

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2015 - 16

CLASS - XII

Time - 3 Hrs

English Core

Max. Marks: 100

Set - A

This question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A : Reading

Section B : Advanced Writing Skills

Section C : Literature & Long Reading Texts

Instructions:

1. All Questions are compulsory
2. You may attempt any section at a time
3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION – A: READING 30 MARKS

Marks

Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow:-

12

1. Cricket in South Asia is a carnivalesque, festive game. It carries not merely the baggage of competition and achievement, but is also a participatory cultural event that invokes images of religious festivals, carnival social gatherings, picnics and theatre. It is now gradually becoming a substitute for war, a means of redeeming self-esteem and expressing xenophobia and a depot of weird conspiracy theories. No country now loses a game because the other side is better, a country loses only because its cricketers and cricket-administrators are under-patriotic, corrupt, greedy or self-centred.

2. Unfortunately for ultra-nationalists and fortunately for the rest, cricket is one game in which the best training, organization and preparation do not yield corresponding results. It is a subversive game that rebels against the productivity principle on which is built the world of globalised capitalism. Luck plays a major role in the final outcome of a match or series. In this respect, cricket is unlike football, tennis or chess. The grandeur of cricket and the clichéd reference to its glorious uncertainties come from a cultivated ignorance of this inner contradiction in the game. Cricketers and their fans to say nothing of the experts have to learn to live with unpredictability without getting overly judgmental or paranoid. All games have some built-in uncertainties; only cricket has turned the gracious acceptance of this into a measure of character.

3. Let us not forget that in cricket the 22 players involved are never on the field at the same time. Consequently, one team may play in full sunshine, while the other may have to play under an overcast sky when the ball begins to swing. One team may bat on a green top, other on a wearing pitch. You can never truly equalize the outer conditions for the two teams. So a cricketer not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate. That is one reason why it is a typically Indian or if you prefer, South Asian game.



4. This is a cultural region that recognizes the role of destiny in human affairs. All cricketers are superstitious because of the nature of their job. Only South Asians are not embarrassed about it and have unashamedly built ritualized ways of dealing with a destiny as a normal part of cricketer's life. If you want a game where the investment of money, hard training and ruthless professionalism will pay predictable results, and the results will be a pure reflection of skill and talent, you should choose another game.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best option: **1x3=3**

- (a) 'Cricket in South Asia is a carnivalesque, festive game' means
- i) The cricket is seasoned like festivals.
 - ii) That a cricket match is a cultural event like a festival or a carnival.
 - iii) That cricket is not a game but a carnival, a festival.
- (b) Cricket is becoming a substitute for war as:
- i) Countries slake their image and self-esteem on the outcome of the game.
 - ii) Political interests have invaded the game.
 - iii) Cricket teams receive massive international funding.
- (c) 'It (cricket) rebels against the productivity principle' means that:
- I) The principles of cricket are rebellious and unproductive.
 - II) Training and preparation do not necessarily bring success
 - III) Cricket is played by rebels.

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly:- **1x6=6**

- a) How can you say that cricketers are superstitious?
- b) In what way is cricket unlike football or tennis?
- c) 'A cricketer not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate.' Explain.
- d) Why does the author describe cricket as a typical South Asian game?
- e) What factors in a game bring about predictable results?
- f) How many players are there in one cricket team?

1.3. Find words from the passage which mean the following:- **1x3=3**

- i) Replacement (para 1)
- ii) To overthrow or cause downfall (para 2)
- iii) friendly or lively atmosphere (para 1)

Q.2 Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:- **10**
I am the People – The Mob

Carl Sandburg

I am the people-the mob-the crowd- the mass.

Do you know that all the great work of the world is done through me?

I am the working man, the inventor, the maker of the world's food and clothes.

I am the audience that witnesses history.
 The Napoleons come from me and the Lincolns.
 They die
 And then I send forth more Napoleons and Lincolns.
 I am the seed ground.
 I am a prairie that will stand for much ploughing
 Terrible storms pass over me. I forget.
 The best of me is sucked out and wasted.
 I forget. Everything but death comes to me and makes me work and give up what I
 have.
 And I forget.
 Sometimes I growl, shake myself and spatter a few red drops for history to remember.
 Then I forget.
 When I, the people, learn to remember,
 When I, the people, use the lessons of yesterday
 And no longer forget who robbed me last year.
 Who played me for fool then there will be no speaker in all the world to say the name:
 "The People" with any fleck of sneer in his voice or any far-off smile of derision.
 The mob-the crowd-the mass will arrive then.

Q. 2.1 On the basis of your reading of the poem answer the questions choosing the best option from those given below: 1x6=6

- (a) 'I' in the first stanza stands for
- (i) Me, a single individual
 - (ii) The common working man
 - (iii) The intellectuals
 - (iv) The scientists
- (b) Why does the poet name 'Napoleon and Lincolns'?
- (i) They are the greatest leaders of the world
 - (ii) They won many battles
 - (iii) They changed the lives of their countrymen
 - (iv) They are great leaders who came from ordinary families
- (c) 'Terrible storms' in stanza 3 means
- (i) Bad weather
 - (ii) Hardships, travails and pain the common man suffers
 - (iii) Earthquakes, famines, floods and other natural disasters
 - (iv) Epidemics and diseases that destroy large populations
- (d) 'I forget' has been oft repeated in stanza 3 and 4. What trait of 'I' is represented?
- (i) Weakness, because by forgetting 'I' is open to repeated exploitation
 - (ii) Strength, because by forgetting 'I' is better able to endure
 - (iii) Weakness, because poor memory is nothing to be proud of
 - (iv) Strength, because thoughts of revenge do not come to 'I'

- (e) The contextual meaning of the term 'growl' in stanza 4 is
- (i) The sound made by a bear
 - (ii) A dog's growl
 - (iii) Demonstrations on the road with blaring slogans
 - (iv) Honking of the vehicles
- (f) The meaning of the term 'sneer' in stanza 4 is
- (i) To praise
 - (ii) To be happy
 - (iii) To mock
 - (iv) To smile

Q. 2.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

1x4=4

- (a) How is the best of people sucked and wasted?
- (b) Why are people addressed as 'audience'?
- (c) In what ways do the people of a country 'spatter a few red drops for history'?
- (d) When according to the poet 'the mass will then arrive'?

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

8

Linguistics, the scientific study of language, is a burgeoning field of study and research around the world. So, if you seek an alternative to the mundane rigmarole, and a merger of science and society interests you, then a career as a linguist might just be for you. The study of linguistics is an analytic discipline, and the analytic tools that one learns to analyse language can be used to study virtually any subject – from the language of cinema and the nature of myths, to the convolutions of a complex computer language.

“Linguistics is not purely an academic discipline; it can contribute a great deal to applied components like language teaching, improvement of communication skills and an understanding of culture. It can also aid language technology development (machine translation, development of spelling and grammar – checkers), says B N Patnaik, Fellow, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore and former professor of English and Linguistics, IIT – Kanpur.

The field of linguistics is interdisciplinary and can offer great career options when pursued as a core course or as part of other social sciences.

To facilitate the cross - disciplinary nature of linguistics, the course structure at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi is designed such that students are encouraged to take optional courses in other areas of study. “We encourage students to take 10 – 12 core courses within the discipline and a minimum of 4 courses in fields like Computer Science, Geography, Ethnic Studies and so on,” says AnvitaAbbi, Professor of Linguistics, JNU.

“Linguistics in India is primarily a Post Graduate Programme. Not many under graduate colleges offer courses in linguistics”. Says Patnaik. The fact that even the IITs , - with their strong associations with science and technology, have researched facilities

in linguistics, illustrates the myriad dimensions of the field.

“One can do a PhD in linguistics at IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras among the IITs. At these institutes linguistics courses are offered as optional courses for the undergraduate B.Tech students”, he adds.

With a degree in Linguistics, one can work in the areas of language teaching, audiology, speech therapy, translation, interpretation and lexicography.

Students specialising in computational linguistics can work in the area of natural language processing, machine translation, text – to- speech synthesise, speech recognition and artificial intelligence.

Mass media and communication is another area where the contribution of linguistics is significant. Today, advertising and consumer research extensively use semiotics, which is largely taught as part of linguistics.

So what academic and personal temperament is conducive to the field? Pradhan observes that students who opt for Master’s Courses are predominantly the ones with language backgrounds. “But any good graduate student with an interest in the subject will do very well. The basic requisites are an analytical mind, a scientific aptitude and a concern for the world around you”, he says.

So has the precision of linguistics as an academic choice changed through the years? “Well, there is a significant demand for the field due to which the university of Mumbai plans to introduce certificate courses and an M.Phil.programme very soon”, says Pradhan. However, Patnaik quips since the syllabi of the courses in linguistics do not relate to the immediate requirement of the job market, it does not have too many takers. “But students must realize that the subject has many applications. Today, language is relatively big business. There are so many language-oriented careers. But unfortunately, not too many linguistics,” he explains.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage makes notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations and give an appropriate title. 5
- b) Give a summary of the passage in your own words in not more than 80 words. 3

SECTION – B : WRITING (30 Marks)

You are the President, Literary Society of Sunshine International School. Draft an invitation to the author, Ms.Manjul Bajaj requesting her to conduct a workshop on creative writing in your school. You are Romi/Rohit. (50 words) 4

OR

You are Aditi/AdityaRao, Sports Captain of Maharani Gayatri Devi School,Jaipur. Your school is organizing a trekking trip to the Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand. Draft a notice giving all relevant details of the trip. (50 words)

You are Jasmine/Jasmeet Singh, an aspiring singer. You wish to participate in a talent show being organized by Channel 5, Mumbai. Write a letter to the Director seeking more information about eligibility criteria, date and place of auditions etc.,for the show. (120-150 words) 6

OR

You are Shama/Shamsher Singh, Sports Secretary of ABC Higher Secondary School. Write a letter to Lightways Sports Amrapali, Thane, placing an order for some sports articles to be supplied to your school. (120-150 words)

- Q.6** In a meeting of World Water Forum at Kyoto, the 24,000 delegates from 182 countries focused on the escalating global water crisis. Global water consumption has increased tenfold in the last century, largely due to growing population, industrial development and expansion of irrigated farming. The speakers said that water or Blue Gold will be the next object of conquest by the year 2020. You are Anamika/AnujSinha, Head Girl/Boy of Layolla School, Patna. Deliver a speech in the school assembly on the need to conserve water. (150 – 200 words) **10**

OR

You are very much concerned about the politicization of educational institutions and the disturbance caused by the frequent elections in the democratic set-up. Write a speech in 150-200 words on 'The Involvement of Students in Politics'. You are Rema/Rohit.

- Q.7** In a move to check pollution in Delhi, the government has decided to impose an odd-even formula for vehicles where vehicles with odd number will be allowed to ply on odd dates and cars with even number plates on even days. The plan has been implemented from January 1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) questioned his odd-even formula for vehicles to curb pollution in the national capital. The tribunal said that the government's move will encourage people to buy two cars with even and odd number plates. Write an article on this topic to bring awareness to the general public. (120-150 words) **10**

OR

On the occasion of Earth Day you participated in various eco-friendly campaigns initiated by your school. Write a report for your school magazine giving details of these campaigns and the impact on you. You are Akshay/Akshita of Bright International School. (120-150 words).

SECTION – C : LITERATURE AND LONG READING TEXT (40 Marks)

- Q.8** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:- **1x4=4**

On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head.
 Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
 Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map
 Awarding the world its world.

- i) What is the condition of the classroom wall?
- ii) What are the two things that show a civilized race?
- iii) What is the speciality of the Tyrolese valley?
- iv) Explain 'awarding the world its world'.

OR

For once on the face of the Earth
 Let's not speak in any language.
 Let's stop for one second,
 and not move our arms so much
 It would be an exotic moment
 without rush, without engines,
 we would all be together
 in a sudden strangeness.

- i) What does speaking in 'any language' imply?
- ii) Why does the poet feel that it is important to keep quiet and suspend all activities?
- iii) What is meant by 'exotic moment'?
- iv) Why does the poet compare the nature of human beings with rush and engines?

Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 40 – 50 words each:-

4x3=12

- i) What was the sentiment expressed by the tramp in the letter that he left for Edla? What made him sign as Captain von Stahle?
- ii) In what context does Hana remember General Takima? What does she infer?
- iii) How does Derry and Lamb differ in their attitudes towards their respective disabilities?
- iv) How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day?
- v) How does the poet compare and contrast the young trees, the merry children and her mother?

Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words:-

6

Even today 1.5 million children work as labourers in our country. How does the lesson 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung throw light on this problem in our society? What can be done to improve the situation?

OR

Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?

Answer the following in about 120 – 150 words:-

6

Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa are victims of discrimination that is practised in the society. What kind of experience did both of them go through?

OR

The story 'Going Places' highlights the aspirations of youth along with the pain of disappointments leading to daydreaming. Discuss.

Why was Cuss keenly interested in the stranger?

6

What disadvantages does Griffin face because of his invisibility?

6