

XII ENGLISH CORE

Time: 3hrs

Marks: 80

PART – A (OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS) - 40 MARKS

(Reading) 20 Marks

1. Read the following passage carefully:

Throughout history, the clash between the old and the young has been a defining feature of both reality and literature. Parents have power over their children... but as those juveniles approach adolescence, they begin to put pressure on their parents' power. They test the rules; they rebel; they create their own rules. The parents are puzzled, frustrated and resentful about the shift in the balance of power. They fight back; try to exert their leadership in an attempt to maintain their power. But as they grow towards old age, they are forced to relinquish it, while the world changes into a place they cease to recognize from their youth.

The friction between old and young is set to become a feature of the twenty first century, as we approach a period where the balance of power reaches virgin territory. This is not to say that relationships between the generations are expected to worsen; rather that the unprecedented demographic changes to come will have knock-on effects that we cannot yet imagine.

How can we be so sure that trials lie ahead? Demographic trends are incredibly easy to predict. Decades pass between the birth of children and their growth into adulthood, while rises in life expectancy due to affluence and better medical care are gradual. Consequently, it is possible to predict accurately what proportion of the population will be economically active, and what proportion will be dependent, for a considerable time in the future. Hence, we know that rising as people are living longer and having fewer children – and having them later in life - population structure will skew much more towards the aged.

Statistical prediction is one thing. Predicting the implications of such trends on society is another thing entirely. Many economically developed countries already fear that by 2025, there will be too few young tax-payers in the working population to support those in old age. This is the generation that requires pensions, medical care, local services and other benefits. Governments are already putting in steps, such as compulsory work pensions and increases in the retirement age in an attempt to mitigate the problem. How effective these measures prove to be remains to be seen. Moreover, this isn't just a predicament for richer countries. All less economically developed countries outside the AIDS stricken regions of Sub-Saharan African are experiencing the same demographic trends, and, unless their economies develop extremely quickly, their populations will suffer much more.

Economically, therefore, adults will be at the mercy of the elderly. Governments will be obliged to put money and efforts into the provision for the elderly and working adults will have to waive their share. But perhaps such a conclusion is too glib. The scenario could pan out in differently. After all, rising elderly populations also bring opportunities for the young, such as in employment in products and services geared towards the older generation. Moreover, the shift comes at a time when seniority is beginning to count for less in the workplace than in the past. Youthful traits, such as innovation,

creativity and familiarity with new technology are being recognized more and more. Perhaps power will not shift towards the elderly as much as demographic data suggests.

This may mean that a standard retirement age may become a thing of the past, as vigorous people in their seventies and eighties choose to carry on working. Such a trend would greatly ease the tax burden on the younger generations, as well as giving the older generation more choice. However, it comes as a two edged coin, as young, inexperienced workers would be forced to compete for jobs with the seasoned workers,; while those in employment may never get the promotion they desire if the old guy at the top refuses to quit. Of course, the predictions envisaged in this scenario will only come to pass if the world develops in a relatively benign way.

QUESTIONS –

4 marks

1. Who is said to relent their previously occupied position unwillingly?
 - a) Juveniles
 - b) Adolescents
 - c) adults
 - d) elderly
2. What is cited as Contributing factors to longevity?
 - a) Poverty
 - b) Affluence
 - c) Childbirth later in life
 - d) Nutrition
3. In future, working age adults will probably have to _____ their allocation of Government funds, as they are used to provide for the elderly.
 - a) Partake
 - b) Supplement
 - c) Forego
 - d) Claim
4. What among the choices provide do not form part of the benefits provided for the elderly?
 - a) Employment

- b) Pension
- c) Medical Care
- d) Local Services

Answer the following questions briefly: [1x6=6]

- 5. Mention how Governments reduce the rising cost of providing for the elderly?
- 6. What potential is predicted by the increase in Seniors' population?
- 7. What is required for this generation?
- 8. What is predicted to remove the pressure on young tax payers?
- 9. Name some youthful traits recognized in workplace.
- 10. What is the fear of economically developed countries?

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1. For lasting and clear eyesight, eyes need care in the form of preventive measures, a continuous life-long exercise. Eyes don't just see, they do the talking. This is why of all our senses the most precious is eyesight. Eyes need care in the form of prevention, and knowing some preventive methods in eye care can make your eyes look bright and healthy and leave you with excellent eyesight.
- 2. How do we keep eyes bright and healthy? Eat good helpings of vegetables, fruits, omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotenes with vitamins A, C and E, enjoy good sleep and avoid direct sunlight. Therefore, good habits and good general health care does play a major role in eye care. Eyes are windows to the human body; while you look out through this window, we, the eye doctors, can look in to find conditions such as glaucoma, abnormal blood pressures, diabetes, heart diseases and other health concerns much before you notice its adverse impact, and help you take preventive measures.
- 3. It is never too early to begin eye check-ups. Throw a torchlight from different directions and look for fixation in newborns and, if in doubt, take the baby to an eye specialist. By the time a child is four, it is imperative to have a check up every year to look for squint, signs of opacity brought in by cataracts and minus or plus powers to decide whether or not glasses are needed. Ultraviolet- protective sunglasses from childhood can help protect eyes from the harmful UV rays. Once in the teens, contact lenses can be worn in place of glasses, but never sleep with them on as they reduce the supply of air and blood to the cornea and can damage eyes. When in 20s, you can get rid of glasses with lasers, Lasik or permanent contact lenses.
- 4. An emerging and alarming trend is the Computer Eye Syndrome, which appears to be catching on in early adult life. We cannot escape the use of computers but, sadly, our eyes are not designed to cope with these screens. Continuous staring at the monitors reduces blinking, causes strain to the eyes and can lead to dry eyes as well. Therefore, it is always better to take a break of 10 minutes every hour and look at distant objects such as the landscapes or even television.

5. Glaucoma or raised pressure in eyes and diabetic retinopathy are silent killers of eyesight. Therefore, checking eyes once every six months is essential. If afflicted with diabetes, diet, exercise and drugs are to be remembered in that order to keep the doctor away.

6. Around the age of 40, more or less everybody requires reading glasses, a condition known as presbyopia. But now you can get rid of these glasses as well, with lasers called INTRACOR and SUPRACOR. One can develop cataract- defined as the loss of transparency in the natural lens of the eye - at any age, but it usually strikes in old age. It's treated by replacing the opaque lens with an artificial lens called the intraocular lens. The latest in cataract removal techniques is called femtosecond laser assisted cataract surgery, which is blade-free, hands-free and makes the operation precise, safe and accurate.

7. That said, eye care is, inevitably, a continuous exercise through life.

- Dr Kasu Prasad Reddy

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options : [1X4=4]

a. We keep our eyes bright and healthy by:

- (i) good sleep and direct sunlight
- (ii) eating good helping of vegetables and fruits
- (iii) Both i and ii
- (iv) only ii

b. By examining the eyes, the doctors can detect health conditions like :

- (i) fractures
- (ii) sinus
- (iii) glaucoma
- (iv) transilitis

c. Eye check-ups should begin :

- (i) at the time of birth
- (ii) at school
- (iii) only when a person complaints
- (iv) when a person is above 50 years of age.

d. We should not wear contact lenses for long hours, as they might harm the:

- (i) Retina
- (ii) pupil
- (iii) Tear Glands
- (iv) None of the above

Answer any six of the following questions briefly: [1x6=6]

(e) State any two ways in which we can keep our eyes bright and healthy.

(f) What will prevent eyes from harmful UV Rays?

(g) Excessive Computer usage causes which problem ?

(h) What is 'presbyopia' ?

(i) What are 'INTRACOR' and 'SUPRACOR'?

(j) What is 'Cataract'?

(k) Find words from the passage which means the same as : [1x2=2]

a. Grievously affected especially by disease (Para 5)

b. By necessity (Para 7)

Literature 20 Marks

3. Read the following extracts from the prose and answer the questions by selecting the right options given. (any two) (1x8=8)

A)But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen, but of course that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning.

1. Who was the speaker of the above extract?

- a. Old Hauser
- b. Franz
- c. M. Hamel
- d. a German

2. Sunday morning here depicts

- a. ordinary day
- b. holiday
- c. first day
- d. special day

3. Where had the speaker reached?

- a. Bulletin Board
- b. village Junction
- c. Saar River
- d. School

4. Which word in the extract means 'lot of noise'?

- a. counted on
- b. commotion
- c. course
- d. still

B. "I like the game", he hums, content to watch standing behind the fence, "I go inside when no one is around", he admits

1. Who is referred to as 'he' in above extract?

- a. Author
- b. Saheb
- c. Mukesh
- d. Savita

2. Which word in the extract means 'satisfied'?

- a. hum
- b. admits
- c. content
- d. to watch

3. Which game is being referred to in the above extract?

- a. Tennis
- b. Cricket
- c. Chess
- d. Football

4. Whom does 'I' represent here?

- a. all who come late
- b. all who lost their happy childhood
- c. all who lost in the game
- d. children who lost their parents

C)He and I stood together in the surf. I hung on to him,yet the waves knocked me down and swept over me. I was buried in water.

1. Whom does "he"refer to?

- a. the big boy
- b. narrator
- c. narrator's father
- d. instructor

2. Where had 'he' and 'I' gone to?

- a. the sea
- b. swimming pool
- c. Lake Wentworth
- d. Yakima River

3. What was the effect of this incident on the speaker?

- a. aversion to water
- b. great fun for water sports
- c. hatred towards parents
- d. respect for instructor

4. What was the age of 'I',when the incident mentioned in the extract happened?

- a. nine years
- b. four years
- c. ten years
- d. eighteen years

4. Read the following extracts from the poetry and answer the questions by selecting the right options . (any One) (4x1=4) Its loveliness increases,it will never

Pass into nothingness,but will keep

A bower quiet for us,and a sleep Full of

sweet dreams ,and health,and quiet

breathing.

1. Whose loveliness will keep on increasing?

- a. of beautiful things
- b. of dreams
- c. of the poem
- d.of nothingness

2. Identify the phrase which says that 'it' is immortal.

- a. full of sweet dreams
- b. never pass into nothingness
- c. quiet for us
- d. dreams and health

3,What is a 'bower'?

- a. thick bush
- b. pleasant shady place

- c. heavenly sky
d. dreams
4. What do you mean by 'quiet breathing' here?
a. relaxation
b. death
c. suffocation
d. corruption

OR

. . . . The stunted,unlucky heir of twisted
bones,reciting a father's gnarled disease.
His lesson ,from his desk. At the back of the dim class
One unnoted,sweet and young.

1. Who is the 'unlucky heir'?
a. the poet
b. the boy with stunted growth
c. upper class people
d. Shakespere
2. What has 'he' inherited?
a. gnarled disease
b. classroom
c. sweet face
d. luxurious life
3. Where was this class room located?
a. Near the blue sea
b. in a green field
c. in the middle of a city
d. in a slum
4. How are the children in the class?
a. very enthusiastic
b. highly responsible
c. ready to respond
d. not attentive to the teaching

5. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence.(any 8)

(1x8=8)

1. What were the places visited by Gandhi between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran?
- 2.What did M.Hamel write on the board as he was concluding the class?
- 3."The young men echo the lament of their elders", what do you think is the common complaint in Firozabad?
4. *As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine. I wonder whether she knows the sanctity of bangles she helps make*-Name the literary device used here.
- 5.*Surely,Shakespeare is wicked the map a bad example* -Name the poetic device used here.
- 6.'That shut upon their lives like catacombs'-What do you mean by catacombs?
- 7.Name the poet who penned the poem"Keeping Quiet"
- 8.What secret plan did the General have about the American soldier?
- 9.What do the Tigers do on the screen?
- 10.What was Evans popularly known as?

PART – B (SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS)- 40 MARKS

Writing Section : 16 Marks

Q1. You are the Sports Captain of King’s Public School. Write a notice in about 50 words for the school notice-board Informing the students about the Inter-school Basketball final match to be played. Give all necessary details of the match.

OR

(3 Marks)

Draft an advertisement for the post of a female receptionist. She must graduate with computer skills and fluency in English ,etc. You are General Manager, Hotel Riveria, Agra. (Word limit :50)

Q2. Your school is organizing the annual Day next month in one of the prestigious auditoriums of your city. Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words giving all the essential details.

OR

(3 Marks)

You are Mohit/Maya. You have received an invitation from Mr. Arjun Reddy to the birthday party of his better half, Preethi. You are unable to attend the party. Write your reply to the invitation. Do not exceed 50 words.

Q3. Many cases have been reported against reckless driving, thereby escalating the statistics of road accidents. write a letter to the editor expressing your views for the same. (word limit 120-150)

OR

(5 Marks)

Read the advertisement given below and write a letter applying for the job. Also give your detailed resume to be sent along with the letter. You are Praveen Kumar of 95 HAL Colony, Bengaluru. (Situation Vacant: Wanted a Post Graduate Teacher in English to teach Senior Secondary Classes in a reputed school in Bengaluru. Candidate should have a minimum of three years of teaching experience. Apply to BoxNo.178, C/o ‘The Deccan Herald, Bengaluru 500015.)

Q4. An NGO, ‘Health for all’ organized a health check-up camp in a slum at Bihar. You are Varun/Varuna, and you visited the camp. Write a report in 150-200 words covering arrangements such as registration, check-up, tests carried out, etc.

OR

(5 Marks)

You are Rajan / Rani. Communal harmony is the need of the hour. Write an article on this to be published in your school magazine to tell the students how they can play a major role in bringing harmony and peace. (word limit 120-150)

Literature section -24 Marks

Q5. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each. (Any 5)

(2x5=10)

1. Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?
2. What did M. Hamel tell his students about French language? What did he ask them to do?
3. How did William Douglas's aversion to water begin?
4. How is 'Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example' for the children of the school in a slum?
5. Why is 'grandeur' associated with 'mighty dead'?
6. How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes?

Q6. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each. (any 2)

(2x2=4)

1. What does third level refer to? What is the significance of the third level?
2. What happened on the seventh day after Dr. Sadao had typed the letter?
3. What was the basic plot of each story told by Jack?

Q7. Answer the following question in 120 -150 words

(5x1=5)

Civil disobedience had triumphed first time in modern India. Relate the events during Gandhi's stay in Champaran that led to the triumph.

OR

What is the central idea of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'? How does Kamala Das share her feelings for her aged mother in this poem?

Q8. Answer the following question in 120-150 words

(5x1=5)

What lapses on the part of police and prison authorities helped Evans to escape from prison?

OR

What made Charley believe that he was actually standing at the third level?