

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
ENGLISH CORE (301)
Class-XII

Time allowed: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 100

General Instructions

- 1. All the questions are compulsory.**
- 2. Your answer should be to the point, try to stick to the word limit given.**

Section A: Reading

20 Marks

Q. 1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow: 12 marks

- 1 In spite of all the honours that we heaped upon him, Pasteur, as has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace, and the longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him. In truth he did become a great artist, though after his sixteenth year he abandoned the brush forever. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that was to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win. The sight of injured children, particularly, moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in that suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at *Villeneuve Etang*, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, “practicing the Gospel virtues.”
- 2 “He revered the faith of his fathers,” says the same writer, “and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period.”
- 3 The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: “The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant.”
- 4 But even then in retirement he loved to see his former pupils, and it was then he would reiterate his life principles: “Work,” he would say, “never cease to work.” So well had he kept this precept that he began rapidly to sink from exhaustion.
- 5 Finally on September 27, 1895, when someone leant over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly: “I cannot,” and with a look of perfect resignation and peace, seemed to fall asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of a world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday.

Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote at a plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth.

- 7 No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner's son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

487 words

1.1 Answer the following questions:

- a. Even accolades and honours did not change the simple man that Pasteur was. Give reasons. 2 marks
- b. How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases? 1 mark
- c. How did Pasteur engage himself in the estate? 2 marks
- d. What advice did he always give to his pupils? 2 marks
- e. How did France, the country of his birth, honour this great scientist? 2 marks

1.2 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: 3 marks

- a. to give up (para 1)
- b. people belonging to the same period (para 3)
- c. vote by the people of the country to decide a matter of national importance (para 6)

Q. 2. Read the passage given below: 8 marks

Residents of the Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bishmillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year-old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah's land, recalled : *"Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality"*.

He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji's Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Quamaruddin and became Bishmillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in Varanasi.

His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him. For Bishmillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bishmillah Khan won't just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhanas to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was a testimony to the plurality that is India. A practising Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of *kusti* in *Benia Baga Akhada*. Every morning, Bishmillah Khan would do *riyaaaz* at the Balaji temple on the

banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn't

desert Bishmillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a *thumri* to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music.

Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bishmillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the very end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

- 2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. **5 marks**
- 2.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. **3 marks**

Section – B Advanced Writing Skills

35 marks

- Q.3 A.K International School is looking for a receptionist for the school. Write an advertisement on behalf of the administrative officer in the classified columns of the local newspaper giving necessary details. Draft the advertisement in not more than 50 words. **5 marks**

OR

Suman/Suresh has cleared the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental entrance examination. The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get-together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get-together.

- Q.4. You are Shekhar/ Tripta a student of A.P Public School. Principals of two schools from Bhutan visited your school as part of a cultural exchange programme. Students of the school put up a cultural show in their honour. Write a report of the programme for your school magazine. (125-150 words) **10 marks**

OR

It was raining heavily. You were walking to your house after the school, when suddenly you saw a huge Neem tree coming down and falling on the pavement and the road thereby hitting a car parked on the pavement. The traffic came to a standstill. Describe the chaotic traffic scene in 125-150 words.

- Q. 5. You are Nitin/Natasha a student of Class XII at K.P.N. Public School Faridabad. A student is required to cope with a lot of peer pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the kind of pressures an adolescent faces and suggest ways to cope with the same. **10 marks**

OR

You are Suresh/Smita. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement given below:

Application are invited for the post of a Nursery Teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 05 years experience of teaching tiny-tots. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/she should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, AKS International, Indirapuram, New Delhi within 10 days with detailed resume.

Q. 6. There has been wide spread devastation caused by the ‘Himalayan Tsunami’ in Uttarkhand state of India. Multiple reasons have been attributed to the havoc caused by heavy rains. Write an article highlighting the steps taken by the administration to rescue and evacuate the people from the flood hit areas. Also express your opinion on how this kind of tragedy can be averted in future. You are Manish/ Micky (150-200words) 10marks

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Mukesh/ Meena. You decide to write a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games. (150-200 words) 10marks

Section – C Textbooks and Long Reading Text

30+15 = 45 Marks

**Read the following extract from the poems and answer the questions that follows:
Any One**

Q. 7. *They do not fear the men beneath the tree;* 1x4 = 4 marks
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- a. Are Aunt Jennifer’s tigers real? Give reasons for your answer. 2
- b. Why do the tigers not fear the man beneath the tree? 1
- c. What do you understand by ‘chivalric certainty’? 1

OR

*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us.*

- a. ‘A thing of beauty is joy for ever’. Explain 2
- b. Why does a beautiful thing ‘pass into nothingness’? 1
- c. What does poet mean by ‘a bower quiet for us’ 1

Q. 8. Answer any two of the following questions in about 30-40 words. 2x2= 4 marks

1. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn

from Nature?

2. Why does Spender call Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example?
3. What is the significance of the parting words of the poet and her smile, in *My Mother at Sixty-six*.

Q.9. Answer any six of the following questions in about 30-40 words. 2x6= 12 marks

- a. For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?
- b. Mention any two hazards of working in the glass bangles industry.
- c. How did Douglas overcome *the old terror*?
- d. The crofter can be called as a *good host*. Give Reason.
- e. Even though the Maharaja lost three lakhs of rupees, he was still happy. Why?
- f. Why did Roger Skunk go in the search of the wizard?
- g. Mention any two reasons because of which it would take thirty minutes to an hour for Bama to reach home?

Q.10. Answer any one of the following in about 100-125 words. 5 marks

Franz's attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the takeover of his village by Prussians. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the *The Last Lesson*.

OR

“The duty of a doctor beckoned Dr. Sadao in helping the injury soldier. “But what made his wife Hana empathies with him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff?

Q. 11. Read the following and answer the question that follows: 5 marks

After reading the story ‘The Rattrap’, you feel that moral virtues can change a person’s life. These play a vital role in the moral and spiritual development of a human-being. ‘An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind.’ It is through fellow-feeling, love, compassion and trust in others that can help reform the society. Write a paragraph on ‘ways to reform a wayward personality’ in about 100 words.

Long Reading Text – The Hound of Baskerville

Q.12 What is the role Dr. J. Watson in the novel ‘The Hounds of Baskerville’? What characteristics make him a real assistant as a private investigator? Write your answer in about 125 words.
8 marks

Q.13. What was the legend behind ‘The Hound of Baskervilles’? What was the most recent event that occurred in support of this myth?
7 marks

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Marking Scheme

Max. Marks: 100

Section – A
Reading

Q. 1 Answer Key 1.1 **12 marks**

- a. • he continued to live in his childhood/ He remained a simple-hearted person. 2 marks
• when he used to paint and always wished to be a painter
- b. Pasteur believed 1 mark
• that the sufferer was something more than just a case to be dealt with and cured.
- c. Pasteur retired to the estate at *Villeneuve Estang* 2 marks
• conducted study on rabies
• practiced the gospel virtues
- d. • he would tell his pupils never to stop working. 2 marks
• Working according to him, was the most important of life principles.
- e. • the French people voted him as the greatest man that France had ever produced. 2 marks
• This was the greatest tribute that could have been paid to Louis Pasteur.

- 1.2** a- abandoned **3 marks**
b- contemporaries
c- Plebiscite

Q. 2.1. Title: ‘Tribute to Bismillah Khan’ or accept any appropriate or relevant title. 5 marks

Notes

1. Shock at the demise
(a) Cousin- tears in eyes.
(b) Care-taker recalled-
(ii) Giving two Rs. - boys
(iii) Five Rs. to girls

2. His early life **3 marks**
(a) Org. name Quamaruddin
(b) Play shehnai at temp. - with father
(c) Recognized as Bismillah- at Vns.

3. Music as Family heritage:
(a) father - court poet at Dumaraon
(b) pld. shehnai from age six
(c) at 31- played shehnai - Red Fort- 1947.
4. Daily routine in Vns.
(a) taking dip in the Ganga
(b) riyaz at Balaji Temp.
(c) before his last breath- hummed thumri
(d) used cycle rickshaw to travel
(e) bread-winner for 60 fml. mem.
5. Bismillah beyond religion
(a) main principle- all religions one
(b) life -testimony of plurality
(c) pract. Muslim

Key to Abbreviations used:

Temp.	Temple
Vns.	Varanasi
Pract.	Practicising
Rs.	Rupees
Pld.	Played
Fml.	family
Mem.	member

2.2. Summary of the passage

3 marks

Ustad Bismillah Khan born and brought up at Dumaraon got the taste of music at a very early stage of life. He started accompanying his father who was an official musician at the Estate of Dumaraon. He got the honour to play his thumri tune at Red Fort on the occasion of Independence. He believed that all religions are one. He led a life of simplicity. Music was his soul and even on his deathbed he played his last thumri in the hospital at Varanasi.

Section – B

Advanced Writing Skills

10 marks

Q. 3. Option -I

Objectives: To draft a classified advertisement giving all the necessary details.

Marking:

5 marks

Title : Situation Vacant

1 mark

Content: Details 3 marks

- Educational Qualifications
- Spoken English
- Age
- Pleasant personality
- Whom to apply to and contact address
- Last date

Expression: Coherence, Relevance 1 mark
 Grammatical accuracy, spelling

Option II

Format Address of self
 Date
 Salutation 1 mark

Content: Details 2 marks

- What is the occasion
- Date and time
- Venue
- Theme for the party

Expression: Coherence, Relevance 1 mark
 Grammatical accuracy, spelling 1 mark

Q. 4 Option I 10 marks

Report

Format Heading/Title
 Name and class of the student ½ + ½ mark

Content What? 4 marks
 When?
 Where?
 Who organized it?
 Highlights of the guest's speech
 Any other relevant information

Expression spelling, grammatical accuracy 2 ½ marks
 coherence, relevance 2 ½ marks

Option II

Factual Description

Content	Value Points • Description of accident site • Condition of occupants • Number of occupants • Condition of the vehicle • Presence of ambulance	4 marks
Expression	Coherence and relevance Grammar and spelling	3 marks 3 marks

Q. 5. Option I

10 marks

Format	Writer's address, receiver's address, date, subject, salutation and complementary close	2 marks
Content	Reasons for stress • The increasing competition among students to score high marks • No time for recreation • Manifestation of stress in the form of anger, violent behaviour • Indulging in games, practising yoga, can combat stress • Listening to music etc are also ways of cop with stress	5 marks
Expression	Coherence, relevance spelling, grammatical accuracy	3 marks

Option II

Format	Writer's address, receiver's address, date, subject, salutation and complementary close.	2 marks
Content	Covering letter Reference to advertisement Conveying suitability for the post Submission of application Resume/ Biodata as separate enclosure Profile of self Educational Qualifications	3 marks

Professional Qualifications
Experience
Any other relevant information

Expression Spellings, grammatical accuracy, relevance 2 ½ marks
Coherence and cohesion 2 ½ marks

Q. 6. Option: I 10 marks
Article- Argumentative

Format Title, writer's name 1 mark
Title – 'The Himalayan Tsunami'

Content 4 marks

- wide spread devastation caused by heavy rains due to cloud burst
- Unmindful exploitation of hilly terrain.
- Soil erosion due to illegal
- Constructions
- Unpreparedness of disaster management teams/ agency

Steps:

- wide scale evacuation
- all government agencies at work
- ITBP, BSF, Army, Airforce
- Local administrative machinery
- Taking cognizance of CAG's reports, Disaster Management team etc.

Expression - Coherence, relevance 2 ½ marks
Spelling, grammatical accuracy 2 ½ marks

Option II

- Outdoor games make us physically active, agile and alert
- Playing and running around with friends makes us happy
- It is exciting when we play , fight, agree and disagree
- Lot of exchange of ideas and thoughts
- Increase in number of friends hence social circle is broadened
- More joyful than sitting alone on computers and chatting

Section – C Textbooks

Q. 7. Objectives: To test the students comprehension of the poem, their ability to interpret, evaluate and respond to the lines of the poem.

Option - I Value points: 4 marks

- (a) No, 2 marks
- they are on a screen
 - can be seen on a panel
- (b) Symbol of chivalry 1 mark
- they are powerful
- (c) they are sure of their power 1 mark
- and the strength they possess
- O
R

Option - II Value points:

- (a) Long lasting impact 2 marks
- never move into emptiness
 - we even think of them in our dream
- (b) long standing impression 1 mark
- not subject to time
- (c) a shady place for one to sit and ponder 1 mark

Q. 8. Any two marks 2x 2 = 4

1. to be quiet and still
 - to grow at our own place
 - to be contented what we had (any two points)
2. He says so
 - These have no meaning for children of slum
 - They will tempt them to steal
3. It signifies hope
 - Promise of visiting the mother again
 - To leave a smiling face behind for her mother, (any two)

9. Any Six

Objectives: To be able to comprehend incidents and evaluate it.
marks

2x 6 = 12

Marking

Scheme:

Content: 1

mark

Expression: 1

mark

Value Points

- a. Going out to play in bright warm sun
- With birds chirping in open field
 - To see the Prussians soldiers practicing drill
 - More tempting than learning the rules for participles
- b.
- the chances of losing one's eye-sight
 - there is possibility of skin burn too
- c. he confidently continued to swim on
- the next morning he dived into the lake, swam across to the other shore and back. this way he conquered his fear of water.
 - the will to live helped him in conquering his fear.
- d. He welcomed the tramp
- offered him hot supper
 - gave him tobacco to smoke
 - played cards with him
- e. Maharaja had bought fifty diamond rings
- sent it to the wives of British officers to choose from
 - they kept all of them
 - but managed to retain his kingdom
 - this made him happy
- f. Every body made fun of Roger Skunk because he gave out a bad smell.
- he was upset about this
 - He met the old owl who advised him to go to the wizard, which would help him and give him a pleasant smell.
- g. The two reasons are:
- She would watch all the fun and games that were going on the road
 - She would look at the shops and the bazaars
 - Used to look at the snake charmers and the monkey performing, (any two)

Q. 10. Option I

Objectives: To test global comprehension of prose texts **5**
marks

Marking

Scheme: Content:

3

marks

Expression: 2

marks

Value Points:

- Franz decided to pay attention to the lesson
- School became very important for him
- Felt he would miss his school from next day
- M. Hamel became a good teacher from a boring one.
- Genuinely upset that Hamel was leaving the village
- Cranky Hamel seemed a good gentle man
- Liking developed for history and grammar.

OR

Option II

Marking Scheme: **5**

marks

Content: 3 marks

Expression: 2 marks

had
one
– she is
every
prisoner –
involved.

Dr. Sadao’s compulsion of - The enemy soldier was professionally – Justifiable - Hana -
no such compulsion - She supported the decision of her husband – Hana - more than
reason to be sympathetic – wifely compulsion of her pledge of supporting the husband
a woman and - instinctively are preservers and not destroyers. – there is a mother in
woman- educated woman – logical assessment – justifiably sympathetic towards the
of war in spite of – vehement objections and defiance of the servants and the risks

11. Value Based Question

Marking scheme

5 marks

Content—3

Expression—2

Value points: Students may cover any three of the following points.

Accept any other point if it is relevant.

Suggested Value Points:

- A smooth and peaceful life - important in our life.
- A troubled and tensed life - meaningless – brings along many ailments and problems.
- Inculcating values like truthfulness, punctuality, regularity, fellow-feeling, sympathy and a selfless service – life becomes a boon for all.
- Must learn to pay due respect to our elders and love needy, poor and our young-ones – be a role model for others.
- Bad habits are mental vices - turn us addict - become habitual.
- Student life - best platform to attain as well as earn these virtues.
- Qualities like truth, fellow-feeling, sympathy, equality, service, help and affection - pave a good path for our future life
- A man without social and moral virtues - seen with hatred and distorting eyes - loses trust, confidence, affection and honour.

12. Long Reading Text

Objectives: To be able to write a character sketch with supporting details.

Marking Scheme:
marks

8

Content: 4 marks, 1 mark for each value point (4 points)

Expression: 2 marks (2 + 2 accuracy and fluency)

Value Points

Dr. John Watson – Dr. John Watson is the narrator in the novel and place a very important role. Watson is Holmes’s indispensable assistant at Basker Street and the chronicler of his triumphs as a private investigator. In The ‘Hound of the Baskervilles’, Watson tries his hand at Holmes’ game, expressing his eagerness to please and impress the master by solving such a

baffling case. As sidekick and apprentice to Holmes, Watson acts as a foil for Holmes' genius and as a stand in for us, the awestruck audience. Though, Watson plays in the case, he is primarily significant as the narrator of the story. Since he is, like most readers, not a detective, he is able to relate information as the average persons would likely see it. This is beneficial because it keeps the novel suspenseful, much more so than if we knew that Holmes suspected the Stapletons from the start.

13. Objectives: To be able to comprehend incidents and evaluate it. **7**
marks

Marking Scheme:

Content: 1 mark for each value point (4 points)

Expression: 3 marks (1½ + 1½ accuracy and fluency)

Value Points

This legend is about Sir Hugo Baskerville – a wild and profane person - fell in love with a yeoman's daughter - girl avoided - because of his wicked nature - Hugo with wicked friends kidnapped the girl - Baskerville Hall - Hugo friends were enjoying themselves sitting in another room - young lady got the chance to escape - ran towards her home - Hugo became very furious – he gave the hounds a handkerchief of the girl – the three Hugo's friends saw the young lady lying dead – a black beast standing over Hugo plucking at his throat – men fairfull rain across the moor - one of them died that very night – others became insane for the rest of their life.