

**Sample Question Paper - 18**  
**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) By the time Michael Phelps, the world-famous swimmer, finished at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics, having come out of retirement, he had bagged five gold medals. This was one short of the six overall medals India has won in 70 years since independence.
- (2) But put the swimmer's four Olympics together, since Athens 2004, and he has 28 medals, including 23 gold. India has 23 medals in total since 1948.
- (3) This comparison was cited often after India bagged a disappointing two medals in Rio, a slide since London 2012 when it won – by its standards, a record – six medals.
- (4) When seen in comparison to India's overall size and population, we have the lowest number of medals per capita. India has never played the football world cup, has won a single individual gold medal at the Olympics and has had only a handful of people ranked No. 1 in their sport. The country's only worthwhile success has come in a sport played by just a dozen nations.
- (5) If we take into account the country's sporting achievements since independence, the successes seem limited considering all disciplines except cricket – Olympic sports and others like chess, squash, racing, etc. In many, participation has not been credit-worthy. Gymnast Dipa Karmarkar, who finished fourth in the vault at Rio, and Dipika Pallikal, who got into the top 10 ranking in women's squash in 2012, were significant achievements for Indian sportswomen. Yet – and cruelly so – they were no big achievements in the world of sport.
- (6) But why is India so poor in sports? Football is a craze in Bengal, Goa and Kerala, then why is that Indian football team ranked no. 97 in the World? Over the years, experts and fans have offered several reasons to explain our lack of success: hereditary characteristics, poverty (therefore lack of nutrition), social divisions and an absence of sporting culture. Hereditary characteristics are used to explain why we do well in sports that do not require high athletic ability, speed and strength. Like cricket, billiards, chess, archery, shooting and tennis doubles (as opposed to singles which requires the entire court to be covered). But the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese share relatively the same height and physicality as Indians – China won 27 gold medals in Rio. If poverty were the reason, then it becomes difficult to explain the success of nations like Jamaica (11 medals in Rio, for example, and Usain Bolt), Ethiopia (8) and Kenya (14) in athletics. Lack of sporting culture may be one reason. For generations, Indians have felt the need to focus on academics as their ticket to a better life. Many schools and colleges do not have sports programmes, grounds or facilities. Politics, administration and corruption are a few obstacles responsible for robbing aspiring athletes of success in their fields. Scandals, scams and abuse of power have weakened several associations.

- (7) But there are reasons why we are collectively feeling optimistic post London 2012. A bunch of nongovernmental organisations are trying (and succeeding) to fill the gaps that administrations have left behind, in providing funds to promising athletes. There is a change in mindset too. Parents are now able to allow their children to focus on sports, believing it to be a genuine career choice. Successful champions are investing in the growth of talent. Be it Geet Sethi, Viswanathan Anand, Prakash Padukone or P. Gopi Chand, they are bringing their star appeal and expertise to back their chosen sport. Leagues have started among many sporting disciplines, which, if continued and successful, are bound to create talent pools in the years to come, besides being financially rewarding.
- (8) The growth of cricket, since the 1983 World Cup, through the business sense of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and thanks to the marketability of Sachin Tendulkar and M.S. Dhoni, among others, has seen the sport grow in small towns. Class and caste distinctions are less visible in cities, making sport more widely accessible. India's growing economic strength is helping too – corporate giants as well as new businessmen are investing money and technology in sports businesses.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight of the following questions** (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What was the main reason why the author compares Michael Phelps' achievement to that of the whole nation's (India's) overall achievement?
- (ii) Despite a large interest in sports such as football, why is it that India has never been able to participate or compete internationally?
- (iii) What is the sport that is played by "just a dozen nations" but hugely popular in India?
- (iv) What changed mindset, according to the author, has started in India about sports?
- (v) Taking the country's sporting achievements since independence into account, why is it that the successes seems limited?
- (vi) What, according to the author, seem to be the main reason why India is so poor in sports?
- (vii) What is the change seen or felt post London 2012?
- (viii) How can the economic strength of the country help change the fate of sports and sportspersons as a whole?
- (ix) Why can't India blame poverty for the poor performance and inclusion in sports?

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

One of the biggest changes in India's food scene in the last five years has been serving of tea like coffee is served in cafes (coffee houses). The market is estimated to be more than 1 lakh crore (assuming two cups of chai a day for every adult Indian). It is not just being brewed, boiled and sipped at home or at unorganised chaiwallahs found outside offices, markets, and neighbourhoods but at fashionable chai cafes. Chai Point, started in 2010 by Harvard studied Amuleek Singh Bijral in Bengaluru, was the first of these chai startups to start changing the game. Today, with over a hundred outlets pan-India, it claims to serve more than 3 lakh cups of tea every day. Chaayos, a company that serves chai, has grown from 7 cafes in 2015 to 40 cafes in Delhi, Mumbai and Chandigarh after it received an impressive \$5 million funding from Tiger Verma, one of the two Chaayos founders, recalls the initial doubts. "When we started, one question everyone asked us was whether Indian customers will pay that much (40-150) for chai. But right from our pilot project in Cyber city, Gurugram, we found that people did and happily came back. A key to our business is repeat customers which is as much as 40-45%," he says. Verma will not share his revenue numbers but says year-on-year growth is 300%. The company is now looking at highways (they've opened an outlet in Karnal) and airport formats, besides 24-hour cafes and large 100-150 seaters (they opened one in Delhi's Karol Bagh). Chai Thela, a QSR (Quick Service Restaurant) focusing on offices and commercial hubs, offers street snacks like poha

and vada-pav along with chai. Last year, it raised 1.5 crore from micro-venture capital firm Quarizon and is set to expand. Its founder Pankaj Judge points out: "Earlier, all QSRs only focused on international foods. Now, the younger generation of Indians is more confident about its tastes." Chai, Judge says, is no longer playing second fiddle to coffee, which was always seen as an aspirational drink. In fact, chai fans don't just want to frequent these cafes but order it to be served at home as well. Both Chaayos and Chai Point offer home-delivered chai in insulated "kettles". "Initially, we thought this would be a convenience for offices. But half our business is coming from homes," points out Verma. Nothing can prove a changing chai culture more.

Chai's image change is visible within more luxury settings as well. A host of expensive restaurants are increasingly offering robust chai and not just exclusive tea menus. At St. Regis Mumbai, the country's top luxury hotel brand, the afternoon high tea service is part of the brand's core global experiences. But even within these elite settings what also does remarkably well is the local cutting chai. At Seven Kitchens, the coffee shop, you can see waiters weave their way through tables with glasses of cutting chai for breakfast every day.

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

- (i) What is the main idea of the whole passage?
- (ii) Why is it that India is so focused and invested in its chai culture?
- (iii) What was the initial doubt in the minds of the tea business starters about opening a tea business?
- (iv) What was one of the biggest changes in the Indian food scene?
- (v) What can be attributed to the continuous rise in the tea business despite tea being easily available at homes too?
- (vi) "Elite" can be described to be the same as \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vii) The phrase "play second fiddle" means \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION-B (WRITING)

- 3. You are Rajat Jain, Admin officer of Gayatri Devi Sr. Sec. School, Delhi. Write a formal invitation to invite parents and other official acquaintances to the 40th Founder's Day celebrations. Invent all necessary details. (3)
- 4. Answer any one of the following questions. (5)

Write an application (including a resume) in 120-150 words for the post of receptionist advertised in a national newspaper by JKL Publishers, Peshwa Road, Pune. You are Karuna, M-114, Mall Road, Pune, a graduate from SNDT University and have done a Secretarial Practice Course from YWCA, Mumbai.

OR

The Green Club of your school celebrated 'Van Mahotsava and Environment Protection Week' involving students of your school. Eminent environmentalists, journalists and celebrities were also invited. Write a report in 100-125 words on the activities performed for a local daily. You are Amrit/Amrita, Secretary of the Club.

### SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

- 5. Attempt any five of the following questions in 40 words. (2 × 5 = 10)
  - (i) Why does Jo insist that her father should tell her the story with a different ending?
  - (ii) What did the Detective Superintendent inform the Governor about Evans?
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- (iii) How do the words, 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of Aunt Jennifer's tigers?
- (iv) In the hot season, how do man and beast get comfort?
- (v) Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster?
- (vi) Why is Raj Kumar Shukla described as being 'resolute'?

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

**(4 × 2 = 8)**

- (i) Describe how according to Louis Fischer, Gandhiji succeeded in his Champaran campaign.
- (ii) What picture of male chauvinism (tyranny) do we find in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' ?
- (iii) How did Mr. Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life?

## Solution

### ENGLISH CORE 301

#### Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) The author makes the comparison between a country like India and an individual sportsman, Michael Phelps to show the drastic difference between the achievements and to show the depreciating nature of sports in India.
- (ii) Despite several states' interest in sports such as football, India has been unable to actively participate or even compete in the international level because of lack of infrastructure, poverty, sporting culture, social divisions etc.
- (iii) Cricket is a sport hugely popular in India but played by just a dozen other nations.
- (iv) There is a changed perception about the focus on sports as parents had started to gradually change their belief that academics is the only way for a better future for their children.
- (v) The successes seem limited considering the population as well as the performance of other countries less populated than India.
- (vi) India is so poor in sports because of the various factors at play, like the economic condition of the person, the unavailability of proper infrastructure, or sporting culture in the nation as a whole.
- (vii) Post London 2012 has led some non-governmental organisations emerge and step up to provide help and assistance to sportspersons, thus paving a possible future for them despite the lack of governmental support.
- (viii) The growing economic strength of the nation is helping the sports sector as well as the sportspersons as a whole through corporate giants as well as new businessmen who invest money and technology in sports businesses.
- (ix) Poverty cannot be the sole reason why India fares bad in international sports because other poorer nations like Jamaica as well as Kenya have still bagged more medals in the Olympics.
2. (i) The whole idea of the passage seems to be about the changing chai scene in a country like India.
- (ii) Indians were and still are chai-loving people, invested in its chai drinking culture. It is an important part of their tradition.
- (iii) The initial doubt was whether customers are ready to shell out money to buy tea or chai commercially.
- (iv) One of the biggest changes in the food scene of India in the last five years was the idea to serve chai or tea like coffees are served in cafes.
- (v) The growth of the tea business can be attributed to the preference and loyalty of customers in ordering tea even in their business offices and outside of the home.
- (vi) "Elite" can also mean the same as "high class", the best, the most powerful.
- (vii) The phrase "play second fiddle" means to be perceived to be inferior or lower than another, be a subordinate role, be treated as less important.

3.

The Principal, staff and students of  
Gayatri Devi Sr. Sec. School, Delhi  
cordially invite you to their  
40<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Celebrations  
on Saturday, 12 November, ××××  
at 6.00 p.m. in the School Premises

**Shri XYZ**

(Chief Minister of Delhi)

has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest

**RSVP**

Admn. Officer

Phone : 24423769

(Guests are requested to be

on their seats by 5.45 p.m.)

(Valid for two only)

4.

M-114

Mall Road, Pune

1 March, 20××

JKL Publisher

Peshwa Road, Pune

Subject: Application for the Post of Receptionist

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your advertisement published in 'The Times of India' dated 10<sup>th</sup> February, regarding a vacancy for the post of a receptionist, I am writing to you as I wish to apply for the same.

I am eligible for the said post as per the qualification required. I have done my graduation from SNDT University and a secretarial practice course from YWCA, Mumbai. I am young and energetic with good command over English, having three years work experience in the same field. If I get a chance to serve your organisation, I assure you I shall prove to be an asset for the company. I have enclosed my detailed resume with this letter for your consideration.

Hoping for a positive response from your side.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Karuna Krishnan

Encl. Resume

#### RESUME

Name : Karuna Krishnan

Father's Name : Mr. Anurag Krishnan

Date of Birth : 12.02.1983

Address : M-114, Mall Road, Pune

Educational

Qualifications : 1. Secondary Exam: From CBSE, Delhi in 2000  
2. Sr. Secondary Exam: From CBSE, Delhi in 2002  
3. B.A. Honors: SNDT University in 2005  
4. Secretarial Practice Course: YWCA, Mumbai in 2006

Work : 1. Worked as a receptionist  
Experience in Tagore International School, Sitapur: One year (2007-08)  
2. Working as a receptionist in Sararwati Publishing House, Sitapur: Two years (2008-10)

Other skills : Working knowledge of the computers

References : Mrs. Y.H. Sharma, Principal, Tagore Int. School, Sitapur  
0121-257××××

OR

#### Environment Week Celebrated

*by Amrita, Secretary, Green Club*

**June 8, 20××** : The Green Club of XYZ Senior Secondary School celebrated 'Van Mahotsava and Environment Protection Week' starting from June

1, 20××

to June 6, 20××

Monday to Friday. The first day of the event was held at the school auditorium and was inaugurated by eminent environmentalist Nora Alvares. The Principal welcomed her by presenting a sapling. In her speech Ms. Alvares shared the importance of and the need to protect the

environment. The audience were enlightened by her insightful speech. Various schools were invited to participate in the Environment Protection Week. The remaining days saw a variety of cultural programmes, such as dance, plays, seminars, etc. celebrating the nature and the environment. On June 5, 20xx, the Environment Day, The Green Club organised various competitions based on Environment Protection theme. The competition included, street play, poster making, one act plays, quiz, etc. Well known environmentalists, journalists and celebrities graced the occasion with their presence and by judging the competitions. On the last day of Environment Week, The Green Club welcomed Ms. Vasundhara Das, popular actress, singer and environmentalist to give away the prizes to the competition winners. She applauded the efforts of the school and students and urged everyone to protect the environment in every possible way. She also planted a sapling along with Principal, staff and students of the school.

5. (i) Jo was not convinced that the little animals eventually got used to the way the little skunk was and smelt. Moreover, Jo felt that Mommy Skunk was being unfair to Roger Skunk by not allowing wizard to make him smell like roses. She wanted Roger Skunk to be accepted by his peers and thus, be happy.

(ii) Superintendent Carter informed the Governor that McLeery had spotted Evans driving off along Elsfeld Way. They had got the number of the car all right. They had given a chase immediately, but they had lost him at the Headington roundabout. He assumed that Evans must have doubled back into the city.

(iii) 'Denizens' and 'chivalric' describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers as bold and fearless tigers, who prance around confidently in their natural habitat. Sleek and gallant in their movements, the tigers are certain of themselves.

(vi) In the hot season, man and beast get comfort by taking shelter under the shade of the trees, or

being one with absorbing nature and the coolness it provides. The things of beauty, which nature offers are simple. However, they have a calming effect on every living being.

(v) The peddler declined the ironmaster's invitation because he still had the thirty kronor notes he had stolen from the crofter. He was afraid that going to manor house would only mean throwing oneself into the lion's den voluntarily. All he wanted was to catch some sleep in the forge and later sneak out as quietly as possible.

6. (i) Gandhiji's campaign to provide justice to the sharecroppers of Champaran was not an act of defiance. Therefore, the methods he used to win this battle were also non-violent. In order to help the peasants, Gandhiji was even willing to get arrested. He was asked to leave Champaran. However, he refused. He met various high ranking government officials, who could not help but agree with his rational arguments. Seeing the efforts put by Gandhiji to alleviate the distress of the poor peasants even though he was a non-resident of Champaran, he received full support of the common man, his followers and other leaders. His powerful words instilled moral courage in every Indian; he asked fellow Indians to have courage, be self-reliant and united. This is how, Gandhiji eventually succeeded in his Champaran campaign.

(ii) The poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', shows constraints of married life every woman experiences. It shows lack of freedom for Aunt Jennifer, who is forced to live in accordance with rules laid down by her husband. Uncle's wedding band, which sits 'heavily' upon Aunt Jennifer's finger, symbolises oppressive behaviour of the patriarchal society. Aunt Jennifer feels that she would escape the ordeals of her tyrannous marriage once she is dead. However, such a thought is futile because the patriarchal society would not permit her to take off the wedding band even after death. Therefore, it is suffice to say that she is a victim of male chauvinism.