CBSE Class 12 English Core 2005 - Set 1-1-2

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 11 questions.

(ii) All sections are compulsory. Attempt questions according to the choices and instructions provided.

(iii) Follow the instructions given with each question and adhere to the prescribed word limits.

Section A — Reading

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

1. In today's fiercely competitive business environment, companies need to communicate information pertaining to a whole range of issues in a lucid and precise manner to their customers.

2. This is particularly so in the case of companies which do business in areas such as manufacturing, information technology (IT), engineering products and services — companies whose products and services may not be understood by a customer not familiar with its technical aspects.

3. These communication materials are prepared in a company these days by 'technical writers' — people who can effectively communicate to an intended audience.

4. The skills of a technical writer are being increasingly sought for preparing marketing documents such as brochures, case studies, website content and media kits and for the preparation of a whole range of manuals. Though technical writers in a company do a good portion of such work, the trend now is to outsource technical writing to free-lancers.

5. Technical writing and writing text-books are poles apart. The former is aimed at those who do not have an in-depth knowledge about a product and hence should be direct and lucid. An overdose of technical terms and jargon would only add to the confusion of the customer.

1. (continued)

6. The basic requirement for being a technical writer is near-total mastery over English language. A technical writer should be natural in creative writing and needs to be an expert in using Business English.

7. This simply means that those with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature alongwith a diploma/degree in Journalism and having a Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA) are ideal candidates for being employed as technical writers.

8. According to Joe Winston, Chief Executive Officer of 'I-manager', speaking ability is not imperative for a technical writer. All that one needs is the talent to write in a simple and effective manner. Many have inhibitions in speaking English but their writing skills would be very sharp.

9. Technical writing would be a good option for such people. If a candidate is to be assigned the task of preparing high-end technical manuals, he/she is required to have higher qualifications such as an M.A./M.Phil. in English Literature and a degree such as M.C.A.

10. Companies look for such qualifications because technical writers first need to understand the technical information themselves, before trying to communicate it in de-jargonised language to the potential customers.

1. (continued)

11. However, it is also true that many companies provide rigorous on-the-job training to fresh technical writers before allowing them to graduate to high-end products.

12. Though the demand for good technical writers has risen sharply over the years, the emphasis is never on numbers but on skills.

13. They point out that even graduates of English literature are often found wanting when it comes to creative and effective writing.

14. Merely having the right mix of writing and comprehension skills is not sufficient. A technical writer should keep his 'writing blades' constantly sharpened. It means untold hours of reading up the latest in the technological trends and ceaseless honing of one's Business English and writing skills. The nature of technical writing is such that a writer has to be at the peak of his expressive powers in each piece of writing he produces.

15. A career in technical writing is seen as a good choice for women mainly because it is widely held that women are more adept at creative writing than men and the job does not entail 'graveyard shifts' or 'arduous travelling'.

1. (continued)

16. A beginner can expect to be paid anywhere between Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 15,000 a month. Technical writers usually join as executive technical writers and then go on to become senior technical writers, team leaders, documentation heads and some even manage to make it to a management job within a decade. As in most private sector jobs, merit is the main criterion for rise in job and not necessarily the number of years one has put in.

1(a)(i). What is the need of technical writing in today's world?

1(a)(ii). What is the nature of the job of a technical writer?

1(a)(iii). Whom does the technical writing aim at?

1(a)(iv). According to Joe Winston, who could be a technical writer?

1(a)(v). What should be the academic qualification of a technical writer?

1(a)(vi). Is technical writing a good career for women? Give two reasons.

1(b)(i). Find a word from the passage which means: clear (para 1).

1(b)(ii). Find a word from the passage which means: continuous/without stopping (para 14).

1(b)(iii). Find a word from the passage which means: difficult (para 15).

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

There are two problems which cause great worry to our educationists — the problem of religious and moral instruction in a land of many faiths and the problem arising out of a large variety of languages.

Taking up the education of children, we see that they should be trained to love one another, to be kind and helpful to all, to be tender to the lower animals and to observe and think right. The task of teaching them how to read and write and to count and calculate is important, but it should not make us lose sight of the primary aim of moulding personality in the right way.

2. (continued)

For this, it is necessary to call into aid, culture, tradition and religion. But in our country we have, in the same school, to look after boys and girls born in different faiths and belonging to families that live diverse ways of life and follow different forms of worship associated with different denominations of religion. It will not do to tread the easy path of evading the difficulty by attending solely to physical culture and intellectual education. We have to evolve a suitable technique and method for serving the spiritual needs of school children professing different faiths. We would thereby promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, a fuller understanding and helpful co-operation among the different communities in our society. Again we must remain one people and we have therefore to give basic training in our schools to speak and understand more languages than one and to appreciate and respect the different religions prevailing in India. It is not right for us in India to be dissuaded from this by considerations as to overtaking the young mind. What is necessary must be done. And it is not in fact too great a burden.

2. (continued)

Any attempt to do away with or steamroll the differences through governmental coercion and indirect pressure would be as futile as it would be unwise. Any imposition of a single way of life and form of worship on all children or neglect of a section of the pupils in this respect or barren secularisation will lead to a conflict between school and home life which is harmful. On the other hand, if we give due recognition to the different prevailing faiths in the educational institutions by organising suitable facilities for religious teaching for boys and girls of all communities, this may itself serve as a broadening influence of great national values.

2(a). On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it in points only, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognisable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum 4). Supply a suitable title to it.

2(b). Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

Section B — Advanced Writing Skills

3. You want to dispose of your car, as you are going abroad. You are Harish of No. 10, Kailash Ganj, Lucknow. Draft an advertisement to be published in the daily, 'The Hindustan Times', under classified columns.

OR

3. You are Sajjanraj, S/o Sh. Dharmaraj of Greater Kailash, New Delhi. Your father wants you to draft a formal invitation to be sent on the occasion of your sister, Anita Raj's marriage. Prepare the invitation.

4. You are Roshan/Roshini, Secretary of Cultural Club, Hyderabad Public School, Hyderabad. As a member of N.G.C. (National Green Corps), write a report, in 100-125 words for your school magazine, about the activities organised by your club for greening of the environment.

OR

4. You have attended a seminar on how to decrease the burden of studies on school-going children. Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine. You are Ravi/Raveena of Guru Nanak Public School, Kanpur.

5. Your younger brother, Karan, wants to go on an All India tour for the first time. He wants to know what he should do in order to prevent problems in his travel. Write a letter to him. You are Keshav/Kiran living at No. 54, Chandni Chowk, New Delhi.

OR

5. Write a letter to the Editor of the daily, 'The New Indian Express', about rash and reckless driving, suggesting preventive measures. You are Navin/Neha living at B-47, Friends Colony, New Delhi.

6. You are Manoj/Meena. Write an article in 150-200 words on the following, for your school magazine: Do we require homes for the aged in India?

OR

6. You are Manoj/Meena. Write an article in 150-200 words for your school magazine on: Your life-style without the modern gadgets.

Section C — Literature

7. If this belief from Heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What Man has made of Man?

7(i). Identify the poet.

7(ii). What is Nature's holy plan?

7(iii). What is the poet's lament?

OR

7. He came, not understanding, and obeyed, and stretched
His hand and took the sacred vessel. Lo! it shone
With thrice its former lustre, and amazed them all!

7(i). Whom does 'he' refer to? Why did he come?

7(ii). What is it that he did not understand?

7(iii). Why did the sacred plate shine with thrice its lustre?

7(b)(i). What does Tagore mean by 'burden of ages'?

7(b)(ii). Why does Hardy call war 'quaint and curious'?

7(b)(iii). What does the poet want to relearn in the poem, 'Once upon a Time'?

8(a). What changes did the Gandhian movement bring about in the status of the Indian women?

8(b). What suggestions does Max Mueller give to the students studying law at Cambridge?

8(c). Why is a machine compared to a Djinn?

8(d). Why did the Commons of England resent the indignities perpetuated by Warren Hastings on the people of India?

8(e). What does Mr. Box find when he gets up after his sleep?

9. 'The Price of Flowers' is an apt title. Do you agree? Justify. (Word limit: 125-150 words)

OR

9. Give a character-sketch of the jailor of the Silver Jail. (Word limit: 125-150 words)

10. 'A prudent reserve is as necessary as a seeming openness is prudent.' Elucidate with reference to your lesson 'On Conduct in Company'. (Word limit: 125-150 words)

OR

10. Bring out the element of humour in the story, 'Barin Bhowmik's Ailment'. (Word limit: 125-150 words)

11(a). What were the reasons that led our ancestors to behave in an inhuman manner with the handicapped?

11(b). What was Gresham's offer to Baldwin?

11(c). Why is there a need for the youth in the modern age to be academically inclined?

11(d). Why was Barin uncomfortable when the new passenger entered his coach? What made him feel better later on?

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