

Mock Test – 2016-2017**Subject : English Core****Time : 3 Hrs.]****Class : XII****[M. M. : 100****General Instructions :**

- (i) All the questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Answer should be pointwise.
- (iii) Try to stick to the prescribed word limit.
- (iv) Read all the instructions carefully.

SECTION : A (Reading)**(30 marks)****1. Read the passage carefully :****(1 × 12 = 12 marks)**

1. All the means of communication can be subdivided in four general categories. These categories are : speech, writing, printing and electronic communication. All the four categories have their own advantages and disadvantages.

2. The oldest form of communication is undoubtedly speech. It is believed that 'speech' originated perhaps one million years ago, possibly by imitation of natural sounds that human beings heard in their immediate environment. Certainly there are many such words as bang, hiss or buzz which are imitative in function.

3. The next big step forward in function was the invention of writing. It had two major advantages over speech. Firstly, the speaker himself did not have to be present in order to communicate his ideas, plans, thoughts etc. And secondly, the knowledge of one generation could be accumulated and passed on to the next and future generations.

4. Now, the first kind of writing was picture writing, where the scribe drew a picture of what he wanted to represent. There can be seen in the ancient Egyptian HIEROGLYPHICS, or in some modern Chinese IDEOGRAPHS. Having to draw everything you want to communicate, is of course, very limiting. Many of these drawings took on other meanings. The use of symbols to represent sounds was a great breakthrough. It led to the use of SYLLABARIES – that is systems where each symbol stood for a syllable *i.e.*, a sound unit. Later came the invention of the alphabet that is to say the presentation of each sound by a different symbol.

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5. In spite of its various advantages ^(e) writing was, and is, a slow and cumbersome process and so the ability to write remained the privilege of a few until the invention of printing which originated in China. At initial stages blocks of wood were carved into the shape of letters, covered in ink and pressed onto paper. The Arabs brought the secret of printing to Europe around the tenth century. But it was not until the sixteenth century that the European printers started to use much more useful metal type. They also adapted the wine-press used for crushing grapes and used it for pressing their new metal type onto paper. So the number of books vastly multiplied with tremendous consequences for the development of science and all aspects of human culture.

6. The most recent development has been the use of electronic means of communication. These can be sub-divided into those which require a wire or cable connection for transferring messages and those which do not. The pioneer in the area was Samuel B. Morse who devised a method of sending messages by using short and long signals. The invention of the telephone made the learning of a special code unnecessary; people could speak to one another quite naturally. The invention of wire-less radio, television, smart phones etc. meant that messages could be sent and received over long distances without the necessity of using wires or cables. Thus communication among people far away from each other became lively and instant.

Answer the following by choosing the most appropriate options :

1 × 4 = 4

(a) The passage suggests that :

- (i) communication through speech, writing, printing and electronic mediums is equally effective.
- ☒ (ii) alphabets are presentation of each sound by a different symbol.
- (iii) printing started with metal type in China.
- (iv) before the invention of printing everyone enjoyed the privilege of writing.

(b) Besides adaption of wine-press.....helped in increasing the number of books rapidly.

- (i) blocks of wood
- (ii) Chinese people
- ☒ (iii) metal type
- (iv) Arabs

(c) Presence of 'sound words' in languages suggests (that) :

- ☒ (i) speech possibly originated by imitation of natural sounds
- (ii) speech is the oldest form of communication
- (iii) writing has advantages over speech
- (iv) all of these

(d)resulted in the use of syllabaries.

- (i) Picture writing
- (ii) Use of symbols that stood for sounds
- (iii) Egyptian HIEROGLYPHICS
- (iv) Invention of alphabets

1 × 8 = 8

Answer the following in brief :

- (e) Before the invention of printing, writing remained a privilege of a few. Why?
- (f) How did speech originate?
- (g) What helped people communicate without using wires or cables?
- (h) Write one advantage that writing has over speech.
- (i) What led to the use of syllabaries?
- (j) Name one problem that picture drawings presented in writing.

Find the words/phrases in the passage which mean the same as

- (k) copying - *Imitation*
- (l) collected/gathered

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

1. Floods are not new to India and Indian sub-continent. But in recent years they have received much attention. It is perhaps, largely because now they result in much greater damage than in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimized. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessively heavy rain.

2. In the case of India flooding is very much a function of the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain. Thus the rainy water cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. But, flooding is not confined only to the main rivers, often smaller tributaries and streams can cause heavy damage as well. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, particularly in mountain areas.

3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian sub-continent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter

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in duration but far more intensive, thereby increasing the danger of floods. And it is known to everyone that climate change is the result of human actions.

4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of flood through cutting of trees in the mountains and plains. In India the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. This lead to deposition of silt on the riverbeds and hence spill over of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the river beds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures, symbolised by the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, which bursts its banks during the monsoons every year.

5. Flood forecasting minimizes the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies to take both preventive as well as relief measures.

Answer the following by selecting the most appropriate option from the given ones : $1 \times 2 = 2$

- (a) Central Water Commission has been set to.....
- (i) take measures to stop minimize floods
 - (ii) alert the public
 - (iii) mobilize various official agencies
 - (iv) to make flood forecasts *अनुमानित*
- (b) In spite of more accurate information about occurrence of floods, a lot of damage occurs because.....
- (i) there is very little time to respond
 - (ii) there is not much supporting infrastructure
 - (iii) people are reluctant to move away from danger zones
 - (iv) all of the above

Answer the following in brief :

- (c) How can climate changes make things worse for India? *India has seasonal monsoon* $1 \times 8 = 8$
- (d) Now floods receive much greater attention. Why? *अधिका*
- (e) The author quotes the example of slum dwellers on banks of Yamuna in Delhi. Why?
- (f) Why does India face so many floods?
- (g) What/Who is responsible for climate change?
- (h) In which areas even small streams can cause much damage?

Find the words/phrases in the passage which mean the same as :

(i) about to happen [para 1]

(j) proof [para 3]

3. **Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :**

"Which class are you in?"

"I am in Courage and she is in Perseverance !" If the answer is unusual, it is because it comes from an unusual school ! Welcome to Mirambika, an alternative school located in and run by the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, New Delhi.

It is widely prevalent feeling that the existing school education in our country has innumerable drawbacks. The chief of these is that the mainstream education does not have any high objectives, other than preparing the child for a lucrative career. During the process of learning, the child is meaninglessly burdened and deprived of the experience of creative joy and inner growth. This discontent spurred a group of thinkers and teachers to create an alternative form of education.

In 1981, Mirambika (Mira, from the name Mira Alfasa of the and Ambika meaning 'Mother' in Sanskrit) was conceived, in an attempt to implement the educational agenda of Sri Aurobindo. It started with 57 children and it has managed to hold the number at 150.

Sri Aurobindo felt 'nothing can be taught'. His second principle was 'the mind has to be consulted on its growth and the third included 'work from near to the far'. This signifies that early learning must be from all that child can relate to before moving to abstract concepts. The main objective of education, he concluded, should be only to develop the faculties for learning.

The atmosphere in the school is a proclamation of this ideology. The splendid architecture, its symmetry, openness, its harmony with nature are overwhelming. There is no school uniform. There are no fixed classes for the children of the same age. There are just 12 groups called Red, Blue, Equality, Aspiration and others. The idea is that children should not be treated as objects of control in an hierarchical system of division and grading. There are no structural practices and the children engage in activities as they choose. Significantly, though this freedom does not degenerate into chaos. Instead, an alternative work culture has come to be where the children respect time and develop their own rhythm, without experiencing alienation from studies. Even very young children are seen working on projects and bringing out extensive material on the topic. Getting admission into Mirambika is not easy. The school is very clear that the ethos of the family and that of the school have to be similar. Hence, the aspiring parents are screened in two stages to make sure they are truly ready for the risk inherent in the alternative format of education.

- (a) Make notes on the passage in a suitable format. Use abbreviations and give a suitable title. 5
- (b) Make a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

SECTION : B (Writing Section)

(30 Marks)

4. On Christmas eve, your school is organising a fete in a nearby stadium. You are Sujeet/Sujata, the head boy/girl of the school. Draft a notice in 50 words informing the students about the fete. Give all the relevant details. 4

OR

Draft an advertisement for the classified columns of a local daily for the sale of your Lenovo laptop. Give all the relevant details like Windows, month and year of purchase etc. You are Sneha/Sameer.

5. You are Neeraj of M-412, Nishat Bagh, New Delhi. Recently you read about a nursing diploma being offered by Service With A Smile Institute, Shalimar Nagar, Delhi. Write a letter to the Director (Admission) enquiring about the relevant details. 6

OR

Delhi and NCR remained covered in thick sheet of smog for many days making life difficult for everyone, especially the children and those with breathing problems. Besides, garbage burning, construction activities and excessive use of vehicles are main culprits. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and suggesting some solutions. You are Gufran/Nafeesa living at B-4, Kabir Nagar, Noida.

6. Last week your school organised a talk on 'Democracy and Black Money' by Mr. A. K. Malik, the well-known economist. Students of class XI and XII participated and had an informative interaction with speaker. Write a report of the same in not more than 150 words for your school magazine. You are Farman/Zeba of XII D. 10

OR

- Media has been called the fourth pillar of democracy. But in recent times, media often turns judgemental in order to please one or the other political party or business house. In 150-200 words, write an article on 'Responsible and Impartial Media – Need of the Hour'. You are Pankaj of XII C.

7. 'Health is Wealth' is an age old saying. But the youth today cares little about their health. They keep awake till late at night and prefer junk food to home-made one. You are Farhan/Sania of XII B. You decide to deliver a speech in the school assembly in order to make students aware about the need and ways to keep healthy. [150 to 200 words]

OR

You are to participate in an Inter House Debate Competition being organised in your school. The topic/ statement of the debate is 'All Entrance Exams after class XII should be abolished'. You are Ranjan/ Ranjana. Write the debate in against the motion. Word limit not more than 200 words.

SECTION : C (Literature)

(40 Marks)

1 × 4 = 4

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

"Fisherman in the cold sea
Would not harm whales
And the man gathering salt
Would look at his hurt hand."

- (a) What is 'fisherman' symbolic of?
(b) What is 'salt' symbolic of?
(c) Name the poem and the poet.
(d) Explain 'hurt hands'.

The Enemy

OR

"Surely Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal
For lives that turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless nights."

- (a) Why has Shakespeare been described as wicked?
(b) Why is the map a bad example?
(c) What tempts 'them' to steal?
(d) Name the poem and the poet.

3 × 4 = 12

9. Answer any *four* of the following in 30-40 words each :

- (a) Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von Stahle?
(b) Why were the village elders seated on the back benches?
(c) Why did people migrate from the village in Dhaka to Delhi?
(d) Name any two indignities that the new girls were subjected to at Carlisle Indian School.
(e) What is the significance of the images, 'sprinting trees' and 'merry children spilling out of their homes' in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?
(f) How was the hundreth tiger arranged for the Maharaja?

10. In order to safeguard the interests of workers like Mukesh, it is essential that workers are informed about their rights – forming cooperatives, getting loans from banks etc. Do you agree? Why/Why not? (125-150 words) 6

OR

Adolescent fantasies may be thrilling but might result in disappointment. Explain citing example from the chapter 'Going Places'. (125-150 words)

11. Dr. Sadao and Hana rise above man-made divisions to serve the nobler cause of humanity. Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy'. (125-150 words) 6

OR

"Zit Kala-sa and Bama are rebels." Discuss. (125-150 words)

12. How did the invisible man misuse science to create havoc in the society? (125-150 words) 6

OR

What changes did Eppie bring to the life of Silas Marner?

13. Science without morality and regard to the sanctity of life is harmful. Discuss. (125-150 words) 6

OR

The novel 'Silas Marner' shows that true happiness does not lie in material things. Do you agree? Why/why not? (125-150 words) 3