



MBD NEW-STYLE MODEL TEST PAPER—1

CLASS—XII

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks : 100

Section A-Reading

Marks : 30

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 12

- 1 I stopped to let the car cool off and to study the map. I had expected to be near my objective by now, but everything still seemed alien to me. I was only five when my father had taken me abroad, and that was eighteen years ago. When my mother died after a tragic accident, he did not quickly recover from the shock and loneliness. Everything around him was full of her presence, continually reopening the wound. So he decided to emigrate. In the new country, he became absorbed in making a new life for the two of us, so that he gradually ceased to grieve. He did not marry again and I was brought up without a woman's care; but I lacked nothing, for he was both father and mother to me. He always meant to go back one day, but not to stay. His roots and mine had become too firmly embedded in the new land. But he wanted to see the old folk again and to visit my mother's grave. He became mortally ill a few months before we had planned to go and, when he knew that he was dying, he made me promise to go on my own.
- 2 I hired a car the day after landing and bought a comprehensive book of maps, which I found most helpful on the cross-country journey, but which I did not think I should need on the last stage. It was not that I actually remembered anything at all. But my father had described over and over again what we should see at every milestone, after leaving the nearest town, so that I was positive I should recognize it as a familiar territory. Well, I had been wrong, for I was now lost.
- 3 I looked at the map and then at the speedometer. I had come ten miles since leaving the town, and at this point, according to my father, I should be looking at farms and cottages in a valley, with the spire of the church of our village showing in the far distance. I could see no farms, no cottages and church spire — only a lake. I decided that I must have taken a wrong turning somewhere. So I drove back to the town and began to retrace the route, taking frequent glances at the map. I landed up at the same corner. The curious thing was that the lake was not marked on the map. I felt as if I had stumbled into a nightmare country, as you sometimes do in dreams. And, as in a nightmare, there was nobody in sight to help me. Fortunately for me, as I was wondering what to do next, there appeared on the horizon a man on horseback, riding in my direction. I waited till he came near, then I asked him the way to our old village. He said that there was now no village. I thought he must have misunderstood me, so I repeated its name. This time he pointed to the lake. The village no longer existed because it had been submerged, and all the valley too. The lake was not a natural one, but a man-made reservoir.





1-4. On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. The author's father could never quite forget
 - (a) his wife.
 - (b) his village.
 - (c) his wife's grave.
 - (d) the lake in his village.
2. The author's native village was situated
 - (a) in a lake.
 - (b) in a valley.
 - (c) on the top of a hill.
 - (d) in a man-made reservoir.
3. The author couldn't locate his mother's grave because
 - (a) he had taken the wrong route.
 - (b) it was not marked on the map.
 - (c) the whole village had been submerged.
 - (d) there was no one to help him find the way.
4. The author was certain he would recognise the territory around his village because
 - (a) he had a very good map with him.
 - (b) he knew many of the people living there.
 - (c) he had passed there the early years of his life.
 - (d) his father had described it to him over and over again.

5-11. Answer the following questions briefly :

5. Why did the author's father emigrate ?
6. Why did the author not feel the absence of his mother after her death ?
7. Why did the author's father want to go back to his old village ?
8. Why had the author come back to the land of his birth ?
9. What made the author think that he would not need a map for the last part of his journey ?
10. Why could the author not locate his old village ?
11. Pick out from the passage words which mean :
 - (i) frightening or unpleasant dream
 - (ii) an instrument in a vehicle which shows the speed of the vehicle.





2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

10

- 1 The word 'depressed' in common usage means sad, frustrated, fed up, bored up or pessimistic. The mood of a depressed person is much lower at his or her best moments than the mood of the normal person at his or her worst. Depression is a state of mind. It is specifically a mental disorder characterised by a lowering of the individual's vitality, his mood, desires, hopes, aspirations and of his self-esteem.
- 2 Depression arising out of environmental factors is called reactive depression whereas depression arising out of some biochemical changes in the brain is called endogenous depression. If depression is mild or moderate and if the individual is in touch with his surroundings, it is known as neurotic depression. If the individual is severely disturbed and is not able to comprehend what is happening around him, he can be said to be in a state of psychotic depression.
- 3 Old age is one of the stages of human development where a person attains wisdom, maturity, social and economic stability with social recognition and emotional fulfilment. Generally, societies show a great respect and consideration for the aged. In ancient times, old people were considered as the guiding stars in Indian families, since they were symbols of tradition, respect, wisdom and experience. In primitive, ancient and medieval cultures, old persons had a recognized social role. They were of great value because they could impart knowledge and skill to youngsters. The old people were considered as repositories of wisdom and tradition and were not perceived as problems.
- 4 At present, social structures and values are undergoing transformation from traditional to modern. There is a rapid stride in urbanization and industrialization, leading to the breaking up of joint families and property. This has ultimately weakened the traditional families and social position and status of the aged in the family. From time to time, changes in the institutions of marriage and family have diminished the control of parents over their children. It has increased the freedom of children and they view the aged as a useless and non-productive entity. Modernization has eventually led to the degradation of their status and authority. Consequently, the integrity of the family and the existence of the elderly as an integral part of the family are being uprooted. The importance of their functional positions thus declines and consequently their authority and much of the respect and prestige that they enjoyed earlier get faded. These changes generally bring about depression in older people.
- 5 As the old age advances, events at home may also contribute more to their problems. The 'empty nest' feeling arising as a result of the grown-up children leaving the home, daughters departing as a result of wedlock and sons leaving station in pursuit of higher education or jobs may make the aged more lonely. The loneliness also arises because of the premature loss of spouse. This would deprive the person of a long-standing emotional bond that had provided plenty of emotional succour and security. The loss wherever it might occur in the later years, leaves the individual terribly lonely and at the mercy of sons and daughters-in-law. Added to these, the increasing gap and interactional stress and strain in the family may leave the elderly without peace of mind. The elderly as a result of these developments feel marginalised, alienated and left out of the mainstream. The foregoing are the common problems faced by most of the elderly. These either directly or indirectly lead to a state of depression and make ageing for many an unwanted and unpleasant event to be abhorred.
- 6 Usually, the mild depression which is caused due to environmental factors is temporary. The person reconciles within a short time and tries to forget the loss. Kind words and timely support of friends, relatives and members of the family help one recover from depression.





1-2. On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. Endogenous depression arises out of
 - (a) biochemical changes in the brain.
 - (b) biochemical changes in the heart.
 - (c) biochemical changes in our food articles.
 - (d) biochemical changes in the environment.
2. In ancient cultures, old people were considered as
 - (a) empty nests.
 - (b) big problems.
 - (c) social structures.
 - (d) repositories of wisdom.

3-9. Answer the following questions briefly :

3. What does 'depressed' mean in common usage ?
4. What is reactive depression ?
5. What was the status of the old people in ancient India ?
6. What are the causes for the disintegration of joint family system ?
7. What different factors lead to the aged feeling lonely ?
8. How does one recover from mild depression ?
9. Pick out from the passage words that mean :
 - (i) decreased
 - (ii) husband or wife.

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

8

- 1 The work of heart can never be interrupted. The heart's job is to keep oxygen-rich blood flowing through the body. All the body cells need a constant supply of oxygen, especially those in the brain. Brain cells live only for four to five minutes after their oxygen is cut off, and death comes to the entire body.
- 2 The heart is a specialized muscle that serves as a pump. This pump is divided into four chambers connected by tiny doors called valves. The chambers work to keep the blood flowing round the body in a circuit.
- 3 At the end of each circuit, veins carry the blood to the right *atrium*, the first of the four chambers. Its oxygen has been used up and it is on its way back to the lungs to pick up a fresh supply and to give up the carbon dioxide it has accumulated.
- 4 From the right atrium, the blood flows through the *tricuspid* valve into the second chamber, the right *ventricle*. The right ventricle contracts when it is filled, pushing the blood through the *pulmonary* artery, which leads to the lungs. In the lungs, the blood gives up its carbon dioxide and picks up fresh oxygen. Then it travels to the third chamber, the left atrium. When this chamber is filled, it forces the blood through the *mitral* valve to the left ventricle. From here, it is pushed into a big blood vessel called *aorta* and sent round the body by way of arteries.





- 5 Heart diseases can result from damage to the heart muscle, the valves or the pacemaker. If the muscle is damaged, the heart is unable to pump properly. If the valves are damaged, blood cannot flow normally and easily from one chamber to another, and if the pacemaker is defective, the contractions of the chambers will become uncoordinated.
- 6 Until the twentieth century, doctors didn't dare to touch the heart. In 1953, all this changed. After twenty years of work, Dr. John Gibbon of the U.S.A. had developed a machine that could take over temporarily from the heart and lungs. Blood could be routed through the machine, bypassing the heart so that surgeons could work inside it and see what they were doing. The era of open-heart surgery had begun.
- 7 In the operating theatre, the heart-lung machine gives surgeons the chance to repair or replace a defective heart. Many patients have had plastic valves inserted in their hearts when their own were faulty. Many people are being kept alive with tiny battery-operated pacemakers; none of these repairs could have been made without the heart-lung machine. But valuable as it is to the surgeons, the heart-lung machine has certain limitations. It can be used only for a few hours at a time because its pumping gradually damages the blood cells.
- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum 4). Use a format you consider suitable. Supply an appropriate title to it.** 5
- (b) **Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.** 3

Section B-Advanced Writing Skills

Marks : 30

4. Design a poster in not more than 50 words about the need for regular exercise. You may use slogans. 4

Or

You are Prashant / Purnima of 202, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi. You have lost your briefcase while travelling by bus from Laxmi Nagar to Connaught Place, New Delhi. The briefcase contains some valuable documents. Draft a notification in not more than 50 words to be published in the 'Indian Express'.

5. Naveen Chaudhari of 105, Baily Road, Patna, bought an HP Desk Jet 200 Printer from Messrs Computer Centre, 68, Hailey Road, Ranchi. Now he finds that the print quality is poor and the ink nozzles of the print cartridge get frequently clogged. Write a letter to the dealer, complaining about the same. 6

Or

The Pre-Board English Exam of Happy Valley School, Secunderabad, is on the same day as the All India Entrance Exam for the Indian School of Languages. As Kiran Seth, the prefect of class XII-A, write a letter to the Principal of your school, requesting him / her to change the date of the school English Exam.





6. Seema Makkar, a student of class XII, feels highly disturbed when she reads about a bride-burning case in the city of Sripur where she lives. Write an article for Seema on the evil of dowry system. 10

Or

Environmental pollution is the greatest threat to mankind. Noise also pollutes the environment. Write a report on the 'Noise Pollution in My City'.

7. You are Sangeeta / Sohail. You have been selected to represent your school in an All India Debate Competition. The topic for the debate is : 'Minimization of human wants is the only way to cleanse society of corruption'. Write Sangeeta's speech in about 200 words. 10

Or

National Cadet Corps is an organization which not only inculcates discipline in the youth, but also prepares them for the defence of the country. It also provides an opportunity to the students to participate in various other activities such as adventure, culture, etc. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the need to make N.C.C. compulsory in all schools in the country.

Section C-Literature & Long Reading Text

Marks : 40

8. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow : 4

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

- (a) What do you think is meant by 'green wars' ? 1
 (b) How are the wars fought ? 1
 (c) Pick out the phrase that underlines the inhumanity of war. 1
 (d) How, according to the poet, can men come out of their love of wars and start living like brothers ? 1

Or

*Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with pain
that she might not live long*





- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (b) Where was the poet going ? 1
- (c) How did the poet's mother look ? 1
- (d) What did the poet realise with pain ? 1

9. Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each : 12

- (a) Why has the map been said to be 'a bad example' ?
- (b) In the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty', what does the poet feel about human life on this earth ?
- (c) What did Franz see when he passed the town hall ?
- (d) What forces conspire to keep workers in the bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty ?
- (e) How did Hana feel on seeing the messenger in official uniform ? What had the messenger come for ?
- (f) How does Jo want the story to end and why ?

10. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

What did the writer do when he decided to learn to swim in the Yakima ? Did he succeed in it ? 6

Or

What is the author's indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the wilfulness of human beings ?

11. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

While hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable, especially during wartime, what makes a human being rise above narrow prejudices ? 6

Or

How would you describe the character and temperament of Sophie's father.

12. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

Who was Dr Kemp's visitor ? What did he tell Dr Kemp about himself ? 6

Or

Write in brief about Squire Cass and his sons.

13. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

Write in brief the character-sketch of Mrs Hall. 6

Or

Write in brief the character-sketch of Nancy Lammeter.





MBD NEW-STYLE MODEL TEST PAPER—2

CLASS—XII

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks : 100

Section A-Reading

Marks : 30

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 12

- 1 We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, for they contaminate his food, carry diseases, or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation; they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights, or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps, but also of quite harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that the industrious ant lives in a highly-organised society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully-prepared picnic lunch.
- 2 No matter how much we like honey, or how much we have read about the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable, but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating. We enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that, like the praying mantis, they lead perfectly fascinating lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly, or a column of ants triumphantly bearing home an enormous dead beetle ?
- 3 Last summer, I spent days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prize peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but also because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer, I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphids were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large colony of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which, even though it failed to get rid of the ants, kept me fascinated for twenty-four hours. I bound the base of the tree with a sticky tape, making it impossible for the ants to reach the aphids. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it.
- 4 For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at midnight with a torch and noted with satisfaction (and surprise) that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning hoping to find that the ants had given up in despair. Instead, I saw that they had discovered a new route. They were climbing up the wall of the house and then on to the leaves of the tree. I realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly unscientific method !





1-4. On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. The writer says that our fear of insects is
 - (a) logical.
 - (b) illogical.
 - (c) instinctive.
 - (d) unfounded.
2. Reading about insects
 - (a) dispels our fears of insects.
 - (b) wins us the respect of others.
 - (c) increases our regard for insects.
 - (d) increases our understanding of insects.
3. The peach tree had survived several severe winters because
 - (a) it had very deep roots.
 - (b) it was the writer's prize tree.
 - (c) the writer took great care of the tree.
 - (d) the tree grew against a sheltered side of the house.
4. The ants defeated the author by their
 - (a) unity.
 - (b) integrity.
 - (c) ingenuity.
 - (d) spontaneity.

5-11. Answer the following questions briefly :

5. What is our attitude to insects ?
6. Why does man try to exterminate insects ?
7. Why does the writer say that knowing about the insects does not help man to change his attitude to insects ?
8. Do you think that the attitude of man to insects as described herein is right ? Why / Why not ? Give two reasons in support of your thinking.
9. What led the writer to perform his experiment on the ants ?
10. What do you think the writer wants to prove by the experiment he conducted on ants ? Quote words / expressions to support your answer.
11. Select from the passage words which convey similar meanings as :
 - (i) drive away
 - (ii) cleverness.





2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 10

- 1 Smoking is the major cause of mortality with bronchogenic carcinoma of the lungs and is one of the factors causing death due to malignancies of larynx, oral cavity, oesophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas, stomach and uterine cervix and coronary heart diseases.
- 2 Nicotine is the major substance present in the smoke that causes physical dependence. The additives too produce damage to the body — for example, ammonia can result in a 100-fold increase in the ability of nicotine to enter into the nose.
- 3 Levulinic acid, added to cigarettes to mask the harsh taste of the nicotine, can increase the binding of nicotine to brain receptors, which increases the 'kick' of nicotine.
- 4 Smoke from the burning end of a cigarette contains over 4000 chemicals and 40 carcinogens. It has long been known that tobacco smoke is carcinogenic or cancer-causing.
- 5 The lungs of smokers collect an annual deposit of 1 to 1½ pounds of the gooey black material. Invisible gas phase of cigarette smoke contains nitrogen, oxygen and toxic gases like carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, acrolein, hydrogen cyanide and nitrogen oxides. These gases are poisonous and, in many cases, interfere with the body's ability to transport oxygen.
- 6 Like many carcinogenic compounds, they can act as tumour promoters or tumour initiators by acting directly on the genetic make-up of cells of the body, leading to the development of cancer.
- 7 During smoking, within the first 8-10 seconds, nicotine is absorbed through the lungs and quickly 'moved' into the bloodstream and circulated throughout the brain. Nicotine can also enter the bloodstream through the mucous membranes that line the mouth (if tobacco is chewed) or nose (if snuff is used) and even through the skin. Our brain is made up of billions of nerve cells. They communicate with each other by chemical messengers called neurotransmitters.
- 8 Nicotine is one of the most powerful nerve poisons and binds stereoselectively to nicotine receptors located in the brain, autonomic ganglia, the medulla, and neuro-muscular junctions. Located throughout the brain, they play a critical role in cognitive processes and memory.
- 9 The nicotine molecule is shaped like a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine which is involved in many functions including muscle movement, breathing, heart-rate, learning and memory. Nicotine, because of the similar structure with acetylcholine when it gets into the brain, attaches itself to acetylcholine sites and produces toxic effect.
- 10 In high concentrations, nicotine is more deadly. In fact, one drop of purified nicotine on the tongue will kill a person. It has been used as a pesticide for centuries.
- 11 Recent research studies suggest that acute nicotine administration would result in increased dopamine release from the brain, producing perception of pleasure and happiness, increased energy and motivation, increased alertness and an increased feeling of vigour during the early phase of smoking.
- 12 However, notwithstanding these superficial effects, research shows that the relationship between smoking and memory loss is strongest in people who smoke more than 20 cigarettes each day and this is not specific to the socio-economic status, gender and a range of associated medical conditions. Smoking may speed up age-related memory loss but the details are not yet clear.





13 Some experts say that smoking is linked to memory problems because it contributes to narrowed arteries that restrict blood flow to the brain. One of the causes of memory decline in relation to the brain functions could be the nerve cells death or decreased density of interconnected neural network due to loss of dendrites, the tiny filaments which connect one nerve cell to another. Abstinence from smoking is essential, not only to avoid this systemic effect, but also to reduce the ill-effects on the environment.

1-2. **On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :**

1. The burning end of a cigarette contains

- (a) no chemicals.
- (b) no carcinogens.
- (c) both chemicals and carcinogens.
- (d) neither chemicals nor carcinogens.

2. A sticky black material collects

- (a) on the lungs of smokers.
- (b) in the throat of smokers.
- (c) on the tongue of smokers.
- (d) in the nostrils of the smokers.

3-9. **Answer the following questions briefly :**

- 3. How is smoking the major cause of mortality ?
- 4. What acid is added to cigarettes and why ? What is its negative effect ?
- 5. What in a cigarette makes the people addicted to it ?
- 6. What are neurotransmitters ?
- 7. How does nicotine produce toxic effect ?
- 8. According to the experts, how is smoking linked to memory ?
- 9. Find from the passage words which mean the same as :
 - (i) death
 - (ii) endurance.

3. **Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 8**

1 There are two problems which cause great worry to our educationists — the problem of religious and moral instruction in a land of many faiths and the problem arising out of a large variety of languages.

2 Taking up the education of children, we see that they should be trained to love one another, to be kind and helpful to all, to be tender to the lower animals and to think right. The task of teaching them how to read and write and to count and calculate is important, but it should not make us lose sight of the primary aim of moulding personality in the right way.





- 3 For this, it is necessary to call into aid culture, tradition and religion. But in our country we have, in the same school, to look after boys and girls born in different faiths and belonging to families that live diverse ways of life and follow different forms of worship associated with different denominations of religion. It will not do to tread the easy path of evading the difficulty by attending solely to physical culture and intellectual education. We have to evolve a suitable technique and method for serving the spiritual needs of schoolchildren professing different faiths. We would thereby promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, a fuller understanding and helpful co-operation among the different communities in our society. Again, we must remain one people and we have, therefore, to give basic training in our schools to speak and understand more languages than one and to appreciate and respect the different religions prevailing in India. It is not right for us in India to be dissuaded from this by considerations as to overtaxing the young mind. What is necessary must be done. And it is not, in fact, too great a burden.
- 4 Any attempt to do away with or steamroll the differences through governmental coercion and indirect pressure would be as futile as it would be unwise. Any imposition of a single way of life and form of worship on all children or neglect of a section of the pupils in this respect or barren secularisation will lead to a conflict between school and home life which is harmful. On the other hand, if we give due recognition to the different prevailing faiths in the educational institutions by organising suitable facilities for religious teaching for boys and girls of all communities, this may itself serve as a broadening influence on great national values.
- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it.** 5
- (b) **Make a summary of the passage in about 80 words.** 3

Section B-Advanced Writing Skills

Marks : 30

4. You are Armaan / Nazuk. As the Secretary of the Cultural Club of your school, you have organized a Cultural Evening as a thanksgiving programme on the last day of your school. Write a notice for your school notice-board in about 50 words. 4

Or

Suppose your family is migrating to a new place and you want to dispose of some furniture. To this effect, prepare a short notice to be published in a local newspaper.

5. This summer vacation, you are planning to visit Shimla. Write a letter to a travel agency in Shimla, requesting them to book you a room in a five-star hotel. Give the details of your journey and the facilities you require there. 6

Or

You are Amol / Anubha. Last month, you bought a cordless electric iron from 'Premier Electronic Goods', South Extn., New Delhi, against a warranty of 2 years. Now you discover that its heat lasts hardly for a few seconds after it is taken off the mains. Write a letter to the dealer, complaining about it.





6. Some favour English as the common national language while others want its use to be banned completely. Write an article, giving your views on the topic. You are Rohit Kapoor. 10

Or

Write a report on 'Seven Days' Special Camp', organised by the N.S.S. Unit of your school. You are Suhana / Ankit.

7. A recent survey showed that there are still many communities in India which do not welcome the birth of a girl child. Can a country which does not give equal rights to all its citizens ever dream of becoming great ? Write a speech in 150-200 words, giving your views on the above subject and the steps we should take to solve this problem. You are Simran / Yusuf, a resident of Hyderabad. 10

Or

As compared to the older generation, the youth of today are greatly inclined to pursue adventurous activities either for money or for fun. There is a latest craze for joining reality shows, rafting, rock-climbing, mountaineering, etc. Write a speech in 150-200 words on which life you would prefer — safe or adventurous.

Section C-Literature & Long Reading Text

Marks : 40

8. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow : 4

*Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

- (a) What are Aunt's tigers doing ? 1
(b) How do they look ? 1
(c) How can you say they are fearless ? 1
(d) Are Aunt Jennifer's tigers real ? Give a reason for your answer. 1

Or

*What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.*

- (a) What does the poet want ? 1
(b) What does he want not to confuse it with ? 1
(c) What does he think about life ? 1
(d) What, according to him, does inactivity amount to ? 1





9. Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each : 12

- (a) What is the pain and the ache that the poet feels in 'My Mother at Sixty-six' ?
- (b) What message does Stephen Spender want to convey in his poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum' ?
- (c) What explanation does the author give for the children not wearing footwear ?
- (d) How did Sadao's marriage with Hana come to take place ?
- (e) How can you say that Mr Lamb lives a lonely life ?
- (f) What information did the Governor give to the Board about Evans ?

10. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

Describe the writer's 'misadventure' at the Y.M.C.A. pool. 6

Or

What is your stance regarding the two endings to the Roger Skunk Story ?

11. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

Explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor's home even when he knew he couldn't stay there without risk to the doctor and himself ? 6

Or

Who was Rajkumar Shukla ? How did he take Gandhiji to Champaran and why ?

12. Answer the following in about 150 words : 6

How did Mr Marvel get rid of the Invisible Man ?

Or

Write a short note on the relationship between Godfrey and his wife, Nancy.

13. Answer the following in about 150 words : 6

Give in brief the character-sketch of Mr Hall.

Or

What characteristic attributes of Nancy emerge from her reaction to Godfrey's disclosure of Eppie's real identity ?





MBD NEW-STYLE MODEL TEST PAPER—3

CLASS—XII

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks : 100

Section A-Reading

Marks : 30

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 12

- 1 High-altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task in spite of the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipment which modern climbers take with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber which ultimately determines the success of his attempt. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with the utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow, but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. Moreover, a huge amount of capital is needed for financing these expeditions, and this is generally provided by governments or rich private organisations.
- 2 The primary object of a mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes, operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or the sudden death of a very important member of the party. Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in botany, zoology, geology and various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain, and different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers and expeditionists utilise the fruits of their observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions. The British expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had not the earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the vicinity of the summit.
- 3 To ordinary people, mountaineering need not be a fearful journey in the land of snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face to face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes on the distant landscape. In the company of friends, they can enjoy an outing near a waterfall or cross into the next valley with haversacks full of provisions dangling from their shoulders. All those who can afford to go to a hill station should seek this innocent pleasure, for it can be had without any risk to life or limb.





1-4. On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. Who or what has been called the constant companion of a high-altitude climber ?
 - (a) Death.
 - (b) Guides.
 - (c) Oxygen.
 - (d) Stamina.
2. The British expedition led by Colonel Hunt
 - (a) was able to reach the summit.
 - (b) found that their expedition was a complete failure.
 - (c) didn't gain from the experience of the previous climbers.
 - (d) wasn't able to reach the summit because of bad weather.
3. The pleasure of mountaineering can be had
 - (a) with risk to life and limb.
 - (b) with no use of life or limb.
 - (c) with no risk to life or limb.
 - (d) even without any experience or training.
4. It is wrong to say that
 - (a) mountaineering is an activity for the rich only.
 - (b) mountaineering is always a dangerous activity.
 - (c) mountaineering is not meant for ordinary people.
 - (d) All of the above.

5-11. Answer the following questions briefly :

5. What are the factors that determine the success of the climbers ? *(Mention any four)*
6. What precautions should the climbers take during their journey ? *(Mention any two)*
7. In what ways does a mountaineering expedition contribute to the wealth of knowledge ?
8. What would you call an unsuccessful expedition ? Does it serve any purpose ?
9. How is an ordinary mountaineer's experience different from that of a regular expedition ?
10. How does a local guide help an expedition ?
11. Find in the passage words which mean the same as :
 - (i) area of land
 - (ii) taken for granted.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 10

- 1 When a brave mountaineer is assailing Mount Everest, he is as great a hero as a cosmonaut rocketing towards Mars in his space capsule, and thousands of men and women in different countries back his progress with their good wishes and share the thrills and anxieties of his hazardous journey to the roof of the world, while scores of anxious scientists wish him success in the hope of obtaining valuable information on atmospheric conditions in the upper regions of the earth. Mountaineering is indeed a source of pleasure and a mine of useful knowledge which is constantly enriching the scientific vocabulary of geologists, mineralogists and glaciologists of the world.





- 2 Mountaineering is a perennial source of joy to those who have eyes that can appreciate beauties of nature. Nowhere does nature reveal her charm in greater abundance than on green and flowering mountaintops with transparent streams of water flowing down their slopes or on snow-clad hills where sunlight weaves its magic colours into their virginal whiteness. To lovers of mountains, the sound of waterfalls is like the joyful clapping of merry primitive dancers and the howling of night winds contains a musical pleasantness which surpasses the highly sustained rhapsodies of man-made organs. Lakes in high altitudes, holding within their cup-like mountainous enclosures the watery wealth of surrounding glaciers, treeless plateaus covered with rare varieties of grass, plants and flowers and yawning chasms into whose dark, unfathomable interior nature's countless species of animals and plants carry on their fight for existence, are attractions so powerful and irresistible that no man or woman who is a member of a mountaineering party or club can turn a deaf ear to their call. These widely scattered, ever-alluring treasures of nature are the climber's greatest inducement to wander with a hungry heart in search of beauty, adventure and fame along the dangerous slopes of sky-embracing heights.
- 3 Mountaineering is an awfully risky venture in the case of those ambitious souls who are dreaming of conquering such majestic peaks as Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Everest, and who wish to be ranked among the world's greatest climbers like Sir Edmund P. Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. Dozens of adventurers belonging to different nations with their hearts burning with a passion to conquer the highest peak in the world perished in the immortal snows of the Himalayas, after painfully inching their way to heights which were in close proximity to the summit. Expedition after expedition turned back exhausted, frostbitten and utterly disappointed when the mighty Himalayas hurled icy winds, snowstorms and blizzards at those who wanted to conquer Everest, thus barring their way to this pinnacle of glory. The bones of many men of unrealised ambition lie buried in the glacial wilderness which is the home of the highest peak in the world. Such awful setbacks, however, did not dampen the enthusiasm of succeeding generations of mountaineers; the failure of early expeditions did not deter Colonel Hunt and his brave companions from trying to plant on the summit the flag of the victory of human defiance of nature's death-dealing agents in high altitudes.

1-2. On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. Mount Everest has been called

 - (a) the top of the world.
 - (b) the roof of the world.
 - (c) a mine of useful knowledge.
 - (d) the immortal snow of the Himalayas.

2. What has been said to be the home of Mount Everest ?

 - (a) Glacial wilderness.
 - (b) The pinnacle of glory.
 - (c) A perennial source of joy.
 - (d) The howling of night winds.

3-9. Answer the following questions briefly :

3. Mountaineers are considered as heroes. Why ?
4. In what way does mountaineering become a source of knowledge ?
5. What are the beautiful sights which catch a mountaineer's eyes ?





6. Why is mountaineering considered risky ?
7. Setbacks in mountaineering do not dampen the spirit of many mountaineers. Why ?
8. What did Colonel Hunt and his companions try to do ?
9. Find from the passage words which convey similar meanings as :
 - (i) one who studies the science relating to the history and development of the earth's crust
 - (ii) a blinding storm of wind and snow.

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 8

- 1 Information Technology (IT) and library services are two faces of the same coin. In a village set-up, mostly the young and the old use libraries and the middle-aged make little use of these libraries. They need job-related information to update their skills and knowledge. The library and information services play a dominant role in catering to education, information and recreational requirements of society. Library is an instrument of social change. All along, the concept of library has been associated with literacy and books, and the librarian was considered the keeper of books. Concurrent with changes in society, the concept of library has changed. It is a multimedia centre and a place for learning resources for the literates as well as the illiterates. Education is the key to all individual achievements and national strength.
- 2 Integrated approach in starting at least a reading room in every hamlet is the need of the hour. Coordination between the Departments of Education and Panchayati Raj in spreading the library movement is of paramount importance. Amalgamation of adult education programmes with the library programmes also needs to be given a greater thought. The school can function in a hamlet or a village serving the common needs of students and public. The massive permanent building programmes for weaker sections in rural areas should earmark at least one house for every 1,000 houses or in every cluster for library purpose. The services of a retired teacher or a retired employee in that hamlet can be availed of. A person residing in the same hamlet is more useful with inherent advantages than an outsider for library work as the library has to function in the evening hours and is to be extended for TV and Internet operations also. Information technology, Internet and e-commerce have great potential in catering to public needs. However, we have to be pragmatic in our approach in terms of electronic access to information in rural areas. Availability, affordability, accessibility, acceptability and sustainability of the service should also be kept in view. Once a common service place is identified, the IT-based services can conveniently be cushioned on. It is hoped that the State and Central governments will give top priority to this minimum facility.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable short forms wherever necessary (minimum 4).
Supply an appropriate title to it.** 5
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.** 3

Section B-Advanced Writing Skills

Marks : 30

4. You have recently started a centre for personality development for schoolchildren. Draft an advertisement to be published in a local daily about it, giving all relevant details.
(word limit : 50) 4

Or





Your school (Amar Vidyalaya) is organising a cultural evening to collect funds for the slum-children. The Education Minister has consented to be the Chief Guest on the occasion. Draft a notice about it to be displayed on your school notice-board. You are the school Head Boy / Head Girl. (word limit : 50)

5. A leading news channel recently gave a live coverage of some young slum-dwellers being beaten up mercilessly by the police for crimes not committed by them. Such atrocities shake the very faith of people. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Police, urging him to adopt effective measures to curb such brutality against innocent people. You are Nita / Nitesh, a resident of Guwahati. 6

Or

You are Aman / Aditi, studying in Bharat School, Lucknow. The road leading to your school is very congested and full of potholes. Students and parents are often caught in a traffic jam. In spite of several representations, the government has not done anything to improve the condition of the road. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Times of India', drawing the attention of the government to this problem.

6. You are Vinod / Vimla. You are worried about the hike in the prices of essential commodities like gas, pulses, vegetables, etc. Write an article on this in about 200 words for publication in a local daily, suggesting certain steps to curb price hike. 10

Or

As the reporter of 'The Times of India', New Delhi, write a report on the fire accident in a marketplace of the city, which you witnessed. You are Prem / Prema.

7. Owning a car has become a status symbol these days. However, the increase in the number of cars has added to various types of pollution and other problems. Write a speech in not more than 200 words, highlighting the urgent need for reducing these man-made problems, giving suitable suggestions. You are Ram / Radhika. 10

Or

Indian culture has traditionally sustained a joint family system in which the old have always had a very respectable place. There has been an erosion of these values in the present times. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the need for the young to take care of their old instead of sending them to the old-age homes.

Section C-Literature & Long Reading Text

Marks : 40

8. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow : 4

*Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with pain
that she might not live long*

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
(b) Where was the poet driving to ? 1
(c) Why was her mother's face looking like that of a corpse ? 1
(d) What did the poet notice about her mother ? 1





Or

*And yet, for these
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,
Where all their future's painted with a fog,
A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky,
Far far from rivers, capes, and stars of words.*

- (a) Who are 'these children' ? What do 'these windows' refer to ? 1
(b) What has been said to be the world for these children ? 1
(c) What has been said about their future ? 1
(d) What does the map on the wall signify ? 1

9. Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words each : 12

- (a) What symbol from Nature does Pablo Neruda invoke to say that there can be life under apparent stillness ?
(b) What does the poet mean by : 'An endless fountain of immortal drink / Pouring unto us from heaven's brink' ?
(c) What does Mukesh's grandmother say about her husband ?
(d) Douglas says, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished." Why ?
(e) What does Bama say about untouchability at the time when she was in the third class ?
(f) When did the crown prince become the Maharaja of the Pratibandapuram State ? What prediction reached his ears ?

10. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

How does the peddler interpret the acts of kindness and hospitality shown by the crofter, the ironmaster and his daughter ? 6

Or

How did Mr Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life ?

11. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

How does Jo want the story to end and why ? 6

Or

What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent ? What did the British now want instead and why ? What would be the impact of synthetic indigo on the prices of the natural indigo ?

12. Answer the following in about 150 words : 6

Why did Mr Marvel discuss his resignation with the Invisible Man and what was the outcome of that discussion ?

Or

When did Dunstan Cass go to Marner's cottage and why ? What did he do there ? What happened to Dunstan Cass ?

13. Answer the following in about 150 words : 6

Compare and contrast the characters of Mr Griffin and Dr Kemp.

Or

Give in brief the character-sketch of Dunstan Cass.





CBSE QUESTION PAPER, 2018

ENGLISH (Core)—XII

Time Allowed : 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- (i) *This paper is divided into three sections : A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- (ii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- (iii) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

Section A-Reading

Marks : 30

1. Read the passage given below:

12

- 1 When you grow up in a place where it rains five months a year, wise elders help you to get acquainted with the rain early. They teach you that it is ignorant to think that it is the same rain falling every day. Oh no, the rain is always doing different things at different times. There is rain that is gentle, and there is also rain that falls too hard and damages the crops. Hence, the prayer for the sweet rain that helps the crops to grow.
- 2 The monsoon in the Naga hills goes by the native name, khuthotei (which means the rice-growing season). It lasts from May to early or mid-October. The local residents firmly believe that Durga Puja in October announces the end of rain. After that, one might expect a couple of short winter showers, and the spring showers in March and April. Finally, comes the “big rain” in May; proper rainstorms accompanied by heart-stopping lightning and ear-splitting thunder. I have stood out in storms looking at lightning arc across dark skies, a light-and-sound show that can go on for hours.
- 3 This is the season when people use the word sezuo or süzu to refer to the week-long rains, when clothes don't dry and smell of mould, when fungus forms on the floor and when you can't see the moon or the stars because of the rainclouds. But you learn not to complain. Rain, after all, is the farmer's friend and brings food to the table. Rituals and festivals centre around the agricultural rhythm of life, which is the occupation of about 70 percent of the population.
- 4 The wise learn to understand its ways. I grew up hearing my grandfather say, “It's very windy this year. We'll get good rain.” If the windy season was short and weak, he worried there might not be enough rain for the crops. I learned the interconnectedness of the seasons from childhood, and marvelled at how the wind could bring rain. Another evening, many rainy seasons ago, my paternal aunt observed the new moon and worried, “Its legs are in the air, we're in for some heavy rain.” She was right. That week, a storm cut off power lines and brought down trees and bamboos.





- 5 Eskimos boast of having a hundred names for snow. Norwegians in the north can describe all kinds of snow by an equal amount of names : pudder, powder snow, wet snow, slaps, extra wet snow, tight snowfall, dry snow, and at least 95 more categories of snow. Likewise, in India we have names and names for rain. Some are common, some are passing into history.
- 6 The rains are also called after flowering plants and people believe that the blossoming of those plants draws out rain. Once the monsoons set in, field work is carried out in earnest and the work of uprooting and transplanting paddy in flooded terrace field is done. The months of hard labour are June, July and August. In August, as the phrogü plant begins to bloom, a rain will fall. This August rain, also called phrogü, is a sign that the time for cultivation is over. If any new grain seeds are sown, they may not sprout; even if they do sprout, they are not likely to bear grain. The rain acts as a kind of farmer's almanac.
- 7 The urban population of school-goers and office-goers naturally dislikes the monsoon and its accompanying problems of landslides, muddy streets and periodic infections. For non-farmers, the month of September can be depressing, when the rainfall is incessant and the awareness persists that the monsoons will last out till October. One needs to have the heart of a farmer to remain grateful for the watery days, and be able to observe — from what seems to the inexperienced as a continuous downpour — the many kinds of rain. Some of the commonly known rain-weeks are named after the plants that alternately bloom in August and September. The native belief is that the flowers draw out the rain.
- 8 Each rain period has a job to fulfil : October rain helps garlic bulbs to form, while kümünyo rain helps the rice bear grain. Without it, the ears of rice cannot form properly. End October is the most beautiful month in the Naga hills, as the fields turn gold and wild sunflowers bloom over the slopes, all heralding the harvest. Prayers go up for protecting the fields from storms, and the rains to retreat because the grain needs to stand in the sun and ripen. The cycle nears completion a few weeks before the harvest, and the rain does retreat so thoroughly from the reaped furrows that the earth quickly turns hard. The months of rain become a distant memory until it starts all over again.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete the statements given below with the help of options that follow :

1×4=4

- (a) The rains are called after flowering plants because
- (i) heavy rains kill plants.
 - (ii) flowers grow in the rainy season.
 - (iii) it is believed that the plants bring the rain.
 - (iv) flowers grow all the year round.
- (b) The rain is like a calendar for farmers because
- (i) it tells them when to sow and when to harvest.
 - (ii) it tells them the birthdays of their children.
 - (iii) each month has a time for plantation.
 - (iv) different kinds of rain tell different things.





- (c) People who live in cities don't like rain because
- it brings mud and sickness with it.
 - they are not bothered about the farmers.
 - they don't like the plants that grow during the rain.
 - going shopping becomes difficult.
- (d) People pray asking the rain to retreat because
- the fungus and mould need to dry.
 - children don't get a chance to play.
 - the crops need the sun and heat to ripen.
 - they like to pray.

Answer the following questions briefly:

1×6=6

- (e) Why do the elders want you to understand the rains in the Naga hills?
- (f) What does durga Puja mean to the farmers of the Naga hills?
- (g) What kind of rain is called sezuo?
- (h) What is the occupation of more than half the population of the Naga hills?
- (i) How is the heart of the farmer different from that of the city person?
- (j) When does rain become a memory in the minds of the people of the Naga hills?
- (k) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following :
- flowring (para 6)
 - nonstop (para 7)

1×2=2

2. Read the passage given below:

10

- 1 Every morning Ravi gives his brain an extra boost. We're not talking about drinking strong cups of coffee or playing one of those mind-training video games advertised all over Facebook. "I jump onto my stationary bike and cycle for 45 minutes to work," says Ravi. "When I get to my desk, my brain is at peak activity for a few hours." After his mental focus comes to a halt later in the day, he starts it with another short spell of cycling to be able to run errands.
- 2 Ride, work, ride, repeat. It's a scientifically proven system that describes some unexpected benefits of cycling. In a recent study in the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research, scientists found that people scored higher on tests of memory, reasoning, and planning after 30 minutes of spinning on a stationary bike than they did before they rode the bike. They also completed the tests faster after pedalling.
- 3 Exercise is like fertilizer for your brain. All those hours spent on exercising your muscles, create rich capillary beds not only in leg and hip muscles, but also in your brain. More blood vessels in your brain and muscles mean more oxygen and nutrients to help them work. When you pedal, you also force more nerve cells to fire. The result : you double or triple the production of these cells—





literally building your brain. You also release neurotransmitters (the messengers between your brain cells) so all those cells, new and old, can communicate with each other for better, faster functioning. That's a pretty profound benefit to cyclists.

- 4 This kind of growth is especially important with each passing birthday, because as we age, our brains shrink and those connections weaken. Exercise restores and protects the brain cells. Neuroscientists say, "Adults who exercise display sharper memory skills, higher concentration levels, more fluid thinking, and greater problem-solving ability than those who are sedentary."
- 5 Cycling also elevates your mood, relieves anxiety, increases stress resistance, and even banishes the blues. "Exercise works in the same way as psychotherapy and antidepressants in the treatment of depression, maybe better," says Dr. Manjari. A recent study analyzing 26 years of research finds that even some exercise — as little as 20 to 30 minutes a day — can prevent depression over the long term.
- 6 Remember: although it's healthy, exercise itself is a stress, especially when you're just getting started or getting back into riding. When you first begin to exert yourself, your body releases a particular hormone to raise your heart rate, blood pressure, and blood glucose levels, says Meher Ahluwalia, PhD, a professor of integrative physiology. As you get fitter, it takes a longer, harder ride to trigger that same response.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, complete the statements given below with the help of the options that follow: **1×2=2**

- (a) Ravi gets his brain to work at peak level by
 - (i) drinking three cups of coffee.
 - (ii) playing games that need brain activity.
 - (iii) cycling on a stationary bike.
 - (iv) taking tablets to pump up his brain.
- (b) When nerve cells work during exercise then
 - (i) the body experiences stress.
 - (ii) the brain is strengthened by multiplying them.
 - (iii) you start to lose your temper.
 - (iv) your stationary cycle starts to beep.

Answer the following questions briefly: **1×6=6**

- (c) How does exercise help the brain?
- (d) Why does Ravi do a circuit of 'ride, work, ride'?
- (e) What is the work of neurotransmitters?
- (f) What benefits other than greater brain activity does one get from cycling?
- (g) Why is exercise so important for adults?
- (h) How is exercise itself a stress?





(i) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 1×2=2

(i) manure (para 3)

(ii) inactive (para 4)

3. Read the passage given below:

8

Keeping cities clean is essential for keeping their residents healthy. Our health depends not just on personal hygiene and nutrition, but critically also on how clean we keep our cities and their surroundings. The spread of dengue and chikungunya are intimately linked to the deteriorating state of public health conditions in our cities.

The good news is that waste management to keep cities clean is now getting attention through the Swachh Bharat Mission. However, much of the attention begins and stops with the brooms and the dustbins, extending at most to the collection and transportation of the mixed waste to some distant or not so distant place, preferably out of sight.

The challenge of processing and treating the different streams of solid waste, and safe disposal of the residuals in scientific landfills, has received much less attention in municipal solid waste management than is expected from a health point of view.

One of the problems is that instead of focusing on waste management for health, we have got sidetracked into “waste for energy”. If only we were to begin by not mixing the biodegradable component of solid waste (close to 60 percent of the total) in our cities with the dry waste, and instead use this stream of waste for composting and producing a gas called methane.

City compost from biodegradable waste provides an alternative to farmyard manure (like cow-dung). It provides an opportunity to simultaneously clean up our cities and help improve agricultural productivity and quality of the soil. Organic manure or compost plays a very important role as a supplement to chemical fertilisers in enriching the nutrient-deficient soils. City compost can be the new player in the field.

Benefits of compost on the farm are well-known. The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps with drought-proofing, and the requirement of less water per crop is a welcome feature for a water-stressed future. By making the soil porous, use of compost also makes roots stronger and resistant to pests and decay. Farmers using compost, therefore, need less quantity of pesticides. There is also evidence to suggest that horticulture crops grown with compost have better flavour, size, colour and shelf-life.

City compost has the additional advantage of being weed-free unlike farmyard manure which brings with it the seeds of undigested grasses and requires a substantial additional labour cost for weeding as the crops grow. City compost is also rich in organic carbon, and our soils are short in this. Farmers clearly recognize the value of city compost. If city waste was composted before making it available to the farmers for applying to the soil, cities would be cleaned up and the fields around them would be much more productive.





Quite apart from cleaning up the cities biodegradable waste, this would be a major and sustainable contribution to improving the health of our soil without further damage by excessive chemical inputs. What a marvellous change from waste to health!

The good news is that some states are regularly laying plastic roads. Plastic roads will not only withstand future monsoon damage but will also solve a city's problem of disposing of non-recyclable plastic. It is clear that if the mountains of waste from our cities were to be recycled into road construction material, it would tackle the problem of managing waste while freeing up scarce land.

- (a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

Section B-Writing Skills

Marks : 30

4. You are Faiz / Falak Mazumdar living at 39, Udampur Colony, Shimla. You decide to hold a dinner party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand dinner at home. 4

Or

You are Harish / Harshita of 12, Seva Nagar, Pune. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in *The Pune Times* under the classified columns.

5. You are Neeraj / Neeraja Shekhar, Principal, Vasant Public School, Pune. Your school has just started a music department. Write a letter to the Manager of Melody House, Pune, wholesale suppliers of musical instruments, placing an order for musical instruments for the school. Ask for a discount on the catalogue prices. (120 – 150 words) 6

Or

Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach political science for which they have placed an advertisement in *The Bhilai Express*. You are Sanjay/ Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV, applying for the advertised post (120 – 150 words)

6. Recent floods in many metropolitan cities of the country during the monsoon season laid bare the hollowness of the claims of the civic authorities of their preparedness. The poor had to bear the brunt of the problem while no one was ever held accountable. Write an article in 150–200 words on the common man's woes during the monsoons and the need for accountability of the officials concerned. You are Sumit/Smita Verma. 10





Or

You are Ali/Alia, Head girl/Head boy of your school. You are deeply disturbed by the rising cases of aggressive behaviour of students in your school. You decide to speak during the morning assembly about it. Write a speech on 'Indiscipline in Schools'. (150 – 200 words.)

7. "Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career." Write a debate either for or against the motion. (120 – 150 words.) 10

Or

MMD School, Nashik, recently organised a science symposium on the topic : 'Effect of pollution on quality of life'. You are Amit/Amita Raazdan, editor of the school magazine. Write a report on the event for your school magazine. (120-150 words.)

Section C–Literature: Textbooks and Long Reading Text

Marks : 40

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1×4=4

..... and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with the sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
.....

- Identify the poem and the poet.
- What is the role of the clear rills?
- How has the mid forest brake become rich?
- Name the figure of speech in 'cooling covert'.

Or

..... On their slag heap, these children
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

- Name the poem and the poet.
- Explain : 'slag heap'.
- What future awaits these children ?
- Name the figure of speech used in the third line.

9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30–40 words each:

3×4=12

- What does the poet's smile in the poem. 'My Mother at Sixty-six' show?
- "Listening to them, I see two distinct words... ." In the context of Mukesh, the bangle maker's son, which two worlds is Anees Jung referring to?





- (c) Though the sharecroppers of Champaran received only one-fourth of the compensation, how can the Champaran struggle still be termed a huge success and victory?
- (d) Which article in McLeery's suitcase played perhaps the most significant role in Evans' escape and how?
- (e) Why does Derry's mother not want him to go back to visit Mr. Lamb?
- (f) What considerations influenced the Tiger King to get married?

10. Answer the following question in 120–150 words:

In one's approach to life one should be practical and not live in a world of dreams. How is Jansie's attitude different from that of Sophie? 6

Or

Fear is something that we must learn to overcome if we want to succeed in life. How did Douglas get over his fear of water?

11. Answer the following question in 120–150 words:

At the end of the storytelling session, why does Jack consider himself 'caught in an ugly middle position' ? 6

Or

It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life. How did Zitkala-Sa face oppression as a child and how did she overcome it ?

12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words :

How does the perception and attitude of the villagers of Raveloe towards Silas Marner change from the beginning to the end of the novel ? 6

Or

How do you perceive Dr. Kemp based on his interaction with Griffin ? (The Invisible Man)

13. Answer the following question in 120–150 words :

How is Godfrey Cass different from his younger brother, Dunstan ? 6

Or

"Misdirected and self-serving ambition essentially remains an exercise in futility." Describe Griffin's character in the light of the above statement.

