

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

AMRITA II PRE BOARD EXAMINATION - 2017 - '18

Class : X

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

ENGLISH

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:-

1. This question paper is divided into three sections.
Section A - Reading 20 marks
Section B - Writing and Grammar 30 marks
Section C - Literature 30 marks
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. You may attempt any section at a time.
4. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

One of the greatest advances in modern technology has been the invention of computers. They are widely used in industries and in universities. Now there is hardly any sphere of human life where computers have not been pressed into the service of man. We are heading fast towards the day when a computer will be as much part of man's daily life as a telephone or a calculator.

Computers are capable of doing extremely complicated work in all branches of learning. They can solve the most complex mathematical problems or put thousands of unrelated facts in order. These machines can be put to varied uses. For instance, they can provide information in the best way to prevent traffic jams. This whole process by which machines can be used to work for us has been called 'automation'. It may enable human beings to enjoy more leisure than they do today. The coming of automation is bound to have important social consequences.

Some years ago an expert on automation, Sir Leon Bagrit, pointed out that it was a mistake to believe that these machines could 'think'. There is no possibility that human beings will be 'controlled by machines'. Though computers are capable of learning from their mistakes and improving on their performance, they need detailed instructions from human beings to operate. They can never, as it were, lead independent lives or 'rule the world' by making decisions of their own.

Sir Leon said that in future, computers would be developed which would be small enough to carry in the pocket. Ordinary people then would be able to use them to obtain valuable information. Computers could be plugged into a national network and be used like radios. For instance, people going on a holiday could be informed about weather conditions. Car drivers can be given alternative routes when there are traffic jams. It will also be possible to make tiny translating machines. This will enable people who do not share a common language to talk to each other without any difficulty or to read foreign publications.

On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer any eight of the following questions briefly.

- a) What is the greatest advancement in modern technology?
- b) What complicated works are computers capable of doing?
- c) Write one use of computers.

- d) Explain automation.
- e) Why can't computers lead independent lives or rule the world?
- f) How would computers as translating machines help people?
- g) What was the prediction of Sir Leon about the computers in future?
- h) How can computers help people going on holiday?
- i) Find a word in para 2 which means the same as 'results'.

2. Read the passage carefully.

1. One would imagine that at the very sight of the panther, deer, antelopes and its other preys would just run for their lives. Nothing of the sort. They all stand their ground and make such a loud noise that the panther is left with no other choice except to leave quietly. I have seen a tiny chital baby standing in the middle of an opening in the forest, stamping its feet on the ground and shooing away a tiger. With the white of its erect tail showing, it kept up its shrill call until the tiger made itself disappear. No tiger in its senses would attempt to catch such an impertinent brat, just as you would not dream of catching an offending crow cawing away in your verandah.

2. While the panther sticks to cover and hugs the edge of the forest, the game animals on the other hand, like to assemble right out in open vast grazing grounds. Open spaces which the panther carefully avoids, are what the game animals deliberately seek.

3. It is difficult to describe the pandemonium kicked up by various animals when they spot or suspect a panther around. The chital strikes a shrill note, the kakaremits a deafening bark and the sambar rings a bell. The peacock on its perch, the jungle fowl on the ground, and the monkey on treetops, all join in the chorus of condemnation of the panther. They curse the panther in their own inimitable language. The resulting confusion of sounds is so irritating to the sharp ears of the panther that it is left with no other option except to go away.

4. The panther has thus to deal with its ever alert and watchful associates who show no mercy and expect none. It is a fight between finesse and flight, between clever attack and skillful defense.

5. Contrary to the common belief, the panther never springs upon its prey. It stalks as close to its victim as it can manage, and then makes the final dash by rushing at it at a lightning speed.

2.1. Answer any four of the following questions.

8

- a) What strategy do animals like deer, antelopes, etc. adopt to drive away the panther?
- b) How do the panther and the game animals react to open spaces?
- c) What effect does the loud noise made by birds and animals have on the panther?
- d) How does the panther kill its prey?
- e) How did the chital drive away a panther?

2.2. Fill in any two of the following blanks with appropriate words / phrases.

2

- a) The noise made by the deer, antelopes etc compelled the panther _____.
- b) The game animals assemble in _____.
- c) The panther has to deal with _____ associates.

2.3. Attempt any two of the following. Find out the words that mean the same as under.

2

- a) high [para 1]
- b) intentionally [para 2]
- c) disapproval [para 3]

SECTION B - WRITING AND GRAMMAR

3. Our metropolitan cities witness a large number of accidents everyday. What do you think is the reason? What can be done to bring down the rate of accidents? Write a letter in 100-120 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your concerns and offering solutions to this problem.

You are Varun / Veena 205, North Block, Delhi.

8

OR

There has been a drastic change in the climate of earth in the last few decades. Earth is becoming

hotter which will have severe consequences in future. As a concerned citizen, you decide to organize camps to make the villagers aware of the protection of environment. Taking ideas from the unit 'Environment' along with your own ideas, write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, in about 120 words, expressing your concern and encouraging youngsters to take part in such campaigns.

4. **Write a short story in about 200-250 words with any one set of the cues given below. Give a suitable title to the story.** 10

At the start of the journey eight people in the boat number now reduced to six the storm

OR

There was a young girl who wished to see the world. She wanted to observe new things. She told her mother about her wish. Her mother promised that they would go to a hill station. Next Sunday they set out their journey. On their way

5. **Read the paragraph given below. Fill in any four of the blanks by choosing the most appropriate words / phrases from the given options.** 4

When wet waste is mixed a) _____ dry waste, it is called garbage. For zero garbage, the two b) _____ be kept separate. Dry waste can be recycled. Wet waste can be c) _____ into compost and used d) _____ gardening in place of fertilizer. To make compost e) _____ home, you need a bin.

- a) in on into with
 b) could would should shall
 c) make turned mixed stirred
 d) from into in for
 e) in from about at

6. **In the following passage one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word, in any four sentences of the given paragraph, along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in the space provided.** 4

	Before	Missing	After
Alfred Nobel a clear view of what	e.g. Nobel	had	a
was happening international politics during	a) _____	_____	_____
the second half the 19 th century. His own	b) _____	_____	_____
activity, as industrialist, was to the	c) _____	_____	_____
utmost degree international it was	d) _____	_____	_____
vitaly necessary for him follow this	e) _____	_____	_____
development carefully.			

7. **Rearrange any four of the following jumbled words / phrases to make meaningful sentences.** 4

- a) communication / not matter / was slow / it did / between different / when the / world / the / parts
 b) for a / our times / feel / the need / people / in / language / but / common
 c) languages / experiments / which emerge / are languages / artificial / in / humans / with
 d) confidence / they reflect / the / in ourselves / we have
 e) we / from books / knowledge / theoretical knowledge / the / get / is / mere

SECTION C - LITERATURE

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

“Nothing beside reminds. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away”.

- a) Identify the poem from which these lines are taken.
- b) What do these lines describe?
- c) Identify the poetic device used in the last line of this extract.
- d) What is the rhyme scheme used in these lines?

OR

“Cowards die many times before their deaths,
The valiant never taste of death but once”.

- a) Who is the speaker?
- b) Who is the listener?
- c) Explain the given lines.
- d) The word ‘valiant’ means _____.

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

8

- a) Why was Ali leading a cheerless existence?
- b) Why did the narrator allow the snake to quench his thirst first?
- c) How was Sebastian Shultz rescued from ‘war- zone’?
- d) Who was Mr. Pakrashi? How did his words help Patol Babu in enacting his role?
- e) How did ‘The Writers Inspiration Bureau’ function?

10. Attempt any one of the following long answer type questions in 100-120 words.

8

Mark Antony, with the help of his oratory skills, succeeded in winning the mob over to his side. This led to the downfall of the conspirators. Write in 100 -200 words, how with the power of words he could effect a change in his listeners.

OR

Imagine you are Lucia. You have been told by the nurse in the hospital that you have completely recovered from your illness and you can go home tomorrow. You are very happy and thankful to your brothers. Write a diary entry in about 150 words, expressing your gratitude to your brothers and mentioning your future plans. Also mention the value and feeling of love towards your brothers.

11. Answer the following question based on prescribed novel text for extended reading in about 200-250 words.

10

The Diary of a Young Girl

Anne Frank’s growing years were not normal. Elaborate.

OR

Give a brief character sketch of Mr. Otto Frank.

OR

The Story of My Life

Describe Helen Keller’s experiences at Radcliffe. What difficulties did she face there?

OR

In the life of Helen Keller, Ms. Anne Sullivan acts as an inspiration behind her extraordinary life. Justify with suitable instances from the text.