

Pratap Public School, Karnal

Mid-Term Examination (2023)

Class - XI

Subject - English

Time : 3 Hours

M.M : 80

Name Roll No. Section

SECTION-A - READING

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. Today there is a lot of talk about the environment. All nations are coming to an agreement to save planet earth. Like we pollute the earth, we pollute the water; we also pollute the subtle environment through our negative feelings and emotions. We have become a victim of our environment. We are not in control of our mind. We hear a lot about other things in life but we spend very little time to hear about ourselves. How to handle our mind? How to be in present moment? How to be happy and be grateful? This we not learnt. This is the most unfortunate thing. Then, what is the solution? This is where we miss a very fundamental principle that governs our environment, our mind, our emotions and our life in general
2. Our body has the capacity to sustain much longer the vibrations of bliss and peace than it does negative emotions because positivity is in the centre of our existence. Just like in the structure of atom, protons and neutrons are in the centre of the atom and electrons are only the periphery, same is with our lives; the centre core of our existence is bliss, positivity and joy, but it is surrounded by cloud of negative ions. Through the help of the breath, we can easily get over our negative emotions in a short period of time. Through meditation and certain breathing techniques, we can clear this negative cloud.
3. This life has so much to offer to you. You can see this once you take some time off, rejuvenating the soul. Your soul is hungry for a smile from you. If you could give this, you feel energised the whole year and nothing, whatsoever, can take the smile away from you.
4. Everyone wants to be successful in life. But without knowing what is success, you want to be successful. What is the sign of success? Just having a lot of money, is that success? Why do you think money means success? Because money gives you freedom so that you can do whatever you want. You may have a big bank balance but you have stomachaches, ulcers, you may have to go for bypass surgery; can't eat this, can't do this, can't do that. We spend half our health to gain wealth and spend half our wealth to gain back the health, is this success? It is very bad mathematics.
5. Look at those who claim to be successful - are they successful? No, they are miserable. Then, what is the sign of success? It is confidence, compassion, generosity and a smile that none can snatch away, being really happy and being able to be more free. These are the signs of a successful person.
6. Take some time off to look a little deeper into yourself and calm the mind down. Thus, erasing all the impressions that we are carrying in our minds and experience the presence, the divine that is the very core of our existence. This is feeling the presence.

1) Answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

- (a) How do we pollute our environment?
- (i) by becoming victims to our environment
 - (ii) by not listening to indications about ourselves.
 - (iii) through our negative thoughts and feelings.
 - (iv) by not being in control of our mind.
- (b) How can we get rid of our negative emotions?
- (i) by keeping longer the vibrations of bliss
 - (ii) through meditations and using some breathing techniques
 - (iii) by ignoring clouds
 - (iv) by preserving the protons and neutrons
- (c) In para 2, positivity has been compared to
- (i) protons and neutrons
 - (ii) electrons
 - (iii) cloud of ions
 - (iv) atom
- (d) We can feel the presence of the divine at the core of our existence if we
- (i) are healthy
 - (ii) take time off
 - (iii) can erase the impressions in our minds
 - (iv) meditate
- (e) 'Sustain' in para 2 means....
- (i) keep alive
 - (ii) experience
 - (iii) remember
 - (iv) create
- (f) Our body has a natural tendency to align itself with :
- (i) Stressful situation
 - (ii) Negative emotions tranquility
 - (iii) Moments of happiness and tranquility
 - (iv) Protons and neutrons

II) Answer the following questions briefly:

- (g) What, according to the author, is 'bad mathematics'?
- (h) What are the signs of a successful person?
- (i) What does the author mean by saying 'positivity' is in the centre of our existence?
- (j) Find out the word which means the same as 'edge' (para 2)

2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow : (8)

- 1) When it comes to drinking water every day, an important question to ask is how much water should you drink? It is a simple question with a not-so-simple answer. Just like one size does not fit all, every individual has different hydration needs which depend on a person's health, level of activity and climatic conditions.
- 2) Water is one of the most important nutrients and contributes about 50-60% to our body weight. Much also depends on an individual's age, gender and body-fat content. We can live without food for almost two months, but we can't survive without water for more than a few days. Water is essential for the body to function normally; dehydration can cause death. Lack of water can lead to malfunctioning of the kidney, which would hinder excretion of uric acid, urea and calcium, resulting in kidney stones. Its scarcity

can affect electrolyte balance in the body, which could be potentially dangerous causing coma or death.

- 3) Water is also essential for breathing, as the lungs need to be moist before they exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. Apart from all those known functions, water is important for chemical reactions in digestion and metabolism. It also helps cool the body through perspiration and lubricates our joints. People suffering from arthritis should drink a glass of water every second hour.
 - 4) In the last decade, the 8-8 guideline (8 ounce or 240 ml of water, or 8 glasses of water) was followed all over the world. The National Institute of Nutrition in its 2011 guidelines prescribed two litres or eight glasses of water per day for a healthy adult.
 - 5) Optimum hydration can be achieved by drinking low-calorie, nutritious beverages such as lemon water, green tea, coconut water, butter milk, besides plain water. Plan your day in a way that you drink enough liquid. The thumb rule should be to include at least one of these beverages as part of your midday meal. In a nutshell, person requires a minimum of eight glasses of water per day - do not gulp all in one go, divide the number of glasses equally throughout the day and combine them with low-calorie, nutritious beverages whenever possible.
 - 6) Regulate your water intake according to weather conditions for staying adequately hydrated.
 - 7) To conclude, water is the elixir of life. Instead of wasting water, we must adopt rainwater harvesting. Think of states like Rajasthan where water supply is available for a few hours. At some places, there is a great shortage of water. We must use water judiciously and sparingly. What will we leave for the next generation if we use such a precious source carelessly? If things go like this, we all will be fighting over water. What we need is to treat even the sea water to meet water scarcity or else we will end up saying. "Water water everywhere, but not a drop to drink."
- a) 1) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. (5)
Use recognisable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.
- b) Make a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION B (WRITING SKILLS (20 marks))

3. Your school is holding an exhibition of the handicraft objects made by the students.
 - a) Prepare a poster announcing the event and showing its highlights. (5)
- OR**
- b) You are Kamal Arora, librarian of Blooming Minds Library. Write a notice for the library notice board provide the information to the members that there will be changes in membership fees, book rental charges and library timings from the 1st November 2023.

4. a) You are Vikram/ Sonia, a resident of 32 with seven years of experience as an expert executive in a top firm. You seek an immediate change to some other medical firm in Mumbai/Pune. Draft a suitable advertisement in about 50 words for the 'Situation Wanted' column of a National Daily.

OR

- b) You are Ranveer / Ravina of 254 Greater Kailash, New Delhi. You want to sell the first floor of your newly constructed house. Draft an advertisement in the Indian Express under its classified Advertisements column in about 50 words. (5)
5. You are Anubhav or Anita of 254-D Rajouri Garden. Your area has been getting an erratic supply of power for last many weeks. Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily inviting the attention of authorities concerned. (125-150 words) (5)

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindu, New Delhi expressing your opinion on the issue of stubble burning by the farmers of UP, Haryana and Punjab. Suggest some practical and eco-friendly ways of dealing with the problem.

6. Your school organised a cleanliness drive on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Students took the responsibility of keeping clean - the classrooms, corridors, assembly and playgrounds, canteen area and drinking water area. Write a report (150-200 words) on how the drive was organised and how successful it was. (5)

OR

Many students of your school volunteered for a two day Meditation camp. You feel meditation can be extremely useful in modern times of stress and tension. Write an article for your school magazine in 150-200 words.

(SECTION-C) LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

7. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (6x1=6)

A) When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not
all they seemed to be,
They talked of love and preached of love,
But did not act so lovingly,
Was that the day!

i) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.

(ii) Which of the following statements AGREES with the extract?

(a) Even as a child the speaker could see through the hypocrisy of adults.

(b) The speaker always found the adults to be innocent and truthful.

(c) As a child, the speaker was unaware of the pretentious ways of adults.

(d) As a child the speaker vowed to be always honest and truthful.

(iii) Choose the options that CORRECTLY describe the speaker's reaction to the hypocritical ways of adults.

1. Joy

2. Satisfaction

3. Disillusionment

4. Indifference

5. Disapproval

6. Resentment

- (a) Options 1, 2 & 4
 (c) Options 2, 4 & 5
 (b) Options 3, 5 & 6
 (d) Options 4, 5 & 6
- iv) What is ironical about the behaviour of adults?
 v) Why was the poet not able to see through the duplicity of adults earlier?
 vi) Which of the following does NOT suggest the meaning of the word 'preached'?
- (a) sermonized
 (c) criticized
 (b) taught
 (d) advocated

OR

B) And who art thou? Said I to the soft-falling shower,

Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,

Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,

i) "And who art thou". This line is an example of language.

- (a) modern
 (c) rude
 (b) archaic
 (d) cliched

ii) Which of the following statements are NOT supported by the extract?

1. The shower did not respond to the question
2. The shower spoke in a human language.
3. The poet translated the rain's words into the language that people could understand.
4. The language of the shower was the language of common people.
5. The poet's sharp poetic sensibility enabled him to understand the language of the shower.

- (a) Options 1, 3 & 5
 (c) Options 1, 2 & 4
 (b) Options 2, 4 & 5
 (d) Options 2, 3 & 4

iii) Why is rain called 'the poem of earth'?

iv) The rise of rain is 'impalpable' because _____.

v) "Which, strange to tell gave me an answer". Why does the poet use the expression 'stranger to tell'?

vi) Which poetic devices have been used in the third line?

- (a) alliteration and personification
 (c) metaphor and alliteration
 (b) personification and metaphor
 (d) allusion and personification

8. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (6×1=6)

All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had descended into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects. They gazed at the murals on the walls of the burial chamber and peered at Tut's gilded face, the most striking feature of his mummy-shaped outer coffin lid. Some visitors read from guidebooks in a whisper. Others stood silently, perhaps pondering Tut's untimely death in his late teens, or wondering with a shiver if the pharaoh's curse death or misfortune falling upon those who disturbed him-was really true.

"The mummy is in very bad condition because of what Carter did in the 1920s," said Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, as he leaned over the body for a long first look.

- i) What is the context being referred to here?
- ii) Who was Howard Carter?
- iii) Which of the following were the expressions on the faces of the visitors to the tomb?
 1. pleasure
 2. silence
 3. wonder
 4. certainty
 5. confidence
 6. fear

(a) Options 1, 3 & 4
(b) Options 3, 4 & 5
(c) Options 2, 3 & 6
(d) Options 4, 5 & 6
- (iv) The visitors feared that
 - (a) they might get stuck in the tomb
 - (b) people opening the tomb might have to suffer
 - (c) the ghost of Tut might rise from the tomb
 - (d) the thieves might plunder the gold
- v) Which of the following words does NOT convey the meaning of the word 'pondered'?
 - (a) reflected
 - (b) brooded
 - (c) plundered
 - (d) considered
- vi) Why is Howard Carter blamed for the mummy's 'bad condition'?

OR

B) We had survived for 15 hours since the wave hit, but Wave Walker wouldn't hold together long enough for us to reach Australia. I checked our charts and calculated that there were two small islands a few hundred kilometres to the east. One of them, the Amsterdam, was French scientific base. Our only hope was to reach these pinpricks in the vast ocean. But unless the wind and seas abated so we could hoist sail, our chances would be slim indeed. The great wave had put our auxiliary engine out of action.

- (i) Which of the following statements is supported by the extract?
 - (a) The narrator was sure to find the small islands a few hundred kilometres away from his location.
 - (b) The narrator knew that the Wave Walker was too damaged to complete the journey.
 - (c) The narrator and company's chances to find the islands could improve if the sea remained agitated and the strong wind continued to blow.
 - (d) The narrator's only hope was to reach Australia somehow on board the Wave Walker.
- (ii) Where is the narrator now? What has brought about the situation?
- (iii) Which of the following words CANNOT replace the word 'auxiliary' in the extract?
 - (a) additional
 - (b) supporting
 - (c) supplementary
 - (d) principal

"If I say I can't teach you any more, and probably you'll soon be able to teach me, will that be all right?" he asked.

"That's saying too much, sir," said Albert.

"It's only the truth. But alright. I'll put it more seriously."

It was still a glowing reference, Mr Koch made the point that Albert was ready immediately to enter a college or institute for the study of higher mathematics.

"I'm sorry you're leaving us, although you're wasting your time in my class," he said.

"It's almost the only class where I'm not wasting my time." said Albert. "But how did you know I'm leaving, sir?"

"You wouldn't have asked me for this reference otherwise." "I thought you'd wonder..."

"There's nothing to wonder about, Einstein. I knew you were going to leave before you knew yourself."

Albert was puzzled. What did the teacher mean?

He soon found out..

- i) Who was Mr. Koch? Why did Albert visit him?
- ii) Which of the following was intended by Mr. Koch when he said, I can't teach you anymore, and probably you'll soon be able to teach me"
 - a) Mr. Koch was making a sarcastic remark against Albert.
 - b) Albert Einstein would become a teacher in future.
 - c) Albert was extremely good at this subject taught by Mr. Koch.
 - d) Mr. Koch would allow Albert to teach him.
- iii) 'I knew you were going to leave before you knew yourself.' By these words Mr. Koch meant that :
 - a) Albert had decided the to leave the school.
 - b) Albert had got admission in a college for higher studies
 - c) Mr. Koch wanted Albert to leave the school.
 - d) The school authorities would soon tell Albert to leave.
- iv) "He soon found out'. When and what did Albert find out?

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 40 words each.- (5 x 2=10)

- a) Sense of loss and grief is essentially a part of human nature. How do sparrows in 'The Portrait of a Lady' mimick this unique human behaviour?
- b) What is Green Movement and how has it effected a change in our perception of the earth?
- c) in the poem 'A Photograph', poet's mother laughed at the snapshot. What did the laugh indicate?
- d) In the poem, ' The Childhood' the speaker seems to have been disillusioned with the adult world. Why does he feel so? Do you think he is justified? Why /why not?.
- e) What is sustainable development and why is it important?
- f) "I found my mind was really mine, To use whichever way I choose". What does the poet imply in these lines?.

11. Answer **ANY THREE** of the following questions in about 40 words each. - (3x2=6)

- a) Why and what did Albert's History teacher report to the headteacher?
- b) What was the surprising element for the farmer John Byro when he finally got his stolen horse back?
- c) Mourad was crazy, but kind. Explain.
- d) How would you define the character of Mrs Dorling?

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions in about 125 words - (5)

- a) "It's been well said that forests precede mankind, deserts follow", says Nani Palkiwala in 'The Ailing Planet'. Bring out the truth of this statement in the form of an article.
- b) Consider you are Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.
You are very tensed because the scanning of King Tut's dead body is scheduled for tomorrow. Write a diary entry revealing the turmoil within him.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions in about 125 words - (5)

- a) After the namator has left Mrs Doring's daughter somehow comes to know the truth behind the precious antique items and silver cutlery that are in their possession now. She is ashamed of her mother's duplicity and confronts her with the bitter truth. Write the conversation between both the daughter and mother.
You may begin the conversation like this
Daughter : Oh, you have come! I have been waiting for you.
Mrs. Dorling :
- b) Mr Brown and Mr Koch had diametrically opposite views about Albert Einstein as a student. Imagine that on the day Albert was forced out of the school, both the teachers are engaged in a discussion about the incident. Reconstruct the conversation that you think must have taken place between the two-
You may begin conversation like this
Mr. Koch : I hope now you are happy?
Mr. Brown :
