

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

BLUE PRINT

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

Typology	MCQs (1 mark)	SA-I (2 marks)	SA-II (3 marks)	LA (5 marks)	Total
Reading Skills	20	–	–	–	20
Writing Skills	–	–	2	2	16
Literary Text Books and Supplementary Reading Text	20	7	–	2	44
Total	$20 \times 1 = 20$	$7 \times 2 = 14$	$2 \times 3 = 6$	$4 \times 5 = 20$	80



ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

PART - A (40 Marks)

READING (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
- (2) Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
- (3) Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.
- (4) People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
- (5) This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become



easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. **(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) Great people built their character and life through _____.
(a) small decisions (b) small choices (c) small actions (d) all of these
- (ii) “the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run.” We call this process
(a) organic growth (b) growth (c) testing period (d) tuning
- (iii) “he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself” meaning
(a) He tried to change himself in sporadic impulsive way
(b) He made conscious and steady efforts to change himself
(c) He tried to change himself one day suddenly
(d) He put in real effort into keep himself consistent
- (iv) The way Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks made people____
(a) think of him strangely (b) marvel at him
(c) praise him (d) question his character
- (v) “These things did not come easily to him.” “these” being referred here is:
(a) Self mastery (b) Discipline (c) Intelligence (d) (a) and (b)
- (vi) “struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties” which of the words given below you can add in the given line that agrees to the general theme
(a) Insecurities (b) Dexterity (c) Certainty (d) Acceptance
- (vii) “Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run.” “ Pick a proverb that echoes the statement
(a) A stitch in time saves nine (b) look before you leap
(c) too many cooks spoil the broth (d) Rome was not built in a day
- (viii) What makes us discouraged and disheartened according to the narrator?
(a) Our daily struggles (b) Our insecurities
(c) Our unrealistic goals (d) Our selfworth
- (ix) Choose a suitable title for the given passage.
(a) Gandhi and his struggle in his early days (b) What makes great men great
(c) How to conquer self doubt (d) A closer look in self growth
- (x) Synonym of insignificant is
(a) magnificent (b) valuable (c) trivial (d) omnipotent
- (xi) Antonym of growth is
(a) Advancement (b) Stagnancy (c) Hiatus (d) Change

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) Whether work should be placed among the causes of happiness or among the causes of unhappiness may perhaps be regarded as a doubtful question. There is certainly much work which is exceedingly irksome, and an excess of work is always very painful. However, work is not, to most people, more painful than idleness. There are, in work, all grades; from more relief of tedium up to the profoundest delights, according to the nature of the work and the abilities of the worker. Most of the work that most people have to do is not interesting in itself, but even that work has certain great advantages. To begin with, it fills a good many



hours of the day without the need of deciding what one shall do. Most people, when they are left free to fill their own time according to their own choice, are at a loss to think of anything sufficiently pleasant to be worth doing. And whatever they decide on, they are troubled by the feeling that something else would have been more pleasant here. To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization and at present very few people have reached this level. Moreover the exercise of choice is tiresome in itself. Except to people with unusual initiative, it is positively agreeable to be told what to do at each hour of the day, provided the orders are not too unpleasant.

- (2) Most of the idle rich suffer unspeakable boredom. At times they may find relief by hunting big game in Africa or by flying around the world, but the number of such sensations is limited, especially after youth is past. Accordingly, the more intelligent rich men work nearly as hard as if they were poor. Work, therefore is desirable, first and foremost as a preventive of boredom, although uninteresting work is as boring as having nothing to do. With this advantage of work, another associated advantage is that it makes holidays much more delicious when they come. Provided that a man does not have to work so hard as to impair his vigour, he is likely to find far more zest than an idle man would possibly find. The second advantage of most paid work and some of unpaid work is that it gives chances of success and opportunities for ambition. In most work, success is measured by income and while our capitalistic society continues, this is inevitable. However dull work too, becomes bearable, if it is a means of building up a reputation. Continuity of purpose is one of the most essential ingredients of happiness and that comes chiefly through work.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.
(1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) What can be regarded as a doubtful question?
(a) Whether work and life balance is necessary (b) Whether work is the reason for our happiness
(c) Whether work is the reason for our misery (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (ii) Excess amount of work is ____
(a) irksome (b) painful (c) rewarding (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iii) "However, work is not, to most people, more painful than idleness." implying:
(a) Most people don't like work
(b) Most people would rather suffer from work than stay idle
(c) Most people would like to stay idle
(d) Most people do not want pain of work
- (iv) According to the author how is an uninteresting job still good for you?
(a) Because it annoys you even more
(b) Because you will give up due to boredom
(c) Because you will still have something to do with your time
(d) Because you will still want to suffer
- (v) What is the last product of civilisation?
(a) The ability to waste time (b) The ability to create job for oneself
(c) The ability to fill leisure intelligently (d) The ability to sleep at work
- (vi) Most of the rich suffer from _____.
(a) Excess of money (b) Unspeakable boredom
(c) Sadness (d) Excess of time
- (vii) How do the more intelligent rich people work?
(a) they work nearly as hard as if they were poor. (b) they work minimum hours
(c) they work only on weekends (d) they create more work for themselves



- (viii) "Provided that a man does not have to work so hard as to impair his vigour," what does impair his vigour mean?
- (a) to repair his virtue (b) to harm his alertness
(c) diminish his lifelines (d) to damage his boredom
- (ix) In most work success is measured by :
- (a) target (b) promotion (c) growth (d) income
- (x) Other than being occupied how does boring work becomes bearable?
- (a) Boring work becomes bearable if its about building a reputation
(b) Boring work becomes bearable if it pays
(c) Boring work becomes bearable if you like the workplace
(d) Boring work becomes bearable if it gives you unrealistic goals
- (xi) Inevitable synonym is:
- (a) Mendable (b) Unavoidable (c) Bearable (d) plausible

LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)
- A. Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light; that the law, if enforced, could get him and all those 20,000 children out of the hot furnaces where they slog their daylight hours, often loosing the brightness of their eyes.
- (i) What did Mukesh and his family not know?
- (a) That it is harmful to work in glass furnaces
(b) That it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces
(c) That they will lose their sight eventually
(d) How many children were working in the glass furnaces
- (ii) The work place was :
- (a) dirty with little to no ventilation (b) airy and bright
(c) spacious and full of natural light (d) dark and congested
- (iii) What do you understand by 'they slog their daylight hours' ?
- (a) They work under the sun.
(b) They work very hard during the whole day when they should be studying and doing normal activities.
(c) They waste away their youth.
(d) They sleep in the daytime.
- (iv) What is the big loss they face working there?
- (a) Their youth (b) Their sight (c) Their family (d) Their job
- B. "It is queer that things have gone downhill with him as badly as that," said the daughter. "Last night I did not think there was anything about him to show that he had once been an educated man." "You must have patience, my little girl," said the father. "As soon as he gets clean and dressed up, you will see something different. Last night he was naturally embarrassed. The tramp manners will fall away from him with the tramp clothes."
- (i) Why did the daughter say things are queer?
- (a) Because their guest didn't look like an educated man
(b) Because their guest didn't interact with them
(c) Because their guest asked money from them
(d) Because their guest didn't eat the food they offered

- (ii) What did the father react to his daughter's doubts?
- The father said he will confront their guest
 - The father said as soon as he gets clean and dressed up, her doubts will be gone
 - The father scolded his daughter for doubting his old friend
 - The father was just as confused
- (iii) According to the father their guest was
- tired
 - angry
 - embarrassed
 - nervous
- (iv) Which of the words in the passage means demeanour?
- Queer
 - Educated
 - Patience
 - Manners
- C. 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 per cent. "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 representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock."
- (i) What landlords had done with the sharecroppers ?
- Landlords had illegally and deceitfully extorted money from the sharecroppers.
 - Landlords took over their lands.
 - Landlords tried to sell off their lands to the govt.
 - Landlords tried to give them their lands back.
- (ii) Who was Reverend J. Z. Hodge ?
- He was the commissioner of Champaran.
 - He was lawyer for the British govt.
 - He was a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range.
 - He was Gandhi's friend.
- (iii) What did the representative of the planters offer to refund ?
- Representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 15 per cent only.
 - Representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent only.
 - Representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 50 per cent only.
 - Representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 10 per cent only.
- (iv) Which of the word from the given lines means impasse?
- Repayment
 - Refund
 - Amazement
 - Deadlock
4. **Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow.** (1 × 4 = 4)
- A. Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.
- (i) What does the earth teach us ?
- That the live is full of chaos
 - That there is life in what we think that is dead.
 - That there is need of non stop activities
 - That silence means no life



- (ii) Why does the poet count up to twelve ?
 (a) The poet wants to introspect by counting twelve.
 (b) To track the time
 (c) To remind of the passing moment
 (d) To make people take up more activities
- (iii) What will keeping quiet help us achieve ?
 (a) Peace and recuperation
 (b) Total shut down of activities
 (c) Ignore each other
 (d) Make us lazy
- (iv) Which lines says the earth is quiet?
 (a) Now I'll count up to twelve
 (b) and you keep quiet and I will go.
 (c) as when everything seems dead
 (d) None of the above

OR

B. 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.

- (i) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified?
 (a) Due to the ordeals and hardships she has had to face being a patriarchal society
 (b) Due to old age her hands were shaking
 (c) Due to the terror she spread while alive
 (d) Due to her own insecurities
- (ii) Why did she make the tigers?
 (a) She wanted the tiger's design in the embroidery
 (b) She has created tigers which are symbols of confidence and fearlessness because she wants to be like them.
 (c) Because tigers will take care of the bad people
 (d) Because tigers were lucky for Aunt Jennifer
- (iii) How is the tiger that Aunt Jennifer created?
 (a) Quiet and timid
 (b) Bright and sweet
 (c) Proud and unafraid
 (d) Ugly and evil
- (iv) "ringed with ordeals" signifies
 (a) The ring on her hands
 (b) The burden of marriage and patriarchy
 (c) Aunt Jennifer's happy life
 (d) The tiger

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below.

(1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) M Hamel was usually a ____ teacher.
 (a) lenient (b) strict (c) kind (d) funny
- (ii) Derry's scar was caused by
 (a) falling off a bicycle (b) his fight in the war (c) by acid (d) a knife attack
- (iii) "merry children spilling out of their homes" which adjectives ring from this lines?
 (a) Youth (b) Silliness (c) Weakness (d) Frailty
- (iv) Kasturba can be described as a ____ partner.
 (a) loyal (b) supportive (c) selfish (d) demanding

- (v) The bangle makers of Firozabad had _____ to their fate as a bangle maker.
 (a) revolted (b) resigned (c) questioned (d) Rejected
- (vi) Two poets who were inspired by nature is
 (a) Adrienne Rich and Kamala Das (b) Das and Neruda
 (c) Neruda and Keats (d) Rich and Keats
- (vii) Who was “a congenital kleptomaniac.”?
 (a) Roger Skunk (b) Evans (c) Charley (d) Carter
- (viii) Pick out the word that doesn't echo with the theme of the poem A thing of Beauty.
 (a) Romantic (b) Nature (c) Comfort (d) Poverty
- (ix) Rajkumar Shukla was
 (a) dumb (b) impatient (c) resolute (d) ungrateful
- (x) How old was Derek when he met Mr Lamb?
 (a) 3 (b) 14 (c) 15 (d) 16

PART - B (40 Marks)

WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)
- A. You are the manager, Herbal India Ltd. Draft an advertisement for your company for the post of two Sales Executives. Specify your requirements, qualifications, experience and personality of the candidates.

OR

- B. You are Amit/Amrita, Head Boy/Head Girl of your school (Zenith Public School). Write a notice for your school notice board calling for entries from desirous students for Britannia Quiz Contest—Preliminary round to be held at your school.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

- A. You are a student of Newton Public School, Nagpur. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 15th November, 20XX at 11 a.m. The HRD Minister Dr M.M. Joshi has consented to be the chief guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees.

OR

- B. You are Arjun /Aparna. Your school has been invited to participate in an inter-school On-the-spot painting competition organised by the Lions Club of your district. As General Secretary of the Painting Club of your school, respond to the invitation.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. S.P. Chaudhri of 160, Netaji Subhash Chandra Enclave, Calcutta bought a frost-free B.L.P. Refrigerator of 265 litres from “Wonder Home’, Central Market, Kolkata. Having used it for about a month he finds that the freezing section of the refrigerator is not working at all. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of the firm complaining about it and requesting for replacement of the defective piece. The refrigerator enjoys a two years warranty against any technical fault.

OR

- B. You are a social worker. You feel upset as some of the good schools are admitting as many as 60-70 students in a class just to mint money. This is adversely affecting academic standards. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting this corrupt practice. Sign the letter as Jaishri/Ranjan.



9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. Cinema Fire claims 70.' This is the newspaper heading. Write a report on the event mentioning the following points. Your report should be in about 150 words.
- Place, date
 - What, where, when
 - Details of cause of fire
 - People injured, extent of damage
 - Rescue operations
 - Government's response /action

OR

- B. Write an article on the growth of local business in India and how it should be pushed for the nation's future.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) Why was Gandhiji opposed to C.F. Andrews helping him in Champaran?
- (ii) Why was the crofter happy when the peddler knocked on his door?
- (iii) What forces conspire to keep the workers in the bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty?
- (iv) What changes did the orders from Berlin cause in school that day?
- (v) In spite of despair and disease pervading the lives of the slum children, they are not devoid of hope. How far do you agree?
- (vi) When Douglas realised that he was sinking, how did he plan to save himself?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)

- (i) What forced Dr. Sadao to be impatient and irritated with his patient?
- (ii) Mr. Lamb told Derry the story of a man who hid himself in his room. Why did the man do so and with what result?
- (iii) Why does Jack insist that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother?

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. How did a visit to Champaran become a turning point in Gandhi's life? How does this show Gandhi's love and concern for the common people of India?

OR

- B. The bangle makers of Firozabad make beautiful bangles and make everyone happy but they themselves live and die in squalor. Explain.

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. A child's standpoint invariably is different from that of an adult. Justify the statement with reference to the story, Should Wizard Hit Mommy?

OR

- B. It was sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helped Evans to escape. Comment.

