

CBSE Class 12 English Elective 2012 - 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 6 questions.
- (ii) Questions 1–4 are compulsory. Attempt either Question 5 or Question 6.
- (iii) Answers should be to the point. Follow the word limit specified with each question.

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

1. When M.K. Gandhi was thrown out of a train in South Africa he had a choice to make – either to ignore the event and live in peace or enter into a conflict and face harassment, hardship and the possibility of getting physically hurt. He chose the latter. Why? Did he not know that living in peace and tranquility was the ultimate objective of life and the best way to achieve this objective was to avoid situations of conflict? Why did he not walk away?

2. The Dalai Lama chose to live in exile rather than live in peace in Tibet. He is a spiritual master himself. He preaches peace around the world. Does he not know that living in peace requires avoiding situations of conflict? Aung San Suu Kyi did not have to stay in jail. Winston Churchill did not have to join the World War. Nelson Mandela did not have to suffer in solitary confinement. Julius Nyerere did not have to fight a war with Idi Amin. There is a long list of people who have embraced conflict despite standing for peace, otherwise. They had the courage to stand up against repression rather than submit to it.

3. Both the Ramayan and Mahabharata, revered Indic epics, are stories of war, not peace. Krishna did not tell the Pandavas to ignore the incident of Draupadi's humiliation in court (the Draupadi vastraharan). He encouraged them to go to war. The Gita says engaging in war to uphold truth is not a matter of choice for a warrior; it is his duty.

1(a). (continued)

4. Most of us are confused between conflict and the method of resolving a conflict. We assume, incorrectly, that Gandhi, as a peace-loving person, must have avoided situations of conflict. On the other hand, he faced conflict head-on. Bhagat Singh and Gandhi were both gearing themselves to deal with conflict, except that Gandhi tried to employ peaceful means while Bhagat Singh chose aggression.

5. The duty of a scientist, artist or professor is also to engage in conflict against repressive regimes of knowledge. Any kind of limited knowledge is a form of bondage. Albert Einstein advanced the boundaries of scientific knowledge. James Joyce did the same in the world of literature. He flouted rules of writing as he saw them as restrictions on creativity. Picasso and M.F. Hussain, for example, explored realms beyond accepted rules in visual art. Mother Teresa redefined the concept of caring. Every one of them faced criticism and controversy, yet they remained convinced of the nature of their work and the methods they used to fulfil their vision. They remained engaged.

6. One can only conclude from this that the people we admire and even those we worship have all rejected the existing as being adequate and have chosen to engage in conflict to expand the existing. They have redefined the purpose of our life.

1(a). (continued)

7. The purpose of our life is not to live in passive acceptance but to engage with conflict in order to be creative. Creativity is the purpose of life. The purpose is to advance an individual soul and the collective Consciousness. The only word of caution here is that we must first settle ourselves spiritually so that we know whether a conflict is justified or not.

1(a)(i). Which alternatives did Mahatma Gandhi have to choose from when he was thrown out of a train in South Africa?

1(a)(ii). Which choice did he make? Why?

1(a)(iii). What advice does Gita offer to a warrior who has to uphold truth?

1(a)(iv). Both Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh were dealing with situations of conflict. What then was the difference in their approach?

1(a)(v). What is the author's opinion about 'limited knowledge' of any type?

1(a)(vi). According to the author, what is the purpose of life?

1(a)(vii). What precaution does he suggest to us to take before embarking on the path of conflict?

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

The Snail

Leaving the safety of a rocky ledge
The snail sets out
On his long journey
Across a busy path.
The grass is greener on the other side!
For tender leaf or juicy stem
He'll brave the hazards of the road.
Not made to dodge or weave or run,
He must await each threatening step
Chancing his luck
Keeping his tentacles crossed!
Though all unaware
Of the dangers of being squashed,
He does not pause or flinch –
A cartwheel misses by an inch! –
But slithers on,
Intent on dinner.
He's there at last, his prize –
Rich leaf-mould where the grass grows tall
I salute you, snail.
Somehow you've made me feel quite small.
Ruskin Bond

1(b)(i). Where does the snail safely dwell? Why does he set out of this safe place?

1(b)(ii). What does the expression, 'Not made to dodge or weave or run', mean?

1(b)(iii). Since each of his steps is risky, on what does his hope of survival depend?

1(b)(iv). What is he unaware of?

1(b)(v). What does the snail narrowly escape from?

1(b)(vi). What makes the poet feel small in comparison to a snail?

1(b)(vii). Which word in the poem means the same as 'dangers'?

Section B — Writing

2(a). Write an essay in 150-200 words on the following topic:

Need of eradicating gender-based inequality in the country.

OR

2(a). Write an essay in 150-200 words on the following topic:

Computers can never replace human teachers.

2(b). As a press reporter, you visited an elite group of schools and saw that young children are overburdened with a heavy load of books which adversely affects their health and growth. Prepare a report in about 150-200 words. Also suggest ways to tackle this problem.

3(i). In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined. The first one has been done as an example.

Horse-drawn carriages buggies will e.g. carriages or buggies
now ply on select routes Delhi to carry (a)
tourists. Laying strict norms for (b)
buggy operators, MCD passed the (c)
licence policy for horse-buggies Wednesday. (d)
People now keep horses, even in (e)
special areas the walled city (f)
provided meet all the mandatory (g)
requirements. These buggies, apart from
ceremonial purposes, will covering (h)
monuments other tourist spots. The (i)
modalities will be finalized after
consulting the Department Tourism, (j)
Delhi Government.

3(ii). Read the dialogue given below and using the information complete the following paragraph in your own words.

Kaushal: What is your favourite food?

Akshay: I love to eat all sorts of food but my favourite is traditional Indian food.

Kaushal: Is it not surprising that you like traditional food?

Akshay: I was brought up at Chandni Chowk in Delhi. Eating there is altogether a different experience.

Kaushal asked Akshay (a) _____. Akshay told him that (b) _____ but his favourite was traditional Indian food. Kaushal further asked (c) _____ that he liked traditional food. Akshay clarified that (d) _____ at Chandni Chowk in Delhi and eating there (e) _____ experience.

4(a)(i). Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

'Get in! Don't block the entrance! This is not a train, where you stand from Beijing to Bao Ding. We're almost at the next stop ...!' the conductor bellows.

Normally, an outburst like this would certainly have discouraged Tao Ying from buying a ticket. But today she says, 'Two tickets, please.'

4(a)(i)(A). Whose outburst is referred to here?

4(a)(i)(B). What would have discouraged her from buying a ticket?

4(a)(i)(C). Why did she buy two tickets?

4(a)(ii). Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Or listen to the clocktowers
of any old well-managed city
beating their gongs round the clock, each slightly
off the others' time, deeper or lighter
in its bronze, beating out a different
sequence each half-hour, out of the accidents
of alloy, a maker's shaking hand
in Switzerland, or the mutual distances
...

4(a)(ii)(A). Name the poem and the poet.

4(a)(ii)(B). What causes the differences between the time keeping of various clocks?

4(a)(ii)(C). What is the significance of 'Switzerland'?

4(a)(iii). Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Now mark another big difference between the natural slavery of man to Nature and the unnatural slavery of man to man. Nature is kind to her slaves. If she forces you to eat and drink, she makes eating and drinking so pleasant that when we can afford it we eat and drink too much. We must sleep or go mad: but then sleep is so pleasant that we have great difficulty in getting up in the morning.

4(a)(iii)(A). Mention two kinds of slavery stated in this extract.

4(a)(iii)(B). How is Nature kind to her slaves?

4(a)(iii)(C). What are man's natural wants?

4(b)(i). Why does Milton feel it is not necessary to put up a monument in stone for Shakespeare?

4(b)(ii). Why did the author in 'I Sell My Dreams' leave Vienna never to return again?

4(b)(iii). Why is the girl named 'Prakriti' in the play? What are the images in the play that relate to this theme?

4(c)(i). How, according to Sen, has the richness of the tradition of argument helped the success of democracy in India?

4(c)(ii). What brought Captain Hagberd to Colebrook?

4(c)(iii). Why did Dr. Margolin not particularly want his wife to accompany him to the wedding?

4(c)(iv). Why does Ingmar Bergman feel that films should not be made out of books?

4(c)(v). Who was Frank? Why did Eveline's father quarrel with him?

4(c)(vi). What are the pitfalls that the writer of science fiction mystery must guard against?

5(a). Answer in about 100 words:

What idea of human beings did the tiger have while he was at the circus. When and why did he change his opinion about them?

OR

5(a). Answer in about 100 words:

“Beast' or 'brute' are ugly words coined by man in his arrogance.” In the light of this statement, explain how men are different from animals.

5(b). Answer in about 60 words:

Describe briefly the two incidents witnessed by Swamiji and the tiger on their journey towards their final abode in the jungle.

OR

5(b). Answer in about 60 words:

Why did the tiger follow the children to school?

6(a). Answer in about 100 words:

How is Dr. Pal responsible for Margayya's ruin?

OR

6(a). Answer in about 100 words:

Write a character sketch of Margayya. Substantiate your answer giving examples from the text.

6(b). Answer in about 60 words:

Where and why did Margayya first meet Dr. Pal? Why was the encounter significant?

OR

6(b). Answer in about 60 words:

Narrate the circumstances under which Balu ran away from home.

- End of Question Paper -