

G B PUBLIC SCHOOL MELMARUVATHUR

PRE-BOARD EXAM (2020-2021)

ENGLISH CORE

CLASS XII

Time: 3 hrs

Max Marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This question paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question whenever necessary. Read the instructions carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the word limit while answering the questions.

PART A

READING

1. Read the passage given below

The spread of education in society is at the foundation of success in countries that are latecomers to development. In the quest for development, primary education is absolutely essential because it creates the base. But higher education is just as important for it provides the cutting edge. And universities are the life-blood of higher education. Islands of excellence in professional education, such as Indian Institutes of Technology (ITS) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), are valuable complements but cannot be substitutes for universities which provide educational opportunities for people at large. There can be no doubt that higher education has made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India. It is a source of dynamism for the economy. It has created social opportunities for people. It has fostered the vibrant democracy in our polity.

It has provided a beginning for the creation of a knowledge society. But it would be a mistake to focus on its strengths alone. It has weaknesses that are a cause for serious concern. There is, in fact, a quiet crisis in higher education in India that runs deep. It is not yet discernible simply because there are pockets of excellence, an enormous reservoir of talented young people and an intense competition in the admissions process, And, in some important spheres, we continue to reap the benefits of what was sown in higher education 50 years ago by the founding fathers of the Republic. The reality is that we have miles to go. The proportion of our population, in the age group 18-24, that enters the world of higher education is around 7 per cent, which is only one-half the average for Asia. The opportunities for higher education, in terms of the number of places in universities, are simply not enough in relation to our needs. What is more, the quality of higher education in most of our universities requires substantial improvement.

It is clear that the system of higher education in India faces serious challenges. It needs a systematic overhaul so that we can educate much larger numbers without diluting academic

standards. This is imperative because the transformation of economy and society in the 21st century would depend, in significant part, on the spread and the quality of education among our people, particularly in the sphere of higher education. It is only an inclusive society that can provide the foundations for a knowledge society, the challenges that confront higher education in India are clear. It needs a massive expansion of opportunities for higher education, to 1500 universities nationwide, that would enable India to attain a gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015. It is just as important to raise the average quality of higher education in every sphere.

At the same time, it is essential to create institutions that are exemplars of excellence at par with the best in the world. In the pursuit of these objectives, providing people with access to higher education in a socially inclusive manner is imperative. The realization of these objectives, combined with access, would not only develop the skills and capabilities we need for the economy but would also help transform India into a knowledge economy and society.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer **ANY TEN QUESTIONS** given below by choosing the most appropriate option (1*10=10)

(a) The principal focus of this passage is:

- I. Primary Education
- II. Intermediate education
- III. Higher education
- IV. Entire education system

(b) The style of the passage can be best described as:

- I. Academic
- II. Critical and analytical
- III. Comparative
- IV. None of the above

(c) What kind of a society can provide the foundation for a knowledge society?

- I. Elite society
- II. Contracted society
- III. Exclusive society
- IV. Inclusive society

(d) According to the passage which one of the following is INCORRECT?

- I. There are no quality institutes providing excellent education in India
- II. Not many people go for higher education in India
- III. Education is the basis for success
- IV. All the above options are correct

(e) According to the passage, the current state of affairs of higher education in India is:

- I. Satisfactory
- II. Excellent, and there is no need for any expansion of opportunities for higher education
- III. Not good enough, and there is a need of expansion and opportunities for higher education, besides creating institutions and universities that are models of excellence

IV. Not explained in the passage

(f) According to the passage, which of the following is NOT a challenge that confronts higher education in India?

- I. Expanding opportunities for higher education
- II. Creating institutions and universities that are exemplars of excellence
- III. Substantial improvement in the quality of higher education in most of our universities
- IV. Getting into World University Rankings

(g) According to the passage, which of the following is CORRECT?

- I. Primary education is very important
- II. Universities are the life blood of higher education
- III. Transformation of economy and society in the 21st century would depend, in significant part, on the spread and the quality of education among our people, particularly in the sphere of higher education
- IV. All the above propositions are correct

(h) Should the entire university system in India be modeled on premier institutes, such as IITs and IIMs, providing professional education?

- I. Yes
- II. For sure
- III. No
- IV. The passage is silent on this question

(i) What is the antonym of the expression 'cutting edge'?

- I. Conventional
- II. Avant-garde
- III. Advanced
- IV. Contemporary

(j) What is the meaning of the word 'discernible'?

- I. Unobtrusive
- II. Noticeable
- III. Unremarkable
- IV. Inconspicuous

(k) Higher education made significant contribution in the development and is a source of dynamism for

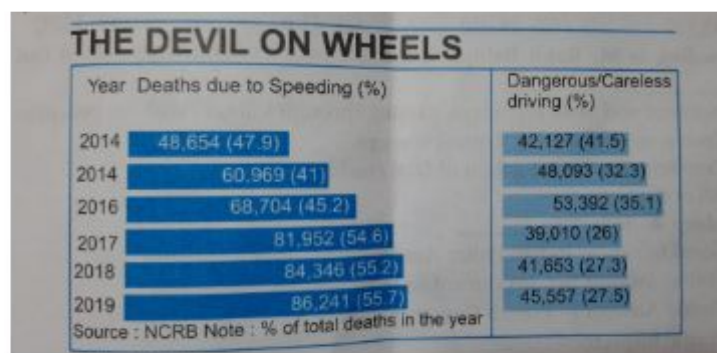
- I. Economy
- II. Social opportunities
- III. Fastening the vibrant democracy
- IV. All of the above

2. Read the passage given below:

NEW DELHI: Over 80% of fatalities in road accidents in India happened due to speeding and dangerous or careless driving, a comparative analysis of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data since 2014 shows.

While this corroborates the popular perception of how people drive on the road in a country where getting a driving license is often said to be too easy, experts said most of the fatal accidents are recorded by police under speeding and dangerous driving categories in the FIR as there are no other provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for such offences.

According to the latest NCRB report on accidental deaths, 83.2% of road fatalities were on account of these two types of violations and the rest 16.8% of fatalities were due to reasons including drunk driving, bad weather conditions and mechanical defect. In 2014, when such causes of fatal crashes were first compiled, 89.4% of the deaths were due to speeding and dangerous or careless driving as per the police records and this was the highest ever.



“We face a host of challenges ranging from poor system of issuing driving licenses to almost zero scientific investigation of fatal crashes, which are provided in the law. Most of our national highways and state highways, which pass through villages, have no pedestrian crossings. On the top of this, in all fatal cases, police automatically registers them under section 279 (negligent driving) and 304A (negligent driving resulting death) of the IPC,” said road safety expert Rohit Baluja, who has been a regular guest faculty at Indian Police Academy, Hyderabad.

Confirming this, traffic adviser in Punjab government, Navdeep Asija said in case of all fatal accidents, the provisions of IPC are slapped. “In IPC, any crime or offence has to be lodged against a human being and hence there cannot be any charge against a road, vehicle or any other object. That’s why police data may not indicate the exact reason of crashes. But it is also a fact that violation of traffic rules is rampant on roads and only electronic surveillance can put a check on them,” he added.

Baluja said there is a need to define what is dangerous driving and the norms for fixing speed limits.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer **ANY TEN QUESTIONS** given below by choosing the most appropriate option (1*10=10)

(a) According to NCRB in India _____.

- I. 80% fatalities are due to bad roads
- II. Data since 2014, 80% fatalities occur due to speeding, careless or dangerous driving
- III. Data till 2014, 80% fatalities on road are a result of speeding, careless or dangerous driving
- IV. 80% injuries in India are due to careless driving

(b) Most fatal accidents are recorded _____.

- I. Under speeding and dangerous driving category of IPC
- II. In the FIR
- III. No provision of IPC for such offences
- IV. None of the above

(c) Which statement is False?

- I. Fatal accidents are a result of speeding and careless driving
- II. It is difficult to get driving licenses
- III. All fatal accidents are punished under the Indian Penal Code
- IV. It is easy to get driving licenses in India

(d) According to data drunk driving, bad weather conditions and mechanical defects resulted in _____.

- I. 83.2% of road fatalities
- II. 89.4% of road fatalities
- III. 17.8% of road fatalities
- IV. 80% of road fatalities

(e) According to the data compiled by the NCRB 86.342 deaths recorded were due to speeding in _____.

- I. 2017
- II. 2019
- III. 2018
- IV. None of the above

(f) In 2016 total deaths recorded due to careless/ dangerous driving were _____

- I. 42,127
- II. 39,010
- III. 41,653
- IV. 53,392

(g) According to Mr. Rohit Baluja challenges for checking high rate of fatal accidents are _____

- I. National and state highways, passing through village, with no pedestrian crossings
- II. Poor system of issuing driving licenses
- III. Zero scientific investigation of fatal crashes
- IV. All of the above

(h) Navdeep Asija is _____

- I. Guest faculty at Indian Police academy
- II. Traffic advisor to Government of India
- III. Traffic advisor in Punjab Government
- IV. Traffic Inspector

(i) Which is true for negligent driving?

- I. Section 304 is slapped
- II. Section 279 of IPC is slapped
- III. Law takes a lenient view
- IV. FIR is not lodged

(j) According to Navdeep Asija traffic violations can be checked by _____

- I. Strict issuing of driving licenses
- II. Making pedestrian crossings where National/state highways run through villages
- III. Registering FIR
- IV. Only electronic surveillance

(k) According to Baluja _____

- I. There is no fixed speed limit
- II. There is no definition of dangerous driving
- III. There is a need to define dangerous driving and norms for fixing speed limit
- IV. In case of all fatal accidents provisions of IPC are slapped

LITERATURE

(20 MARKS)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the THREE given by answering the questions that follow: - **(4+4 =8)**

(A) All at once the church's clock struck twelve. Then the Angelus. At the same moment the trumpets of the Prussians, returning from drill, sounded under our windows. M. Hamel stood up, very pale, in his chair. I never saw him look so tall.

- I. What does Angelus refer to?
 - a. Sound of church bell ringing.
 - b. Roman catholic prayer.
 - c. Sound of Thanksgiving.
 - d. A prayer sung in a group.

- II. What does the trumpets of the Prussians imply?
 - a. Igniting patriotic fervor.
 - b. Playing the band to reduce war stress.
 - c. People of Alsace are now enslaved.

d. Prussians cheering up the people of Alsace.

III. Why is M. Hamel pale?

- a. He feels emotional and choked.
- b. He is unwell.
- c. He is annoyed.
- d. He doesn't like the sound of the trumpets.

IV. Why is M. Hamel suddenly looked so tall?

- a. He was standing against the light.
- b. Franz saw him from the back.
- c. Because he was wearing his fine Sunday clothes.
- d. He had grown in respect and stature.

(B) This shows your weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle. You should not seek a prop in Mr. Andrews because he happens to be an Englishman.

I. Weakness of your heart refers to

- a. Lack of patience.
- b. Lack of optimism.
- c. Lack of confidence.
- d. Lack of Awareness.

II. What is the cause and why is it just?

- a. The weakness of heart is understandable.
- b. Taking Mr. Andrew's help is not fair.
- c. Gandhi's support to the people is a blessing.
- d. Fight against the Britishers is justified.

III. 'Should not seek a prop'- Prop is

- a. Is a noun meaning property?
- b. Is a verb meaning sustain?
- c. Is a noun meaning propellor?
- d. Is a noun meaning something that sustains?

IV. Gandhiji was opposed to Andrew's help because

- a. He was against the British.
- b. He wanted to fight his own battle.
- c. He was arrogant.
- d. He didn't want to be directed by an outsider.

(C) 'The poor kid', he answered and with utter weariness watched his wife Labour. The woodwork, the cage of moldings and rails and baseboards all around them was half old tan and half new ivory and he felt caught in an ugly middle position.

- I. Why was Jack utterly weary?
 - a. Because of Joe's questions and clarifications.
 - b. Because of the extension in story.
 - c. Because of the hurry to go downstairs.
 - d. Because of efforts to make Joe fall asleep.

- II. The cage in the lines metaphorically represents
 - a. The woodwork and moldings.
 - b. Although poles apart, they are bound in marriage.
 - c. Jack feels trapped in the institution of marriage.
 - d. He doesn't appreciate his wife doing the labour.

- III. 'Half old tan and half new ivory.'
 - a. Is imagery describing the furniture in the room.
 - b. A metaphor that his wife was independent.
 - c. A metaphor that new feminist changes occur in the old family structure.
 - d. Is simile comparing furniture quality to tan and ivory.

- IV. Jack feels caught in an ugly middle position because he
 - a. Feels sorry for narrating a story which contradicts his child's views.
 - b. Feels tired of the drudgery of babysitting.
 - c. Feels he must render helping hand to his wife.
 - d. All of the above.

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: - **(1x4=4)**

(A) For life that slyly turn in their cramped holes.
From fog to endless night? On their slag heap, these children
wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
with mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

- I. Why do the lives of these children turn slyly?
 - a. They live a dirty, miserable life.
 - b. They are trapped in a slum.
 - c. Their homes are uncomfortably small and crowded.
 - d. The problems of life made them clever and sly.

- II. The literary devices used in 'those children wear skins peeped through by bones', is
 - a. Simili.
 - b. Alliteration.
 - c. Metaphor.
 - d. None of the above.

III. The poet evokes hard, sharp images- bones, steel, glass, bottle bits, stones.

- a. The slum children are doomed.
- b. To conjure picture of hardships in their lives.
- c. To convey that their life is cheap and shattered.
- d. To state the dismal prospects in their lives.

IV. These lines describe the

- a. Physical status of the children.
- b. Emotional status of the children.
- c. Economic status of the children.
- d. Mental status of the children.

(B) Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool.

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of uncle's wedding band.

Sits heavily upon aunt Jennifer's hand.

I. What do these lines reveal about aunt Jennifer?

- a. A woman's psyche.
- b. Her physical, mental and emotional fears.
- c. Her nervous state of mind.
- d. All of the above.

II. Why do aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter?

- a. She is tired.
- b. She is terrified by the male dominated society.
- c. She has lost interest in the painting.
- d. None of the above.

III. The image 'Massive weight of uncle's wedding band suggests'

- a. The wedding ring is quite heavy for her fragile fingers.
- b. She is tired. So, she finds her wedding ring heavy.
- c. There is no happiness in the wedding bond they both share.
- d. The wedding ring is heavy. She is obliged to continue with the marital bond.

IV. Fingers fluttering through the wool. The literary device used is

- a. Metaphor.
- b. Alliteration.
- c. Symbolism.
- d. Repetition.

(5) Attempt ANY 8 questions from the 10 given below: -

(8x1=8)

(i) My mother at 66 is written in a lyrical idiom. It means

- a. It captures complex subtleties of human relationships.
- b. It highlights the universal bond between mother and daughter.
- c. It expresses emotions in an imaginative and artistic style.
- d. It captures the fear of losing someone near and dear.

(ii) The slum children are compared to rootless weeds because

- a. They are insecure.
- b. They are unwanted and undesirable.
- c. They are wasters.
- d. They are pale and untidy.

(iii) Why does the poet say, 'You keep quiet and I will go'?

- a. No questions to ask as I have made myself clear.
- b. The activity is for you to do so I can go.
- c. I have initiated the activity and can make a quiet exit.
- d. I am disappointed by response so I will leave.

(iv) What is it that helps forget sadness and gloom around us?

- a. The beauty created by man.
- b. The beauty created by God.
- c. The comfort of materialistic things.
- d. All of the above.

(v) Why does Adrienne Rich refer to Aunt Jennifer as only 'aunt' in the last stanza?

- a. She becomes representative of women who suffer male oppression.
- b. She quietly accepts her slavery.
- c. She has lost her identity.
- d. All of the above.

(vi) Why did Franz think Wachter was making fun of him?

- a. Because Franz did not know of the latest news on the bulletin board.
- b. Because he was invariably late to school.
- c. Because Wachter would often make fun of him.
- d. Because Wachter thought Franz hated school.

(vii) But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world. What promise had Anise Jung made?

- a. To get Sahib a new pair of shoes.
- b. To restore his lost childhood.
- c. To free him from the bonds of child labour.
- d. To start a school.

(viii) 'Well, Mr. Terror, what do you think you can do to me?'. Pick out the figure of speech used.

- a. Irony
- b. Satire
- c. Personification
- d. Symbolism

(ix) Why did Edla intercede for the vagabond when her father asked him to leave?

- a. She took pity on him.
- b. She felt she had brought him home.
- c. She thought it was father's mistake of mistaking him for his friend.
- d. She wanted to make it a memorable Christmas for a poor man.

(x) Why did the big planters agree to make refunds to the peasants?

- a. There was more than ample evidence against them.
- b. They were intimidated by the influence of Gandhi.
- c. They accepted that they had committed a mistake.
- d. They thought they would comfortably compromise with the situation making small refunds to peasant.

PART B

WRITING

(16 MARKS)

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following

(1×3)

A. The C.B.S.E as a part of its drive on 'Joyful Education and Holistic Fitness ' urges all its school leaders to make effort to convert their schools into a 'No Anger Zone or Anger Free Zone. Your school decided to organize a workshop cum seminar to be conducted by the school counselor. As Head boy /Head girl, write a notice in not more than 50 words informing the students of classes 1X to X11 to be a part of this much needed talk. Give the necessary details of the talk.

OR

B. You are Yamini/Yash of B 25, Vijay vihar, Rohini, Delhi and wish to Let Out your newly constructed house. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the 'To let 'column of Hindustan Times giving all the necessary details.

7. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following.

(1×3)

A. You are Asmi/Avnindra living at 5, Cherish Apartment, Parvna Road, Delhi. You have planned to host a dinner party to celebrate the Golden jubilee anniversary of your grandparents at Leela Banquet, Aerocity Gurugram. Write the invitation in 50 words giving all the required details.

OR

B. You are Prof.M.C. Sharma an academician. You have been invited by Sanakriti School Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi to be the Guest of Honour at the 'Annual Cultural Festival '. Write your reply in 50

words appreciating the invitation but because of some prior commitment express your inability to accept the invite.

8. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following (1×5)

A. The festive season is round the corner and we all are ready to enjoy the celebrations after months of lockdown and work from home pressure. It is very important to know and follow safety norms of Covid -19, as the risk is still high of getting infected when going to public places or meeting friends. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Times of India' in about 120-150 words, expressing your concern mentioning simple but effective ways one must adopt to prevent from the deadly virus and how these small steps can help save everyone around you.

OR

B. While going through the newspaper, you came across an advertisement advertising vacancy for the post of TV anchors cum Newsreaders. Write a job application along with a resume for the advertised post in about 150 words to the HR Manager of Zee Network, Cyber City, Noida.

9. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following. (1×5)

A. The Information Technology has provided new avenues to the students for knowledge, creativity, discovery as well as job opportunities at home and abroad. Computers have brought in a silent revolution. Write an article in 150-200 words showing how the information technology has provided the younger generation new opportunities, joys of discovery and thrill of creativity. You are Madhu/Mudit.

OR

B. Your School organized a spectacular cultural week 'SPECTRUM', the school's annual event on the virtual platform. Write a report in 120-150 words for the monthly newsletter of the English Department. You are Zian /Mac, the cultural secretary.

LITERATURE

(24 MARKS)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below in 30-40 words each: - (2×5=10)

- I. Why did mother warn Douglas against going to swim in river Yakima?
- II. Why do you think the peddler slept so much at Ramsjo?
- III. What excuse do the children offer to explain their perpetual state of poverty? (Lost Spring)
- IV. Comment on the extensive use of symbolism in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.
- V. How can tales of mighty dead be compared to a thing of Beauty?
- VI. Why does Pablo Neruda Clarify the confusion his proposal might create?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each: - (2×2=4)

- I. Why did the clerk threaten to hand over Charlie to the police?

- II. 'This man, there is no reason under heaven why he should live'. Why does Dr. Sadao think so for the American in spite of being a doctor?
- III. How does Mr. Lamb differentiate between the buzzing of bees and humming of bees?

12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

- a) The Last Lesson is about the cruelty of suppressing the people by taking their right to study or speak their native language and the consequent pain felt by them. Discuss.

OR

- b) Lost Spring is a revelatory description in the unfortunate customs, stigma of caste and callous systems which condemn children to live a life of misery and exploitation. Discuss.

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

- A) The third level is a concise, entertaining story about time travel which captures reader's imagination and provides a clear example of intersection of time and space. Discuss.

OR

- B) How did the resourcefulness of Evans enable him to hoodwink the authorities and escape punishment?