CBSE Class 12 English Core 2011 - 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 12 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. (1) For many years now the Governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no Government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world; plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living.

(2) We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes implementation of these laws difficult.

(3) Also, there is no ban on child labour in non-hazardous occupations. The act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganized or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing laws is lax.

1. (continued)

(4) There are industries which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knotted carpets. There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. In Kashmir because of the political unrest, children are forced to work while many schools are shut. Industries like gem cutting and polishing pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children.

(5) The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families, have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.

(6) There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hell-holes like the sweet shops of the old, there is no hope.

1. (continued)

(7) Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fire works and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare.

(8) If at all the Government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate child labour.

(9) Surely, if 380 million children are given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, as former President Abdul Kalam says, "a Second Vision".

1(a)(i). On which two counts has the Government not succeeded so far in respect of children?

1(a)(ii). What makes the implementation of child labour law difficult?

1(a)(iii). Why do the industries prefer child labour?

1(a)(iv). What are the adverse effects of hazardous industries on children? Give any two.

1(a)(v). What does the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provide?

1(b)(i). Find a word from the passage which means the same as the following: risky/dangerous (para 1)

1(b)(ii). Find a word from the passage which means the same as the following: very unfriendly (para 5)

1(b)(iii). Find a word from the passage which means the same as the following: intended as punishment (para 3)

2. There is nothing more frustrating than when you sit down at your table to study with the most sincere of intentions and instead of being able to finish the task at hand, you find your thoughts wandering. However, there are certain techniques that you can use to enhance your concentration. "Your concentration level depends on a number of factors," says Samuel Ghosh, a social counsellor. "In order to develop your concentration span, it is necessary to examine various facets of your physical and internal environment," she adds.

To begin with one should attempt to create the physical environment that is conducive to focussed thought. Whether it is the radio, TV or your noisy neighbours, identify the factors that make it difficult for you to focus. For instance, if you live in a very noisy neighbourhood, you could try to plan your study hours in a nearby library.

She disagrees with the notion that people can concentrate or study in an environment with distractions like a loud television, blaring music etc. "If you are distracted when you are attempting to focus, your attention and retention powers do not work at optimum levels," cautions Ghosh. "Not more than two of your senses should be activated at the same time," she adds. What that means is that music that sets your feet tapping is not the ideal accompaniment to your books.

2. (continued)

Also do not place your study table or desk in front of a window. "While there is no cure for a mind that wants to wander, one should try and provide as little stimulus as possible. Looking out of a window when you are trying to concentrate will invariably send your mind on a tangent," says Ghosh.

The second important thing, she says, is to establish goals for oneself instead of setting a general target and then trying to accomplish what you can in a haphazard fashion. It is very important to decide what you have to finish in a given span of time. The human mind recognizes fixed goals and targets and appreciates schedules more than random thoughts. Once your thoughts and goals are in line, a focussed system will follow.

She recommends that you divide your schedule into study and recreation hours. When you study, choose a mix of subjects that you enjoy and dislike and save the former for the last so that you have something to look forward to. For instance, if you enjoy verbal skill tests more than mathematical problems, then finish Maths first. Not only will you find yourself working harder, you will have a sense of achievement when you wind up.

2. (continued)

Try not to sit for more than 40 minutes at a stretch. Take a very short break to make a cup of tea or listen to a song and sit down again. Under no circumstances, should one sit for more than one and a half hours. Short breaks build your concentration and refresh your mind. However, be careful not to overdo the relaxation. It may have undesired effects.

More than anything else, do not get disheartened. Concentration is merely a matter of disciplining the mind. It comes with practice and patience and does not take very long to become a habit for life.

2(a). On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.

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

Section B — Advanced Writing Skills

3. You are Srinivas/Srinidhi of D.P. Public School, Nagpur. As Student Editor of your school magazine, draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board inviting articles/sketches from students of all classes.

OR

3. You want to rent out your newly constructed flat in the heart of the city. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in 'The Deccan Herald', Bangalore under classified columns. Give all the necessary details. You are Mohan/Mahima of Jayanagar, Bangalore.

4. You are Cultural Secretary of PND Xavier School, Jamshedpur. Your school organised a debate on the topic, 'The impact of reality shows on the younger generation'. Write a report in 100-125 words to be published in 'The Times of India', Jamshedpur.

OR

4. A major bus mishap which left several people seriously injured took place at Nicholas Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai. Luckily no life was lost. Collect the information from the eyewitnesses and send a report in 100-125 words to 'The Nungambakkam Times'. You are Vinod/Vinodhini, a reporter.

5. You are Rohit/Yasmin, a resident of 10, Civil Lines, Saharanpur. During your college life, you participated in various curricular and co-curricular activities with meritorious performance. Write a letter to the Principal of your College i.e. Gurunanak College, Ambala requesting him to issue you a testimonial including the details of your performance.

OR

5. As Cultural Secretary of G.D. Birla School, Jamshedpur, you are organising an interschool poster-making competition, in connection with The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of your school. Draft a circular letter to be sent to various schools in your city requesting their participation. Invent details.

6. Corruption has become the order of the day. It has entered all walks of life. Write an article for your school magazine in 150-200 words on 'The Role of Youth in combating corruption'. You are Vijay/Vineeta.

OR

6. You are Sanjay/Geetha, a student of St. Martha's Sr. Sec. School, Ghaziabad. You have read the news about the inhuman treatment meted out to the new entrants by the seniors in educational institutions. You are shocked to read about it. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'The Evil of Ragging in Educational Institutions' to be published in 'The Hindu', Delhi.

Section C — Literature

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

..... but soon
put that thought away and
looked out at young
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes, ...

7(a). Which thought did the poet put away?

7(b). What do the 'sprinting trees' signify?

7(c). What are 'the merry children spilling out of their homes', symbolic of?

OR

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal,
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night? On their slag heap, these children
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

7(a). Why is Shakespeare described as wicked?

7(b). Explain: 'from fog to endless night'.

7(c). What does the reference to 'slag heap' mean?

8(a). Do you think the poet, Pablo Neruda advocates total inactivity and death? Why / Why not?

8(b). Why and how is grandeur associated with the mighty dead? (A Thing of Beauty)

8(c). What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?

8(d). How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tigers' attitude?

9(a). What had been put up on the bulletin board?

9(b). What did Douglas experience when he went down to the bottom of the pool for the first time?

9(c). Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?

9(d). Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at Gemini studios?

9(e). Did Geoff keep his promise to Sophie? How do you know?

10. Give a brief account of the life and activities of the people like Saheb-e-Alam settled in Seemapuri.

OR

10. What was distinctive about Eco's academic writing style?

11. The lesson, 'On The Face of It', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.

OR

11. What precautions were taken by the prison authorities to ensure that the German exam was conducted smoothly and also under strict security?

12(a). What sort of brightness and silence prevailed in Antarctica during summer?

12(b). Why did Hana wash the wounded soldier herself?

12(c). What part of the story did Jack himself enjoy the most and why?

12(d). What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut?

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