

**Sample Question Paper - 2**  
**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 given carefully.**

- (1) Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I had not done as well as I had expected. My Father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well my dear." "No, I have not Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It does not really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me "I have never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I have done quite well." Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better ! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.
- (2) In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'Now that you have a watch, you can't be late.' " That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay to owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! "When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money," he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. "It was Baba's gift and it ought to remain so," I told him.
- (3) Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the



news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger – until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he had even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, attempt any eight questions.**

**(1 × 8 = 8)**

- (i) What revelation did father make after narrator's high school result?
- (ii) I was almost in shock. Rewrite the given sentence without changing the meaning of the underlined word.
- (iii) What was Baba's favourite phrase?
- (iv) Describe narrator's father's professional accomplishments.
- (v) To which disease did narrator's father succumb?
- (vi) Complete the given sentence to describe how the narrator felt after her result.  
The high school result was finally out and I felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vii) After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. What is the meaning of the underlined word?
- (viii) What was the caterer's reaction on hearing about Baba's death?
- (ix) What surprising factor came out after three years of Baba's death?

**2. Read the passage given below.**

- (1) One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past 25 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 murres clinging to their cliff side nests. Our charts show we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents ups well and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times these animals scare the living daylights 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; It’s 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 pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves aboard. 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 funneled all that knowledge, skill, teamwork, 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 2,000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power. Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey. At 05:08 in 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.

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any six questions.**

**(1 × 6 = 6)**

- (i) What is one of the greatest sailing adventure of past 25 years?
- (ii) Describe the creature encountered by Canadians on their voyage.
- (iii) Why is the bowhead nearing its extinction?
- (iv) What can describe MacInnis’ thought about bowhead whales?
- (v) Who are Inuit people?
- (vi) What is author’s outlook about wildlife, according to the passage?
- (vii) What skills helped the author and his partner survive the adventure?

## SECTION-B (WRITING)

3. You have received an invitation to be a the judge for a Cultural Literary Competition in St. Mary’s School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance. You are Joe/Joyce. (3)
4. **Attempt any one of the following questions.** (5)
  - A. You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 120-150 words.



OR

- B. Maxim Gorky School, Kodaikanal celebrated 'Nutrition Week' from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> September by arranging inter-school cookery contests, oratorical, painting and poster competitions, besides talks by eminent nutritionists and medical professionals. There was an overwhelming response from students and parents. Prepare a report in 120-150 words to be published in your school magazine. You are Arjun/Anita, School Pupil Leader.

### SECTION-C (LITERATURE)

5. Attempt any five out of six given questions in 40 words. (2 × 5 = 10)
- (i) The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is replete with symbols. Interpret any 2 symbols used in the poem.
  - (ii) Why did Gandhiji feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?
  - (iii) According to Keats what moves away the pain and suffering from human life?
  - (iv) At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy?
  - (v) How does Evans escape from the jail?
  - (vi) How did Jo want the wizard to behave when Mommy Skunk approached him?
6. Answer any two of the following questions in 120-150 words. (4 × 2 = 8)
- (i) Why is an adult's perspective on life different from that of a child's? (Should Wizard hit Mommy?)
  - (ii) Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life?
  - (iii) The story 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Discuss.



**Solution**  
**ENGLISH CORE 301**  
**Class 12 - English Core**

1. (i) Narrator's father told her that he got third division in his high school result but that didn't stop him from achieving anything in life, so she should also not feel disheartened.

(ii) I was almost stunned/surprised.

(iii) Baba's favourite phrase was 'Everything is under control'.

(iv) Narrator's father was a senior official in Indian Railway Service and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was also soon to become a director with Railway Board.

(v) Narrator's father succumbed to cancer.

(vi) completely dejected and extremely upset.

(vii) Not being able to be comforted because of one's grief.

(viii) The caterer refused to take money for the food of the ceremony and told narrator that baba helped him with money to start his business and never took it back.

(ix) While going through Baba's personal things the narrator came across his certificates which showed

that he got a first division in his high school which was a rare achievement in those days.

2. (i) Conquest of Northwest passage, in 100 days by Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell was one of the greatest sailing adventure of all time.

(ii) The Canadians were followed by a mighty bowhead whale. they saw it relaxing on the surface, with its blowhole quivering. But sensing their presence it disappeared.

(iii) Humans are hunting bowhead for whale oil and bone which has reduced its number from 38000 to 200 only.

(iv) MacInnis stated that bowhead whales are foolish to trust humans.

(v) The indigenous people of the Arctic are inuit people.

(vi) The author is completely fascinated by the wildlife.

(vii) Author and his partner's team work, their strength to adapt things and their positive spirit helped them survive the adventure.

3.

Confirming Acceptance

St. Mary's School,  
Anna Nagar  
Chennai

Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my gratitude for being invited to be the judge for a Cultural Literary Competition to be conducted in your school. I confirm my acceptance and will make sure I am present on the scheduled date and time.

Yours sincerely  
Joe/Joyce

4. A.

14, Model Town  
Delhi-110029  
10 March, 20xx  
The Chairman  
The Charlotte  
Gurgaon

Subject : Application for the Post of Chief Chef



Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement in The Hindu dated March 8, 20××, I wish to apply for the post of chief chef. I have done a three year diploma course in hotel management from Institute of Hotel Management, Bangalore.

Please find my attached bio-data for the purpose. I would like to add that I am a very hardworking girl with a keen interest in different cuisines and flavours. I have also undergone an industrial training of six months at The Grand, Gurgaon. If selected, I assure you that I shall work with utmost devotion and sincerity. Anticipating a quick response.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Aarti Shah

#### BIO-DATA

Name	: Aarti Shah
Father's Name	: Anand Shah
Address	: 14, Model Town, Delhi-29
Phone	: 92xxxxxxxx
Date of Birth	: 28th September, 1989
Marital Status	: Unmarried
Educational Qualification	: M.Sc. in Culinary Arts, Institute of Hotel Management, Bangalore (2013), B.Sc. in Hotel Administration, Institute of Hotel Management, Bangalore (2008)
Experience	: Trainee at The Grand, Gurgaon (July 2013 - December 2013)
Skills	: Excellent communication skills, team player, knowledge of different cuisines
Language known	: English, Hindi and Gujarati
References	: 1. Mr. Kapil Sharma, Head of Department: F&B Operations, The Grand, Gurgaon 2. Malvika Ray, Head of Department, Institute of Hotel Management

Or

#### B. Nutrition Week

*by Anita Singh, Pupil leader*

The ever active Health Club of Maxim Gorky School, Kodaikanal celebrated 'Nutrition week' starting from September 1 to September 7, 20××. Renowned holistic health and fitness guru, Mr. Mickey Mehta graced the occasion with his presence as Chief Guest on the inauguration day. He spoke about why exercise is important to stay fit. Other eminent nutritionists who visited the school throughout the nutrition week also shared ideas about choosing a healthy life style and food alternatives. Medical professionals were also invited to the event, who conducted health check ups for students, teachers and staff members.

Throughout the week, the school witnessed a variety of cultural programmes, such as inter-school cookery contest, oratorical, painting, poster making competition, etc. There was an overwhelming response

from students and parents who even invited their friends and family to the event.

The celebration ended with distribution of prizes and certificates among winners of various competitions, which took place during the 'Nutrition Week'.

5. (i) (a) The wedding band symbolises the oppression of women by slavery in marriage. Marriage binds a woman, suppressing her to be in an imposed marriage.

(b) Aunt Jennifer's death is symbolic of her complete surrender and submission to her suppression. It also emphasis on her state of complete helplessness.

(ii) Gandhiji felt that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless because according to him, peasants were quite crushed and fear stricken. Gandhiji felt that there was little hope of getting justice as the case was against the British landlords. Moreover, the lawyers were collecting big fees from





the poor peasants. He knew that the actual relief for the peasants would come when they become free from fear.

(iii) In spite of all the sufferings, a beautiful thing helps us to remove the cover of gloom or darkness from our lives. The things of beauty are the sun, the moon, old and new trees, daffodils, clear rills, musk roses that bloom among the thick forest ferns.

(vi) At the crofter's home, the peddler felt very happy because it was for the first time someone had welcomed him into one's house. The lonely crofter fed the peddler warm porridge, shared tobacco with him, played cards and treated him very nicely. The crofter shared his secrets with peddler and even showed him where he kept his money. The crofter gave him a comfortable bed to sleep in.

(v) Evans decided to appear for O-level Examination in German. Governor sought permission from the Board. Mc Leery the parson from St. Mary Mags came to invigilate. In reality he was an accomplice of Evans and had imprisoned the real parson. In the cell the two exchange places. It made possible because Evans had covered himself in a blanket.

At the end of the exam Evans walks out a free man disguised as the parson.

6. (i) Initially, every child is a stranger to the negative and positive values in life. As the child grows into maturity his perspective and vision of life change gradually. A child views things at superficial and sensory level but a grown-up's vision is realistic, reflective, philosophical and even psychological. Viewed from the study of the story "Should Wizard Hit Mommy?" Jo, a child of four, like most children of

her age, prefers to live in dreams and fantasies. She is hostile by nature and would like to wreak vengeance on Skunk's mother and wants the wizard to retaliate.

She is annoyed because the father refuses to accept her suggestion. The father has a mature perspective and sees beyond the surface and explores the philosophical and moralistic aspect of the entire situation. The wizard had unwittingly interfered with nature and had thus done a great deal of harm and deserved to be punished. According to him the punishment meted out to the wizard is well merited and retaliation is out of the question, but as there is no injustice, evil and suffering in the child's world, she likes the story to move on according to her whims and fancies.

(ii) Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life perhaps because he declared that the British could not order him in his own country. It was for the first time that Gandhiji introduced a non-violent resistance, which came to be known as Satyagraha, against the Britishers. During this struggle, Gandhiji decided to urge the departure of the Britishers for the first time. The Champaran episode grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large number of poor peasants and farmers and became the first civil disobedience movement led by Gandhiji. He, with local support, convinced poor farmers that they too had rights. When his lawyer friends suggested that having Mr. Andrews around would prove to be beneficial for them, Gandhiji told them taking help from a Britisher only shows the weakness in the hearts of the Indians. Gandhiji taught self reliance to his fellow Indians. The Champaran episode proved that if the cause was just, there was nothing to fear, not even the Britishers; the victory was inevitable.

