CBSE Class 12 English Elective 2004 - Set 28/2

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:

I do not know how old the phrase "I tremble to think" is, but I fancy it must have come into common use not long after the discovery of the art of controversy. It is easy to imagine that when Moses brought down the Ten Commandments, there were discontented Israelites who trembled to think of the consequences of these invasions of individual liberty. What, for example, they might have asked, was likely to be the effect of the Commandment...

1(a)(i). When did the phrase 'I tremble to think' come into existence?

1(a)(ii). Who brought down the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel? Where did he bring them from?

1(a)(iii). How did discontented Israelites receive those Commandments?

OR

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

I first met her in the twenties when we used to play as children in her parents' home, at Summer Hill, Shimla. What struck me most then was her zeal and rapturous feeling for colour. When we met years later in the Sher-Gil apartment in rue Bassano, Paris, in the early thirties, she was experimenting in many forms. I often saw her at work and it was here again that we crossed many a sword on literary and artistic matters.

1(a)(i). What impressed the writer most about Amrita Sher Gill when he first met her in the twenties?

1(a)(ii). On what topics did they have heated discussions when they met in Paris?

1(a)(iii). When and where did the author meet Amrita Sher Gill in Paris?

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

Ever since chemists began to manufacture substances that nature never invented, the problems of water purification have become complex and the danger to users of water has increased. As we have seen, the production of these synthetic chemicals in large volume began in the 1940s. It has now reached such proportions that an appalling deluge of chemical pollution is daily poured into the nation's waterways.

1(b)(i). When did the production of synthetic chemicals begin in large volume?

1(b)(ii). What has happened as a result of manufacturing substances that nature had never invented?

1(b)(iii). To what extent or size has the production of these chemicals gone?

OR

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

It is possible to give wedding presents, birthday and Christmas presents, without any thought of affection at all: they can be ordered by post card; but the unbirthday present demands the nicest care. It is therefore the best of all, and it is the only kind to which the golden rule of present-giving imperatively applies — the golden rule which insists that you must never give to another person anything that you would not rather keep : nothing that does not cost you a pang to part from.

1(b)(i). Why does the writer feel that presents on birthdays, weddings and Christmas need not necessarily be an act of affection?

1(b)(ii). Why are unbirthday presents considered to be the best?

1(b)(iii). What is the golden rule of present-giving?

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

The newspapers cater to the interests of various kinds of people. How? Explain.

OR

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

How can the pursuit of knowledge in the absence of wisdom become harmful? Substantiate your answer giving examples from the text.

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

When did the earthquake in Gujarat occur? How did it 'put the clock back by fifty years'?

OR

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

Why does the author say that the books on success are absurd and need to be condemned and discarded?

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

Why, according to the author, is it stupid and dangerous to argue that people like "simple (even basic) English", and therefore it ought to be kept up?

OR

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

What are the reasons given by the author to get rid of the militarists?

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

Which sense perceptions help the blind ants find their way home? How?

OR

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

Why does the author say that no laws can be laid down about the choice of books to be read?

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Sergeant Troy and Farmer Boldwood represent two diametrically opposed specimens of mankind. Comment.

OR

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Examine the circumstances that led to Sergeant Troy's estrangement from Bathsheba.

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

What was the effect of Troy's death on the course of Bathsheba's life?

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

Which action of Bathsheba aroused feelings of love in Farmer Boldwood's heart? Why did she do it?

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Why does the ragged man sing the ballads? Do they have any effect on the Sergeant? Comment giving reasons.

OR

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Almost all the members of his crew have lost patience and are at the verge of mutiny but Columbus sticks to his determination. Sketch the character of Columbus in the light of this statement.

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

What is the reaction of the members living in the Grange fann after the death of the master?

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

What treatment does Mrs. Pearson meet with at the hands of her family members? How does she feel at their behaviour?

8(a). Do as directed:

(i) The woman is sitting on the dais. She is the new secretary. (Rewrite using a non-finite clause as prepositional phrase)

(ii) When you are there, please look out for it. (Identify the phrasal verb)

(iii) This morning, the elephant in the zoo was found dead. (Identify 'head' and 'modifier')

(iv) The pilot landed the plane at an airstrip. (Rewrite using 'landed' as an intransitive verb)

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

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

December, remember, classmate, participate

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

Mark the 'stress' on the following words:

permit (as noun); permit (as verb); friendly; technique

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

Which tone is used if the statement is a correction of what someone has said? Give one example.

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

The institution of religion is as old as man himself and it dates back to his evolution as man. Man has been practising religion in one form or the other since times immemorial. No doubt religion has been undergoing various changes from time to time but it has all along been the sum total of different beliefs, superstitions, legends, myths, fables, parables and philosophies. These elements of religion are found in folk-tales of a great many lands and thus it would not be wrong to say that the religion is replete with folk-tales.

Apparently folk-tales and religion seem to be poles apart and appear to be two quite different things, as the former is a source of entertainment while the latter is a hard but delicate practice of establishing celestial communication with God. It is, however, a wrong notion and a mistaken idea; folk-tales often have a lot of religion in them and are the very backbone of mythology. Of course, the religion in folk-tales is not religion in its philosophic sense, not always as a practice of establishing celestial communication with God, but it is there in the sense that the values upheld in the folk-tales are religious and that atmosphere and background are essentially religious too. There is thus a fine synthesis and harmonious blend between the two things.

9. (continued)

Religion is a complex discipline and there is a lot of obscurity in it. This obscurity lies in its hymns, abstract teachings, philosophies and the unknown — much beyond the comprehension of a common man, which make the religion a dull and tedious discipline. It is through the folk-tales that the obscurity of the religion can be unveiled to a great extent. For instance, a story about the travels of a great Indian Saint unfolds the mystery about God being omnipresent. The story goes that once as he lay down for sleep, during one of his travels, his feet pointed in the direction of a place of worship. The priest objected to it and told the Guru to change his position. The Guru told him to turn his feet in whichever direction he wished, but when the priest tried to shift his feet, he was wonder-struck to find the place of worship shifting in the same direction. Thus the great Guru taught the ignorant, ritual-ridden priest and through him the people that God is not at a particular place but that he is everywhere and in every direction.

9. (continued)

Folk-tales on religion are tempered with morality, nobility, honesty, righteousness, piety, tolerance etc. Folk-tales are the proud possession and coveted heritage of any people. The element of religion in these stories mirrors the concept of good and bad to the people. These tales also reveal the tireless efforts of the people to bring religion within the reach of everyone and to uphold the time-honoured ideals and values. These tales help us to follow the virtuous path and keep us away from the false temptations of the world. They serve the people as friend, philosopher and guide.

9(i). How old is the institution of religion?

9(ii). Which elements of religion are expressed in the folk-tales of the world?

9(iii). 'Religion in folk-tales is not the religion in its philosophical sense.' In what sense is it then found in folk-tales?

9(iv). What deep moral value has been conveyed through the simple story of an Indian Saint asking the priest to shift his feet in any direction?

9(v). What purpose do these folk-tales on religion serve the people?

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

Should e'er unhappy love my bosom pain,
From cruel parents, or relentless fair,
O let me think it is not quite in vain
To sigh out sonnets to the midnight air!
Sweet Hope! Ethereal balm upon me shed,
And wave thy silver pinions o'er my head.

In the long vista of the years to roll,
Let me not see our country's honour fade!
O let me see our land retain her soul!
Her pride, her freedom; and not freedom's shade.
From thy bright eyes unusual brightness shed-
Beneath thy pinions canopy my head!

10(i). What has caused pain in the poet's heart?

10(ii). Why is he singing a song at midnight?

10(iii). What does the poet want his country to retain?

10(iv). What feelings does the poet cherish for his country?

10(v). What favour does the poet seek from Hope in the second stanza?

11. There have been complaints of the presence of worms in chocolates and pesticides in some soft drinks. Samples sent to the testing laboratory are found positive. Write a report in about 100-125 words mentioning the details and the action to be taken by the authorities. You are a reporter in a newspaper.

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

1. The Importance of Moral Instruction in Colleges
2. The Impact of Science on Society
3. The Importance of Discipline in Life

- End of Question Paper -