CBSE Class 12 English Core 2005 - Set 1/2/3

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. Sarah Riley works in the heart of London. Her working day is filled with meetings, phone calls, project deadlines and all the other responsibilities of corporate life. She is good at her job and has steadily progressed over the last six years to her current position as marketing consultant for a large communications and marketing firm.

2. It is a demanding job but well paid and Ms. Riley loves it. Yet for the past year and a half, she has been leaving her job every Wednesday evening to drive to the coastal town of Brighton, where she spends the rest of the week and part of the weekend working as a junior barber in a city centre salon. She does not need the extra money nor is she planning a career change. The fact is that like a small but growing number of workers, Ms. Riley has simply decided that two careers are better than one.

3. Dual careerists (also sometimes called sunlighters) are not contractors who work for several clients or moonlighters who take on extra-jobs for money. Instead, they are people who are actively committed to more than one career. Celebrity hybrids, such as singer/actress/children's author, Madonna, and even actor/champion poker player, Ben Affleck are known for having more than one career on the go and it is a trend that experts say is gathering force among office workers.

1. (continued)

4. Ms. Riley is now completing her NVQ Level 2 barber training, “I have always been interested in men's hair-dressing and I find it quite creative.” She says, “I would often look at someone's hair-style and think I can do that and one day I just decided to do it. Initially I enrolled in an evening course, which gave me a very basic grounding and a chance to see if I could actually do it. When I realised I could and that I enjoyed it, I decided to train properly.”

5. City and Guild recently conducted a forward-looking analysis of the trend and concluded that increased life expectancy and pension under-funding will lead to longer working lives, while the rise of (particularly on-line) technology will mean people can re-train while holding down their current jobs. This creates an encouraging climate for dual careerists. The study predicts that the 1-2 million people who currently have two or more jobs will double in the next 20 years.

1. (continued)

6. Like Ms. Riley, the majority of dual careerists work part-time. But executive assistant Nicola Wright, 27, who has a full time job as a P.A. opted for an additional career when faced with the prospect of otherwise having to give up her childhood passion for dance. She decided to train as a dance teacher in the evenings and week-ends and has spent the past six years establishing her own dance school in Portsmouth, along the coast from Brighton, while holding down her original job. For her, top notch organisational and time management skills and the goodwill of her employers were fundamental in helping her realise her ambition.

7. However, taking on two careers can require almost superhuman determination and efficiency. Apart from the training there are administrative chores like completing tax-returns which many people with more than one employer are required to do. “It is exhausting,” Ms. Wright admits.

8. But despite their punishing schedules both Ms. Riley and Ms. Wright maintain that being able to do creative jobs, makes them appreciate their mainstream jobs even more. As Ms. Riley explains, “I have always wanted to live by the sea and have a country life-style. In Brighton I live within walking distance of my job. I can go home for lunch and feed the dogs and on Sundays I can go for country walks. But I also have my city life with my London job with the salary, friends and social life that goes with that. Both jobs really complement each other.”

1. (continued)

9. Prof. Peter Nolan, Director of the Future of Work programme, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), points out that the notion that people are becoming less interested in holding down a career in favour of quality family life is a myth. There is in fact, he argues, a revival in the desire for a career.

10. Statistics show that the length of time people stay with employers hasn't changed much, but the number of different and/or additional jobs people do in their working lives have been growing significantly and this is linked to people being offered more flexible working hours. Part-time work no longer conforms to the stereotype of being temporary, insecure or a stopgap. Often it is a secure, long-lasting career and changes in employment law over the years mean that the benefits and rights make it comparable to full-time employment work. It seems that doubling your careers could also double your freedom.

1(a)(i). Who is Sarah Riley? What is the nature of her job?

1(a)(ii). Who are dual careerists? Mention some dual careerists.

1(a)(iii). Where has Ms. Sarah Riley been going every Wednesday evening and why?

1(a)(iv). What did the City and Guild conducted analysis state?

1(a)(v). What is the opinion of Ms. Wright about dual careers?

1(b)(i). Find a word from the above passage which means the same as: very tiring (para 7).

1(b)(ii). Find a word from the above passage which means the same as: provided money for (para 9).

1(b)(iii). Find a word from the above passage which means the same as: adaptable (para 10).

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

The word 'man' has a wider meaning in Science than it has in everyday life. Just as many species of amphibians and reptiles have died out so have several species of mammals that were quite similar to ourselves and scientists use the word 'man' or 'hominoids' to include them as well as us.

All the extinct hominoids shared with us the ability to walk upright, leaving their hands free to use and handle things. Among the earliest types was Australopithecus, who lived over a million years ago. From the few remains that have been found, we know that he looked rather like an ape. But he did not live like one, for he walked erect, was not a tree-dweller and made simple tools by flaking pebbles.

Over half a million years later came Pithecanthropus who made tools of bone and stone, hunted and knew how to make fire. There were other types too, including Neanderthal Man, whose remains have been found in Germany and who lived on until much later than Pithecanthropus.

2. (continued)

Unlike all other living things, past or present, he is not content merely to adapt himself to the world, he also adapts the world to himself. Lacking a natural warm, furry coat, like most mammals, he learned to make clothes from animal skins, wool and vegetable fibres. He could not withstand open-air life in all weathers and the shelter of cold, damp caves was not enough for him, but he warmed them and lit them with fire and soon he began to fashion huts and homes of his own design. He lacked the strength and claws of the lion, but with spears, bows and arrows, he became more than its equal as a hunter. He was not the best of the swimmers, yet with canoes and boats he made the rivers and seas his highways and with lines, hooks, nets and traps he made the very fishes a staple part of his diet.

Throughout most of the stone-age, men went on improving as builders and tool makers.

Then about 10,000 years ago, came two far reaching advances. People learned how to cultivate crops and succeeded in keeping and breeding herds of animals. From then on, they had no need to keep on the move in search of a living. They settled down in farming villages and later in towns and cities where a few of them had time to investigate the world around, discover some of its secrets and invent new ways of bringing it under their control.

2. (continued)

Over much of the world, he has been cutting down forests for many centuries, at first to make room for his expanding agriculture and later to supply him with timber and raw material for paper-making. He has joined ocean to ocean by cutting canals through narrow strips of land.

The world is his estate. Sometimes he has marred it, sometimes improved it. Now more than ever, he understands his power and responsibilities and is learning from his mistakes as well as from his successes.

2(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.

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

Section B — Advanced Writing Skills

3. You have recently started a coaching centre for Yoga at Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published under the classified columns of The Deccan Herald.

OR

3. You are Aradhana/Anurag, Head Boy/Head Girl of Zion Senior Sec. School, Paharganj, New Delhi. Your school is organising a day-long Bhajan programme on Gandhi Jayanti. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board inviting names of the students desiring to participate.

4. You visited an International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. As a reporter of The Times of India, write a report in 100-125 words about the various activities you saw. You are Manoj/Meena.

OR

4. You witnessed a quarrel between a landlord and a tenant. Write a report of the incident you saw in 100-125 words to be sent to your friend who is looking for a theme for a skit. Sign as Rajan/Rajni.

5. In corporate offices people are exposed to long and stressful hours sitting before their computers. This has given rise to health related problems. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting some of the health hazards to which the individuals are exposed. Also suggest suitable measures that an organisation can take to ensure their employees' welfare. You are Meghna/Mukul.

OR

5. Last year a fifty year old man died of cardiac arrest while taking a ride on a swing in an amusement park. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily showing your concern and suggesting some safety measures which park owners must observe. You are Aditya/Aditi.

6. Write an article in 150-200 words on: The development of Science and Technology has made our life happier and more comfortable.

OR

6. Write an article in 150-200 words on: India of my dreams.

Section C — Literature

7. It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make Man better be;
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere:

7(i). What does not make man any better?

7(ii). What does 'bulk' mean here?

7(iii). What is the fate of an oak?

OR

7. Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trail'd its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

7(i). Name the poem.

7(ii). Where is the periwinkle growing?

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

7(b)(i). What does Gabriel Okara mean by 'good-bye' and 'good-riddance'?

7(b)(ii). Which freedom is Tagore talking about?

7(b)(iii). What happened when the priest gave the plate of gold to the peasant?

8(a). According to K.M. Panikkar, why were Indian women the most backward in the 18th and 19th centuries?

8(b). Why was the silver jail constructed?

8(c). Why did Maggie write a letter to Mr. Gupta?

8(d). What, according to Bertrand Russell, are the needs of our instinctive nature and how can we satisfy them?

8(e). What basic tenets of religion does Edmund Burke highlight?

9. Why does Max Mueller recommend a study of India to the students of Civil Services? Discuss with respect to the key areas that he focuses on.

OR

9. Maggie gave a shilling to Mr. Gupta. Why did she do so and what did Mr. Gupta think while accepting the shilling?

10. How did the lawyer make the banker realize the futility of his ego and his bet?

OR

10. In his address to the youth, Dr. Karan Singh talks about different dimensions in which they should equip themselves. Which dimensions does he talk about and how would each help in building a vast and pulsating nation?

11(a). Who was Mrs. Wang? Where did she live?

11(b). What, according to Dr. Karan Singh, is the task that requires great effort on the part of the youth?

11(c). According to Lord Chesterfield, why should one not speak about oneself?

11(d). Money can change one's values. Discuss this with reference to the behaviour of the Baldwin family members.

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