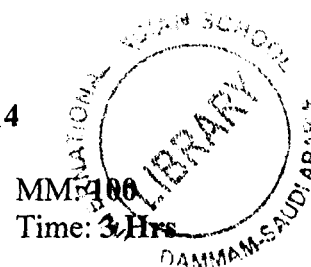


INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL, DAMMAM
SECOND TERM EXAMINATION – NOVEMBER 2014

CLASS: XII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH



SET A

General instructions:

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

Section A: (Reading) 30 Marks

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 11marks

1. Have you ever caught yourself scratching your head, twitching your ear, tapping your foot or playing with your keys or pen? If you have, you are a sure fidgeter. And it is likely that the habit has carried over from childhood, when your wriggling probably exasperated-and sometimes amused-your parents and teachers. It is not a pleasant sight to see a grown-up person fidgeting; in fact, it is a distraction.

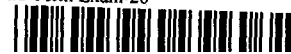
2. Recently, some doctors in Britain have discovered that not only is fidgeting quite normal, it even does you good.

3. Almost everybody fidgets when hot, cold, hungry, thirsty or tired. Being kept waiting also brings on the fidgets. Most of this is normal, but then with some, this translates into exaggerated mannerisms and that is where we have a problem. When the British doctors wired up volunteers to an electric 'fidgetmeter', followed by a gruelling interview, some stayed almost completely still. Others made up to 57 movements in half a minute. Since the rate went up when disturbing topics were raised, it seemed that those who fidgeted more were the anxious types, needing to release nervous energy.

4. This is what led to the conclusion that fidgeting has its uses too - since it helps get rid of stress that could sometimes lead to headaches, muscle pain or even ulcers. Fidgeting is also believed to fight the flab. Add up all those little movements made by fidgeters during their waking hours and they burn up as much energy as a jog, the report said.

5. While British doctors may feel that fidgeting is an expression of anxious behaviour, doctors here do not necessarily agree.

6. Meanwhile, a former assistant professor in Los Angeles opines that fidgeting is a sign of "some underlying tension which is causing anxiety". While one cannot make generalised statements, some experts feel that pencil-suckers yearn for babyhood, teeth-



grinders and fist-clenchers seem to be holding back their aggression, foot tappers wish to be on the move and people who scratch may wish to injure themselves.

7. A leading psychiatrist gives a positive side to the anxiety angle. According to him, “a bit of anxiety is not harmful since it induces one to do better. It often brings out the best in people-while meeting deadlines, submitting reports or at interviews and examinations”. He gives the example of tennis players who play with ‘manageable anxiety’, but warns that when the fidgets turn to restlessness, it might affect performance. Often, he says, a person suffering from a neurological illness ends up fidgeting deliberately, “mainly to distract his companion from his actual problem. It could be something as harmless as the shaking of the hand or twitching of the eye”.

8. Refuting this, another psychiatrist insists that fidgeting in no way should be considered good. “It may be innocuous unless it is harming the fidgeter or annoying others, but, what fidgeting really reveals is a lack of confidence and even social phobia, besides, of course, anxiety. It, in fact, sends non-verbal messages to people who then treat the person accordingly – as nervous or anxious individuals,” he adds.

9. Unfortunately, fidgeters often find it hard to kick the habit, even when it’s socially unacceptable.

10. While those fidgeting are themselves perturbed by the habit, efforts in controlling it could cause other problems, because, “the person could get hypertense or worried about being unable to tackle it and get more fidgety in the process”. Experts, in the meantime, keep suggesting remedies or ‘tricks’ to get out of fidgeting habits, like playing with a coin in your pocket or glove, or wearing a ring which you can rub without others noticing. In Greece, many taxi-drivers carry worry-beads which they click while waiting to combat fidgeting, while some stores in London’s West End once sold pieces of polished stone designed for gently stroking with the thumb.

11. Dr James Buyers, a neurologist of London, hopes for a more lasting and practical solution, “Anything that will stop the speed of modern life for even half a minute will definitely be beneficial,” he says.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices: 3marks

- a) Fidgeting becomes a problem when.....
- i) it annoys other people
 - ii) grown-ups begin fidgeting
 - iii) it translates into exaggerated mannerisms
 - iv) it is carried over from childhood

b) According to a professor from Los Angeles, fidgeting is due to

- i) an underlying tension causing worry
- ii) a childhood habit carried over
- iii) having an anxious metabolism
- iv) disturbing topics being introduced

c) A person suffering from neurological illness

- i) fidgets while shaking hands
- ii) deliberately continues to fidget as a way of distracting people
- iii) might play with manageable anxiety
- iv) considers the habit harmless



1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

5marks

- a) What are some of the things that a fidgeter does?
- b) Mention two reasons when almost everyone tends to fidget.
- c) What, according to some doctors, are the advantages of fidgeting? Mention any two.
- d) Mention one way in which you can stop yourself from fidgeting.
- e) What is the trick to get rid of fidgeting?

1.3 Find words from the passage which convey the opposite meaning of the following:

3marks

- a) attraction (para 1)
- b. harmful (para 8)
- c. traditional (para 11)

2. Read the passage given below:

11marks

1. My first tryst with Shakespeare several years ago was an enforced one. The *Merchant of Venice* was a prescribed book in class 9 when I was at school. I had read the wonderful Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare and considered myself an authority on the stories. I did not think it necessary to read the antiquated language or trudge through several seemingly abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point. To spend a whole year to decipher a play when I had understood the story in a few pages seemed to be a sheer waste of time. Yet, somewhere along the way, I was drawn into the world of the Merchants of Venice, their portly argosies, the signors and rich burghers and the news on the Rialto. The language yielded its riches slowly, the characters became well drawn, more rounded and the impassioned speeches of Shylock and Portia stirred up a flurry of unexamined questions. Since then, I have read several other plays, have seen a couple of

theatrical performances and watched young Leonardo Di Caprio in a modern Romeo and Juliet film. Shakespeare has been around.

2. Shakespeare has shaped the writing and storytelling in the English language like no other writer has. He liberally borrowed, bent and brought new words into the English language from addiction, bump critic to worthless and zany. The phrases that he coined roll off our tongues as over-used adages – All that glitters is not gold (The Merchant of Venice). Jealousy is a green-eyed monster (Othello), and the perennial ‘All is well that ends well’. He has influenced several writers and been quoted by many of them. One of my favourite authors PG Wodehouse had the odd Shakespearean phrase popping up in whacky situations like the ‘milk of human kindness’ sloshing inside someone or references to Banquo and Macbeth explained to Bertie by the estimable Jeeves who knew his Shakespeare. The plays have been translated into many languages including several regional Indian bhashas. They have lent themselves to film adaptations including the Vishal Bharadwaj’s Maqbool (Macbeth) and Omkara (Othello).

3. The tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare cover every possible theme, and idea – love, greed, jealousy, racism, friendship, mistaken identities, murder, mutiny, politics, feminism and revenge. Like any other celebrity, he has been the subject of speculation and controversy. There have been several conspiracy theories afloat on the ‘real’ authorship of the plays including a recent claim by a professor in Sicily that Shakespeare was actually Italian. Despite everything, Shakespeare’s appeal is universal; the stories transcend language and nationalities. However, more than 400 years after Shakespeare’s birth, I can’t help wondering if anyone will read his works in the days to come.

4. The average attention span in front of a television channel is about 4 seconds before flicking on the remote to move to another. It is perfectly acceptable to massacre the rules of grammar and syntax ‘b4 u cn say y dis kolaveri di’. When you can tell a whole story in 140 characters, reading 14 sentences can be a chore. Who will have the desire or patience to dredge up the treasures that lie within?

5. Shakespeare’s works have proved to be sturdy, unshakeable through the centuries, moving with the times, lending themselves to newer forms. I hope they don’t get relegated to a few diehard literature students or musty libraries. Who knows, we might yet have a different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to the GenNext, a form that will induce them to approach an original play with a sense of anticipation, of beginning a quest to understand and appreciate a good story, well told.

Nothing of him that does fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices: 3marks

- a) The writer considered himself an authority on Shakespeare after reading.....
- i) The Merchant of Venice
 - ii) Romeo and Juliet
 - iii) Lamb's Tales
 - iv) Leonardo Di Caprio
- b) The best known Shakespearan quote is
- i) All that glitters is not gold
 - ii) All is well that ends well
 - iii) Jealousy is a green-eyed monster
 - iv) Milk of human kindness
- c) The claim of the professor from Sicily was
- i) Shakespeare was an Italian
 - ii) that he covers every possible theme and idea
 - iii) that there have been several conspiracy theories
 - iv) Shakespeare was a subject of speculation

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly. 5marks

- a) Why was the author's first tryst with Shakespeare an enforced one?
- b) What did the author like about the play after reading it thoroughly?
- c) What is Shakespeare's contribution to shaping the English language?
- d) What, according to the writer, will make GenNext read Shakespeare?
- e) What was the speculation of the author about the GenNext?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same: 3marks

- a) a private romantic meeting (para 1)
- b) go beyond the range (para 3)
- c) persuade or influence (para 5)

3. Read the following passage very carefully: 8marks

The day a child is born, the parents dream of making it a doctor, engineer, architect, or an IAS. As the child develops, the hopes and aspirations of parents also develop. They want to see their children earning a handsome amount of money.

Having an ideal career is a dream for all and as parents of a teenager, thoughts of your child's career may not be very far from your mind. Most youngsters at that age, however,

wrongly believe that they are at the beginning of their career path. But they have been on that road for years – their school studies, recreational activities and hobbies help a child gravitate towards its interests. These interests must drive their ambitions. Gone are the days when one began and ended one’s professional career at the same job. Getting a job is no longer as important as choosing the right career path – one that promises more personal satisfaction and growth, and of course earnings that will let them live a good life. So making a wise choice becomes all the more important. Developing a keen self-knowledge is essential to making the right career decisions. But all youngsters are not so self-aware. In fact many of them admit that they need help in planning their careers. Inexperienced, unsure and ill-informed, young people must turn to others for help. And though career counsellors at school are helpful, experts agree that parents are the number one influence on a child’s choice of career.

Sadly many parents are not themselves very sure about how best they can help. Many parents mistakenly try to “tell” kids – directly or indirectly – about the kind of expectations they have with regard to the child’s choice of career. The chances are that the child ends up following its parents’ dream, not its own, will not be a happy, satisfied professional in its adult life. “A child relies on information from peers when it comes to career options. But a parent has many options to get and pass on details about various career options. Parents must guide their wards and allow them to make an informed decisions”, says S C Moha, executive director of the All India Management association. (AIMA)

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum4). Use a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 5marks

3.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made. 3marks

Section B: (Advanced Writing Skills) 30 Marks

4. Your school is organising ‘Founder’s Day’ next month in one of the prestigious auditoriums of the city. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words giving all essential details. Include necessary instructions against mobile phones and cameras. **4mks**

5. You are Pawan Junelia, staying at W-35, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi. Two months back you bought a Telephone Answering System with Facsimile from the Electronic World, 16, Palika Bazar, New Delhi, with a warranty of two years. Now you discover that the machine doesn’t record the caller’s message and the screen also remains blank. Write a letter of complaint requesting for replacement, if needed. **6 marks**

6. As Shreya/ Shrey, write an article on 'Junk the Junk Food' to create awareness among children that junk food is unhealthy and unhygienic. (150-200 words) **10 marks**

7. In a debate organised in your school, mention your views in favour or against the topic "Can you change your personality"? You are Rohan/Rachita, a student of class XII at A.P. International School Agra. (150-200 words) **10 marks**

Section C: (Text Books & Long Reading Text) 40 Marks

8. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow: 4marks

'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.'

- What does speaking in 'any language' imply? 1
- Why does the poet feel that it is important to keep quiet and suspend all activities? 1
- What 'exotic moment' does the poet refer to? 1
- What is the poet's message in the poem? 1

9. Answer the following questions briefly. 3x4= 12marks

- Is the title of the story 'The Rattrap' justified? Give reasons.
- How did the General promise to help Dr. Sadao?
- What two things did McLeery bring with him to ward off any doubt about his identity?
- How were Zitkala-Sa and Bama victims of social oppression?

10. Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words. 6x4= 24marks

- Resolution needs complete sacrifice of one's time, wealth and physical stake. In view of this, highlight the role of Rajkumar Shukla as a resolute in the lesson 'Indigo'.
- The story 'Going Places', focuses on the aspiration of youth along with the pain of disappointments leading to daydreaming. Discuss.
- Compare and contrast Mr. and Mrs. Hall with regard to their views about the stranger who came to stay at the inn.
- Why did Griffin switch from medicine to physics? Give a brief description of the story which Griffin narrates to Dr. Kemp.
