

Sample Question Paper - 13
English Core (301)
Class- XII, Session: 2021-22
TERM II

Time allowed : 2 hours

Maximum marks : 40

General Instructions :

1. *The Question Paper contains THREE Sections-Reading, Writing and Literature.*
2. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

SECTION-A (READING)

1. Read the passage carefully.

- (1) It is rare to find someone with a good technical and communication skills. You can get far ahead of your colleagues if you combine the two early in your career. People will judge, evaluate, promote or block you based on your communication skills. Since habits form by repeating both good and bad forms of communication, learn to observe great communicators and adopt their styles and traits – in written and verbal forms. The art of listening and learning from each and every interaction, is another secret recipe. Develop the subconscious habit of listening to yourself as you speak and know when to pause.
- (2) Learning what not to say is probably more important than learning what to say. As your career develops, you will realise that the wise speak less. Speak when you have value to add, else refrain. Poorly constructed e-mails with grammatical errors are acceptable between friends, but they should be seriously avoided while communicating formally with your seniors. Avoid any communication in an emotional state when you might say things you will regret later. One unnecessary word uttered at the wrong time or place can ruin a relationship, career or even your life. Such is the power of words. If such a thing happens, you should immediately apologise, else it may haunt you for life.
- (3) Another problem to overcome is speaking too fast. Since our minds are working faster than our speech, we are inclined to speak fast. This does not necessarily mean that the person hearing it will get it any faster. On the contrary, it is always the reverse. So slow down, think before you speak. “When I get ready to speak to people,” Abraham Lincoln said, “I spend two-thirds of the time thinking what they want to hear and one-third thinking what I want to say.” Adding humour and wit is also essential. But realize that not all jokes are funny and observe certain boundaries. Never say anything that could offend. Remember you are not a comedian who must offend as many people as you can to be witty.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any eight of the given questions.

(1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) What are the two skills that will help one get ahead in their career?
- (ii) Why is it necessary to have good communication skills?
- (iii) What is the secret recipe for good communication skills?
- (iv) What should one do if one has uttered a wrong/necessary word at the wrong time/place?
- (v) Why are we inclined to speak fast?
- (vi) What did Abraham Lincoln do when he spoke to people?
- (vii) What shouldn't one do when one is in an emotional state?



(viii) What should one do to develop good communication?

(ix) Why should one observe certain boundaries while being funny?

2. Read the passage carefully.

- (1) The first written public examinations were introduced over 2,000 years ago with the establishment of the imperial examination system in 606 AD in China. By the middle of the 19th century, competitive examinations had been introduced in Britain and India to select government officials. Public examination in schools have a shorter; but still considerable, history.
- (2) At present, the examination system in India is characterised by heterogeneity. They differ in their vintage, organisational design, financial stability, autonomy, organisational culture and credibility. For instance, the National Institute of Open Schooling is unique in conducting exams through the distance mode; the Indian School Certificate Examination confines itself to only private schools; and the West Bengal Board of Madrasa Education is for Islamic educational institutions only. In a situation where public funds are involved, the equity, efficiency and transparency of this expenditure need to be assessed to ensure that the taxpayers' money is being spent with due care and concern. The Amrik Singh report (1997) on reorganising boards wondered, Can there also be a system whereby it becomes possible to grade and categorise the boards in respect of how efficiently and honestly examination are organised?
- (3) To do so, a set of parameters were chosen to measure effectiveness, transparency and economic efficiency of the functioning of these organisations. These include indicators like cost incurred per student, fee charged per student, number of examinees per employee and number of affiliated schools per employee. An analysis was made of the boards chosen on the basis of these parameters. The functioning of a total of 20 boards was analysed in terms of 18 performance indicators in 2005.
- (4) The data collected from the states shows that most boards have an operating surplus. However, the boards seem to be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled. All of them have some special provisions for such candidates. While these provisions vary widely in scope, most provide for a longer duration of examination, concessions in the examination of languages. The CBSE, along with the Maharashtra board, seem to fare the best.
- (5) Another important measure of effectiveness of the functioning of the boards is the time taken for declaration of examination results. It was found that this ranged from a mere 26 days in the case of Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board in 2005 to 48 days for class X in neighbouring Maharashtra. The Supreme Court has recently issued directions that results should be declared within 45 days from the end of examinations. In 2005, 10 of the 20 boards, which provided this information, could not declare results within 45 days.
- (6) The reason for such a wide variation in performance in such a vital parameter was the processes utilised. Boards, which have adopted a centralised system of assessment in comparison to the earlier system of sending answer sheets to examiners, have an obvious edge. Similarly many boards have outsourced the work of compilation of results faster and used technology extensively. These boards are also able to declare results.

In addition, agencies, which have consciously designed question papers with a high proportion of multiple choice responses, do not need much time for evaluation. In fact, the Karnataka board has 60 percent of all the questions as objective type.

- (7) The quality of assessments is measured by the reliability of results. Even minor errors serve to destroy confidence in exams. Considerable variation was found between boards on this measure. The criteria was the number of application made of scrutiny of marks after results had been declared, and the number of corrections made subsequently by the board. Of the 18 boards for which such figures were available, over 40 percent had more than 10 percent such corrections. The council for the Indian School Certificate examinations reported the lowest number; the highest number of mistakes found in the results declared was by the Bihar



Intermediate Education Council at a shocking 60.36 percent. Surprisingly, the Bihar School examination Board fared much better. It would be interesting to explore the reasons for such a vast difference between the functioning of two similar organisation in the same state.

- (8) A similar discrepancy was noticed in Assam where the Higher Secondary Education Council reported an error level of 19.14 per cent errors. The third such case was in West Bengal where the West Bengal Board of Madrasa Education had an error rate of 8.81 per cent while the West Bengal Board of secondary Education reported a much higher rate of corrections made in the results declared of only 24-92 percent.
- (9) The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board exhibited interest in results. It has the lowest cost per examinee and also manages to declare results the fastest.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any six of the following questions:

(1 × 6 = 6)

- (i) When were the first written public examinations introduced?
- (ii) Who was the first to conduct public examinations?
- (iii) What is unique about the National Institute of Open Schooling?
- (iv) What did the Amrik Singh report of 1997 want to examine?
- (v) What did the analysis of examination system in 2005 constitute?
- (vi) What is the supreme court directive for declaring results?
- (vii) Which Council was declared the lowest number by the Indian School Certificate examinations?

SECTION-B (WRITING)

- 3. You are the secretary of school events and you are required to invite a guest to the national debate competition on behalf of the principal, staff and students of the St. Theresa School. Write an invitation in less than 50 words. **(3)**

- 4. **Answer any one of the following questions.**

You are Satish/Sanjana of T. Nagar. You would like to apply for the post of Marketing Manager in a firm in Chennai. Write a letter to the HR of leading Merchant Enterprises, Chennai, applying for the job. Write the letter in 120-150 words giving your bio-data. **(5)**

OR

You witnessed a programme performed by differently abled persons on Zee T.V. You were very much impressed by their performance and were emotionally touched. Highlighting their talent, reaction of the judges to their performance, etc., prepare a report in 120-150 words for your school magazine. You are Gopal/Gopi, Student Editor of the magazine.

SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

- 5. **Attempt any five out of six given questions in 40 words.**

(2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) What was written in the letter that the peddler left for Edla?
- (ii) Why did Gandhiji feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?
- (iii) How does Derry interpret the fairy tale Beauty and the Beast? What does he feel about himself?
- (iv) What picture of male chauvinism (tyranny) do we find in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' ?



(v) How does Jo want the story to end? Why?

(vi) Mention any four things of beauty that add joy to our life.

6. Answer any two of the given questions in 120-150 words.

(4 × 2 = 8)

(i) Give a character sketch of Edla.

(ii) What did Gandhiji do to remove the social and cultural backwardness in the Champaran villages?

(iii) How did the question paper and correction slip help the prisoner and the Governor?



Solution

ENGLISH CORE 301

Class 12 - English Core

1. (i) One needs to have good technical and communication skills.
(ii) One needs to have good communication skills because we will be judged, favoured or rejected based on them.
(iii) The art of listening and learning from each and every interaction is the secret recipe for good communication skills.
(iv) One should apologise immediately when one has uttered a wrong/unnecessary word.
(v) We are inclined to speak fast because our minds work faster than our speech.
(vi) Before Lincoln speaks to people he spends two thirds of the time thinking about what they want to hear and one-third time thinking what he wants to say.
(vii) When one is in an emotional state one should avoid any communication when one might say things that are regrettable.
(viii) One should learn to observe great communicators and adopt their styles and traits to develop good communication habits by repetition.
- (ix) One should observe certain boundaries while being funny because not all jokes are funny and jokes must not offend people.
2. (i) They were introduced 2000 years ago.
(ii) China was the first to establish the imperial examination system in 606 A.D.
(iii) National Institute of Open Schooling is unique in conducting exams through the distance mode.
(iv) The Amrik Singh Report, 1997 on reorganising boards. Wondered if there is a system through which it is possible to grade and categorise the boards based on examination system.
(v) The function of a total of 20 boards was analysed in terms of 18 performance indicators in 2005.
(vi) The Supreme Court has issued directions that results should be declared within 45 days from the end of examinations.
(vii) The highest number of mistakes was found in the results declared by the Bihar Intermediate Education Council at a shocking 60.36 percent.

- 3.
- The Principal, Staff and Student
of
St. Theresa Matric School, New Delhi

Take immense pleasure in inviting you to our school to preside over our debate competition.

Programme and Venue

Programme : National Debate contest
Venue : SOA School auditorium
Date : 15, September 20XX
Time : 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- 4.
- 27, T. Nagar,
Chennai
15, september, 20XX
Human Relations officer,
Leading Merchant Enterprises
Chennai.
Sub : Application for the post of Marketing Manager



Sir,

In response to your advertisement published in The Times of India dated to 10, September, 20XX. I wish to apply for the post of marketing manager. I have a total of one year working experience in XYZ Enterprises, Chennai. I am enclosing my bio-data and testimonial for your review.

Thank you

yours faithfully

Satish Yadav

Enclosed : Bio-data and testimonial.

Bio-data

Name	:	Satish Yadav T
Gender	:	Male
Date of Birth	:	7 October, 1982
Father's name	:	Mr. Sanjeev yadav T
Postal Address	:	27, T_Nagar, Chennai.
Contact No.	:	98765xxxxx
Educational		
Qualification	:	MBA in Marketting Management,Aana University, Chennai
Work Experience	:	Manager at XYZ Enterprises, Mumbai
Salary Expected	:	negotiable
Language Skills	:	Tamil, Hindi, English
References	:	Mr. Ellangovan, Marketing Manager, XYZ Company. Mr. Justin, Restaurant Assistant, XYZ Company

Or

Spot on Performance by the Differently Abled

by Gopi Prasad, Student Editor

In the lastest episode of their popular, talent related reality show, Zee T.V. roped in several participants who were differently abled. The episode was telecast on June 17, 20×× at 9:00 p.m. In this episode, viewers witnessed the differently abled contestants showcase their talent on stage. While a blind man mesmerised the judges and the audience with his melodious voice, a girl with amputated arms made a painting with her feet and amazed everyone. Other performances included, gymnastics by an autistic girl, group dance presented by children on wheel chairs and mime performance by a twelve year old deaf and mute boy. Each and every act left the judges and audience speechless and emotionally touched who gave the differently abled participants a much deserved standing ovation. The teary eyed judges congratulated them and urged others to take inspiration from them, to have faith in oneself and determination and never give up hope.

The channel presented each participant with a sum of ₹ 10,000/- to encourage them to pursue their dreams.

5. (i) The peddler wrote, "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain. The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in the world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got the power to clear himself. "Captain von Stahle."

(ii) When Gandhiji got to know about the plight of the peasant groups in Champaran from his discussion with the lawyers, he came to the conclusion that the poor peasants were so crushed and fear-stricken that law courts were useless in their case. Going to courts overburdened the sharecroppers with heavy litigation expenses. What really needed to be done was to make them free from fear.

(iii) According to Derry it teaches us that outward appearance does not matter. It is what one is inside that is important. Handsome is that handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself. When



she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince. No one except Derry's mother kisses him. She too kisses him on the other side of the face. Derry was bitter and refused to seek comfort in the fairy tale.

(vi) The poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', shows constraints of married life every woman experiences. It shows lack of freedom for Aunt Jennifer, who is forced to live in accordance with rules laid down by her husband. Uncle's wedding band, which sits 'heavily' upon Aunt Jennifer's finger, symbolises oppressive behaviour of the patriarchal society. Aunt Jennifer feels that she would escape the ordeals of her tyrannous marriage once she is dead. However, such a thought is futile because the patriarchal society would not permit her to take off the wedding band even after death. Therefore, it is suffice to say that she is a victim of male chauvinism.

(v) Jo wants Roger Skunk to smell like roses and not have the skunk's foul smell. She also wants the wizard to take revenge on the mother by hitting her. Jo was not convinced that the little animals eventually got used to the way the little skunk was and smelt. Moreover, Jo felt that Mommy Skunk was being unfair to Roger Skunk by not allowing wizard to make him smell like roses. She wanted Roger Skunk to be accepted by his peers and thus, be happy.

(vi) The sun, clear rills, the mid forest brake and the grandeur of the doom are four of the innumerable things of beauty that add joy to our life.

6. (ii) The purpose of Gandhi's visit to Champaram was to bring justice to the sharecroppers. During their visit Gandhiji made the poor, illiterate peasants realise that they too had rights. He wanted them to become

self-reliant and fight for their rights. Gandhiji's aim was to mould the Indians in such a way that they could stand on their own feet and make India free. He felt that this was possible only if the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages is removed. Therefore, after achieving victory for the Champaran sharecroppers, Gandhiji stayed on to alleviate their sufferings. He started schools in six different villages and clinics. His disciples, wife and sons and many others volunteered to help him. Mrs. Gandhi taught the ashram rules on personal cleanliness and community sanitation. Health conditions were bad. So, Gandhiji and his volunteer doctor took care of that as well by providing the available medical aids.

(iii) The Governor received a call from the Assistant Secretary of the Examination Board saying that there was a correction slip, which was not attached to the question paper. He requested the Governor if he could read out the correction to Evans. The correction was 'zum goldenen Lowen'. In reality, it was an indication informing Evans where he was supposed to go after escaping from jail. Although, the Governor did not suspect anything, the correction slip helped Evans to know the name of the hotel and its location. Later, when the Governor learned about Evans' escape, Rev. McLeery (Evans in reality) showed him the question paper at the back of which, instructions were given to help Evans escape. These instructions were meant to misguide the jail authorities. However, the Governor was able to put together the index and centre numbers. With the six digit reference and the help of a survey map, the Governor came to know Evans had escaped to Chipping Norton. Now, the Governor could work out a plan to arrest Evans.

