

No. of pages - 16

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MID TERM EXAMINATION

CLASS: XI

SUBJECT: ENGLISH (CORE)

Time : 3 HRS.

M.M. 75

General Instructions:

- (i) This paper is divided into three Sections: A, B & C. All the Sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each Section, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word-limit while answering the questions.

SECTION-A (Reading) (20 Marks)

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

[12 Marks]

Life on our planet earth began with the sea; it is the birthplace of life on the earth. The earth is the only planet of our Solar System so far known

which contains plenty of water and this water has made our earth colourful, pulsating with life of a vast variety.

At present sea occupies about 70 percent of the earth's surface. In the southern hemisphere it occupies more area than that in the northern. About 97% of the total water on the surface of the earth is found in the seas and the remaining three percent, which is generally fresh, in lakes, rivers and ponds etc.

Sea has given food and shelter to countless creatures. It is a potential source of protein. In 1900 the world was only 150 crore, now it is more than 560 crores and is increasing at a very fast rate. As a result, there is a terrible hunger in many parts of the world. In Africa, Asia and South America, millions of people do not get enough to eat. Many die of malnutrition. Sea, if used scientifically and judiciously can meet most of our demands.

Plankton or algae mostly constitutes the plant life. Like plant plankton there are also animal plankton: the smallest living creature in the sea. These animal plankton feed on plant plankton and small fish. Thus, there is an unbroken chain of life in the sea.

Some countries have developed sea farming to a great extent. The Japanese and the Hawaiians relish eating sea plants but it is not so in

other countries though some use them to feed their cattle or as manure in their fields. The fact is that sea plants contain rich nutrients not found in other vegetarian food. It is good that even in our country. Some scientists have developed some recipes for curries, jams etc. to be made from algae.

But we must remember one thing that sea is not to be exploited immediately. For example, man in his greed has hunted whales and some other creature so recklessly that some of their species have either become extinct or are on the verge of extinction. Now nations of the world have realized their folly and have taken some joint decisions. For example, one such decision is that the size of holes in fishing nets should be big enough to let the baby fish escape through. Otherwise killing of large quantities of very young fish would have an adverse effect on the fish population. In the same way another decision is for the protection of the blue whales.

- I. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option from the given ones: [6 Marks]

(i) Which is the birthplace of life on the earth?

- (a) Sky (b) Sea
- (c) Moon (d) Land
- (ii) Plankton or algae mostly constitutes _____
- (a) the wild life (b) the human life
- (c) the sea life (d) the plant life
- (iii) The size of the holes in fishing nets should be big enough to let _____.
- (a) Big fish stay in (b) water flow out
- (c) baby fish escape through (d) more fish and water
can enter
- (iv) Sea plants contain rich nutrients not found in _____
- (a) other plants (b) other vegetarian food
- (c) non-vegetarian food (d) milk and milk products
- (v) Antonym of plenty is _____
- (a) little (b) Inadequate
- (c) scarcity (d) minimal

(vi) Animal plankton feed on _____

- (a) plant plankton and small fish
- (b) vegetarian food
- (c) blue whales
- (d) other sea creatures

II. Answer the following questions briefly: [6 Marks]

- (a) Why is our earth more colourful and full of life than any other planets of our solar system?
- (b) Mention any two uses of sea.
- (c) "There is an unbroken chain of life in the sea". Explain.
- (d) How is man responsible for the extinction of some species of sea creatures?
- (e) Find a word in the passage which means the same as the following:
 - (i) Wisely
 - (ii) Unfavourable

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

[8 Marks]

The phenomenon of aging has been with us. Anything that is born must disappear. We can not avoid old age, but how to face it and add zest to life in the remaining years of our living is more important.

Aging should bring control over three human passions – lust, anger and greed. Controlling these forces changes the mode of our living and our thinking.

These are two factors which are responsible for our well being. First, keeping ourselves fully occupied, both mentally and physically with something we like. The second is directing ourselves towards spirituality. Spiritual learning makes us calmer and gives us inner peace. Meditation, reading books and keeping company with spiritually-enlightened people keep us mentally occupied and bring tranquility. A life full of contentment at this stage particularly would make the remaining years of our life happier.

There are three weapons, which God has given us for our happiness – awareness, wisdom and goodness. Awareness refers to knowing one's real self. It means to be aware of our real personality. Wisdom is our second weapon. A person of wisdom will succeed by disciplining his

life, fixing the priorities and reorganizing his reactions, emotions and thoughts. Wisdom lies in knowing our goal in life.

Goodness is in fact the core of all philosophies. It is the sheet anchor of the teaching of various religions. The Gita repeats, again and again, that unless we enhance our content of nobility and purity, the goal of self-realisation will remain beyond reach. Goodness and humility go hand-in-hand and complement each other. One has to replace selfishness with selflessness and bring one's ego under control. To practice compassion you have to have all the qualities of goodness – truth, love, purity and humility.

The Dalai Lama has repeatedly brought out in his discourses that love and anger can not be generated exactly at the same time in the same person. Once you become accustomed to one class of attitudes, the other class becomes weaker. This is the reason why the Dalai Lama said that by increasing compassion and love – the good sight of thought, the other side will automatically diminish.

Questions:

[1x8 = 8 Marks]

- (a) What changes the mode of our living and thinking?
- (b) How can an aged person make himself fit and fine?

- (c) Which personality trait would make the remaining years of an aged person happier?
- (d) Name the three weapons of happiness.
- (e) What makes a wise person succeed in life?
- (f) Which is the complementary factor of goodness?
- (g) What according to Dalai Lama is his lesson for human beings to live a beautiful life?
- (h) Choose the word from the passage which means 'Sermons'.

SECTION – B (WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR [30 Marks]

3. The 'Students Council' of your school has organized an excursion to Goa for the students of class XI during the Autumn Break. As the President of the Council, write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the excursion. Sign yourself as Anil/Sheetal.

[4 Marks]

OR

Rajat Reena

Design a poster making the public aware of the ill-effects of plastic on the environment and encourage them to use paper bags.

4. You are Rajat/Reena of 20, Preet Nagar, Noida. You bought a colour TV from M/s Mehta & Sons Pvt. Ltd., Karol Bagh, Delhi. After a month you find that the sound is not clear and the colours fade away every now and then. Write a letter to the manager complaining about the same and requesting him to change the set at your earliest.

[6 Marks]

OR

You are Parul/Pradeep of New Model School, Delhi. You are interesting in doing a short term course in Computer programming during summer vacation. Write a letter to the Director of the institution enquiring about the duration of the course and the terms and conditions for admission.

5. The 21st century has seen a severe erosion of values in the society. Experts and educationists stress on value-based education as the need

of the hour. Write out an article in about 150-200 words on the topic –
'Value Based Education – The Need of the Hour'.

[10 Marks]

OR

You are Mohit/Mamta, the Secretary of the Eco-Club of your school. Recently your school celebrated 'Tree Plantation Week.' Write a report for your school magazine in about 150-200 words.

GRAMMAR [10 Marks]

- 6/ There is an error in each of the following lines. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in the given space.

[1/2x8 = 4 Marks)

	Incorrect	Correct
Right of the panwallah on The Street Corner	(a) _____	_____
<u>till</u> the top notch manager everybody is	(b) _____	_____
frantic for cricket. <u>Our</u> has become	(c) _____	_____

a cricket love society. One would be (d) Love Love
 condemned if he does not talk of cricket these (e) be Condemn
 days. The game of cricket is gaining popularly (f) _____
 day to day. It is becoming a professional (g) _____
 game involving lot of strategy, play or practice. (h) _____

7. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of verb given in brackets.

[1x4 = 4 Marks]

An elephant _____ (excel) other animals in intelligence. Whenever
 _____ (face) with difficulty, it _____ (find) a way out.
 Thus it is one of the most _____ (love) animals in the world.

8. Rearrange the following jumbled up words to form meaningful sentences:

[1x2 = 2 Marks]

(a) are/caused by/negative moods/ways of/unrealistic/and/thinking/
harsh/the

(b) happy/thoughts/feel/you/positive/make.

SECTION- C (TEXTBOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT)

[25 Marks]

9. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

[3 Marks]

The cardboard shows me how it was

When the two girl cousins went paddling

Each one holding one of my mother's hands

And she the big girl – Some twelve years or so.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

(b) Who were the three girls captured in the photograph?

(c) Where had they gone for outing?

OR

And who art thou? Said I to the soft falling shower. Which strange to tell, gave me an answer as here translate.

I am the Poem of the Earth, said the voice of the rain.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
 - (b) What does the phrase 'strange to tell' mean?
 - (c) Why does the rain call herself the 'Poem of the Earth'.
10. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each (attempt any three only)

[2x3 = 6 Marks]

- (a) Mention the two reasons why the author's grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school.
- (b) What did Carter have to do to detach Tut's mommy from the coffin?
- (c) There are two voices in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'. Who do they belong to? Which lines indicate this?

(d) Why did the sight of Mourad's horse both delight and frighten Aram?

(e) What role did the narrator play in the life of Rangappa?

11. Answer the following question in about 120-150 words.

[6 Marks]

What lesson do we learn from such hazardous experiences when we are face-to-face with death?

OR

Justify the title of the story 'The Address'.

**ATTEMPT BOTH THE QUESTIONS EITHER FROM
PART A OR PART B.**

PART A

12. Describe the first encounter of Mr. Otis with the Ghost.

[5 Marks]

13. Give a character sketch of Sir Simon – The Canterville Ghost. [5 Marks]

OR

PART B

12. Booker's schooling is also full of difficulties. Explain. [5 Marks]
13. Give a character sketch of Mrs. Ruffner. [5 Marks]

