CBSE Class 12 English Elective 2004 - Set 28/1

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours **Maximum Marks: 100**

General Instructions

(i) This question paper contains 12 questions.

(ii) Answer all questions, except where an internal choice is given.

(iii) Answers should be to the point. Follow the word limit specified with each question.

Questions

1(a). Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

A recent writer on Japan flings out at the gentlemen from Oxford, Cambridge, and Harvard, stuffing The Waste Land into students who at the end of it all cannot direct a lost tourist to a hotel two blocks away. He confesses to "an angry desire to hurl rocks through the ivory towers of the pedagogues, from Oxford and Cambridge especially, who could, surely, have used their influence a bit more in the direction of giving the brain-racked Japanese student a better English-language deal."

1(a)(i). Why does the writer on Japan express his anger at the gentlemen from Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard?

1(a)(ii). What is his 'angry desire'?

1(a)(iii). What does he mean by "better English-language deal"?

OR

1(a). Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

We have seen how, since the liberation of human thought in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a comparatively few curious and intelligent men, chiefly in western Europe, have produced a vision of the world and a body of science that is now on the material side, revolutionising life. Mostly these men have worked against great discouragement with insufficient funds and small help or support from the mass of mankind.

1(a)(i). What did some intelligent men who were eager to know discover?

1(a)(ii). What effect did their work produce on human life?

1(a)(iii). In what conditions did they work?

1(b). Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

When young bees fly out for the first time, they make short flights. These flights are not to test their wings but to get to know the country. The bees fly a yard or two, circle around, and then fly on. Each flight is longer than the one before. At last they know all the landmarks around the hive. They find their way home because they have flown over the country and seen it.

1(b)(i). Why do the bees make short flights when they fly for the first time?

1(b)(ii). How do they proceed with their flights?

1(b)(iii). What advantage do they derive from these exercises?

OR

1(b). Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

The only advice, indeed, that one person can give another about reading is to take no advice, to follow your own instincts, to use your own reason, to come to your own conclusions. If this is agreed between us, then I feel at liberty to put forward a few ideas and suggestions because you will not allow them to fetter that independence which is the most important quality that a reader can possess.

1(b)(i). What advice, according to the author, can a person give to another about reading?

1(b)(ii). Why does, then, she give certain suggestions and ideas?

1(b)(iii). What is the most important quality that a reader can possess?

2(a). Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

Why did some people tremble to think of the abolition of the half-time system in the factories?

OR

2(a). Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

Amrita Sher Gill was a great admirer of Dostoevsky. Why did she prefer him to Tolstoy? Which of his characteristics influenced her attitude the most?

2(b). Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

What are agricultural chemicals? How do they pollute our water ways?

OR

2(b). Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

What are the things which, according to E. V. Lucas, should never be given as presents? Why? Explain.

3(a). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

What purpose is served by the letters to the editors printed in the newspapers?

OR

3(a). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

"Even the best technicians should also be good citizens." Who, according to the author, is a good citizen in this context?

3(b). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

How do earthquakes take place?

OR

3(b). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

Books on success "are much more wild than the wildest romances of chivalry and much more dull than the religious tract". Why does the writer feel so?

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Although popularly known as averse to the company of women, how did Farmer Boldwood passionately fall in love with Bathsheba?

OR

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Who was Fanny Robin? How did she meet her tragic end?

5(a). Answer the following questions in about 30 words each:

Gabriel is so straightforward and simple as to be tactless. Do you agree?

5(b). Answer the following questions in about 30 words each:

How did the news of the drowning of Troy reach Bathsheba although he was alive?

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

What impression do you get of Charles Elmitt from the reading of the play "'The Old Bull"? Does he get, in the end, what he deserves?

OR

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Bring out the contrast in the personality of Mrs. Annie Pearson before and after meeting with Mrs. Fitzgerald.

7(a). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

"Why should the man have the lives of fifty in his hand?" What attitude of Diego Garcia is reflected through these words?

7(b). Answer the following questions in about 60 words each:

In what different ways does the Bishop help the Convict? How does this affect the Convict in the end?

8(a). Do as directed:

(i) The secretary is sitting on the dais. She was elected last week. (Rewrite using a non-finite clause as post modifier)

(ii) She was looking for a stamp and found one in his wallet. (Identify phrasal verb)

(iii) The tiger was in danger of becoming extinct. (Identify 'head' and 'modifier')

(iv) They rang the bell. (Rewrite using 'rang' as intransitive verb)

(v) He reached there in time. (Change to interrogative clause)

8(b)(i). Do as directed:

Break the following words into separate syllables by putting a dot or slash (. /) after each syllable:

expensive; eradicate; prosperous; syllable

8(b)(ii). Do as directed:

Mark the 'stress' on the following words:

esert (as noun); desert (as verb); attractive; electricity

8(b)(iii). Do as directed:

Which tone is used if the statement is not complete and is followed by another tone group? Give an example.

9. Read the passage given below and answer in your own language the questions that follow:

Prayer is a man's way of conversing with God. It is a recognition that there is some power greater and higher than ourselves which comes to our aid when most needed. Prayer has universally been recognized as the greatest instrument that human beings have for deliverance. Praying individually or collectively from the core of one's heart is bound to produce the desired results. It is an effective means of establishing contact between one's inner being and the forces of existence.

If prayers are not efficacious the reasons may be many. In today's busy world, not many people find the time to pray. Even those who do pray are in a terrible hurry. Naturally then, the heart and mind are often disconnected from the words of prayer which are uttered just as a matter of routine. Instead of having a heart-to-heart talk with the Supreme Being, we end up merely reciting. So prayer tends to, become merely a superficial and mechanical task that is not particularly pleasing. Unsurprisingly, one often prays grudgingly.

9. (continued)

Man seeks to have this special communication with God in order to seek his blessings. The common man yearns for fulfilment of his desires. The troubled mind turns for refuge and protection when faced with challenges as poverty, ignominy, illness, pain etc. A spiritually inclined person takes to prayer due to pure love and devotion to gain moral confidence and finally to offer thanksgiving even for the little things of life and for all that is bestowed on us. A true devotee prays surrendering his life to the ultimate rescuing power expecting nothing in return.

Prayer can be in any form. It can be physical in the form of elaborate ceremonies; it can be verbal which involves recitation of holy verses according to the religious precepts one follows. It can just be the recitation of divine name. It can be silent; it can be recited or read aloud. It can be personal, unpremeditated, and informal. It can be performed in one's prayer room or with the group in the common place. It can be done in any posture - kneeling, standing or sitting. "Pray wherever you are, in whatever way you like," is rightly said. The only prerequisite is cleansing of one's mind and heart of all negative thoughts, ill feelings and sins. One should have a sense of service for his fellow beings and strong faith in the Supreme being. In short one's heart should be pure. What is uttered from the bottom of the heart is all that matters. Prayer should never be made a matter of public show.

9. (continued)

Prayer purifies the mind and cleanses the soul. It quietens the wandering mind, reduces desires and makes one free from tensions and stress restoring physical health. It helps a person to become detached to view pleasures and pains with equanimity. It eliminates fear, develops love for all creatures. Most important it helps one to merge with its source, its life-energy and attain the state of perfect peace and bliss.

9(i). State the reasons why prayer sometimes does not seem to produce the desired results.

9(ii). In what way does the prayer of a spiritually-inclined person differ from that of a common man?

9(iii). What does a person with the troubled mind pray for?

9(iv). What is the essential requirement for offering a prayer?

9(v). Mention any two advantages of offering a prayer.

10. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

Should Disappointment, parent of Despair,
Strive for her son to seize my careless heart
When like a cloud, he sits upon the air,
Preparing on his spell-bound prey to dart :
Chase him away, sweet Hope, with visage bright,
And fright him, as the morning frightens night!

Whene'er the fate of those I hold most dear
Tells to my fearful breast a tale of sorrow,
O bright-eyed Hope, my morbid fancy cheer,
Let me a while thy sweetest comforts borrow :
Thy heaven-born radiance around me shed,
And wave thy silver pinions o'er my head!

10(i). Why has Despair been named as the son of Disappointment?

10(ii). What has Disappointment been compared to in the stanza?

10(iii). How does the poet pray to sweet Hope to deal with Disappointment?

10(iv). Explain the expression : 'my morbid fancy cheer'.

10(v). Pick out the phrases used to describe Hope in the second stanza.

11. An eight year old girl came under the rear wheel of the school bus. Write a report in about 100 -125 words giving the details of the accident, its cause, the nature of injury sustained by the girl, the action taken etc. You are a reporter in a newspaper.

12. Write an essay in about 200-250 words on any *one* of the following topics:

1. Need for the Care of the Aged
2. Science is a Good Servant but a Bad Master
3. Dowry System in India

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