees, delicate daffodils and streams. These come as a healing balm to a person in pain or distress. The poet compares them to a fountain of immortal drink from heaven.

(vi) Aunt Jennifer chose to embroider tigers on the panel because secretly, she wanted to be like the tigers-fearless, proud, unafraid and liberated.

6. (i) The Rattrap is the story of a peddler who used to earn his living by selling small rattraps of wire. But, since his business was not profitable, he often indulged in begging and stealing. He had a grudge against the world because no one was ever kind to him. He took pleasure in imagining others in pain and misery as much as he was. This is why he did not mind absconding with the old crofter's thirty kronors even though the crofter treated him with kindness. However, Edla's sympathetic behaviour and

understanding nature transformed the thief into an honest man. Edla's father wanted the peddler out of his house immediately when he came to know that he was not his old friend. But Edla insisted that the peddler should spend the Christmas Eve with them and stay for the Christmas feast. She fed him, gave him clean clothes to wear and a place to sleep for the night. The peddler was not expecting to be treated with so much respect, almost like a gentleman. Edla's humbleness and compassion won over the peddler and brought about a change in him. He not only left behind the thirty kronors notes to be returned to the crofter, the peddler also left Edla a rattrap as her Christmas gift. In the letter, the peddler thanked Edla for her kindness and hospitality. He signed the letter as Captain von Stahle because Edla made her feel so honoured. The peddler's transformation proves that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love

(iii) The skunk's story was different from the other stories narrated by Jack because other stories ended on a happy note. The wizard always resolved the problem by the end of the story, which appealed a lot to Jo. However, Roger Skunk's story had a twisted ending. In this story, the wizard was unable to help Roger Skunk because mother skunk interfered in the process. Jo had not so much interrupted the narration earlier or challenged Jack's authority. It was also the only story, the ending of which was unacceptable to Jo. But above all, unlike any of Jack's stories, the ending of this story remained unresolved.