

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL-DAMMAM

CLASS XII - SECOND TERMINAL EXAMINATION -2017-2018

Time :3 hrs

Subject: English

Max Marks:100

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 questions, wherever necessary. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. You may attempt any section at a time.
4. All questions of that section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A - READING

30 Marks

1. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow(12 M)

1. One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past25 years was the conquest of the Northwest Passage, powered by sail, human muscle, and determination. In 100 days, over three summers (1986-88), Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell accomplished the first wind-powered crossing of the Northwest Passage.
2. In Jeff MacInnis's words... Our third season. We weave our way through the labyrinth of ice, and in the distance we hear an unmistakable sound. A mighty bowhead whale is nearby, and its rhythmic breaths fill us with awe. Finally we see it relaxed on the surface, its blowhole quivering like a volcanic cone, but it senses our presence and quickly sounds. We are very disappointed. We had only good intentions- to revel in its beautiful immensity and to feel its power. Mike thinks how foolish it would be for this mighty beast to put any faith in us. After all, we are members of the species that had almost sent the bowhead into extinction with our greed for whale oil and bone. It is estimated that as many as 38,000 bowheads were killed off eastern Baffin Island in the 1800s; today there are about 200 left.
3. The fascinating and sometimes terrifying wildlife keeps us entertained during our explorations. Bearded harp and ring seals greet us daily. The profusion of bird life is awesome; at times we see and smell hundreds of thousands of thick - billed murrelets clinging to their Cliffside nests. Our charts show we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents upwell and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times these animals scare the living daylight out of us. They have a knack of sneaking up behind us and then shooting out of the water and belly flopping for maximum noise and splash. A horrendous splash coming from behind has a heart-stopping effect in polar bear country.
4. We have many encounters with the 'Lords of the Arctic', but we are always cautious, observant, and ever so respectful that we are in their domain. In some regions the land is totally devoid of life, while in others the pulse of life takes our breath away. Such is the paradox of the Arctic. Its wastelands flow into oasis' that are found nowhere else on the face of



the earth. Many times we find ancient signs of Inuit people who lived here, superbly attuned to the land. We feel great respect for them; this landscape is a challenge at every moment.

5. We face a 35 mile open water passage across Prince Regent Inlet on Baffin Island that will take us to our ultimate goal- Pond Inlet on Baffin Bay. The breakers look huge from the water's edge. Leaning into the hulls, like bobsledders at the starting gate, we push as hard as we can down the gravel beach to the sea. We catch the water and keep us pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves abroad. Immediately, we begin paddling with every ounce of effort. Inch by agonizing inch, perception moves offshore. Sweat pours off our bodies. Ahead of us, looming gray -white through the fog, we see a massive iceberg riding the current like the ghost of a battleship. There is no wind to fill our sails and steady the boat, and the chaotic motion soon brings seasickness. Slowly the wind begins to build. Prince Regent Inlet now looks ominous with wind and waves. The frigid ocean hits us square in the face and chills us to the bone.
6. We were on the fine edge. Everything the arctic had taught us over the last 90 days was now being tested. We funnelled all that knowledge, skill, team work, and spirit into this momentous crossing... If we went over in these seas we could not get the boat back up. Suddenly the wind speed plummeted to zero as quickly as it had begun. .. Now we were being pushed by the convulsing waves toward sheer 2000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power. Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey. At 5.08 on the morning of our hundredth day, speeding into Baffin Bay, the spray from our twin hulls makes rainbows in the sun as we complete the first sail powered voyage through the Northwest Passage.
7. We have journeyed through these waters on their terms, moved by the wind, waves and current. The environment has always been in control of our destiny; we have only tried to respond in the best possible way. We've been awake for nearly 23 hours, but we cannot sleep. The joy and excitement are too great. Our Hobie Cat rests on the rocky beach, the wind whistling in her rigging, her bright yellow hulls radiant in the morning sunlight. She embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic- adaptability.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1 × 4 = 4)

1. The passage is about the
 - a) Author's sailing adventure through the Northwest Passage
 - b) Flora and fauna of the Arctic
 - c) Survival skills needed while sailing
 - d) Saving the Hobie Cat.
2. "Lords of the Arctic", (para 4) refers to
 - a) Wind breakers
 - b) Icebergs
 - c) Polar bears
 - d) Inuit
3. The author's sailing vessel is named

Yet learning something out of every folly
Hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies
Thus arriving at intimate understanding
Of a world numbering many fools.
Tell him to be alone often and get at himself...

Carl Sandburg

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the poem, complete the statements given below with the help of options that follow. (2 x 1 = 2)

1. The father asked his son to be hard as steel to.....
 - a) Face the problems of life boldly
 - b) Be able to bear setbacks
 - c) Be unaffected during sad times
 - d) Youthful days of man

2. The underlying theme of the poem is that.....
 - a) One should earn a lot of money
 - b) One should be tough and strong
 - c) One shouldn't behave like a fool
 - d) One should not be gentle and easy going

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly. (6 x 1 = 6)

1. Explain the line: 'Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy.'
2. Which line tells that love is more powerful than cruelty?
3. Why has the poet described the life both as hard and soft at the same time?
4. What wonders can a 'tough will' do?
5. What does the 'quest of lucre' signify?
6. Why should one be a fool and be at oneself sometime?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: (2 x 1 = 2)

1. Boring(lines 5-10)
2. Riches(lines 15-20)

3. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8 Marks)

How often do we exclaim: "That was a mistake!" That bewildered expression of regret and panic gets replayed through life. Some mistakes we forget, others we don't. The mistakes can be as mundane as forgetting to turn the geyser off or to pick up your passport from the airport counter.

Absent mindedness, preoccupation, distraction, carelessness, nervousness, there are umpteen excuses to justify mistakes. However major decisions like relocations of home or an unwarranted resignation letter can cause much trouble and upheaval and lead to regrets that leave you sad and depressed. Some mistakes are irreversible - then is there room for hope?

- a) Prince Regent
- b) Hobie Cat
- c) Perception
- d) Arctic

4. 'We were on the fine edge' refers to

- a) The prince Regent Inlet
- b) The ominous sail
- c) The frigid ocean
- d) Their expedition

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(6 x 1 = 6)

- 1. Why does the author feel disappointed to see the bowhead whale disappear into the ocean?
- 2. How does his sailing partner rationalize it?
- 3. What reason does the author give for a thriving wildlife in the Arctic?
- 4. What is the paradox of the Arctic?
- 5. What skills helped the author and his partner survive the adventure?
- 6. What is the author's sailing vessel an embodiment of?

1.3 Findwords in the passage similar in meaning as:

(2 x 1 = 2)

- 1. Abundance (para 3)
- 2. Threatening(para 5)

2. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow.

(10 M)

A father sees his son nearing manhood.
What shall he tell that son?
'Life is hard; be steel; be a rock.'
And this might stand him for the storms
And serve him for humdrum monotony
And guide him among sudden betrayals
And tighten him for slack moments.
'Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy.'
And this too might serve him.
Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.
The growth of a frail flower in a path up
Has sometimes shattered and split a rock.
A tough will counts. So does desire.
So does a rich soft wanting.
Without rich soft wanting nothing arrives.
Tell him too much money has killed men
And left them dead years before burial:
The quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs
Has twisted good enough men
Sometimes into dry thwarted worms.
Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.
Tell him to be a fool every so often
And to have no shame over having been a fool

In fact, there are no mistakes, only experiences. There are no problems, only challenges. Every experience teaches us something in life. Every mistake inspires retrospection and introspection. The experience is humbling and it makes us wiser. That is, every mistake is regarded as an experience and not as a source of self-pity or self-condemnation. Many times people are unable to reconcile with the change grooved in the blame culture and rooted in the past, they have to realise the life time benefits they receive from changes.

Nature abounds in examples of flexibility and relocation in the case of birds and beasts. Scientific research in the behaviour of birds has confirmed this. Birds, animals and even nomads, travel miles and miles in search of better food, congenial climate and safety. These relocations may cause some amount of stress, no doubt, but they are the source of survival: helping to group bonding and cooperation; and to explore the beauty of new space and better environment.

"To the weak, problems are stumbling blocks, to the brave, they are stepping stones. An untimely resignation or termination letter is certainly traumatic and disturbing. But think of possibilities it can throw open for you. A young man felt disappointed when he failed an interview for a corporate job. At that point of time, he left dejected. Today, looking back he says, "It was a blessing in disguise. I would have never reached this far." Some mistakes bring in a very important message. "Believe and achieve! And in order to do so, faith is essential. It is the triple faith that men need today - faith in oneself, faith in the world around us, and above all faith in God!"

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheading. Also use recognisable abbreviations, wherever necessary (Minimum 4). Supply a suitable title. 5 Marks

3.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80-100 words 3 Marks

SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS

30 Marks

4. You are Arun/Aruna, the secretary of the English Literary and Cultural Society of St. Joseph's Academy, Agra. You have to organize an inter-zonal extempore competition at the Senior Secondary level. You wish to invite Dr. Hansa Bhogle, an eminent educationist, to preside over the function to be held on 15th December at 9.30 a.m. at Government Model Secondary School Agra. Draft an invitation in about 50 words requesting her to come and grace the occasion. 4 Marks

OR

You are Arun/Aruna of M-114 Mall Road, Delhi. You are a civil engineer and have recently returned from UAE. You are looking for a suitable job in India. Draft an advertisement for the same in about 50 words. Give details about your qualification, experience, nature of job and expected remuneration.

5. You are Arun/Aruna, In-charge of Sports Society of DIPS, New Delhi. You have placed an order with M/s Roxy Sports Goods, Karol Bagh, New Delhi for the supply of several sports items for Annual Sports Day, to your school. As the dealer did not supply the items on the appointed date, you decided to cancel the order. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the dealer for cancellation of the order placed by you and for returning the money deposited as advance by you. 6 Marks

OR

You are Arun/Aruna, staying at MayurVihar, Delhi. You are upset that the toxic level of air pollution in and around Delhi is creating quite a menace. Adding to the severity, the changing weather conditions have locked the pollutants in the air and made the situation worse. The IMA declared the situation a public health emergency. Write a letter to the Editor of Times of India, highlighting the problems faced, and also giving a few measures to counter Air Pollution. (Word limit: 120-150)

6. In today's e-age, there has been a revolution in the ways people receive or share information. Many consider it a boon while others crib about the time children are wasting on social media. Write an article in 150-200 words stating both pros and cons of technology. You are Arun/Aruna. **10 Marks**

OR

Cultural Society Sunshine Public School, Nellore organized an Adult Literacy Camp in its neighbourhood. Write a report in 150-200 words on the camp for your school magazine. You are Arun/Aruna, Secretary, Cultural society. Use the following hints to write the report:

(No. of volunteers-hours spent in teaching- location of the class- chairs, blackboards-no. of people attending the camp - benefits)

7. Write a debate on either for or against the motion, "Hard work, not intelligence paves the way to success in life". You are Arun/Aruna. (Word limit 150 - 200) **10 Marks**

OR

Give a speech in the morning assembly on: "Need of skill development for rural and urban youth". Lay stress on the fact that will provide the youth with employment and business, services and facilities and improve the standard of living all around". You are Arun/Aruna. (Word limit 150 - 200).

SECTION C-TEXTS AND LONG READING TEXT

40 Marks

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

...the stunted, unlucky heir

Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,

His lesson from his desk. At back of the dim class

One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream,

Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.

- What does the stunted, unlucky heir refer to?
- Who is sitting at the back of the class?
- What do you mean by 'His eyes live in a dream'?
- Name the poem and the poet.

OR

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- a) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified?
- b) Why did she choose to embroider tigers on the panel?
- c) What are the ordeals that Aunt Jennifer faced in her life?
- d) What will happen to her tigers after her death?

9. Answer any four of the following in 30 - 40 words each.

(4 x 3 = 12)

- a) 'What can be the matter now?' says Franz. Why do you think he made this comment?
- b) How did the servants react when their master told them about the wounded white man?
- c) What does ZitkalaSamean by 'eating by formula'?
- d) Which symbol from nature does the poet invoke to say that there can be life under apparent stillness?
- e) Why did the ironmaster invite the peddler to his home? Why did the latter decline it?
- f) What was the basic tale underlying each story that Jack told?

10. Answer the following questions in 120 - 150 words:

6 Marks

Hunger knows no friend but its feeder. The downtrodden lead a miserable life. Elucidate this dictum keeping in mind the following lines: 'Survival in Seemapuri means rag picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold'.

OR

Sophie has her own dreams and disappointments, but they are all her creations-the creations of her own mind. Justify the statement.

11. Answer the following questions in 120 - 150 words:

6 Marks

Though Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from physical disability, their attitude to life is very different. Justify.

OR

Give an account of the Maharaja's impatience for the hundredth tiger and the actual encounter. What do you think, caused the death of the tiger king?

12. Answer the following in 120 - 150 words:

6 Marks

Elucidate the statement: 'Griffin is the representation of science without humanity', in the light of his character as portrayed in the novel.

13. Answer the following in 120 - 150 words:

6 Marks

Write a character sketch of Thomas Marvel in the light of his first meeting with Griffin.