

**Pratap Public School, Karnal**  
**Mid-Term Examination (~~2023~~) 2024**  
**Class - XII SC-A**  
**Subject - English**

Time : 3 Hours

M.M : 80

Name ..... Roll No. .... Section .....

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
2. All the sections are compulsory.
3. Read the instructions very carefully given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

**SECTION – A (READING SKILLS) (22 marks)**

## 1. Read the following text.

(12 marks)

Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an "infinite improbability drive." It was all too much for him. Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door.

"Hey, Earthman," he said, "come and have a look at this."

Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship's control room. He gazed in amazement at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the center of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.

"What's that?" asked Arthur.

"That's the ship's computer," said Ford.

Arthur stared at the mouse. "That's a computer?" he said.

"Yup," said Ford. "Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?"

"I don't know," said Arthur. "I don't think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the ship's computer?"

"It's a long story," said Ford. "But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they're using the Heart of Gold to finish the calculation."

Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship's intercom crackled to life.

"Good evening, Heart of Gold," said a smooth, computerized voice. This is Eddie, your shipboard computer. I'm feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?"

"Oh, not again," groaned Ford.







(ix) Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below:

(a) HUMANITY'S JOURNEY WITNESSED BY A DEPRESSED ROBOT

(b) HITCHHIKING THROUGH SPACE: A COMICAL TAKE-ON THE END OF THE WORLD

(c) NEW STUDY FINDS ALIENS LIVING AMONG US

(d) GROUNDBREAKING TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON ENABLE TIME TRAVEL

(e) INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL VIA NEW INFINITE IMPROBABILITY DRIVE

Identify the option that displays the headline(s) that does/do not correspond with occurrences in the passage.

A. only (a)

B. (b), (c) and (d)

C. only (e)

D. (a) and (e) (1)

2. Read the following text.

(10 marks)

(1) In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices.

(2) Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).

(3) On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socializing and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organized transportation (38%).

(4) Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers).

(5) However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritize luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).

(6) Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.



**Answer the following questions, based on give passage.**

(i) Infer two possible ways that the survey, mentioned in paragraph (1) could be beneficial. (2)  
Answer in about 40 words.

(ii) Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events, and shared accommodations in their itinerary? (1)

A. Freedom to customize itinerary

B. Luxury and comfort

C. Security and safety

D. Desire for making new friends

(iii) What do the top choices in the survey, for traveling solo and in a group suggest about young adults? (1)

(iv) Identify the solo traveler from the three travelers: (1)

A. Reshma - I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle in perfect.

B. Nawaz - I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation.

C. Deepak - I'm not worried about my well-being, even while exploring remote areas.

(v) Which of the following example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in paragraph 2? (1)

A. Trying new cuisine

B. Hiring a tour guide

C. Purchasing local artifacts

D. Advance booking travel tickets

(vi) How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? (2)

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to ..... (1)

(viii) State TRUE or FALSE.

The title, "Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India", is appropriate for this passage. (1)

### SECTION – B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (18 marks)

3. Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below: (4)

A) Many residents of Ajay Complex, Bhopal have undertaken the responsibility of feeding the street dogs in the Complex. As Raina/Rahul, President of R.W.A., draft a notice in 50 words to fix feeding spots and timings to avoid inconvenience to other residents.

OR

B) Your school is introducing a five-week certified module on Graphic Design during the summer vacation. Draft a notice in 50 words asking interested students to register for the same latest by 20th April. Mention relevant details like fee, timing and course coverage. You are Nishi/Nishant, Academic Incharge.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** from (A) and (B) given below: (4)

A) You are Kavita/Karan Sharma. Draft a formal letter of reply in 50 words, accepting the invitation to be the Guest of Honour on 28th February at the Inter-School Debate Competition being organised by Priti Public School. Mention day, date, time and venue.

OR

B) As the Naina/Niraj Gupta, Principal of Harmony Public School, draft a formal invitation to parents in 50 words, inviting them to attend an orientation workshop on Effective Parenting by Dr. S.K. Hridhay. Mention day, date, time and venue.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below:

(5)

A) A survey reveals that advertisements impact both young and old. They are lured by the discounted prices and the promises made by the product manufacturers. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views in 120-150 words on how advertisements may mislead the consumers and give suggestions on how they can make informed decisions. You are Carol/Philip. You may use the given input.

### ADVERTISEMENTS

- Read with care

- Inaccurate facts
- Exaggerate features
- Heavy discounts
- Promote products with unproven value
- Distract with visuals

OR

B) Mansi/Manu of Viewside Road, Kanpur, sees the following advertisement in 'The Everyday News' and decides to apply for the job of a Marketing Executive. Write a letter of application along with the biodata in 120-150 words to the Personnel Manager, India Book House, Mall Road, Kanpur.

### INDIA BOOK HOUSE – Requires Marketing Executive

#### Qualification:

- Graduate in Marketing and Sales
- Experience 3-5 years
- Fluency in English and Local language
- Knowledge of basic computer skills

#### Job requirement:

- Setting targets and time lines
- Supervising sales

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** from A and B given below:

(5)

A) The primary wing of your Global Public School is putting up a special assembly to celebrate National Integration Day. Mr. Gopal Chand, Secretary, Education Department will be the Guest of Honour. You are Mira/Majid, student reporter of the school magazine. Write a report in 12-150 words to be published in the school magazine. You may use the following cues for the report.



## PROGRAMME

- Welcome
- Speech by Guest of Honour
- Cultural activities – play, dance
- Inauguration of Art Exhibition
- Vote of Thanks

OR

B) Your school held a Pollution Awareness Drive during which students made presentations on factors and solutions. As the President of the Environment Club, you analyzed the presentations and prepared notes. Using the following notes and your own ideas, write an article in about 120-150 words to be published in an e-magazine 'You are Belong to Bharat'.

### POLLUTION FACTORS

- vehicular emission
- depletion of green cover
- construction of high rise buildings
- Open sewage
- poor drainage system
- industrial emission

### SOLUTIONS

- efforts of each citizen
- government measures
- role of media in creating awareness

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given

(1x6=)

A. Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

(i) What would people who put on clean clothes' do?

(A) soil the clothes of others

(B) meditate

(C) preach doctrines

(D) walk about with brothers doing nothing

- (iii) By green wars, the poet does not mean .....
- (A) wars on environment
  - (B) wars destroying greenery
  - (C) wars that pollute the natural things
  - (D) green weapons
- (iv) The poet seems to be in favour of lethargy. (True/False)
- (v) Who would put on clean clothes?
- (vi) What do you think of 'victory with no survivors'?

**OR**

**B. Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth**

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
 Made for our searching; yes in spite of all,  
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
 From our dark spirits.

- (i) What are the bad things mentioned by the poet here? (1)
- (A) malice born of frustration
  - (B) lack of human virtues
  - (C) unhealthy ways of living
  - (D) all of these
- (ii) The phrase "made for our searching" means ..... (1)
- (A) harsh realities of life
  - (B) harsh realities made for our exploration
  - (C) dreams of life
  - (D) our expectations or aspirations
- (iii) The poet wants to say that unpleasant things in life are also ..... (1)
- (iv) What is the figure of speech (poetic device) in 'noble natures'? (1)
- (v) The pall from our life is removed by ..... (1)
- (vi) Beauty has the power to remove the inherent gloom from our lives. (True/False) (1)

**8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.**

**(1x4=4)**

**A.** Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokaskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.



- (i) 'Students on Ice' programme provides the students with ..... (1)
- (ii) Where were the students taken in 'students on Ice' programme? (1)
- (iii) The word 'this' in the first sentence stands for ..... (1)
- (A) study of Antarctica
- (B) history of the Earth
- (C) study of Earth's past, present and future
- (D) the study of climate change
- (iv) When the students are still young they are ready to absorb, learn and act. (True/False)

OR

**B. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

You think.... 'Here's a boy. You look at me ... and then you see my face and you think. "That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy. But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me.

- (i) Who is the speaker and who is he speaking to? (1)
- (a) Derry; His mother (b) Derry; Mr. Lamb
- (c) Derry; Ladies at the bus stop (d) Mother; Mr. Lamb
- (ii) According to the speaker, what do people feel about him? (1)
- (a) People are empathetic towards him.
- (b) People are repulsed by his appearance
- (c) People are annoyed by his presence.
- (d) People are unhappy at his association with his neighbours.
- (iii) Complete the following statement with reference to the extract: (1)
- When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me .....
- (iv) Explain the following statement with reference to the given, extract: (1)
- You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not.

**9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.** (6)

A. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months I have come to recognise each of them.

"Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one.

"My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply.

"Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. (Lost Spring)



(i) What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves *via dialogue* as opposed to only a writer's commentary? (1)

(ii) The line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as:

A) A fact

B) An opinion

C) A theme

D) A plot point

(1)

(iii) Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of bare boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". (1)

(iv) Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association with the boys is not a recent one. (1)

(v) Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that writer would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes. (1)

A. "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look."

B. "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."

C. "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet."

D. "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?"

(1)

(vi) Complete the sentence with ONE word.

The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about why he wasn't wearing chappals was .....

OR

B. He thought of the thirty kronor. To go upto the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He only wanted a chance to sleep here in the forge and then sneak away as inconspicuously as possible.

The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed, because of his miserable clothing. "Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there."

He said, "Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself."

(i) How would you characterise the thoughts of the peddler in the lines mentioned below: "To go upto the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den."

(a) delighted, worried

(b) sceptical, disturbed

(c) perturbed, casual

(d) despair, dejected

(1)

(ii) What bait was the ironmaster offering the peddler ?

(a) the peddler will be comfortable in iron master's house as no one is there

(b) he can stay in mill for long

(c) the peddler will not be disturbed and can stay as long as he wishes to (1)

(iii) The peddler wanted to sneak away from the forge in the morning without ..... (1)

(iv) "To go up to the manor house would be like, throwing himself voluntarily into the lions den." Which poetic device is employed in the above line? (1)



(v) What did the peddler want to do in the forge? (1)

(vi) Ironmaster's wife had gone abroad to meet her sons. (True/False) (1)

10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x5=10)

A. Do you think that M. Hamel's love and the villagers' concern for French amount to linguistic chauvinism?

B. What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'?

C. Why was the crofter so easily cheated by the peddler?

D. Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?

E. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from nature?

F. What is the significance of the word 'but' in but all I said was see you soon, Amma? (My Mother at Sixty Six).

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40-50 words each.

(2x2=4)

(i) Why is Antarctica the perfect place to study the repercussions of environment changes?

(ii) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?

(iii) The Maharaja was a callous and merciless person. Do you agree? Why/Why not?

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhi ji. objected. Even after independence we find exploitation of unrecognized labour. What do we learn from Gandhiji's campaign to counter the present day problem of exploitation?

B. In the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes', the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how it served to make the extract engaging.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Antarctica has simple ecosystem and lacks biodiversity, how it is a perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions.

B. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story "Enemy".