

# AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

## AMRITA PRE BOARD EXAMINATION 2017 - '18

Class : XII

Marks : 100

Time : 3 hrs

### ENGLISH CORE (301)

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. *This paper is divided into three sections : A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.*
2. *Separate instructions are given with each section and each question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
3. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering questions.*

### SECTION A - READING

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

1. The Titanic, in its watery grave, is a great museum of human history and is at risk of being lost forever because of curious voyagers and treasure hunters, fears Bob Ballard, who first discovered the remains of the iconic ship in 1985. Famous for discovering the great ship, Ballard is a former US Navy officer and a professor of oceanography.

2. "Titanic is a museum of human history without door and guard. I am deeply concerned about not only the Titanic but all the ancient history that is now at risk. If we cannot save this iconic ship, then there is very little hope we can save ancient ships. The world should realise that you don't have to go down and take everything and you do not have to do a treasure hunt. This is common heritage of all of us and if we really want to take steps to preserve human history in the ocean, we need to start with Titanic", Ballard said in a telephonic interview from London.

3. Ballard, as part of a tie-up, is presenting a documentary called 'Save the Titanic' on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship - April 15, 1912. The ship and her fate continue to fascinate, largely because of the horror that took place that night, with 1,522 passengers and crew losing their lives.

4. Ballard says that despite being on the ocean floor for 100 years, the ship is full of human footprints. "You will find pairs of shoes everywhere. The sea and the life below has claimed everything but they do not know what to do with shoes so you will find a pair of mother's shoes next to her little daughter and that's their gravestone. At her wreckage, we almost felt that we were surrounded by the lifeboats of all the people that were in the water at that spot."

5. Ballard says that the fate of Titanic continues to fascinate so many years after it sank because it is 'irony personified in history'. "The story has all the ingredients to make it timelessly fascinating. You have this revolutionary ship that's unsinkable, and carrying a cross section of people in society. And then, it goes and hits an iceberg and sinks on its maiden journey. It's irony personified in history".

6. Talking about his discovery, which came after great research and 75 years later, Ballard says it was a sombre moment when they first spotted the boiler of the Titanic. "In the 90s, advanced technology gave us double diving capabilities in the Atlantic Ocean. I knew that the Titanic was sitting at almost 12,000 feet. What led me to her discovery was a simple technique that I followed. We decided to look for the debris trail instead of the ship".

7. Ballard says the ship, if preserved well and not subjected to constant submarine journeys, will last for a long time on the Atlantic floor. "The deep sea, because of its darkness, its cold temperatures and its great pressures, creates a high state of preservation. With a little caution, we can protect the Titanic for future generations to visit."

8. Ballard has also connected to the people of Belfast, who refused to talk about the tragedy. “The ship’s construction took place at Belfast. After the tragedy, families of the workers refused to talk about it because of the shame and sadness in the loss of life involved”.

**1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.**

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- a) The Titanic sank on \_\_\_\_\_.
- (i) its 100th anniversary (ii) 15 April 1912  
(iii) an iconic voyage in 1985 (iv) leaving the port of Belfast
- b) The Titanic continues to attract attention because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (i) it is irony personified in history (ii) it is a treasure hunt  
(iii) it is a common need  
(iv) its advanced technology gave double diving technologies
- c) Ballard’s documentary on the Titanic is titled \_\_\_\_\_.
- (i) A museum of human history (ii) The Titanic  
(iii) Save the Titanic (iv) 75 years later
- d) How can the ship’s remains last a longer time?
- (i) It is not subjected to constant submarine journeys. (ii) Its cold temperature is kept constant.  
(iii) It is connected to the people of Belfast.  
(iv) Advanced technology is given to its divers.

**1.2. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible.**

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- a) What happened on April 15, 1912?  
b) Who is Bob Ballard and what did he discover?  
c) Why does Bob Ballard call it a ‘museum of human history’?  
d) Why did the people of Belfast refuse to talk about Titanic?  
e) What did Ballard do as part of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic?  
f) What was the reaction of the families of the workers at Belfast? Why?

**1.3. Find the words from the passage which mean the same as.**

2

- a) first of its kind (para 5) b) very solemn or serious (para 6)

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

1. The recent Hollywood film *Monuments Men* depicts the exploits of an army unit which protected and recovered Nazi-looted art at the height of World War II, in Italy.
2. But buried in the pages of Indian history is the story of an Indian army battalion that discovered and rescued over 200 exquisite works of Florentine art at the height of World War II, in Italy.
3. In July 1944, the 8th Indian Division, part of the British Eighth Army, was advancing to Florence after the final battle of Monte Cassino where the Allies had made inroads into German strongholds. They stopped at Tuscany on the banks of the Arno river, where 1/5 Maratha Light Infantry set up battalion headquarters at the Castello di Montegufoni, a 12th century palatial property owned by the Sitwells, an English family. Today, it is a heritage hotel.
4. According to the official regimental history, authored by late Major General Eustace D’Souza, in 1944, it was late July when the Marathas occupied the castle and D’Souza, a second lieutenant, was asked by the commanding officer Lt.Col.DWH Leeming to inspect the castle’s sentry posts. When on inspection D’Souza overheard a soldier giggling and asked him in Maratha: ‘Kai Zala?’ (What’s the matter?)
5. The seemingly embarrassed soldier led him down the basement where the source of his amusement was revealed to be the ‘Birth of Venus’ by Botticelli the original masterpiece by the 16th century artist of the Italian Renaissance. The iconic painting was one among 261 priceless artworks packed into the room. D’Souza informed the CO, who ordered that the room be heavily guarded. An elderly Italian present in the castle revealed that the canvases had been stored by the Germans who had occupied the castle until their retreat. The works belonged to the Uffizi Gallery Palazzo Pitti, in Florence, Italy.
6. Word was sent to the divisional headquarters south of the Arno and the next day, the reputed

Scottish writer Eric Linklater arrived to take a look, accompanied by two regimental historians, including Col Unni Nayar (killed in the Korean War). They identified most of the works, including Botticelli's *La Primavera* and others by Renaissance masters.

7. In the official history D'Souza comments that both Linklater and Thomas, of the BBC, who has accompanied him, profusely thanked the Marathas and that Linklater, who was assistant editor with *The Times of India*, Bombay office, between 1925 and 1927, even wrote a commendation note in the official visitors' book of the castle and gifted the book to the unit. Stored in the Officers' Mess in Belgaum, the book is a war trophy of great importance to the regiment even today. According to D'Souza, Linklater and his companion Thomas even suggested that when the artworks were restored to the Uffizi Gallery, they be displayed in a room dedicated to their saviours, titled the 'Maratha Room'.

8. But that never happened. In fact, the role of the Marathas in the subsequent versions of that incident states they arrived on the scene first and informed the Maratha CO of their discovery. The role that the Indian Army had played in the rescue work was almost wiped out of the official narrative of the event. It is Linklater and Thomas who got the credit for finding the works. In later years, Magnus, the eldest son of Eric Linklater, acknowledged that his late father had taken it upon himself to acquire the book as a spoil of war and had presented it to the Indians, he chose not to comment on who discovered the treasure hidden in the castle.

**2.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. 2**

- a) The Hollywood film *Monuments Men* depicts the findings of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) Indian art treasures in Germany (ii) art treasures from the Nazis  
(iii) Nazi-looted art treasures (iv) Botticelli's paintings
- b) The Castello di Montegufoni was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) a 12th century castle owned by the Sitwells (ii) a painting done by Botticelli  
(iii) the headquarters of the British Indian Army (iv) the regimental centre of the Marathas

**2.2. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible. 6**

- a) Where was the Castello di Montegufoni situated?  
b) What did the elderly Italian in the castle reveal?  
c) What was the most famous painting in the lot?  
d) What is the prized war trophy of the Officers' Mess at Belgaum?  
e) Who were the original owners of the paintings?  
f) What had Linklater and Thomas suggested?

**2.3. Find words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following. 2**

- a) paintings (para 5) b) to recognise something (para 6)

**3. Read the following passage carefully.**

1. The other day I received an unusual and very gratifying gift; I was given a tree. Or rather, I was given half-a-dozen trees, which would be planted on my behalf. I had been invited to give a talk to an organisation. After such events, the speaker is usually given a token gift. Sometimes the gift is that of a pen, or something useful. Often, the gift is in the form of a plaque or similar commemorative token. However well-meant, such gifts are destined to gather dust in forgotten corners. Which is why I was agreeably surprised to be given a scroll which attested that, on a designated plantation established for the purpose, six trees would be added in my name, as a part of the 'green' movement being sponsored by the organisation.

In an increasingly environmentally - conscious world, the gift of a living tree or plant makes for a perfect present. The tradition of giving and receiving gifts has increasingly become a highly evolved marketing exercise. Apart from festivals like Diwali, Holi, Christmas, Eid and others, a whole new calendar of celebratory events has been created to promote the giving of gifts: Mother's Day, Father's Day; Teacher's Day, Valentine's Day, and so on and on.

2. However, the best-planned gifts of mine and thine go oft awry. How often particularly during so-called 'festive seasons' when gift-giving and gift-receiving reach epidemic proportions - have

you had the embarrassing experience of getting back as a present a gift you yourself had given to someone who, having no use for it and not realising that it was you who had gifted it to begin with, had unwittingly returned your own gift to you? Like musical chairs musical gifts only too often go round and round.

3. This is true not only at the individual but also at the level of states. Diplomatic protocol demands that when they travel abroad on goodwill missions, visiting dignitaries are given official gifts by their hosts, who in turn receive return gifts from their guests. Meant to reflect the culture and traditions of the reciprocating countries, such token presents are more often than not tacky and tasteless. The number of crudely-made miniature Taj Mahals that sarkari India has pressed into the reluctant hands of foreign guests must fill entire godowns across the globe.

4. How much more preferable a living tree than a kitschy model of the Taj, possibly made of marble from an unauthorised quarry? If the giving of tree saplings were to be institutionalised, it could lead to another 'green revolution' in the lucrative and growing field of gift-giving, with a new, eco-friendly industry taking root in plantations and nurseries specially created for the purpose. The people receiving such green gifts wouldn't of course physically be presented with saplings but would be given certificates attesting that trees had been planted on behalf of them in a particular plantation, which the recipients could visit.

5. Next birthday, or anniversary, give someone, you love, a tree. One day the two of you might sit together under its shade. Could any present be nicer than that?

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum 4). Use a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **5**
- b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. **3**

## SECTION B - WRITING

4. As the Cultural Secretary of your school, write a notice informing the students of VI to XI classes about the selections for the annual day programme. Selections will be done by the famous dancer, Vaibhavi Merchant. Sign yourself as Meera Marwah. (Word limit: 50) **4**

OR

You are Vice President Sales Division, Twinkle Star Washing Machines. On the basis of the information given below prepare a suitable publicity advertisement for the print media. (Word limit: 50)

Information: fully automatic, one year free after sales service, fifty percent discount for first 50 buyers, doorstep delivery, bookings online open.

5. You are Jhanvi Kapoor. You are disturbed to see young children working as labourers. You decide to write a letter to the editor of *The Indian Express*, expressing your concern and suggesting ways to stop it. (Word limit: 120-150) **6**

OR

You see the following advertisement in the Delhi Durbar newspaper for the post of an HR at the Swift Helicopter Company. Write an application in response to this advertisement. (Word limit: 120-150)

Applications are invited for the post of HR Manager, Swift Helicopters Company. This is a middle level executive position reporting to the company headquarters at Chennai. The desirable candidate should be around 35, with five years of experience in an executive role. Should be conversant with HR practices and should have carried out a robust appraisal system and productivity linked schemes. Apply with complete particulars, including expected salary, within a week of this advertisement to The General Manager, Swift Helicopters Company, Hawaii Road, Bengaluru.

6. As sports captain of your school, write an article for your school magazine emphasising the need for adventure sports in youngsters' lives. You are Jehan Mehta. (Word limit: 150-200) **10**

OR

As part of the Library Day Week celebrations at your school, a debate was organized on the topic. 'Streamlining of studies into Science, Commerce and Arts streams needs rationalization', Write a debate in 150-200 words in favour of the topic. (Word limit: 150-200)

7. Write a speech on "Developed countries' apathy towards climate change and its consequence". You are Sahil / Sheela, the head boy / girl of New Era Public School, Sector - 26, Noida. (Word limit: 150-200) 10

OR

An environmental group in your city calling themselves Green Abhiyan, have launched a campaign against vendor kiosks outside school premises. As an active member of the group, deliver a speech at the morning assembly to boycott such kiosks and make their premises clean, hygienic and healthy.

### SECTION C - LITERATURE AND NOVEL

8. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow. 4

I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with  
pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes,

- a) What did the poet notice about her mother?  
b) What were her feelings at this stage?  
c) How did she try to take her mind off from her thoughts and what was it that caught her attention?  
d) How does the poet shrug the thought of her mother being old and assume her in youth?

OR

'Unless governor, inspector, visitor  
This map becomes their window and these windows  
That shut upon their lives like catacombs  
Break O break open till they break the town  
And show the children to green fields, and make their world  
Run azure upon gold sands, and set their tongues  
Run naked into books, the white and green leaves open  
History is theirs whose language is the sun.

- a) Who are the people who can change the lives of these children according to the poem?  
b) Why does the poet want the children to be introduced to book knowledge?  
c) What is the significance of the word 'catacombs' in the poem?  
d) What is the mood created by the last line of the poem?

9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 12

- a) What differences were there in the classroom on the last day, when Franz entered the school room?  
b) Describe three aspects of the conditions of living among the Seemapuri ragpickers.  
c) What insensitivities did people express at the sight of Derry and Mr. Lamb?  
d) Describe the looks of the poet's mother at the start and end of the poem. Why does the poet

- compare it to a 'late winter's moon'?
- e) In the story 'The Rattrap' what does the writer mean by disclosing that the old man was 'generous with his confidences'?
- f) What incident led Gandhiji to exclaim: 'The battle for Champaran is won'?

**10. Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words. 6**

Parents, teachers and the society are equally responsible for students' indifference to study and defiance of school discipline. Justify this statement in perspective of Franz's attitude in 'The Last Lesson'. (Word limit: 120-150)

OR

What character qualities do we gather about Douglas and his ability to overcome fear?

**11. Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words. 6**

The story 'The Rattrap' focuses on human loneliness and the human need to bond with others. Elucidate. (Word limit: 120-150)

OR

What does the approach to the ending of the story about Roger Skunk tell you about Jo and her father?

**12. Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words. 12**

- a) Compare Silas Marner's love of his money with his religious faith. What had made it so contrasting?
- b) "He had not measured his wife with whom he had lived so long." Reflecting upon his thinking, give a pen portrait of Godfrey in the light of this statement. (Word limit: 120-150)

OR

- a) The *Invisible Man* expresses the need to share the knowledge gained with fellow beings, only then can the human development be possible. Prove the idea by referring to Griffin's decline due to his misusing his knowledge. (Word limit: 120-150)
- b) 'Unbridled ambition' can drive a man to the brink of disaster and make him lose his reasoning. How is Griffin a manifestation of this statement? (Word limit: 120-150)