

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

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

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

1 Too many parents these days can't say no. As a result, they find themselves raising children who respond greedily to the advertisements aimed right at them. Even getting what they want doesn't satisfy some kids; they only want more. Now, a growing number of psychologists, educators and parents think it's time to stop the madness and start teaching kids about what's really important: values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion. The struggle to set limits has never been tougher — and the stakes have never been higher. One recent study of adults who were overindulged as children, paints a discouraging picture of their future: when given too much too soon, they grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with life's disappointments. They also have a distorted sense of entitlement that gets in the way of success in the workplace and in relationships.

2 Psychologists say that parents who overindulge their kids set them up to be more vulnerable to future anxiety and depression. Today's parents themselves raised on values of thrift and self-sacrifice, grew up in a culture where 'no' was a household word. Today's kids want much more, partly because there is so much more to want. The oldest members of this Generation Excess were born in the late 1980s, just as PCs and video games were making their assault on the family room.

They think of MP3 players and flat-screen TVs as essential utilities, and they have developed strategies to get them. One survey of teenagers found that when they crave something new, most expect to ask nine times before their parents give in. By every measure, parents are shelling out record amounts. In the heat of this buying blitz, even parents who desperately need to say no find themselves reaching for their credit cards.

- 3 Today's parents aren't equipped to deal with the problem. Many of them, raised in the 1960s and '70s, swore they'd act differently from their parents and have closer relationships with their own children. Many even wear the same designer clothes as their kids and listen to the same music. And they work more hours; at the end of a long week, it's tempting to buy peace with 'yes' and not mar precious family time with conflict. Anxiety about the future is another factor. How do well intentioned parents say no to all the sports gear and arts and language lessons they believe will help their kids thrive in an increasingly competitive world? Experts agree: too much love won't spoil a child. Too few limits will.
- 4 What parents need to find, is a balance between the advantages of an affluent society and the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving and working hard to achieve goals. That search for balance has to start early. Children need limits on their behaviour because they feel better and more secure when they live within a secured structure.

Older children learn self-control by watching how others, especially their parents act. Learning how to overcome challenges is essential to becoming a successful adult. Few parents ask kids to do chores. They think their kids are already overburdened by social and academic pressures. Every individual can be of service to others, and life has meaning beyond one's own immediate happiness. That means parents eager to teach values have to take a long, hard look at their own.

- (a) Answer the following :
- (i) What values do parents and teachers want children to learn ? 2
 - (ii) What are the results of giving the children too much too soon ? 2
 - (iii) Why do today's children want more ? 1
 - (iv) What is the balance which the parents need to have in today's world ? 2
 - (v) What is the necessity to set limits for children ? 2
- (b) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following :
- (i) a feeling of satisfaction (para 1)
 - (ii) valuable (para 3)
 - (iii) important (para 4)

- 1 I remember my childhood as being generally happy and can recall experiencing some of the most carefree times of my life. But I can also remember, even more vividly, moments of being deeply frightened. As a child, I was truly terrified of the dark and getting lost. These fears were very real and caused me some extremely uncomfortable moments.

- 2 Maybe it was the strange way things looked and sounded in my familiar room at night that scared me so much. There was never total darkness, but a street light or passing car lights made clothes hung over a chair take on the shape of an unknown beast. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw curtains move when there was no breeze. A tiny creak in the floor would sound a hundred times louder than in the daylight and my imagination would take over, creating burglars and monsters. Darkness always made me feel helpless. My heart would pound and I would lie very still so that ‘the enemy’ wouldn’t discover me.

- 3 Another childhood fear of mine was that I would get lost, especially on the way home from school. Every morning, I got on the school bus right near my home — that was no problem. After school, though, when all the buses were lined up along the curve, I was terrified that I would get on the wrong one and be taken to some unfamiliar neighbourhood. I would scan the bus for the faces of my friends, make sure that the bus driver was the same one that had been there in the morning, and even then ask the others over and over again to

be sure I was in the right bus. On school or family trips to an amusement park or a museum, I wouldn't let the leaders out of my sight. And of course, I was never very adventurous when it came to taking walks or hikes because I would go only where I was sure I would never get lost.

4 Perhaps, one of the worst fears I had as a child was that of not being liked or accepted by others. First of all, I was quite shy. Secondly, I worried constantly about my looks, thinking people wouldn't like me because I was too fat or wore braces. I tried to wear 'the right clothes' and had intense arguments with my mother over the importance of wearing flats instead of saddled shoes to school. Being popular was very important to me then and the fear of not being liked was a powerful one.

5 One of the processes of evolving from a child to an adult is being able to recognize and overcome our fears. I have learnt that darkness does not have to take on a life of its own, that others can help me when I am lost and that friendliness and sincerity will encourage people to like me. Understanding the things that scared us as children helps to cope with our lives as adults.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. 5

(b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3

3. You are a fitness trainer in a health club. Design a poster in not more than 50 words, to emphasize the importance of exercise in maintaining mental and physical fitness. You are Prem/Priya. 5

OR

You have received an invitation to be the judge for a literary competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance. You are Mohan/Mohini.

4. Your brother is going to Chennai to write an entrance exam. You have requested your friend to meet him at the railway station and arrange accommodation for him. As your brother has not seen your friend, give a detailed factual description of your friend in 125 – 150 words, so that your brother can recognize him easily. You are Parvesh/Parvati. 10

OR

A few teachers and students from the Edwin University had visited your school on an exchange programme. You welcomed them grandly. Write a report in 125 – 150 words on the celebration. You are Brijesh/Benu.

5. You are Arman/Arpita of 14, MG Road, Pune. You had bought the text book, 'Vistas' for Class XII from a neighbourhood bookstore. After browsing through the book, you realized that a few pages were missing and the print overlapped on a few pages. Write a complaint letter in 125 – 150 words to the Manager, Dawn Books, Lawrence Road, Chennai requesting him for a replacement or refund.

10

OR

You had bought an expensive wrist watch last week. Now you realize that it is not functioning properly. Write a letter in 125 – 150 words to the Manager, Edison Watch Works, New Delhi, complaining about it and requesting him to repair or replace it immediately. You are Gobind/Gopa of 68, Park Street, Kolkata.

6. Last week as you were coming back from school you happened to see a huge plastic bag full of leftovers of food being flung into the middle of the road from a speeding car. You wondered how people can be so devoid of civic sense. Write an article in 125 – 150 words on why we lack civic sense and how civic sense can be inculcated in children at a very young age. You are Shiva/Shamini.

10

OR

You saw a stray dog beaten to death by a group of boys. Their act infuriated you and you scolded them for their cruel act. You decided to write an article on cruelty to animals. Write the article in 125 – 150 words. You are Nikhil/Naina.

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : 4

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (b) Why are we 'despondent' ? 2
- (c) What removes 'the pall from our dark spirits' ? 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 the 'children' referred to here ? 1
- (b) Which is their world ? 1
- (c) How is their life different from that of other children ? 2

8. Answer any **two** of the following in about 30 – 40 words each : 2×2=4
- (a) What was the poet's childhood fear ?
 - (b) What is the sadness the poet refers to in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' ?
 - (c) How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her ?
9. Answer any **six** of the following in about 30 – 40 words each : 6×2=12
- (a) Why did Sophie long for her brother's affection ?
 - (b) Why did Edla plead with her father not to send the vagabond away ?
 - (c) What job did Saheb take up ? Was he happy ?
 - (d) Why were the elders of the village sitting in the classroom ?
 - (e) Why did the Maharaja order the dewan to double the land tax ?
 - (f) Why did Roger Skunk go to see the old owl ?
 - (g) Why was Zitkala-Sa in tears on the first day in the land of apples ?

10. Answer any **one** of the following in 100 – 125 words : 5

Gandhiji's was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living, human beings. Why did Gandhiji continue his stay in Champaran even after indigo sharecropping disappeared ?

OR

Explain the reactions of the servants in Dr. Sadao's house when he decided to give shelter to an enemy in the house.

- 11.** Both Derry and Lamb are physically impaired and lonely. It is the responsibility of society to understand and support people with infirmities so that they do not suffer from a sense of alienation. As a responsible citizen, write in about 100 words what you would do to bring about a change in the lives of such people. 5
- 12.** Why did Dr. Mortimer need the service of the detective Sherlock Holmes ?
Answer in about 125 words. 8
- 13.** Who is Laura Lyons ? What confession did she make to Sherlock Holmes ?
Answer in about 125 words. 7