

## ENGLISH (CORE)

CLASS XII TIME: 3 HOURS

MAX.MKS:100

### **General Instructions:**

- i. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- ii. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions wherever necessary .Read these instructions very carefully before attempting to answer.*
- iii. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

### **SECTION A : READING**

**Q 1.**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. From the moment a baby first opens its eyes, it is learning. Sight and sensation spark of a learning process which will determine in large measure the sort of person it will become. Language stands head and shoulders over all other tools as an instrument of learning. It is language that gives man his lead in intelligence over all other creatures. No other creature can assemble a list of ideas, consider them, draw conclusions and then explain his reasoning. Man can do all this because he possesses language. And if thought depends on language, clearly the quality of an individual's thought will depend on that person's language-rudimentary or sophisticated, precise or approximate, stereotyped or original.
2. Very young babies are soothed by human voice uttering comforting words close to them. This essentially emotional response provides early evidence that feeling is an important component of language learning. Children learn to use language in interaction with other human beings and this learning precedes best against a background of affectionate feedback from the person who is closest to them. This is seen to perfection in the interaction between parent and baby : eyes locked together, the adult almost physically drawing 'verbal' response from the baby, both engulfed by that unique experience of intimate and joyful 'connecting' which sets the pattern of relationships between two people.
3. Thus, long before they can speak, children are involved in a two-way process of communication which is steadily building a foundation on which their later use of

language will be based. Constantly surrounded by language, they are unconsciously building structures in their minds into which their speech and reading will later fit grammatical constructions, tense sequences and so on. The forms of these structures will depend on the amount and complexity of speech they hear. The fortunate children are those who listen to articulate adults expressing ideas and defending opinions. They will know, long before they can contribute themselves, that relationships are forged through this process of speaking and listening; that warmth and humour have a place in the process, as have all other human emotions.

4. Using books is the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development. None of us can endlessly initiate and maintain speech with very small children; we run out of ideas or just get plain sick of it. Their lives are limited and the experience just isn't there to provide the raw material for constant verbal interaction, without inevitable boredom on the child's part and desperation on the adult's...
5. Parents and children who share books share the same frame of reference. Incidents in everyday life constantly remind one or the other of a situation, a character, an action, from a jointly enjoyed book, with all the generation of warmth and well-being that is attendant upon such sharing. All too often, there is a breakdown of communication between parents and children when the problems of adolescence arise. In most cases this is most acute when the give-and-take of shared opinion and ideas has not been constantly practiced throughout childhood. Books can play a major part in the establishment of this verbal give-and-take, because they are rooted in language.
6. Young children's understanding greatly outruns their capacity for expression as their speech strains to encompass their awareness, to represent reality as they see it. Shades of meaning which may be quite unavailable to the child of limited verbal experience are startlingly talked to toddler. All the wonderful modifying words-later, nearly, tomorrow, almost, wait, half, lend, begin to steer the child away from the simple extremes of "Yes" and "No" towards the adult words of compromise; from the child's black and white world to the subtle shades and tints of the real world. The range of imaginative experience opened up by books expands the inevitably limited horizons of children's surroundings and allow them to make joyful, intrigued, awestruck acquaintance with countless people, animals, objects and ideas in their first years of life, to their incalculable advantage.

7. Books also help children to see things from others' points of view besides their own as they unconsciously put themselves into other people's places- 'if that could happen to him, it could happen to me.' This imaginative self-awareness brings apprehensions and fears as well as heightened hopes and joys.
8. In books children can experience language which is subtle, resourceful, exhilarating and harmonious; languages which provides the human ear (and understanding) with a pointed and precise pleasure, the searing illuminating impact of good and true words. (Adapted from Babies Need Books by Dorothy Butler)

- 1.1** (1) List two things that a baby can do from the moment that it is born that enables it to learn about the world around it.
- (2) How does the range of language affect a person's thinking?
  - (3) What advantages do children have who listen to articulate adults enjoy in comparison with the others?
  - (4) Why ,according to the writer, is talking alone an inadequate base for language development?
  - (5) What is the role of books in maintaining good relationships? Explain.
  - (6) Pick out two other advantages of books mentioned in the passage.
  - (7) Find words from the passage that mean :
    - (a) cause to conform to a type (para 1)
    - (b) familiarity or knowledge of a person or a thing(para 7)
    - (c) full of excitement or joy (para 8)

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

1. 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.
2. 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?

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. "To the weak, problems are stumbling blocks, to the brave, they are stepping stones." An untimely resignation and 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!"

(A) 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.

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80-100 words

### **SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS**

3. You are Suman /Suma of 33/244,M.M.road,Mysore. You want to sell off your old desk top computer as you have purchased a new one. Draft an advertisement to be published in the Times of India under classified columns giving its details & the expected price. ( 50 words)

**OR**

You are Anoop/Anagha, School Captain of Vidya Vikas Vidyalaya. You have decided to celebrate "The Grand Parents Day" in the school. Draft a formal invitation to be sent to the grandparents of students of your school giving details of the programme, day, date, time etc. (50 words)

4. You are Abhishek/Arya. You were a member of your School Quiz Team which won the Heritage Quiz Contest at the National level. The Heritage Centre organized a national level inter school Quiz Contest at Jaipur. Draft a report on the event in about 100-125 words to be published in school magazine.

**OR**

You are Saran/Saranya, a Senior Consultant (Child Education) in Jaideep School Management and Trust. You organised a seminar on **Right to Education Act** for teachers and students. You invited eminent educationists and sociologists to talk on the topic of *right to free and compulsory education to children in the age range of 6-14 years*, problems and implications. Write a report in about 125 words on it for Trust's Magazine.

5. You are Rajesh/Rupa, Secretary of Eco Club of Santa Maria Public School, Trivandrum. As a team leader of the Eco Club, you have come to know that Trivandrum is becoming the top garbage producer of the State and it is facing a tough task of disposing it off. Write a letter to the Minister of Health, Government of Kerala on this problem suggesting ways to tackle it.

**OR**

You are Rashi / Rashid of A 25/ B12, Bank Road, Chennai. Last Month, you bought a Sony Bravo LCD T.V. from Devi Electronics, Tambaram. Now the T.V. is not working properly. Write a letter to the dealer asking him to replace it immediately.

6. You are Vinod/ Veena, a student of Class XII of SGMS School, Cochin. While watching many reality shows on T.V. You felt that they are harmful for children. Write an article on the negative impact of reality shows on children. (150–200 words)

**OR**

You were shocked to know that fact that India has the largest no. of child workers in the world. As Arun/Anju, write an article for your School Magazine titled '**Child Labour – A Curse on Childhood** (150-200 words).

### SECTION C: TEXT BOOKS

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

What I want should not be confused

With total inactivity.

Life is what it is about:

I want no truck with death.

(i) What is it that should not be confused with total inactivity?

(ii) With whom does the poet not want to deal with?

(iii) Explain, "no truck with death"

**OR**

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen.

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.

They do not fear the men beneath the tree

They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(i) Where do the tigers appear? What are they doing?

(ii) Explain 'Bright topaz denizens of a world of green'?

(iii) Name the two qualities of the tiger as shown in the extract.

8. Answer any THREE of the following in about 30-40 words:

(i) What is the poet's familiar ache and why does it return?

(ii) What does the map on the wall signify?

(iii) Why do the cars stop at the roadside stand? Mention any two reasons.

(iv) What is the central idea of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?

9. Answer any THREE of the following in about 30-40 words:

(i) Why was the Gemini studio known as a breeding ground of national integration?

(ii) Give any 2 reasons for the presence of villagers in the classroom on the day of the last lesson?

(iii) What secret does Umberto Eco reveal about his time management?

(iv) Why does the hole in the shoe not bother Saheb?

10. "If we surrender to our fears, they overpower us; if we face them, they fade away. Do you agree? Why/ Why not? Discuss with reference to the lesson "Deep Water."

**OR**

Man is a social animal. He can survive but not live in isolation". Do you agree? Justify your answer with reference to the lesson 'The Rat Trap'.

**11. I remember Geoff saying he would never come, and how none of them believed me when I told them. I wonder what will I do, what can I tell them now if he doesn't come? But we know how it was, Danny and me — that's the main thing. How can you help what people choose to believe?**

After reading these lines in the lesson 'Going Places' you feel pity for Sophie, the protagonist of the story, for her inability to understand that her meeting with Danny Casey was only a figment of her imagination and you decide to write an article for the school magazine on the topic '*Hero worshipping and fantasizing among teenagers*'.

Write the article in about 100 words.

**12.** Explain: "Derry is a victim of his own complex." How does a change come in his thinking?(125-150 words)

**OR**

The story 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story? (125-150 words)

**13.** Answer the following in about 30-40 words each:

- (i) What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?
- (ii) Why did people doubt Evans's sincerity towards taking the 'O' level examination?
- (iii) How was Bama influenced by the words of her brother, Annan?
- (iv) How does Jo want the story to end and why?