

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

AMRITA PRE BOARD EXAMINATION 1 - 2018 - '19

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.*
4. *Write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.*

SECTION A - READING

1. **Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below.**

1. South India is known for its music and for its arts and rich literature. Madras or Chennai can be called the cultural capital and the soul of Mother India. The city is built low in pleasant contrast to the ghoulish tall structures of Mumbai and Kolkata. It has vast open spaces and ample greenery. The majestic spacious Mount Road looks like a river, wide and deep. A stroll on the Marina beach in the evening with the sea glistening on your face is refreshing. The breeze soothes the body, it refreshes the mind, sharpens the tongue and brightens the intellect.

2. One can never feel dull in Chennai. The intellectual and the cultural life of the city is something of a marvel. Every street corner of Chennai has a literary forum, a debating society and music, dance and dramatic club. The intelligent arguments, the sparkling wit and dashing irony enliven both the political and the literary meetings. There is a young men's association which attracts brilliant speakers and equally brilliant listeners to its meetings. It is a treat to watch the speakers use their oratorical weapons. Chennai speakers are by and large sweet and urbane, though the cantankerous, fire-eating variety is quite often witnessed in political campaigning. The more urbane speakers weave their arguments slowly like the unfolding of a leisurely Karnataka raga.

3. Music concerts and dance performances draw packed houses. There is hardly any cultural family in Chennai that does not learn and patronize music and dance in its pristine purity. Rukmani Devi Arundale's 'Kalakshetra' is a renowned international centre. It has turned out hundreds of celebrated maestros and dancers who have brought name and glory to our country. Karnataka has a peculiar charm of its own. It has the moon's soft beauty and moon's soft pace. Thousands of people flock to the temple 'maidans' to get drunk with the mellifluous melodies of their favourite singers. They sit out all night in the grueling heat, swaying to the rhythm of 'nadaswaram' and rollicking with the measured beats of 'mridangam'. M.S Subbulakshmi is considered to be the nightingale of the South.

4. The Gods might descend from heaven to see a South Indian damsel dancing. There are several varieties of South Indian dance-Bharat Natyam, Mohini Attam, Odissi, Kathakali etc. Age cannot wither nor custom stale its beautiful variety. Bharat Natyam is the most graceful and enchanting dance form whereas Kathakali is the most masculine and virile. South Indian dances combine voluptuousness with purity. Here every muscle and fibre of the body vibrates into life, and as the tempo increases, a divine flame-like passion bodies forth as if making an assault on heaven.

5. South Indian dress, particularly of the males, is puritanically simple. There you cannot distinguish a judge from an 'ardali' by their dress. South Indian ladies too look charming and graceful in their colourful Kanjeevaram and Mysore silk sarees.

6. South Indian cuisine, especially 'dosa', 'idli' and 'vada' are so delicious that now we can enjoy them every where in India as well as in some foreign countries. The Madras 'idli', which was a favourite of Gandhiji is served with 'sambar' and coconut 'chutney'.

1.1. Answer each of the questions below by choosing the most appropriate option. 5

- a) South India is known mainly for its _____.
(i) tasty food (ii) traditional music, art and literature
(iii) scenic beauty (iv) delicate and precise ways
- b) A stroll on the Marina beach is _____.
(i) majestic (ii) refreshing (iii) soothing (iv) pleasant
- c) Every street corner of Chennai has a _____.
(i) literary forum (ii) club (iii) kalakshetra (iv) maidans
- d) Bharat Natyam is the most _____ form of dance.
(i) masculine and virile (ii) beautiful (iii) graceful and enchanting (iv) modern
- e) The _____ was a favourite of Gandhiji.
(i) dosa (ii) vada (iii) coffee (iv) idli

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly. 6

- a) How does the breeze on Marina beach affect the author?
b) What is the common connection between language, music and dance of South India?
c) What enlivens the political and literary meetings?
d) What makes Karnataka music charming?
e) What is Kalakshetra renowned for?
f) Which delicious South Indian cuisines can be enjoyed by people everywhere in India?

1.3. Answer any three of the following questions in 25-30 words. 6

- a) How do we know that music is very important for the people of South India?
b) Describe the Chennai speakers.
c) Write two sentences about South Indian dances.
d) How do men and women look in their South Indian attire?

1.4. Pick out the words / phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following. 3

- a) ill-tempered and quarrelsome (para 2) b) smooth and sweet (para 3)
c) powerfully pleasing or appealing (para 4)

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below.

1. We live in a world dictated by competition, goals and deadlines and, as a result, are constantly working under pressure. This scenario is neatly mirrored in Indian schools today. Children have a lot to manage these days. Besides schools and tuitions, they have homework, tests to prepare for and a lot of extra research for projects. To add to this chaos, they are forced to do extra-curricular activities and, to top it all, we expect our children to excel in all these activities. Indeed, the education system does put immense pressure on children, and so do their parents.

2. Perhaps it is stating the obvious that there are certain academic expectations all students should aim to meet. After all, education and activities that contribute to the overall development of the child ought to be given priority. Thus, parents need to teach their children to manage their time successfully to meet these expectations. However, they should not make the situation worse by adding to the pressure. It is important for parents not to expect too much from the child.

Moreover, while parents must ensure that the child meets his or her academic goals, as far as extra-curricular activities are concerned, the children do have a choice. Parents must allow their child to pursue what he or she is interested in rather than go by what other children are doing and force their own child to do several things at a time.

3. In order to teach children how to manage their time well, parents must supervise children and see to it that they follow a timetable. They can act as helping hands when the pressure becomes too much in terms of giving practical help in finishing projects or assignments.

4. Of course, schools can also play their part to ensure that children are not unfairly pressurized,

but are still competent to meet demands placed on them. Teachers must model time discipline. The school diary can play a very important role. The good old system of the school diary acts as communication between the teacher and the parents. Children can be trained to use this daily and record all important dates. In order to make time management techniques work, they have to become habits.

5. It is important to form a 'basic sketch' of how you spend your day. You should roughly mark out school, class and tuition timings, personal studies and leisure hours. This will act as a guide to how you will plan each individual day.

6. Use a dated diary or planner to mark out tests and submission dates and the daily list of things to do. One glance at these pages should give you an overview of all tasks that you have to complete on a particular day. It will also serve as a reminder for upcoming tests and submissions and help you to prepare in advance for tests to avoid last-minute hassels.

- 2.1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **5**
- 2.2. Write a summary of the passage in about 100 words. **5**

SECTION B - WRITING

3. Recent rains have caused havoc in some parts of our country. You are Deepti / Deepak, a member of the social service organisation, SEVA MANDIR, Ahmedabad. Draft a poster requesting people to help the rain and flood afflicted families physically and economically. **4**

OR

Suppose you are a member of a blood bank society. You have been asked by the President of the society to organize a blood donation camp. Write a notice in 50 words urging people to come in large numbers for this noble cause. Mention the date, time and venue.

4. Write a letter to the Editor, The Hindu, Chennai, about rash and reckless driving by the people in your city, suggesting preventive measures. You are Gagan / Gita of 10, Mount Road, Erode. (100-125 words) **6**

OR

The drinking water supplied to your locality Anand Colony, Hyderabad has a dirty colour and foul smell. As secretary of the Residents Welfare Association, write a letter to the Chief Engineer, Water Authority, Hyderabad complaining about the problem and requesting him to take necessary action at the earliest.

5. 'Rising prices can be controlled only by the government'. Write a debate either for or against the motion. (150-200 words) **10**

OR

Write a speech on the topic, 'Library plays an important role at school'. It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Anita / Anil, Headgirl / Headboy.

6. India is a tourist's dream destination. Give your views on the tourism potential of India in an article. You are Naveen / Nithya. (150-200 words) **10**

OR

You are Vipul / Veena of Global Public School, Pune. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 150-200 words.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. **Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly.** **4**

"Perhaps the Earth can teach us
As when everything seems dead
And later proves to be alive
Now I will count upto twelve

And you keep quiet and I will go.”

- a) Name the poem and the poet of the above stanza.
- b) What does the earth teach us?
- c) What does the poet mean to achieve by counting upto twelve?
- d) What is the significance of keeping quiet?

OR

When aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeal she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- a) What will happen to aunt’s tigers when she is dead?
- b) Who is the aunt mentioned here?
- c) How do the tigers symbolize her inner longing?
- d) What is the difference between her and the tigers?

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

12

- a) Why did Jansie discourage Sophie from entertaining thoughts about the sports-star, Danney Casey?
- b) Why was Gandhi opposed to the idea of enlisting the assistance of Charles Freer Andrews even though he was a devoted follower?
- c) Why is ‘grandeur’ associated with the mighty dead?
- d) What kind of person was Evans? What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examinations?
- e) What comic incident did Bama narrate to her brother? Why was he not amused?
- f) How did Skunk’s mother get his old smell back?

9. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-125 words.

6

- a) The life of bangle makers of Firozabad was full of obstacles which forced them to lead a life of poverty and deprivation. Discuss with reference to ‘Lost Spring’.
- b) There is a saying, ‘Kindness pays, rudeness never’. ‘The Rat trap’ Edla’s attitude towards men and matters is different from her father’s attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, ‘The Rat trap’?
- c) Both Derry and Lamb are victims of physical impairment but much more painful for them is the feeling of loneliness. Comment.

10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.

6

- a) Why did Jo feel that the Skunk’s mommy was stupid?
- b) What conflicting ideas arise in Dr. Sadao’s mind after he has brought the wounded American soldier home? How is the conflict resolved?
- c) How did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his kingdom? How was he able to avert the danger?

11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.

6

- a) Why did Kemp turn out differently than Griffin? After all they both are scientists. Is Kemp less isolated than Griffin? Is it simply because Kemp has more money?
- b) Marvel is the only character in ‘The Invisible Man’ who interacts with Griffin and gains something. Comment.
- c) How are the weavers treated differently from the farmers by the locals of Raveloe?
- d) How do William Dane’s deceit and Sarah’s desertion affect Silas?

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.

6

- a) Write a note on Mrs. Hall.
- b) Illustrate the ending of the novel. Is the Invisible Man happy and just? What is your reaction when Griffins gets killed and Marvel gets to keep all the stolen money? Are you glad that the invisibility formula is hidden from Kemp?
- c) Describe how Silas Marner is betrayed by his friend, William Dane.
- d) What is the significance of Gold in the novel, ‘Silas Marner’?