

NORTH-EX PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Senior Secondary, Affiliated To CBSE)
School Block, Jain Nagar, Sector-38, Rohini, Delhi – 81
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION- I, 2019-2020

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS: XII

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

SECTION-A (READING)

Q1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below: (12)

1. India has never subscribed to the doctrine of militarism and war in her history. Here war was never treated as an ideal. It was only tolerated as unavoidable and inevitable, and all attempts were made to check it and bring it under control. In spite of the frequency of wars in ancient India, in spite of highly developed military organization, techniques of war and imperialism and in spite of the open justification of war as national policy, the heart of heart of India loved pacifisms as an ideal capable of realization. India's symbolic role was that of a peacemaker and it sincerely pinned its faith on the principle of 'Live and let live'. At least philosophically, India's intelligence supported the cause of peace not only in national affairs but in international affairs also. All the great seers of the yore visualized the unity of life, permeating all beings, animate or inanimate, which ruled out killing and suicidal wars.
2. This doctrine of philosophical pacifisms was practiced by ancient Aryans is, no doubt, a question of controversial nature. Certainly, the great Indian teachers and savants stuck to this doctrine tenaciously and in their personal life they translated it into practice and preached it to masses and even to princes of military classes.
3. Another culture of those times, the existence of which has been proved by the excavations of Mohan-jo-Daro, also enunciated the doctrine of pacificism and friendship to all. Strangely enough, the Indus Valley Civilization has revealed no fortification and very few weapons.
4. Ahimsa or the doctrine of non- violence in thought, speech and action assumed a gigantic importance in the Buddhist and Jain period. By a constant practice of this virtue, man becomes unassailable by even wild beasts, who forgot their ferocity the moment they entered the circumference of his magnetic influence. The monks and nuns of these churches were apostles of peace, who reached every nook and corner of the world and delivered the message of love to war-weary humanity. The greatest votary was the royal monk Ashoka, who in reality was responsible for transforming Ahimsa as an act of personal virtue, to Ahimsa as an act of national virtue.
5. Many a historian recounting the causes of the downfall of the Mauryas, hold the pacific of Ashoka which had eschewed the aggressive militarism of his predecessors, responsible for an early decay of the military strength of the state and its consequent disintegration, leading to the rise of Sungas, Kanvas and Andhras. But in reality the fault lies with the weak successors of Ashoka, who could not wield the weapon of non-violence with a skill and efficiency which required the strength of spiritual giant like Ashoka. They failed due to their subjective weakness: Pacifism itself was no cause of their failure.
6. Besides the foregoing philosophical and religious school of thought, even many political authorities gave their unqualified support to the cause of pacifisms. They recognised the rivals to exist, not mainly as enemies, but as collaborators in the building of a civilization operation. Thus, for centuries, in the pre-Mauryas India, scores of small independent republics existed and flourished without coming in clash with each other.

7. With regard to Kautilya, the much maligned militarist and the so called Machiavelli of India, he thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war.
8. The Mahabharata observes in the connection, "A wise man should be content with what can be obtained by the expedients of conciliation, gift and dissention." It denounces the warring world of men by comparing it to a dog-kennel. "First there comes the wagging of tails, then turning of one round to other, then the show of teeth, then the roaring and then comes the commencement of the fights. It is the same when men; there is no difference whatever." Yajnavalkya adds: 'War is the expedient to be used when all others have failed.' Likewise, Sri Krishna who's Bhagwad- Gita has been styled by some as 'a song of the battle', should not be considered out and out militarist. When all the three expedients were exhausted, then alone the fourth was resorted to.
9. All possible avenues of peace such as negotiation, conciliation through conference, meditation and so on, were explored before the war as resorted to. This proves that the heart of ancient India was sound and it longed for peace, although war also was treated as an anathema, which was to be avoided as far as possible.

1.1 Answer each of the following questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

- (i) The heart of India loved _____
 - (a) a highly developed military organization
 - (b) loans
 - (c) techniques of wars and imperialism
 - (d) pacifism
- (ii) Principle of 'Live and let live' means
 - (a) Imperialism
 - (b) Frequency of wars among nations
 - (c) militarism
 - (d) role of peacemakers
- (iii) Aryans preached and practiced this to the masses
 - (a) non-violence
 - (b) philosophical pacifisms
 - (c) freedom of speech and action
 - (d) practice of military organization
- (iv) Mahabharata compared the warring world with
 - (a) wise men
 - (b) song of the battle
 - (c) dog kennel
 - (d) militarist
- (v) Unearthing Mohan-jo-Daro reinforced the following of Pacifism
 - (a) there was no fortification and very few weapons
 - (b) they were apostles of peace
 - (c) they delivered the message of love
 - (d) thinks that the object of diplomacy is to avoid war

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

- (i) How was war treated in India?
- (ii) Describe India's preparedness for war in spite of their belief in Pacifism.
- (iii) How did the Aryans practice the Doctrine of Pacifism?
- (iv) What is Ahimsa?
- (v) Why should Bhagvad-Gita not be considered as "A song of the battle"?

1.3 Pick out the words/ phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: (1x2=2)

- (i) express in definite and clear terms (para 3)
- (ii) the beginning (para 8)

Q2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

(8)

1. Leadership does not exist without follower ship. A leader has to be accepted by the group which he former is supposed to lead. To gain acceptability the leader should cause an emotive impact on the group members.
2. The character exhibited by leaders make them dear to their followers. A leader is one who effectively inspires employees to achieve worthwhile things. What characters of the leader motivates the followers? It is not pomp and show not flattery nor sanctioning more incentives. Pomp and show create a sense of awe and the leader is defied rather than emulated. Flattery is unrealistic and cannot serve as a long term motivational tool. A leader's style should be one that can be emulated by all, irrespective of cadre, class or calibre.

Simplicity is one's day to day conduct as the only thing that can be adopted by all, when the leader is simple; he is counted as one belonging to the group of which he is the leader. That's enough to motivate the people. Motivation is the innate quality that enables individual or group to contribute unlimitedly with limited means. It is the proud prerogative of enlightened human beings.

3. A leader needs to assume the role of a guide; quintessential to fulfilling the role is knowledge ability. Technical and administrative knowledge of the guide in a balanced quantity and of the right kind are essential. He has to master the human relations aspect of administration in all detail. And when the leader is good at this, his guidance is sought and accepted and then he fulfils the role of a guide. The leader is a negotiator within and outside the organization.
4. The leader shapes people and moulds their character. To achieve this, the leader should maintain equanimity. Equanimity is keeping oneself poised and balanced at all times. A leader is simply great if he can mould his followers with the frame of mind. He does this by his own example.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (4)

2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 100 words. (4)

SECTION - B (WRITING)

3. On the occasion of World Book Day, your school has decided to organise a Book Fair. As the secretary of the Book Club, write a notice informing students of the Prefectorial Board about a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the fair.

OR (4)

Your school is planning to organise a talk on the 'Importance of Promoting Art Education' at all levels. You plan to invite The Director, Delhi School of Art, as a Key Note Speaker. As CCA Coordinator of Vidya Mandir Vidyalaya, draft an invite for the same giving all the necessary details. (50words)

4. You are Amitabh, resident at 119, Mall Road, Shimla. You are interested to join a short-term course in computer programming during your summer vacation. Write a letter to the Director, NIIT enquiring about the duration of such course and the terms and conditions for admission. (6)

OR

You are an educationist and you are strongly concern about the flaws in the existing system of education, particularly the examinations. You feel that the system neglects the talents and skills of students and is restricted to classroom teaching. Write a letter to the Editor of an English newspaper making a case for education beyond classroom teaching. Sign yourself as Dr. Manoj Lamba.

5. Recently you read a report in the newspaper about presence of alcohol in a Gandhidham based energy drink. This was despite the fact that Gujarat was a dry state. Write a debate in 150-200 words expressing your views for/against the topic, 'Forcing people to follow rules and regulations pushes them towards crime'.

OR (10)

Students leave their prestigious seats (IIT, IIM, and AIIM) and pursue higher level courses abroad. Government spends a lot of money on these students and all this money goes waste when students opt for courses in foreign countries. Write a debate in 150-200 words expressing your views for / against this topic.

6. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) blacklisted at least 32 products from various prominent brands. Though this sudden crackdown by FSSAI is highly commendable, you feel it is also leading to a lot waste of money and resources. If FSSAI had made it compulsory to check the products periodically, such a situation would never have come up. Write an article in 150-200 words expressing your views on the issue. You are Anuj / Anju. (10)

OR

You are Karan / Kirti of L.M. Memorial Public School, Dwarka. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 150-200 words.

SECTION C

(LITERATURE: TEXTBOOKS and LONG READING TEXT)

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below:

(1x8= 8)

a. The little old house was out with a little new shed,
In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
A roadside stand that too pathetically pled..

1. Why had a new shed been put up?
2. Which traffic is referred to here?
3. Why is the stand's existence said to be 'pathetic'?
4. '..That too pathetically pled' .Name the figure of speech used.

b. "I laughed and said, "Well, Mr. Terror, what do you think you can do to me?" It fled and I swam on."

1. Who is 'I' here? Who is being addressed to as Mr. Terror?
2. Why has Mr. Terror been addressed so?
3. Why did the narrator laugh?
4. Why did Mr. Terror leave?

8. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each.

(2x5=10)

- (a) What happened on the seventh day after Dr Sadao had typed the letter?
- (b) What was Sophie's ambition in life? How did she hope to achieve that?
- (c) What kind of pain does Kamala Das feel in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?
- (d) How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty?
- (e) Why was the Maharaja once in danger of losing his kingdom?
- (f) What was the basic plot of each story told by Jack?

9. Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words.

(6)

- (i) The author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles in the lesson "Poets and Pancakes".

Elucidate.

- (ii) The peddler thinks that the whole world is a rattrap. This view of life is true only of himself and of no one else in the story. Comment.

10. Answer any one of the following question in 120-150 words.

(6)

- (i) Untouchability is not only a crime, it is inhuman too. Why and how did Bama decide to fight against it?
- (ii) Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character Mr. Lamb from the chapter 'On the Face of It'.

