CBSE Class 12 English Elective 2004 - Set 28

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 passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The main function of newspapers is to inform. The immediacy of such information has been overtaken by the radio and the television with on-the-spot coverage. Newspapers record news in a way that is assimilated more slowly and most have a policy that is set by the editor and his staff, a character that colours the presentation of the material.

1(a)(i). What is the main function of the newspapers?

1(a)(ii). In what respects have the radio and television overtaken the newspapers?

1(a)(iii). How does the editor influence the newspaper?

OR

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

You study the composition of the atom from a disinterested desire for knowledge and incidentally place in the hands of powerful lunatics the means of destroying the human race. In such ways the pursuit of knowledge may become harmful unless it is combined with wisdom; and wisdom in the sense of comprehensive vision is not necessarily present in specialists in the pursuit of knowledge.

1(a)(i). What can be the possible outcome, if the knowledge of atom is incidentally imparted to a "powerful lunatic"?

1(a)(ii). How can this harmful effect of the pursuit of knowledge be checked?

1(a)(iii). What kind of wisdom is required for a specialist in the pursuit of knowledge?

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

An earthquake is a natural disaster which varies in intensity. High intensity earthquakes cause much damage to life and property.

Can earthquakes be predicted? Scientists are working on programmes to predict where and when an earthquake will occur. They hope to develop an early warning system that can be used to forecast earthquakes so that lives can be saved. The scientists who are involved in this work are called 'seismologists'. The word 'seismologist' comes from the Greek word 'seismos', meaning earthquake.

1(b)(i). What is the effect of high intensity earthquake?

1(b)(ii). What programmes are the scientists working on?

1(b)(iii). Why are the scientists called 'seismologists'?

OR

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

It is all very stirring, of course: but I confess that if I were playing cards I would rather have some decent little book which told me the rules of the game. Beyond the rules of the game it is all a question either of talent or dishonesty; and I will undertake to provide either one or the other — which, it is not for me to say.

1(b)(i). What, according to the author, is all that exciting?

1(b)(ii). What would the author like to possess if he had to play the game of cards?

1(b)(iii). Beyond the rules of the game, what are the two ways to succeed in a game of cards?

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

What, according to Enright, is the best way to teach English literature abroad?

OR

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

Some people believe that "a world order and one universal law of justice would end human adventure". Does the author agree with it? Explain.

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

How do bees find their way home? Explain.

OR

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

"Do not dictate to your author; try to become him". Why does the author put forward this suggestion?

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

What is Robert Lynd's opinion about giving alms to street musicians and other mendicants?

OR

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

How did Amrita Sher Gill's visit to Ajanta in 1936 influence her style of painting?

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

Why is it difficult to identify or detect the chemical pollutants in water by ordinary methods?

OR

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

Who are the people most likely to become bankrupt while hunting for gifts?

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Troy's attractions are visible on the surface while Gabriel's virtues are hidden as "metals in a mine". Compare and contrast their characters in the light of this statement.

OR

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Explain the circumstances which led Bathsheba Everdene to marry Sergeant Troy.

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

What was the effect of Fanny Robin's death on the life of Bathsheba?

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

Bathsheba valued Gabriel Oak's opinion more than anybody else's in the village. Why then did she sack him from service?

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Though related by blood, the Bishop and Persome are vastly different in their nature. Explain giving examples from the text.

OR

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words:

Narrate the incident that made Corporal Brewster a hero in the battle of Waterloo.

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

The Sergeant and the Policeman are talking about the escaped prisoner. What impression do you form about the prisoner from their dialogue?

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

What do you know of Pronox's dream about his country from the conversation between him and Salvius? How does he feel about it?

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 post modifier)

(ii) He looked round for a chair but could not find one. (Identify phrasal verb)

(iii) All men are equal. (Identify head and 'modifier')

(iv) The sun evaporates water from the seas. (Rewrite using 'evaporate' as intransitive verb)

(v) She has typed the letters. (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:

implication; company; inappropriate; employ

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

Mark the 'stress' on the following words:

contrast (as noun); contrast (as verb); wastage; impression

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

Which tone is used if the statement is complete and definite? Give one example.

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

Anger is a turbulent emotion which takes complete control of a person as if he were possessed. The body begins to tremble, voice becomes shaky and speech becomes incoherent. Thinking faculty becomes paralysed. Anger can be described as a brief madness. Just like a mad man does not recognize his lunacy, an angry man does not realize that he is in a grip of anger. He is always burning from within. It is rightly said, "Anger, like acid, harms the container more than the person on whom it is thrown". When we are angry the bio-chemicals released in our body get accumulated as these are not digested. Non elimination of toxic biochemicals originating from negative emotions result in serious psychosomatic diseases leading to depression and even harmful actions.

Anger is only one letter short of 'danger'. It is an obstacle in one's success. If one is tempered, he becomes a repulsive personality and loses his friends, relatives and customers. Sweet temperament is a pre-requisite for becoming successful in life, in business, profession or job. Nobody is an island. One gets success in life with the help of one's colleagues, friends, customers etc. If one is sweet tempered and well mannered he makes even the strangers his friends and supporters. On the other hand the negative emotions of a short-tempered person make him the enemy of people, and he is doomed to be a failure in all walks of life.

9. (continued)

There are three types of anger. One is where some people suffer from irritation and short temper born out of impatience or discontent. Their blood pressure is always on a high. These people remain calm only superficially but their blood always keeps boiling. Secondly there are people who are angry but refrain from expressing their anger in words. That is 'cold anger' but it starts eroding their physical and mental set-up. And finally the third category of people are those who express their anger through hot words.

It is not that anger is totally useless and has only negative traits. There are some advantages of controlled anger also. There cannot be any discipline in one's family, school, office and society at large if there is no expression of occasional sternness. Aristotle was absolutely right when he said, "anybody can get angry but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way in an 'art' to be mastered."

9. (continued)

Anger has to be eliminated in one's life as it breaks families, friendships and ruins one's career. One should forget and forgive painful incidents. When we forgive we are cut off from the negative emotions which otherwise keep on damaging molecular and cellular structure of our body. One psychologist has aptly suggested that whenever there is anger, just begin to count upto 100 and most probably the anger will pass off as the mind is diverted. It is still better if one begins to chant the name of God according to one's faith. One can get inner strength, peace and calmness through meditation. The wise men are of the opinion that freedom from anger can be achieved through self-restraint, charity, love, gentleness and patience.

9(i). An angry man looks as if possessed. How?

9(ii). How does anger adversely affect the physical well-being of a person?

9(iii). There are three kinds of anger. Mention any two of them.

9(iv). When does anger become an art as stated by Aristotle?

9(v). Why is it necessary to eliminate anger in one's life?

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

When by my solitary hearth I sit,
And hateful thoughts enwrap my soul in gloom;
When no fair dreams before my "mind's eye" flit,
And the bare heath of life presents no bloom;
Sweet Hope! ethereal balm upon me shed,
And wave thy silver pinions o'er my head.

Whene'er I wander, at the fall of night,
Where woven boughs shut out the moon's bright ray,
Should sad Despondency my musings fright,
And frown, to drive fair Cheerfulness away,
Peep with the moon beams through the leafy roof,
And keep that fiend Despondence far aloof.

10(i). What kind of thoughts surround the poet when he sits all alone at his home?

10(ii). Who does he call at this moment?

10(iii). What does the poet say through the expression 'ethereal balm upon me shed'?

10(iv). What do the words 'moon beams' signify?

10(v). Why does the poet call Despondence a 'fiend'?

11. There have been continuing landslides from the Varunavat Hills for the last 13 days. Write a report in about 100-125 words mentioning the details such as the damage of Highway, blockage of roads, number of people and families rendered homeless, the relief work undertaken 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 Communal Harmony
2. Population Growth and Environment
3. Status of Women in Indian Society

- End of Question Paper -