

27

New Syllabus



Chapter-wise, Topic-wise & Skill-wise

Class 12

English Core

Previous Year Solved Papers
(2013 - 2024) with Value Added Notes



- 24 Regular Papers (2013 - 2024)
- Past 3 Yrs CBSE Sample Papers (2021 - 2023)
- Topper's Answers of Past Papers (2013 - 2024)
- Trend Analysis of Past Papers (2013 - 2024)
- Divided into Literature, Grammar, Composition and Comprehension Sections
- Step-wise Solutions with Marking Schemes

SAMPLE

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1-12

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3rd Level of Division : Skillwise Division

Each Question in the topic has been further divided skillwise using following codes:

K Knowledge

Ap Application

U Understanding

A Analysis

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CBSE BOARD SOLVED PAPER

Time Allowed : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) This question paper contains **THREE** Sections -
Section - A : Reading Skills
Section - B : Creative Writing Skills
Section - C : Literature
- (iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A : READING

(22 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below :

12 M

- (1) What do we typically do when we find our children doing something we don't approve of? We become reactive parents. Often, we pepper our reactions with lectures. When it doesn't work and predictably so; we end up screaming and dole out a punishment. And our children react with anger, resentment or 'can't-be-bothered' attitude.
- (2) Buddhist Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh put it beautifully when he described how each child has both negative seeds- of anger, despair, hatred, fear and violence- and wholesome seeds- of love, happiness, compassion and forgiveness. According to him, what will blossom depends on the seeds we nurture.
- (3) A parenting and educational approach that's gaining a large following internationally, called the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) by Howard Glasser, is very much in keeping with this Zen approach. The three main aspects of this approach are :
 - Refuse to energize negativity.
 - Relentlessly energize their positives.
 - Reset : Do not react negatively and stay calm when the child does something wrong.

Parents following this approach commit to not saying or doing anything that may fuel negativity in the child. But the parent has to make sure she/he does this very calmly, without any anger or resentment.

- (4) While on a mission to cut the negative, the parent looks for every opportunity to energize the positive in the child. This is done through persistently appreciating the goodness in the child in the smallest of ways : You were really generous about sharing your pizza with your sister; I appreciate the hard work you have put in your project; It takes courage to stand up to a bully. If you observe, the appreciation is not about saying "excellent", "amazing" or "good", which is really an empty praise and does not speak much to the child. Qualifying a praise, on the other hand, gives the child direction and she/he begins to understand what qualities, values and strengths are appreciated. These are also necessary ingredients of life skills and success.

- (5) This approach is not merely about noticing when the child is being good, it is about recognizing the child's worth at every step. It's about aligning his energy in believing that he has great qualities, which are being identified and validated by the parents at every step. He realizes that there is no point choosing negativity, as there are no pay-offs in it. So, start building your child's inner wealth - there is nothing to lose.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

- (i) Complete the following sentence with an appropriate word:

"-we end up screaming and dole out punishment."

In the above sentence, the author criticizes the _____ approach of the parents.

- (ii) Explain in about 40 words, when and how do parents become reactive. **2**
- (iii) In the line 'what will bloom will depend on the seeds we nurture'- what seeds does the author refer to ? **1**
 (a) Seasonal seeds (b) Societal news
 (c) Parental attitude (d) Values and emotions
- (iv) Explain in about 40 words why does NHA focus on reforming parents to reform children. **2**
- (v) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that parents appreciate the goodness of the child at every opportunity. **2**
- (vi) In paragraph 5, in what way does 'This approach' differ from the earlier approach ? **1**
- (vii) Select the option that can be classified as qualifying a praise as explained in the passage : **1**
 (a) You can be more helpful.
 (b) You demonstrated patience while teaching your junior.
 (c) Use your skill to be an excellent sportsman.
 (d) You have to be amazing in your work.
- (viii) The phrase 'to cut the negative' in para 4 most nearly means: **1**
 (a) to reduce wasteful expenditure
 (b) to stop criticizing
 (c) to eliminate challenges
 (d) to humiliate someone
- (ix) Read the five headlines (A) - (E) given below: **1**
 (A) New Age Parenting
 (B) Children - A Rebellious Generation
 (C) Channelizing Energy
 (D) Teacher - A Nation Builder
 (E) Skill Development - Careers Ahead
- Identify the option that displays the headlines that Does/Do not correspond with the occurrences in the text
 (a) (A) and (E) (b) (C) and (E)
 (c) (B) only (d) (A) and (C)

2. Read the passage given below : **10 M**

- (1) We're all familiar with the usual reasons workers cite for wanting to stay away even after lockdowns have long ended: flexible schedules, not having to commute, and of course, increased productivity. However, productivity isn't the only reason people want to stay away from the office. We recently surveyed 1,000 remote workers to find out what's really keeping them tied to their work-from-home lives.
- (2) The findings include : 72% want to be able to take a nap or exercise during the day. Nearly three out of four remote workers surveyed stated that the ability to take a nap or

workout during the workday was one of the reasons they wanted to stay home. Though these activities may very well increase worker productivity, there's no doubt that a nap on the kitchen couch would be frowned upon in the office.

- (3) 73% want to be able to watch TV while they work. Three out of four respondents again say that being able to entertain themselves with TV, podcasts, music, or other media is one of the reasons they want to keep their work-from-home lifestyle.
- (4) 62% cite concerns about their appearance. Well over half of respondents stated that they are concerned about their co-workers seeing them in-person again after such a long time apart. Whether it's weight loss or gain, not having the right clothes, or another concern about appearance, most would rather not have to worry about the way they look to their co-workers outside a Zoom call.
- (5) When asked to choose the reason that most affects their desire to keep working from home, predictable answers like caring for children and lack of a commute were still the most common number one reasons. 14% of respondents stated that working remotely was so important to them, that they would not go back to work in-person even if their employers required it.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

- (i) '.....these activities will increase productivity'. By 'productivity' the author refers to **1**
 (a) products produced
 (b) efficiency of the employee
 (c) time spent by the employee
 (d) number of activities
- (ii) What change in the work place would bring those people back to office who want amusement ? **1**
 (a) giving long breaks
 (b) free coffee and tea
 (c) building entertainment lounge
 (d) spacious conference hall
- (iii) As per the survey, why do health conscious people prefer to work from home ? **1**
- (iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately :
 The passage ends on a note that some people are resolved to _____. **1**
- (v) Explain one inference that can be drawn from para 1 about the reason for people's preference to work from home. **1**
- (vi) State whether the statement given below is True or False:
 The survey reveals that people deeply miss socializing in the work from home style. **1**

- (vii) Explain in your own words how appearance is one of the factors for people's preference for work from home. 2
- (viii) As per the survey, what top priorities of people prevent them from going to office? 2

SECTION - B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18 Marks)

(Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words :
- (a) P.S. Public School, Aram Nagar has opened a gym for the benefit of students. As Sports Captain, draft a notice informing students about the facilities available in the gym, timings and other details. 4
- OR**
- (b) The RWA of Ganga Society, Pushp Nagar has planned to start free yoga classes for its residents. You are Sharmila Tiwari, the President of RWA. Draft a notice informing residents about the proposal, timing, venue and other details. 4
4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words :
- (a) You are Mr. Srikanth Sharma. You have recently built a new house in the hills of Uttarakhand. Draft a letter inviting your brother and his family to spend a few days with you in your new home. Include relevant details. 4
- OR**
- (b) You are Mr. Shyam Sundar, Professor of Psychology. You are invited by S.K.M. College, Mahboob Nagar to be the keynote speaker at its Annual Conclave on 'Student Health - The Emotional impact of Social Media'. Draft a reply letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation and also cite a reason for refusal. 4
5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in 120-150 words :
- (a) You are Neeta/Neeraj of Rainbow Nagar, Shaktiganj a qualified basketball coach. You saw the advertisement given below and wish to apply for the position advertised.

**R.J. Sports Academy
Requires
Basketball Coach**

Qualification : Master's Degree in specific game with NIS diploma.

Work Experience: Minimum 2 years in the relevant field.

Skills : Patience, empathy, leadership qualities, attention to detail.

Apply with complete bio-data to The Director, R.J. Sports Academy, 43, L.M. Square, Shaktiganj expressing your interest in the advertised post.

OR

- (b) You are Mira/Mithun, parent of a class 12 student. You were recently invited among others by the school to attend a two-day workshop on 'Preparing youth for the Road ahead.'

Write a letter to the Editor, Daily News expressing your views on the need for such workshops to create awareness of skill development and future opportunities.

You may use the following cues along with your own ideas:

- skill development
- vocational education, apprenticeship and internship
- entrepreneurship

OR

- skills for greater employment prospects and economic progress

5

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions in 120-150 words:

- (a) The rising obesity amongst youth today is a grave cause of concern. Addiction to technology, inactive life-style and eating sugary, and highly processed foods are among the leading causes.

Write an article for the school magazine, sharing the importance of a healthy lifestyle and nutritious diet. You may use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. You are Shivani/Satish of Class XII-B.

- Reasons for Obesity
- Consequences - ill health
- Suggestions
 - active lifestyle
 - regular exercise
 - change in eating habits
 - support and encouragement

5

OR

- (b) As part of community outreach programme, a group of 40 students from your school identified a neighbourhood slum and took up the initiative to teach basic language and numerical skills, environmental cleanliness and personal hygiene awareness to the slum children. As Head of the team, write a report on the programme to be published in your school newsletter.

Use the cues given below, along with your own ideas to draft the report. You are Rahul/Radhika 5

- date, venue, duration
- books distributed
- activities carried out
- feedback of people
- number of children who attended

5

SECTION C: Literature

(40 Marks)

(TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT)

7. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : **6×1 = 6**

(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 road side stand that too pathetically pled

It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread.

But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports

The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

(*A Roadside Stand*)

(i) Which of the following expressions has the same literary device as used in

"A roadside stand that too pathetically pled."

- (a) All the world's a stage.
- (b) I wandered lonely, as a cloud.
- (c) The brutal wind bullied the tree.
- (d) And life is too much like a pathless wood.

(ii) Select the option that aptly conveys the poet's point of view with reference to the above extract :

The roadside stand is put up with the purpose to

- (a) display fruits
- (b) to stop the traffic
- (c) to do business
- (d) to interact with city people

(iii) What do you infer about the people, who put up the roadside stand from the phrase 'would not be fair to say for a dole of bread'?

(iv) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract. The word 'pathetically' reflects the _____ condition of the roadside stand.

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False :
By "Flower of Cities", the poet refers to the garden in cities.

(vi) Based on the rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-4, which word would rhyme with line 2?
part, fled, seen

OR

(b) Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

6×1= 6

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand

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. (*Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*)

(i) 'Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.' Through the above expression the poet indicates:

- (a) Aunt Jennifer is happily married.
- (b) Aunt Jennifer loves the tigers in the panel.
- (c) Aunt Jennifer's unhappy married life.
- (d) Aunt Jennifer's rich and luxurious life.

(ii) Select the option that has the same literary device as used in 'still ringed with ordeals'.

- (a) Leopards cannot hide in the jungle as they are spotted.
- (b) Sun smiled happily on us.
- (c) Her lovely voice was music to his ears.
- (d) Life is like a box of chocolates.

(iii) Complete the following sentences with reference to the extract. The Tigers in the panel symbolize _____.

(iv) State whether the statement given below is True or False: "Find even the ivory needle hard to pull." The above expression suggests that Aunt Jennifer is dying.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-2, which word would rhyme with line 1?

full, sand, bye

(vi) The use of the word 'fluttering fingers' in the extract suggests that the fingers of Aunt Jennifer are trembling. This creates an image of _____.

8. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

(a) I did not open my mouth to answer. Then the steps were quickened and the voices became excited. The sounds came nearer and nearer. Women and girls entered the room. I held my breath and watched them open closet doors and peep behind large trunks. Someone threw up the curtains, and the room was filled with sudden light. What caused them to stoop and look under the bed. I do not know. I remember being dragged out, though I resisted by kicking and scratching wildly. In spite of myself, I was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair.

4 × 1 = 4 (*Memories of Childhood*)

(i) Select the appropriate option:

_____ sounds came nearer and nearer _____

- (a) describes the increase in volume.
 (b) adds suspense and anxiety to readers
 (c) reflects the thought of the speaker.
 (d) is a factual narrative
- (ii) Complete the following sentence :
 'In spite of myself' suggests that the speaker was _____.
- (iii) What do you infer from the first line of the extract ?
 (a) It was her first day in school.
 (b) She did not want to get caught.
 (c) She was unprepared for the lesson.
 (d) She preferred to be by herself.
- (iv) State whether the statement given below is True or False:
 The speaker hoodwinked the people looking for her.
 _____.

OR

- (b) Human civilisations have been around for a paltry 12,000 years-barely a few seconds on the geological clock. In that short amount of time, we've managed to create quite a ruckus, etching our dominance over nature with our villages, towns, cities, mega cities. The rapid increase of human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources, and the unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has now created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world, which is slowly but surely increasing the average global temperature.

4 × 1 = 4 (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

- (i) According to the view expressed by the author in the above extract, increase in global temperature is due to
 (a) mega cities
 (b) human people
 (c) burning of fossil fuels
 (d) limited resources
- (ii) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract:
 Humans are criticised by the author for _____.
- (iii) According to the author, the relation between human population and resources is _____.
- (iv) 'In that short amount of time, we've managed to create ruckus'. By 'ruckus' the author refers to _____.
 (a) movement (b) misunderstanding
 (c) breach (d) commotion

9. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

- (a) I heard M. Hamel say to me, "I won't scold you, little Franz: you must feel bad enough, see how it is ! Everyday we have said to ourselves. Bah! I've plenty of time I'll learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we've come out. Ah, that's the great trouble with Alsace; she puts of

learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you. 'How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?' But, you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with".

6 × 1 = 6 (*The Last Lesson*)

- (i) 'And now you see where we've come out.'
 The tone of M. Hamel in the above line is that of :
 (a) kindness (b) happiness
 (c) regret (d) enthusiasm
- (ii) 'We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.'
 Select the option, which conveys the meaning of 'reproach' as reflected in the above line.
 (a) The player received a reprimand for breach of rules.
 (b) The students approached the management with a demand for new canteen.
 (c) The clerk received a letter of appreciation for his innovative ideas.
 (d) She could not find a way to broach the subject with her boss.
- (iii) State whether the following statement is true or false with reference to the extract.
 M. Hamel endorses the belief that there is plenty of time to learn their language.
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.
 'You must feel bad enough.' Through these words' M. Hamel urges the people _____.
- (v) Identify the line from the text that reinforces the theme of patriotism in the story.
- (vi) She puts off learning till tomorrow. The phrase 'puts off' suggests _____.

OR

- (b) They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 percent. "There he seemed adamant", writes Reverend J.Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran, who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representatives of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 percent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his words thus breaking the deadlock."

6 × 1 = 6 (*Indigo*)

- (i) Choose the correct option
 'There he seemed adamant,' reflects Gandhi's trait of being
 (a) arrogant (b) uncompromising
 (c) argumentative (d) courageous

- (ii) _____ deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers.
The status of sharecroppers as inferred from the above line is
- law abiding citizens
 - followers of Gandhi
 - victims of exploitation
 - contract labourers
- (iii) Complete the following sentence :
Gandhi surprised them by _____.
- (iv) The inference that can be drawn from the line "Mr. Gandhi took him at his word" is _____.
- (v) 'Deadlock' in the last line means _____.
- (vi) What do we infer about the attitude of planters towards sharecroppers ?
10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in **40-50** words each : $5 \times 2 = 10$
- When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered. How is Mukesh's attitude of life different from that of his family and friends ? *(Lost Spring)*
 - "I was frightened, but not frightened out of my wits." Says Douglas. Which qualities of the speaker are highlighted in the above statement? *(Deep Water)*
 - 'See you soon Amma', How are these words contrary to the speaker's emotions? *(My Mother at Sixty-six)*
 - 'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms; we have imagined for the mighty dead.' Explain the inference you can draw from the phrase 'mighty dead'.
(A Thing of Beauty)
 - What evidence from the text reveals that Rudyard Kipling did not walk the talk? *(The Interview)*
 - Soaf, you really should be sensible! What does Jansie's advice to her friend Sophie reveal about their friendship? *(Going Places)*
11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in **40-50** words each: $2 \times 2 = 4$
- 'And for humans, the prognosis is not good; What is in store for humans, as per the above statement?'
(The Journey to the End of the Earth)
 - 'My three hundred dollars bought less than two hundred in old style bills, but I didn't care.' What prompted Charlie to compromise on less value of money?
(The Third Level)
- (iii) What was the servants' reaction to Sadao's decision of treating the American soldier? *(The Enemy)*
12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120-150** words:
- Wars with gas, wars with fire,
Victory with no survivors.
Pablo Neruda in the above lines, highlights the futility of war. Gandhi also brought about the change in the plight of the Champaran sharecroppers through civil disobedience and not violence.
Write an article on the importance of peace and the right way to resolve issues. **5**
- OR**
- Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan from the Indian (The Interview) and you interviewed M. Hamel, after he finished delivering the last lesson. *(The Last Lesson)*
Write a paragraph on Hamel's views on individual responsibility and nationalism. **5**
13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in **120-150** words :
- Mr. Lamb : Oh, there's lot of things I've learned to do, and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady."
(On the Face of it)
Mr. Lamb, despite his handicap learnt to be independent and has proved where there is a will, there is a way. As a motivational speaker, write a speech to be delivered to school students, highlighting how one should develop resilience and determination to achieve one's goal citing references from this story.
You may begin like this.
To remain resilient during difficult times, will help one move forward in life. **5**
- OR**
- Until then the Maharaja had given his entire time and energy to tiger hunting. He had no time to spare for the crown prince. *(The Tiger King)*
In the present times, we see people following their profession and running after money and neglect their children. As a professional counsellor, you address working parents, stressing the need to spend quality time with children. Take material from the story 'The Tiger King' to re-inforce your points of view.
You may begin like this. **5**
Spending time with children will boost their confidence...

Solutions

SECTION - A

1. (I) The appropriate word to complete the sentence “we end up screaming and dole out punishment” is **criticize**.
The author criticizes the approach of the parents in the given sentence, highlighting the ineffectiveness of reactive parenting and punishment.
- (II) Parents become reactive when they find their children doing something they don't approve of. This reaction often involves lectures, screaming, and punishment when the child's behavior doesn't change. The children, in turn, react with anger, resentment, or indifference.
- (III) (d) Values and emotions
- (IV) **Explanation of NHA's Focus on Reforming Parents to Reform Children**
The Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) focuses on reforming parents to reform children because it believes that children's behavior is influenced by the seeds nurtured in them.
By encouraging parents to energize positivity and avoid fueling negativity, children are guided towards developing wholesome qualities like love, compassion, and forgiveness.
This approach aims to create a nurturing environment where children feel valued and recognized for their positive attributes, leading them to choose positivity over negativity in their actions.
- (V) **Evidence of Appreciating Child's Goodness**
The text mentions that parents following the Nurtured Heart Approach commit to persistently appreciating the goodness in the child in the smallest of ways, such as acknowledging acts of generosity, hard work, and courage.
By energizing the positives in the child through consistent appreciation, parents align the child's energy in believing in their great qualities, thus recognizing the child's worth at every step.
- (VI) The approach in paragraph 5 focuses on recognizing the child's worth at every step and aligning their energy towards believing in their great qualities, which are consistently validated by the parents.
This differs from the earlier approach by emphasizing building the child's inner wealth and guiding them to understand that there are no payoffs in choosing negativity.
- (VII) (b) You demonstrated patience while teaching your junior.
- (VIII) (b) to stop criticizing
- (IX) (d) (A) and (C)
2. (I) (b) efficiency of the employee
- (II) (c) building entertainment lounge
- (III) Health conscious individuals prefer working from home for various reasons according to the survey findings:
72% of respondents want to be able to take a nap or exercise during the day, which contributes to their overall well-being and health.
62% of remote workers are concerned about their appearance, including weight management, clothing choices, and other appearance-related factors, which can be more easily managed while working from home.
- (IV) continue working from home
- (V) Workers prefer to work from home not only for flexible schedules and increased productivity but also for reasons like being able to take a nap or exercise during the day.
This indicates that the ability to have personal time and comfort while working remotely is a significant factor influencing their preference to stay away from the office.
- (VI) The statement given is False.
- (VII) Appearance is a significant factor for people's preference for working from home because many workers are concerned about how they look to their co-workers after a long period of remote work.
Over 60% of respondents expressed worries about their appearance, including weight changes or not having suitable clothes, making them prefer the comfort of their home environment where they don't have to face these concerns in person.
- (VIII) 72% of respondents want to be able to take a nap or exercise during the day, which is a key factor in their desire to work from home.
73% of remote workers prioritize being able to watch TV while they work, showing that entertainment plays a significant role in their decision to stay away from the office.
62% of respondents express concerns about their appearance, indicating that worries about how they look to their co-workers are a major factor in their preference for remote work.

SECTION - B

3. (A)

P.S. Public School, Aram Nagar
NOTICE

Date: May 31, 2024

Opening of School Gym

We are excited to announce the opening of our school gym for your benefit. The gym is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including cardio machines, weights, and a designated area for workouts. Timings are from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Join us to stay fit and healthy!

Rahul Sharma
Sports Captain

OR

(B)

Ganga Society, Pushp Nagar Residents' Welfare Association (RWA)
NOTICE

Date: May 31, 2024

Commencement of Free Yoga Classes

We are delighted to announce the initiation of free yoga classes for the residents of Ganga Society. These classes aim to promote physical and mental well-being among our community members. Sessions will be held every weekday from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM in the society clubhouse. Please join us in this endeavor for a healthier lifestyle.

[Signature]
Sharmila Tiwari
President, Ganga Society RWA

4. (A)

Mr. Srikanth Sharma
Hillside Retreat, Uttarakhand

May 28, 2024

Dear Brother,

I hope this letter finds you well. I have recently built a beautiful house in the serene hills of Uttarakhand. I would love for you and your family to spend a few days here and enjoy the tranquillity. Looking forward to your visit!

Warm regards,
Srikanth

OR

(B) 36, Ganga Village

110089

31 May 2024

The Principal
S.K.M. College
Mahboob Nagar

Subject: Regretful Decline of Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am honored to receive your invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Annual Conclave on 'Student Health - The Emotional Impact of Social Media'. However, due to prior commitments, I regretfully decline the invitation. My schedule is currently occupied with ongoing research commitments and academic responsibilities. I appreciate the opportunity and extend my best wishes for a successful event.

Thank you for considering me.

Sincerely,
Shyam Sundar
Professor of Psychology

5. (A)

Neeta/Neeraj
Rainbow Nagar, Shaktiganj

31 May 2024

The Director
R.J. Sports Academy
43, L.M. Square
Shaktiganj

Subject: Application for the Position of Basketball Coach

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my keen interest in the position of Basketball Coach advertised by R.J. Sports Academy. With a Master's Degree in basketball along with an NIS diploma, and over three years of experience for coaching basketball teams at both school and club levels, I believe I possess the necessary qualifications and skills to contribute effectively to your esteemed academy.

My coaching approach is characterized by patience, empathy, and strong leadership qualities, allowing me to connect with players on a personal level while fostering a culture of teamwork and discipline. My attention to detail ensures that training sessions are meticulously planned and executed to enhance players' skills and performance.

I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of R.J. Sports Academy and contribute to the development of young basketball talents. Please find enclosed my bio-data for your consideration.

I look forward to the possibility of discussing how I can contribute to the success of your academy.

Sincerely,
Neeta/Neeraj

OR

(B)
36, Bihar Kunj
New Delhi-110089

31 May 2024

The Editor
The Hindu
36, Hindu Nagar
New Delhi-110065

Subject: Importance of Workshops for Youth Skill Development

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the recent initiative taken by schools to organize workshops aimed at preparing youth for the road ahead. As a parent of a class 12 student, I strongly believe that such workshops play a crucial role in creating awareness about skill development and future opportunities.

In today's rapidly changing world, traditional academic knowledge alone is not sufficient to ensure success. Therefore, workshops focusing on skill development, vocational education, apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship are essential. These workshops provide students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience, equipping them with the skills necessary to thrive in the professional world.

Moreover, emphasizing skills for greater employment prospects and economic progress is vital for the overall development of our youth. By instilling a sense of entrepreneurship and encouraging innovative thinking, we can empower our youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

I commend schools for taking proactive steps to organize such workshops and urge them to continue investing in initiatives that promote youth skill development and future readiness.

Sincerely,
Mira/Mithun

6. (A)

Title: Combating Obesity: Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle

In the contemporary era, the escalating rates of obesity among youth have emerged as a pressing concern. The proliferation of technology, coupled with sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits, has contributed significantly to this alarming trend. As Shivani/Satish of Class XII B, I feel compelled to address this issue and advocate for the adoption of a healthy lifestyle and nutritious diet among my peers.

The root causes of obesity are multifaceted. Excessive screen time, whether it be on smartphones, computers, or televisions, has led to a significant decrease in physical activity levels among youth. Concurrently, the widespread availability and consumption of sugary, highly processed foods has further exacerbated the problem, resulting in adverse health outcomes such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension.

However, all hope is not lost. By making conscious choices and embracing a healthier lifestyle, we can combat obesity and

its detrimental effects. Firstly, incorporating regular exercise into our daily routine is imperative. Engaging in physical activities such as sports, jogging, or even brisk walking can significantly enhance our overall fitness levels and promote weight management.

Moreover, a fundamental shift in eating habits is essential. Instead of indulging in processed snacks and sugary beverages, we should prioritize the consumption of whole, nutritious foods such as fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Adopting a balanced diet rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants not only aids in weight control but also fosters optimal health and well-being.

Additionally, fostering a supportive environment that encourages healthy choices is paramount. Schools can play a pivotal role in promoting physical activity through sports programs, gym classes, and extracurricular activities. Likewise, parents and educators should serve as role models by advocating for nutritious eating habits.

In conclusion, the battle against obesity necessitates a collective effort and a commitment to prioritizing our health and well-being. By embracing an active lifestyle, incorporating regular exercise, and making informed dietary choices, we can safeguard ourselves against the perils of obesity and pave the way for a healthier future.

Shivani/Satish
Class XII B

OR

(B)

Empowering Communities: School Students' Outreach Program

As part of our school's commitment to community service, a group of 40 students, led by Rahul/Radhika, embarked on a meaningful outreach programme aimed at uplifting the children in a nearby slum area. Here's a report on the successful initiative:

Date, Venue, Duration:

The programme took place on May 15, 2024, at the slum area located near our school. It spanned over two days, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day.

Books Distributed:

To support the educational aspect of the programme, we distributed basic reading and arithmetic books to the children, providing them with essential learning resources.

Activities Carried Out:

The programme encompassed various activities designed to impart valuable skills and knowledge to the slum children. We conducted interactive sessions on basic language and numerical skills, engaging the children in fun learning exercises and games. Additionally, we organized sessions on environmental cleanliness and personal hygiene awareness, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy living environment.

Feedback of People:

The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. The residents expressed gratitude towards our students for their efforts in contributing to the welfare of their children. They commended the initiative and expressed hope for its continuation in the future.

Number of Children Who Attended:

Approximately 50 children from the slum area actively participated in the programme, displaying eagerness to learn and improve their skills.

The outreach programme proved to be a rewarding experience for both the students and the community. It not only provided valuable education and awareness but also fostered a sense of empathy and social responsibility among our students. We look forward to organizing similar initiatives in the future, continuing our commitment to serving and empowering communities.

Rahul/Radhika

Head of the Team

SECTION - C

7. (A) (i) The literary device used in “A roadside stand that too pathetically pled” is personification, as the roadside stand is described as pleading, which is a human characteristic.
- (ii) Option (c) to do business aptly conveys the poet’s point of view. The purpose of the roadside stand is to conduct business, not merely to display fruits or to stop traffic.
- (iii) The phrase “would not be fair to say for a dole of bread” suggests that the people who put up the roadside stand are not begging for charity but are trying to earn a living through their business.
- (iv) The word ‘pathetically’ reflects the desperate condition of the roadside stand.
- (v) False. By “Flower of Cities,” the poet refers to the vibrant and essential aspects of urban life, not necessarily a literal garden.
- (vi) Based on the rhyme scheme evident in lines 1-4, the word “fled” would rhyme with line 2.

OR

- (B) (i) Option (c) The expression “sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer’s hand” indicates Aunt Jennifer’s unhappy married life.
- (ii) Option (c) “Her lovely voice was music to his ears” has the same literary device as used in “till ringed with ordeals”, which is a metaphor.
- (iii) The Tigers in the panel symbolize Aunt Jennifer’s inner strength, resilience, and desire for freedom.
- (iv) False. The expression “Find even the ivory needle hard to pull” suggests the physical and emotional

burden Aunt Jennifer carries, not necessarily her impending death.

- (v) Based on the rhyme scheme evident in lines 1-2, the word “sand” would rhyme with line 1.
- (vi) The use of the phrase “fluttering fingers” suggests that Aunt Jennifer’s fingers are trembling, creating an image of her anxiety or fear.
8. (A) (i) Option (b) “adds suspense and anxiety to readers” is the appropriate choice. The phrase “sounds came nearer and nearer” creates tension and anticipation, adding suspense and anxiety to the readers.
- (ii) “Inspite of myself” suggests that the speaker was acting against her own will or desires.
- (iii) The inference from the first line of the extract is that the speaker did not want to get caught. This is evident from her reluctance to open her mouth to answer and her subsequent resistance to being dragged out.
- (iv) False. The speaker did not hoodwink the people looking for her; rather, she was eventually found and dragged out, despite her resistance.

OR

- (B) (i) According to the view expressed by the author in the above extract, the increase in global temperature is due to (c) burning of fossil fuels.
- (ii) Humans are criticized by the author for their detrimental impact on the environment and the rapid consumption of resources.
- (iii) According to the author, the relation between human population and resources is strained or in conflict, as the rapid increase in human populations has left us battling with other species for limited resources.
- (iv) By ‘ruckus’, the author refers to (d) commotion, indicating the chaos and disruption caused by human civilization’s rapid expansion and its impact on the environment.
9. (A) (i) The tone of M. Hamel in the line “And now you see where we’ve come out” is one of (c) regret.
- (ii) Option (a) “The player received a reprimand for breach of rules” conveys the meaning of ‘reproach’ as reflected in the line “We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.”
- (iii) False. M. Hamel does not endorse the belief that there is plenty of time to learn their language. Instead, he highlights the consequences of procrastination.
- (iv) “You must feel bad enough.” Through these words, M. Hamel urges the people to recognize and acknowledge their feelings of regret or remorse for not having taken their language lessons seriously.
- (v) The line “you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language” reinforces the theme of patriotism in the story by emphasizing the importance of preserving and honoring one’s national identity and heritage.

- (vi) The phrase ‘puts off’ suggests procrastination or delaying tasks until a later time.

OR

- (B) (i) The correct option is (b) uncompromising. Gandhi’s trait of being adamant reflects his uncompromising stance.
- (ii) The status of sharecroppers as inferred from the line “They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers” is (c) victims of exploitation.
- (iii) Gandhi surprised them by accepting the offer of refunding only 25 percent, breaking the deadlock.
- (iv) The inference that can be drawn from the line “Mr. Gandhi took him at his words” is that Gandhi was willing to accept the offer made by the representatives of the planters, demonstrating his willingness to negotiate and resolve the situation.
- (v) “Deadlock” in the last line means a situation where no progress can be made, typically because opposing sides are unwilling to compromise.
- (vi) The attitude of planters towards sharecroppers appears exploitative and unjust, as they had illegally and deceitfully extorted money from them.
10. (I) Mukesh’s attitude towards life differs from that of his family and friends as he dares to dream and aspire for a better future. While his family and friends seem resigned to their circumstances, Mukesh shows a spark of ambition and determination. Unlike his family who are caught in a cycle of poverty and acceptance, Mukesh expresses a desire to become a motor mechanic and is willing to walk a long way to achieve his goal. His dream of becoming a motor mechanic and learning to drive a car sets him apart from his family and friends who seem to have accepted their fate without daring to envision a different life.
- (II) Qualities that were highlighted through the statement are:
 Courage: The speaker shows courage by facing fear without losing control of their senses.
 Resilience: Despite being frightened, the speaker maintains composure and does not panic.
 Control: The speaker demonstrates the ability to manage fear without being overwhelmed.
- (III) The words “See you soon, Amma” are contrary to the speaker’s emotions because despite feeling a deep ache and childhood fear, the speaker chooses to express a positive and hopeful sentiment towards their mother. The words signify a sense of denial or suppression of the true emotions the speaker is experiencing at that moment.
- (IV) Inference from ‘mighty dead’ in ‘and such too is the grandeur of the dooms; we have imagined for the mighty dead.’ (A Thing of Beauty)

The phrase ‘mighty dead’ suggests that even in death, great and influential individuals continue to hold power and significance in the minds of people. It implies that the grandeur associated with the ‘mighty dead’ stems from the lasting impact they have left behind, inspiring admiration and reverence.

- (V) Rudyard Kipling condemned interviews as immoral and likened them to a crime, yet he himself had previously conducted an interview with Mark Twain.

Kipling’s strong stance against interviews as a violation of personal integrity contradicts his own actions of engaging in such interviews, showcasing his hypocrisy.

Despite Kipling’s vocal disapproval of interviews, his past behavior of conducting one himself with Mark Twain reveals his inconsistency and lack of adherence to his own principles.

- (VI) Jansie’s advice to Sophie to be sensible reveals a sense of concern and practicality in their friendship. It shows that Jansie is more grounded and realistic compared to Sophie’s dreams of having a boutique. This advice highlights the differences in their personalities and aspirations, indicating a balance in their friendship where one is more dreamy and the other more practical.

11. (I) Humans face an uncertain future due to their short existence on the geological timescale. The rapid human impact on the environment, including climate change and resource depletion, raises concerns about the sustainability of human civilization.

Antarctica’s pristine nature and ancient ice cores provide crucial insights into Earth’s past, present, and future. Studying Antarctica is essential for understanding the planet’s geological history and potential future scenarios.

- (II) Charley didn’t mind that his three hundred dollars bought less than two hundred in old-style bills because he was focused on the value of the old money in terms of purchasing power. The lower exchange rate didn’t deter him due to the significantly lower cost of living in 1894.

The difference in the amount he received didn’t bother Charlie as he was more concerned about the practical benefits of using old-style currency, such as the cheaper prices of goods like eggs at thirteen cents a dozen in 1894. This made the exchange worthwhile for him despite the premium he had to pay.

- (III) The servants grew more watchful and their courtesy remained, but their eyes turned cold towards Sadao and his wife.

They were hired to serve, yet they were uneasy with the decision to treat the American soldier, showing their disapproval subtly.

The old gardener and the cook expressed their contrasting opinions on Sadao's actions, reflecting the divided views among the household staff.

12. (A) The Importance of Peace and Non-Violent Conflict Resolution

In today's world filled with conflicts and wars, it is crucial to emphasize the importance of peace. Wars only bring destruction and suffering, leaving no survivors as highlighted by Pablo Neruda. Gandhi's approach in Champaran shows that change can be brought about through civil disobedience rather than violence.

Peaceful Resolution of Issues

Peace should be the ultimate goal in resolving conflicts. Through dialogue, understanding, and empathy, issues can be addressed without resorting to violence. Gandhi's method of non-violence in Champaran serves as a powerful example of how change can be achieved through peaceful means.

The Power of Civil Disobedience

Civil disobedience, as demonstrated by Gandhi, is a potent tool in fighting against injustice. It shows that standing up for what is right can bring about positive change without resorting to aggression. Peaceful resistance can lead to long-lasting solutions and a more harmonious society.

OR

(B) M. Hamel's Views on Individual Responsibility and Nationalism

M. Hamel emphasized the importance of individual responsibility by highlighting how procrastination leads to missed opportunities for learning. He expressed regret over not instilling a sense of urgency in his students to prioritize their education. Regarding nationalism, M. Hamel stressed the significance of language as a key to cultural identity and freedom. He underscored the power of language in preserving a nation's heritage and resisting external oppression.

Concluding Hamel's Interview

In conclusion, M. Hamel's reflections on individual responsibility and nationalism serve as poignant

reminders of the impact of education on personal growth and cultural preservation. His dedication to imparting knowledge until the last moment exemplifies his unwavering commitment to his students and his country.

13. (A) Speech on Resilience and Determination

Introduction:

Resilience and determination are key qualities that pave the way for success in life. Mr. Lamb, despite his physical challenges, exemplifies the power of perseverance and a positive mindset.

Body:

Mr. Lamb's journey teaches us that obstacles are not roadblocks but stepping stones to growth. His ability to adapt and learn new skills over time showcases the importance of patience and consistency.

By embracing challenges with a steady approach, one can conquer any adversity and emerge stronger.

Conclusion: In conclusion, let us remember Mr. Lamb's inspiring story as a testament to the fact that with resilience and determination, one can overcome any hurdle and achieve their goals. Let's strive to face life's challenges head-on, knowing that every setback is an opportunity for growth and success.

OR

(B) Spending Quality Time with Children

Spending time with children will boost their confidence and strengthen the parent-child bond.

In "The Tiger King," the Maharaja neglected his crown prince due to his obsession with tiger hunting, highlighting the consequences of not prioritizing family.

Quality time with children can enhance their emotional well-being and overall development.

Engaging in activities together fosters communication, trust, and a sense of security in children.

Parents should balance work commitments with dedicated time for their children to nurture a healthy parent-child relationship.