

Class XII Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 2

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:
2. This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
3. This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.
4. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
5. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
6. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. **Read the following passage carefully:**

[12]

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. (1)
- 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, to support the view that parents appreciate the goodness of the child at every opportunity. (1)
- 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 AheadIdentify the option that displays the headline/s 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)

x. What determines what blossoms in a child, according to Thich Nhat Hanh? (1)

2. **Read the following passage carefully :**

[10]

1. Educational technology is the combined use of computer hardware, software, educational theory, and practice to facilitate learning. When referred to with its abbreviation EdTech, it points to the industry of companies that create educational technology. With education growing online, India's EdTech market size is expected to grow 3.7 times in the next five years.
2. Education in both rural and urban India is expected to be supported by technology in the near future.
3. As per a 2019-2020 report, only 22.3 percent of schools had an internet connection. Moreover, 61 percent of schools in the country didn't even have computers.
4. With the internet rate estimated to reach above 55 percent by the end of 2025 in India, digitisation of education will impact the country's development and become one of the topmost priorities for the government.
5. Budget 2021-22 allocated ₹ 93,224.31 crore to the Ministry of Education. It was an increase of over ₹ 8,100 crore from the revised estimates for the current fiscal year and the Department of Higher Education was allocated ₹ 38,350.65 crore.
6. The role of technology in education is more critical now than ever in addressing educational disparity. It has already made learning affordable and accessible. In particular, the use of technology in education in rural India is one of the biggest boons of recent times.
7. With help from apps and software, teachers can enhance their teaching ability and provide information about the most recent developments. Students can enjoy an interactive learning experience. Teachers can employ animation, powerpoint slides and graphs to catch the interest of their pupils. Gamification lends interest in the subject.
8. The online education system is a sector in which growth and development will work for the betterment of many sectors which include educating learners and increasing job opportunities for educators and technical teams.

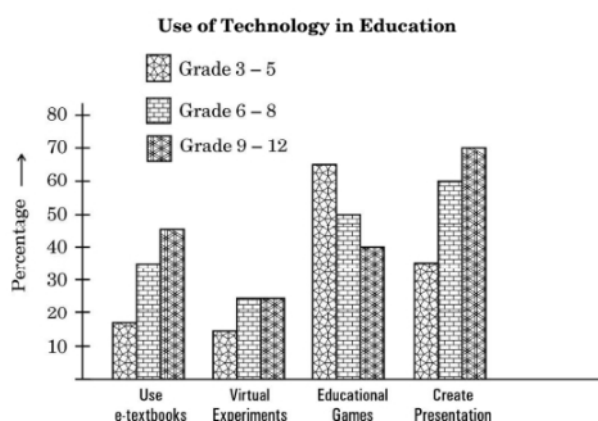


TABLE I.

REASONS FOR BOOM IN EDTECH

1. Lower cost involved in the dissemination of online education
2. Convenient, flexible and affordable
3. Initiatives by the Government which include programmes like SWAYAM and DIKSHA
4. Increasing number of education-based startups
5. Increment in the internet user base



- 6. Increasing penetration of mobile devices
- 7. Inflow of investments and acquisitions in this sector
- 8. It overcomes the geographical barriers

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1? **(1)**
Education technology is the practice of introducing information and communication technology tools into the classroom.
Select from the following:
True - If the statement agrees with the information
False - If the statement contradicts the information
Not Given - If there is no information on this
- ii. What are the two essentials for digitization of education? **(2)**
- iii. Select the option that displays that the use of technology in education in rural India is one of the biggest boons of recent times. **(1)**
- a. Frees up the teacher to be able to concentrate on farming.
 - b. Teachers can enhance their teaching ability and provide more value to the students.
 - c. It understands what is needed and technology is subsequently developed effectively.
 - d. Simplifies assignment management with user-friendly methods.
- iv. Complete the sentence based on the following statement: **(1)**
The role of EdTech is more critical now _____.
- v. The word **critical** in para 6 most nearly means **(1)**
- a. difficult
 - b. crucial
 - c. complementary
 - d. causative
- vi. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **(1)**
Technology in education works for the betterment of many sectors such as _____.
- a. farmers, educators and businessmen
 - b. educating learners, job opportunities for educators and technical teams
 - c. doctors, engineers and technocrats
 - d. banking, construction workers and software technicians
- vii. Digital education will become a top priority for the government because _____. **(1)**
- viii. Based on the reading of the passage, state a point to challenge the given statement: **(2)**
India's EdTech market size is expected to double in the next five years.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. You are Sunil/Sunila, Head Boy/Girl of Lotus Valley Public School, Ahmedabad. Your school is planning to organise a theatre workshop for students. Draft a notice in about **50** words informing the students about the workshop mentioning day, date, time and venue. **[4]**

OR

You are Aman/Archana, President of the Drama Club of Oxford Public School, Bengaluru. On the occasion of Children's Day, your club is planning to visit an old-age home. Draft a notice in about 50 words informing the



members of the visit and asking them to bring some food items to share with the residents. Mention the day, date, time and venue.

4. You are Sachin Bansal, the Head Boy of Springdales Public School, Gurgaon. Your school is holding an inter-school T-20 cricket championship from 2 Oct. to 8 Oct, 20XX. Write a formal invitation to Sh. B.S. Bedi, the legendary cricketer, to inaugurate the championship on 2 Oct. 2019 at 10 a.m. at your school premises. [4]

OR

You are Mrs. Krishnamurthi. Your son is getting married. You are throwing a party to celebrate the occasion. On behalf of your husband and yourself draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words inviting friends and relatives to attend the function.

5. Day by day lavish weddings are becoming more and more fashionable. Hotels, farm houses and banquet halls are booked months in advance. Even lower middle class families are entertaining thousand plus guests. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily advocating simple weddings. You are Rani/Raj, 121 Bank street, Kanpur. [5]



OR

You are Sudha / Sudhir resident of A-7, Shanti Park. You read the following advertisements in a newspaper.

SITUATION VACANT

I wanted a young and experienced graduate with fluency in English and Hindi to work as a receptionist at Customer Care booths of NCR Groups of Hotels, Delhi. Contact Manager along with your complete C.V. within 7 days of this advertisement.

Draft an application in response to the advertisement giving your detailed resume.

6. Rising prices of essential commodities make life difficult for the common man. You are Nalini/Ranbir. Write an article in 150-200 words describing the causes, possible solutions and how students can help their parents to cope with the problem. [5]

OR

REVIVE PLAYTIME

- Shapes better personalities
- Builds physical and mental health
- Develops life skills
- Keeps them in touch with nature

You are Jessica/John, a budding journalist for a local daily. You covered the symposium on 'Play Time - The Vanishing Joy of Childhood'. The event was attended by students and teachers from different schools. The group discussions were on how playing makes children fitter, unstructured playing vs. high-tech toys, and how spontaneous group play helps build life skills. Write a report in 120 - 150 words for the local daily on the event. You may use the above given input.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [6]

“Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.”

- i. How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers described?
 - a. As bold and fearless
 - b. As cruel and menacing
 - c. As rober and serene
 - d. As sleek and slender
- ii. Why are they described as denizens of a world of green?
 - a. Because they eat the herbivores
 - b. Because they are green in colour
 - c. Because they live in dense green forests
 - d. Because they are bright and beautiful
- iii. Identify the rhyme scheme of the given lines.
 - a. Abcd
 - b. Abab
 - c. Abca
 - d. Aabb
- iv. The word **prance** in the extract means
 - a. destroy
 - b. camouflage
 - c. shriek
 - d. move about or leap
- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.
 - (1) There is a contrast between Aunt Jennifer and her tigers.
 - (2) Aunt Jennifer's tigers were afraid of men.
 - a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
 - b. (2) is true but (1) is false.
 - c. (2) is the reason for (1).
 - d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

vi. Answer in ONE word.

Which word in the given extract means being courteous, especially to women, an act of a gentleman?

OR

Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing. (A Thing of Beauty)

- i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? (1)



- A. Beauty provides security and peace.
- B. Beauty lies in possession of expensive things.
- C. Beauty is synonymous with power and riches.
- D. Beauty lies in our rich heritage and palaces and temples.

ii. Complete the following sentence appropriately. (1)

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is _____.

iii. **Quiet bower** means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of _____.

(1)

iv. State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract. (1)

The quality of a thing ensures that its beauty lasts forever.

v. Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 of the given extract, which word will rhyme with them? (1)

- A. please
- B. sweep
- C. help
- D. self

vi. The use of the word **health** in the extract suggests that beautiful things will give us a happier and more wholesome life. It creates a powerful image of _____. (1)

- A. rejuvenation
- B. attachment
- C. long life
- D. eternity

8. **Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:**

[4]

The clerk figured the fare - he glanced at my fancy hat band, but he figured the fare - and I had enough for two coach tickets, one way. But when I counted out the money and looked up, the clerk was staring at me. He nodded at the bills. "That ain't money, mister," he said, "and if you're trying to skin me, you won't get very far," and he glanced at the cash drawer, beside him. Of course the money was old-style bills half again as big as the money we use nowadays and different looking.

- i. Why did Charley ask for two tickets?
- ii. Complete the sentence by choosing the correct option:
When Charley offered money to the booking clerk, the latter stared at Charley because the booking clerk
 - a. thought it wasn't money.
 - b. did not trust Charley.
 - c. thought Charley was trying to tease him.
 - d. thought that Charley had given him less money.
- iii. Select the option that best describes Charley in this extract. He is
 - a. a cheat
 - b. gullible
 - c. an opportunist
 - d. an escapist
- iv. **If you're trying to skin me** suggests _____.

OR



Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

You think 'Here's a boy.' You look at me ... and then you see my face and you think. 'That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me.

- i. Who is the speaker and who is he speaking to?
 - a. Derry; His mother
 - b. Derry; Mr. Lamb
 - c. Derry; Ladies at the bus stop
 - d. Mother; Mr. Lamb
- ii. According to the speaker, what do people feel about him?
 - a. People are empathetic towards him.
 - b. People are repulsed by his appearance.
 - c. People are annoyed by his presence.
 - d. People are unhappy at his association with his neighbours.

iii. Complete the following statement with reference to the extract:

When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me _____.

iv. Explain the following statement with reference to the given extract:

You think, Poor boy.' But I'm not.

9. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[6]

My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days. (Deep Water)

- i. Identify the phrase from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the narrator's association with **childish fears** was not a recent one. (1)
- ii. How does the writer try to learn it? Mention any two ways. (1)
- iii. What did the Y.M.C.A. pool bring back to Douglas? (1)
 - A. Unpleasant memories
 - B. Memory of a boat
 - C. Meeting a bruiser of a boy
 - D. Memory of his visit to the Yakima River
- iv. The two emotions of Douglas mentioned in the given extract are _____ and _____. (1)
- v. Why did Douglas ape the other boys? (1)
- vi. The writing style of the extract is autobiographical because _____. (1)

OR

Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

(Indigo)

- i. What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount? (1)



ii. Complete the sentence with one word: (1)

The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words,
they agreed to the settlement _____.

iii. Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement. (1)

iv. Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.
(1)

- A. The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- B. The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
- C. The landlords had to refund the money.
- D. The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

v. What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident? (1)

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that _____.

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [10]

- (a) Why was the crofter so kind and generous to the peddler? [2]
- (b) **See you soon Amma.** How are these words contrary to the speaker's emotions? (My Mother at Sixty-six) [2]
- (c) How does the poet criticise the city's ways? (**A Roadside Stand**) [2]
- (d) Why did Sophie long for her brother's affection? (Going Places) [2]
- (e) Stephen Spender's visit to the Gemini Studios was viewed as an unexplained mystery by the Gemini family. How did Asokamitran solve this mystery years later? (Poets and Pancakes) [2]
- (f) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your answer. [2]

11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [4]

- (a) How does one lose all earthly sense of perspective and time in Antarctica? [2]
- (b) Why did Doctor Sadao save the life of the prisoner of war? [2]
- (c) How was Antarctica a chilling prospect for a South Indian, Tishani Doshi? (**Journey to the End of the Earth**) [2]

12. 'The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home.' (The Lost Spring) [5]

'...far from the city we make our roadside stand and ask for some city money to feel in hand'. (A Roadside Stand)

Create a conversation between a bangle maker and the owner of a roadside stand with reference to the above extracts.

You may begin the conversation like this: Owner of a roadside stand: Your bangles are pretty. Tell me about your experience in this business.

OR

Neruda in *Keeping Quiet* writes, we work endlessly so that we can achieve everything quickly because we are continuously *threatening ourselves with death*. While the lesson **Deep Water**, deals with the subject of conquering fear.

You are Pablo Neruda. Write a letter to Douglas and appreciate him for his attempts to get over the fear.

You may begin this way:

Dear William

I recently read your autobiographical book "Of Men and Mountains" and...



You may end this way:

People fear death in vain as it is destined for one and all. They fail to identify the real fear. I hope your story will inspire people who are rushing against the timeline.

Warmly,

Pablo Neruda

13. In the story, **The Tiger King** the protagonist is obsessed with finding the hundredth tiger and goes on mindless tiger hunting. [5]

In an attempt to lash out at the king for his obsession as an overall harmful one, as a resident of Pratibandapuram express your thoughts in a diary entry.

Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

The king has now doubled the land tax this week. We are under a constant state of terror fearing what crazy step would he take now...

OR

It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.

As Bama's brother, express your concern about the impact of prejudices like discrimination and oppression on the children's minds in a diary entry.

You may begin like this:

Injustice in any form cannot escape being noticed even by children...



Solution

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. i. Often/reactive approach.
ii. Parents become reactive when they discover their children engaging in behaviours they disapprove of. Their reaction often involves lectures, and if that does not work, they resort to shouting and punishing their children, eliciting feelings of anger or indifference from them.
iii. (d) Values and emotions.
iv. The NHA focuses on reforming parents to reform children, as the mindset and actions of parents greatly influence their children's behaviour. By refusing to fuel negativity and emphasizing their child's positives, parents can nurture their wholesome seed and encourage positive behaviour. This redirects the child's energy away from negativity and towards their inherent good qualities.
v. The passage states that parents following the NHA "look for every opportunity to energize the positive in the child". They give persistent appreciation even for smaller acts of goodness like sharing pizza, hard work in projects and standing up to bullies.
vi. The "This approach" referred to in paragraph 5, is not just about noticing when the child is being good, it is about recognizing the child's worth at every step. It differs from the previous approach by going beyond reprimanding or praising for specific acts. Instead, it constantly validates the child's inherent qualities and strengths, which helps instil in the child a sense of self-worth and adheres them away from negativity.
vii. (B) You demonstrated patience while teaching your junior.
viii. (B) to stop criticizing.
ix. (B) (c) and (e).
x. What blossoms in a child depends on the seeds we nurture—either negative seeds or wholesome seeds.
2. i. True.
ii. Essentials for digitization of education are:
 - Computer/computer hardware/computer software.
 - Internet.
iii. (b) Teachers can enhance their teaching ability and provide more value to the students.
iv. than ever in addressing educational disparity
v. (b) crucial
vi. (b) educating learners, job opportunities for educators and technical teams
vii. it will impact the country's development
viii. India's EdTech market size is expected to increase 3.7 times in the next five years.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. Lotus Valley Public School, Ahmedabad
NOTICE

21 January 20XX

Theatre Workshop

The school is hosting a Theatre or Dramatics Workshop for senior students (Classes IX-XII) during the winter break, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the School Assembly Hall. To get yourself registered you need to pay ₹200. Interested students must submit their names and money in a labelled envelope to their class teachers by 25 January 2023.

Head Boy/Head girl

Sunil/Sunila.

OR

Drama Club
Oxford Public School, Bengaluru

7th November, 2023

NOTICE
Spread Joy This Children's Day!



Drama Club Members,

Let's celebrate Children's Day by bringing smiles to others! We're visiting Mahi Old age Home on (November 14th) Venue:

Meet in the school lobby at 10:00 A.M.

We'll be performing a short skit and interacting with the residents. To add to the cheer, please contribute **vegetarian** snacks/fruits (enough to share).

Aman/Archana

President,

Drama Club

4. Springdales Public School,

Gurgaon.

25th Sept. 20XX

Sh. B.S. Bedi

2/27 Jorbagh

New Delhi

Sir,

Sub: To Inaugurate the T-20 Cricket Championship

Our school is organizing an inter-school T-20 cricket championship from 2nd Oct. to 8th Oct. 20XX. All the schools of the area are invited to participate and make it a grand successful tournament. Your presence in our midst will motivate and will inspire all of us. You are requested to inaugurate the championship on 2nd Oct. 20XX at 10 a.m. in our school premise. Kindly request you to spare some time from your busy schedule and confirm us by 30th Sept.

Yours faithfully,

Sachin Bansal,

Head Boy.

OR

Mrs. and Mr. Krishnamurthi
solicit your gracious presence
at the pre-wedding party to celebrate
their son's marriage
on 25th July 20xx
at 7:30 PM
at INVITATION BANQUET HALL
Model Town, Delhi – 110009

R.S.V.P.

Vinit Krishnamurthi

5. 121, Bank street

Kanpur

10th December, 20XX

The Editor

The Times of India

Kanpur

Subject: Simple weddings better than exuberant ones

Sir,

Through the medium of this letter, I would like to express my concern over the meaningless display of wealth during weddings these days. In the present day, lavish weddings have become a trend. Hotels, farmhouses and banquet halls are booked months in advance. Even lower-middle-class families are entertaining more than a thousand guests and consequently, they have to pay debts for months and sometimes for years too. No stone is left unturned to fulfill the desire of pretentiousness of being affluent in front of society. There is no denying of the fact that a wedding is indeed an important occasion but this moment of joy should not become a burden for families. We need to invite only our relatives and close friends for a wedding. An overcrowded gathering only leads to chaos and unnecessary expenditure. It is always better to have a simple wedding ceremony and an amount can be set aside to give to the couple to start their new life.

I hope my letter gets some space in your newspaper so that, through this trusted medium, people understand that money should not unnecessarily be wasted on exuberant wedding celebrations but should be used to invest in building the foundation of a happy



married life.
Yours sincerely
Ram

OR

A-7, Shanti Park
Delhi
16 December 2019
The Manager
NCR Group of Hotels
Delhi

Subject: Application for the Post of Receptionist

Sir,

In response to your advertisement in the Hindustan Times dated December 20, 2019, for the post of a receptionist, I hereby offer my candidature for the same.

I possess the requisite qualifications and experience. I want to join your hotels to fully utilize my potential.

You may call me for an interview on any date at your convenience. I shall be able to join my duties at one month's notice if appointed. I am enclosing my detailed resume for your perusal.

Thank You

Sudha/Sudhir

Enclosure: Detailed Resume

Resume / Bio Data

- Name: Sudha / Sudhir
- Father's Name: Mr. Subhas
- Age: 25 Years
- Address: A-7, Shanti Park, Delhi
- Hobbies: Music, Net Surfing, Photography, Sports
- Languages Known: Hindi, English
- Nationality: Indian
- Educational Qualifications:
 - Passed Secondary Exam. from CBSE with 8.5 CGPA
 - Passed Senior Secondary Exam. from CBSE with distinction
 - Passed Graduation from Delhi University with first division
- Professional Qualification:
 - Diploma in Computers from Aptech with first division
- Experience:
 - Worked as a receptionist with the ABC group of companies for 2 years
- Expected Salary: Negotiable
- References:
 - i. Dr. Mohit Aggarwal
(Surgeon), GTB Hospital, Delhi
 - ii. Mr. Ashok Kumar
Principal
AB Public School, Delhi

6.

Rising Prices: An Ordeal for Common Man

Nalini

A rise in prices, economists say, is a sign of development and prosperity. However, during the last two decades, prices of almost all the essential commodities have been increasing at an alarming rate. These soaring prices have caused great unrest and frustration among the people. The people belonging to the middle class and the salaried people are hit hard.

The prices of petrol, cooking gas, kerosene oil, and several other items of daily use are increasing every year. Not only that, railway fares, airfares, and bus and taxi charges are also increasing regularly. There are many causes of the unprecedented rise in prices. Inflation, black marketing, hoarding, faulty credit system, overpopulation and improper system of distribution are some of the major causes of hike in prices.



There should be an equitable distribution through fair price shops. Shopkeepers should be directed to display the stock of essential commodities along with their prices. Those people who buy things in the black market should be punished. Production of food should be increased. Sincere efforts should be made to stabilize the prices of essential commodities. Let us hope that the government will be able to bring down soaring prices. What is needed is the right intention and the force of will.

OR

Revive Playtime: Symposium Highlights the Importance of Play

By John, Budding Journalist

Pune

September 11, 2024

The symposium on 'Play Time - The Vanishing Joy of Childhood' brought together students and teachers from various schools to discuss the critical role of play in children's development. The event emphasized that play shapes better personalities, builds physical and mental health, develops life skills, and keeps children in touch with nature.

Group discussions highlighted how playing makes children fitter and the benefits of unstructured play over high-tech toys. Participants argued that spontaneous group play fosters essential life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. Teachers shared insights on how unstructured playtime allows children to explore their environment and develop a deeper connection with nature.

The symposium concluded with a call to action for parents and educators to prioritize play in children's daily routines, ensuring they grow up to be well-rounded individuals. The event was a resounding success, shedding light on the importance of reviving playtime in today's fast-paced world.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7.
 - i. As bold and fearless
 - ii. Because they live in dense green forests
 - iii. Aabb
 - iv. move about or leap
 - v. a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
 - vi. Chivalric

OR

- i. (A) Beauty provides security and peace.
 - ii. Because it is a joy forever. It never fades nor is it ever devalued.
 - iii. The phrase "a bower quiet" suggests the quality of peace and harmony/good health/sweet dreams/quiet breathing.
 - iv. True
 - v. (B) sweep.
 - vi. (A) rejuvenation
8.
 - i. Charley had asked for two tickets to old Galesburg in 1894's time. He asked for a pair of tickets for himself and his wife.
 - ii. When Charley offered money to the booking clerk, the latter stared at Charley because the booking clerk (a) **thought it wasn't money.**
 - iii. Charley was portrayed to be an (d) **escapist**. He always desired to get away from the harsh realities of the world because he was an escapist
 - iv. 'If you're trying to skin me' suggests to rob or cheat someone.
In this sentence, the individual is cautioning someone against attempting to steal or deceive him for money.

OR

- i. (b) Derry; Mr. Lamb
 - ii. (b) People are repulsed by his appearance.
 - iii. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me **because of my reflection that reminds me of my ugliness and makes me feel depressed and scared.**
 - iv. According to Derry, Mr. Lamb, like everyone else, would feel sympathetic towards him, but he would also harbor fear towards him because of his appearance. The statement indicates a deeper complexity to his character beyond mere sympathy or pity.
9.
 - i. "Revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears."
 - ii. The writer tries to learn by paddling with water wings and watching and imitating the other boys.
 - iii. (A) Unpleasant memories.
 - iv. Confidence and fear.
 - v. Douglas aped the other boys to learn how to swim by observing and mimicking their techniques.



vi. It recounts the personal experiences and emotions of the narrator, providing a first-person perspective on overcoming fear.

OR

i. Gandhi agreed to the settlement to demonstrate that the landlords were not above the law and to restore the peasants' rights and self-respect.

ii. unanimously.

iii. The settlement forced the landlords to surrender part of their money and prestige, making them acknowledge the peasants' rights and reducing their dominance.

iv. (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

v. The peasants realized that they had rights and defenders and that they could challenge unjust practices and demand fair treatment.

vi. The landlords considered themselves superior and not accountable to legal or ethical standards.

10. Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

(i) The crofter was kind and generous as he lived all alone. He wanted to talk to someone. Being a generous host he offered food, tobacco and played cards with the Peddler.

(ii) The poet's parting words of assurance and her smiles provide a stark contrast to the old familiar ache or fear of childhood. Her words and smiles are a deliberate attempt to hide her real feelings. The parting words: "See you soon, Amma" give an assurance to the old lady whose 'ashen face' looks like a corpse. Similarly, her continuous smiles are an attempt to overcome the ache and fear inside her heart.

(iii) According to the poet, the city folks are mean and selfish. They refuse to extend any kind of support to the rural poor. Although they are rich, yet they are very possessive about their money. The city folks are so carried by their lifestyle that they have no time to stand and appreciate nature's beauty. They show no compassion and concern for the poor villagers.

(iv) Sophie found in her brother, Geoff, a patient listener to all her fantasies. Also, she thought that there were many things about his life that only he knew, and she also wanted to know about them. This made her long for his affection.

(v) The visit of Stephen Spender raised many queries and doubts in the minds of those who were working in Gemini Studios. His name was unfamiliar, and his credentials too were unconfirmed. No one could understand his speech, so everyone wondered why he had come to a film studio that made Tamil films for simple people who had no interest in English poetry.

Years later, when Asokamitran was out of Gemini Studios, he bought a pile of brand-new books at a reduced price from a footpath in front of Madras Mount Road Post Office. In a book 'The God That Failed' six eminent writers had described their journeys into communism. It was in this book that he came across the name of Stephen Spender and finally discovered the identity of the English visitor to the Studios.

(vi) Umberto Eco considered himself an academic scholar first and then a novelist. He wrote more scholarly articles as compared to novels; and he attended academic conferences over meetings of Pen Clubs and writers. According to him, he was a university professor who wrote novels on Sundays.

11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

(i) Antarctica is very much unique as well as specific than other parts of the globe. It is completely devoid of human markers and more than 90 per cent of the earth's total ice-volumes are stored on this sub-continent. In the beginning there was no life except flora and fauna. There are neither trees nor buildings. So we lose all earthly sense of perspective and time there. There is a day of 24 hours.

(ii) The doctor saved the life of the prisoner of war because as a doctor, he was taught to save the lives of others whenever they would need him.

(iii) Tishani Doshi is a sun-worshipping South Indian and for her to spend two weeks in a place where 90 percent of the Earth's total ice volumes are stored is a chilling prospect, not just for circulatory and metabolic functions, but also for the imagination.

12. **Owner of a roadside stand:** Your bangles are pretty. Tell me about your experience in this business.

Bangle Maker: Thank you. I have been making bangles for as long as I can remember. It's a family business, and we have been doing it for generations. But it's not an easy business. The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. We barely make enough to survive.

Owner of a roadside stand: I understand. It's tough out here for small businesses. But I have to say, your bangles are beautiful. Have you ever thought about expanding your business?

Bangle Maker: We have tried, but it's not easy. We don't have the resources to expand, and we don't have the connections to get our products to the city. It's a struggle just to make ends meet.

Owner of a roadside stand: I know what you mean. I come from a small village too. But I started this roadside stand, and it's



been doing well. Far from the city, we make our roadside stand and ask for some city money to feel in hand. It's not much, but it's enough to survive.

Bangle Maker: That's impressive. Maybe I should try something like that.

Owner of a roadside stand: You should. You have a great product, and people would love to buy it. You just need to find a way to get it out there. Don't give up on your dreams.

Bangle Maker: Thank you for the encouragement. I will think about it.

OR

Dear William,

I recently read your autobiographical book "Of Men and Mountains" and was truly inspired by your journey of conquering fear.

Your determination and resilience in facing your deepest fears are commendable.

In my poem "Keeping Quiet," I speak of the importance of stillness and introspection. I urge people to take a moment of silence to reflect on their actions. Your journey of conquering fear required you to delve into introspection and confront your fears head-on.

Your determination and courage are truly remarkable.

I appreciate how you have shown that fear is not something to be avoided or ignored, but rather something to be confronted and conquered. Your story serves as an inspiration to others who may be rushing against the timeline, fearing the unknown. You have shown that it is possible to overcome our fears and live life to the fullest.

People often fear death in vain, as it is destined for all. However, they fail to identify the real fear that holds them back from truly living. Your journey exemplifies the importance of facing our fears and embracing life with open arms.

I hope your story will inspire people who are rushing against the timeline. Your efforts to conquer fear are truly commendable, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Warmly,

Pablo Neruda

13. The king has now doubled the land tax this week. We are under a constant state of terror fearing what crazy step would he take now. He came to know his fate that a tiger will be the cause of his demise when he was only ten days old prince. Later when he became the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram at the age of twenty, he issued a proclamation not to kill the tigers except by himself. Since then, his quest for tigers began. He managed to kill only seventy tigers until his forests became extinct. Then he married a princess whose father had a large forest cover full of tigers. There he killed more and reached ninety-nine tigers. Now he has gone insane not finding the hundredth one. Being a man of authority, he has been misusing his power by being cruel towards the innocent beast.

This insane man is unaware of the fact that nobody can alter fate. People may call him to be a brave, courageous king but I personally think he lacks worldly wisdom. He is such a self-centered person that he sacrificed everything (wife, son, subject) for killing tigers.

OR

Injustice in any form cannot escape being noticed even by children. The world has been gripped in a web of stratification, oppression, and discrimination at many levels. While the adults have grown used to this, the innocence of childhood does not understand hatred and prejudice. That is why my observant sister Bama found the sight of the old man of our community handling a snack pack in a very strange manner and then offering it to the landlord amusing. But when I had to reveal the reality behind this strange way of carrying the packet to this inquisitive girl, she was fraught with disgust grows angry over the upper caste people. She got so infuriated at being discriminated but I tried to convince her that our Dalit community could uplift their identity through education or else they would be always looked down upon.

Any blooming soul like Bama, when subjected to such evil practices, their sensitive minds and hearts are deeply affected.

Perplexed, they often resist in their own simple ways.

