

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

FIRST TERMINAL EXAMINATION 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.*
2. *All the sections are compulsory.*
3. *Read the instructions given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.*
4. *Write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.*
5. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.*

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the passage given below.

1. Our ancient sages and forefathers had taught us the importance of three qualities as essential requisites to preserve our culture eternally. They relate to our intellectual, emotional and physical aspects involving moment to moment transitions. These are fearlessness, non-attachment and non-violence.

2. The most important among the three is fearlessness. Whenever our culture or our values are threatened, we should have the courage to stand against the inimical forces. The conflict between true and untrue, or right or wrong, is a phenomenon that has baffled people right from the beginning of creation. Many times, we feel that wickedness is over-running righteousness. But we should realise that this is temporary. Ultimately, truth alone will win. This is the law of nature. The main weapon for the victory of Dharma (righteousness) is fearlessness. This is essentially a state of mind.

3. To develop fearlessness, we have to shed our ego that often mists our mind and intellect. First of all, we must develop a firm conviction in the principles and beliefs, we value. We should then remain steady to sacrifice everything that we hold dear to us. Some people merely sacrifice their possessions, that too mainly for the sake of name and fame. That is not true sacrifice. Giving up one's ego with a spirit of surrender or submission to the unseen power of Almighty to attain fearlessness is what can be called a true sacrifice. We understand submission as mere obedience to our superiors or others in authority, forgetting our basic responsibility that we should resist any attempt from any quarters to impose wrong practices and unrighteous acts.

4. Fearlessness can be attained only if another equally important quality like non-attachment can be cultivated. This calls for discrimination (viveka). The ability to distinguish between the permanent and the temporary is called viveka. But this value comes only when we seek for higher levels of knowledge to attain wisdom, which is different from the skills or techniques or literary proficiency.

5. Supplementing both these qualities of fearlessness and non-attachment is the ability to remain non-violent under all circumstances. Non-violence is not limited to the physical body. One should practise non-violence in speech and thought too. It calls for immense will-power. Jains, as a community led by their monks, have shown clearly the path of non-violence in day-to-day life.

When we combine fearlessness and non-attachment with non-violence, we unleash forces which can bring down even powerful armies and mighty empires. Take the case of the United States of America which had a fearless leader like Abraham Lincoln, who galvanised the urges of the people against slavery for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi inspired us for freedom from foreign rule by inspiring us through fearlessness, non-attachment and non-violence.

6. However, epics teach us that it is impossible to correct men like Duryodhana. In such cases, use of force is not only necessary, but it also becomes mandatory. The physical punishments parents mete out to their children for a positive purpose also cannot be considered as violence as long as no love is lost in the relationship.

1.1. Answer the following questions briefly.

- a) What are the three essential requisites, according to the passage, to preserve our culture eternally? Of these, which is the most important? **1**
- b) What is fearlessness an important weapon against? How? **2**
- c) How can fearlessness be cultivated in a person? **2**
- d) What is non-violence? Is violence always wrong? Explain. **2**
- e) How does the combination of the three requisites described in the passage help preserve our culture? **2**

1.2. Find words in the passage which mean the same as. **3**

- a) a thing which is needed for a purpose. (para 1)
- b) that can be normally justified. (para 2)
- c) to release something powerful. (para5)

2. Read the passage given below.

1. Every morning Ravi gives his brain an extra boost. We're not talking about drinking strong cups of coffee or playing one of those mind-training video games advertised all over Facebook. "I Jump onto my stationary bike and cycle for 45 minutes to work", says Ravi. "When I get to my desk, my brain is at peak activity for a few hours." After his mental focus comes to a halt later in the day, he starts it with another short spell of cycling to be able to run errands.

2. Ride, work, ride, repeat. It's a scientifically proven system that describes some unexpected benefits of cycling. In a recent study in the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research, scientists found that people scored higher on tests of memory, reasoning and planning after 30 minutes of spinning on a stationary bike than they did before when they rode the bike. They also completed the tests faster after pedalling.

3. Exercise is like fertilizer for your brain. All those hours spent on exercising your muscles, create rich capillary beds not only in leg and hip muscles, but also in your brain. More blood vessels in your brain and muscles mean more oxygen and nutrients to help them work. When you pedal, you also force more nerve cells to fire. The result: you double or triple the production of these cells- literally building your brain. You also release neurotransmitters (the messengers between your brain cells) so all those cells, new and old, can communicate with each other for better, faster functioning. That's a pretty profound benefit to cyclists.

4. This kind of growth is especially important with each passing birthday, because as we age, our brains shrink and those connections weaken. Exercise restores and protects the brain cells. Neuro scientists say, "Adults who exercise display sharper memory skills, higher concentration levels, more fluid thinking and greater problem solving ability than those who are sedentary".

5. Cycling also elevates your mood, relieves anxiety, increases stress resistance, and even banishes the blues. "Exercise works in the same way as psycho therapy and anti depressants in the treatment of depression, may be even better," says Dr. Manjari. A recent study analyzing 26 years of research finds that even some exercise as little as 20 -30 minutes a day can prevent depression over the long term.

6. Remember, although it is healthy, exercise itself is a stress, especially when you are just getting started or getting back into riding. When you first begin to exert yourself, your body releases a particular hormone to raise your heart rate, blood pressure, and glucose levels, says Meher Ahaluwalia, PhD, a professor of Integrative Physiology. As you get fitter, it takes a longer, harder ride to trigger that same response.

2.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, complete the statements given below with the help of options that follow. 2

- a) Ravi gets his brain to work at peak level by _____.
- (i) drinking 3 cups of coffee (ii) playing games that need brain activity
(iii) cycling on a stationary bike (iv) taking tablets to pump up his brain
- b) When nerve cells work during exercise then _____.
- (i) the body experiences stress (ii) the brain is strengthened by multiplying them
(iii) you start to lose your temper (iv) your stationary cycle starts to beep

2.3. Answer the following questions briefly. 6

- a) How does exercise help the brain?
b) Why does Ravi do a circuit of ‘ride, work, ride’?
c) What is the work of neurotransmitters?
d) What benefits other than greater brain activity does one get from cycling?
e) Why is exercise so important for adults?
f) How is exercise itself a stress?

2.4. Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following. 2

- a) manure (para 3) b) inactive (para 4)

3. Read the passage given below.

1. It seems that there is never enough time in the day. But, since we all get the same 24 hours, why is it that some people achieve so much more with their time than others? The answer lies in good management. ‘Time management refers to the way that you organize and plan how long you spend on specific activities. Good time management requires an important shift in focus from activities to results: being busy isn’t the same as being effective (ironically, the opposite is often closer to the truth). Spending your day in a frenzy of activity often achieves less, because you are dividing your attention between so many different tasks. Good time management lets you work smarter- not harder, so you get more done in less time.

2. It may seem counterintuitive to dedicate precious time to learn about time management, instead of using it to get on with your work, but the benefits are enormous. It proves productivity and efficiency. Your reputation as a professional grows. The stress levels dip and a world of opportunities open up for you. Your career advances and important goals are reached.

3. Failing to manage your time effectively can have some undesirable consequences. Deadlines are missed and the work flow is not only efficient but of poor quality. It dents your reputation as a professional and your career is in danger of being stalled. As a result, your stress level shoots up.

4. Every day interruptions at work can be a key barrier to manage your time effectively and ultimately, can be a barrier to your success. Think back to your last work day and consider for a minute the many interruptions that occurred. There have been phone calls, e-mails, hall way conversations, colleagues stopping by your office or anything else that unexpectedly demanding

your attention and, in doing so, distracted you from the task at hand. Because your day only has so many hours in it, a handful of small interruptions can rob you off the time you need to achieve your goals and be successful in your work and life. More than this, they can break your focus, meaning that you have to spend time re- engaging with the thought processes needed to successfully complete complex work. The key to control interruptions is to know what they are and whether they are necessary and to plan for them in your daily schedule.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **5**
- b) Write a summary of the above in 80 words using the notes. **3**

SECTION B - WRITING

4. You are asked to prepare a poster on behalf of National Health Ministry encouraging people to participate in World Yoga Day (21st June) to turn it into a huge success. Draft it. **4**

OR

Write a notice in about 50-60 words informing all about a session by an eminent psychologist on 'Study Skills'. You are Anil / Amita, Cultural in charge of Arya School, Janakpuri (50-60 words)

5. You are Reena / Rajesh Arora. You have read an advertisement for the post of English Teacher given by Amrita Public School, Meerut. Write an application to apply for the post. Also give your detailed bio-data separately. **6**

OR

You are Asha / Ajay, the proprietor of an electronics goods shops in Daurala. You have received a quotation for supply of electronics goods from a wholesale dealer M/S Gupta and Sons, Daryaganj, Delhi. Place an order for the items with this dealer. Invent the necessary details. (120-150 words)

6. Places of pilgrimage have turned more into tourists spots. They are losing their importance and grace, thereby disturbing the nature too. You are Swati / Sandeep. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'Maintain the Grace of Pilgrimages'. **10**

OR

Peer pressure is useful for development. If there is no peer pressure at all, then there would be no goal or aim to succeed. Write a debate in favour of the motion - 'Peer Pressure is more beneficial than Not' in not more than 200 words.

7. Heavy rain which lashed Kerala recently caused huge destruction to lives and properties. As a staff reporter for the 'The Hindustan Times', write a report covering the havoc in about 150-200 words. **10**

OR

You have to speak in the morning assembly on 'Why regularity in studies throughout the year spells success?' Draft your speech in 150-200 words. You are Sanjay / Sanjana.

SECTION C - LITERATURE AND NOVEL

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

..... and clear rills

That for themselves a cooling covert make

'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with the sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

- a) Identify the poem and the poet.
- b) What is the role of the clear rills?
- c) How has the mid forest break become rich?
- d) Name the figure of speech in 'cooling covert'?

OR

The stunted, unlucky heir
Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,
His lesson, from his desk. At back of the dim class
One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream,
Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.

- a) Who is the 'unlucky heir' and what has he inherited?
- b) What is the stunted boy reciting?
- c) Who is sitting at the back of the dim class?
- d) What is he doing?

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

- a) Through the years, rag picking has acquired the 'proportions of a fine art' in Seemapuri. Justify the statement.
- b) What did Gandhiji do to remove the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages?
- c) Does Sophie have means to fulfill her dreams? Why does Jansie say, "Soaf, you really should be sensible"?
- d) What did Sadao do to help Tom to escape to freedom?
- e) How was at one time the Maharaja in danger of losing his throne?
- f) According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from nature?

10. Answer the following in 120-150 words. 6

At the end of the story telling session, why does Jack consider himself 'caught in an ugly middle position'?

OR

How does Mr. Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life?

11. Answer the following in 120-150 words. 6

Fear is something that we must learn to overcome if we want to succeed I life. How did Douglas get over his fear of water?

OR

Describe how the story, 'The Rattrap' shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love.

12. Answer the following in 120-150 words. 6

Attempt the character sketch of Mr. Griffin.

OR

Attempt the character sketch of Mrs. Hall.

13. Answer the following in 120-150 words. 6

Describe the strange man's arrival in 'Coaches and Horses' and the impression he leaves on Mrs. Hall and Millie.

OR

Describe the burglary that is committed at the vicarage. What light does it throw on the character of 'The Invisible Man', Griffin.