

THE ASIAN SCHOOL
HOME-ASSIGNMENT DECEMBER--2012
ENGLISH-CORE CLASS –XII

NRV

MM -100

General Instructions:

- (i) This paper is divided into three sections:A,B,& C.All sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question,whetrever necessary.

Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.

- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
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SECTION-A: READING

(20)

Q.1.Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

COFFEE—HEALTHY BODY AND MIND ?

1. The idea that coffee is bad for heart pops up periodically. It was found that regularly drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researchers even isolated fatlike chemicals, cafestol and kahweol, responsible for the rise.
2. It turned out that the European brewing method—boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining – produces high concentrations cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee—five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers down only two cups.
3. Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.
4. “For heart disease, I think the issue is closed,” says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied many aspects of coffee and health. “Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk.”
5. Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson’s disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese-American men found that avid coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn’t drink the brew.
6. Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, found indirect evidence that Caffeine—the habit forming stimulant in coffee – may actually combat Parkinson’s. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine – the problem underlying Parkinson’s in humans. However, these are preliminary findings; human studies have not consistently supported caffeine’s protective role.
7. The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs – and are reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: Many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.
8. If there’s a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it possibly applies just to coffee junkies. A reanalysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.
9. Caffeine is such a powerful stimulant that the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association set limits on how much can remain in the blood during competition. In addition to boosting physical endurance, caffeine increases alertness and improves mood. The buzz may come at a price, though. People who drink more than they’re used to may become restless and unable to sleep. Moreover, it’s possible to become physically dependent on caffeine in days.
10. The question now arises: how much to drink? Those with heartburn and anxiety may want to see if cutting back on coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there’s virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard’s Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: “That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it.”

1.1 Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) *In what respect does coffee harm human heart? How?* 2
- (b) *What is the finding of latest researches about coffee and human heart?* 2
- (c) *What problem causes Parkinson’s disease? What is the role of coffee in this respect?* 2
- (d) *Name the three types of cancer listed in the passage.* 1
- (e) *‘Caffeine is a powerful stimulant’. What are the positive and negative effects of Caffeine?* 2

1.2 Find words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following: 3

- (a) *separated* (Para 1)
- (b) *drug that increases physical or mental activity and alertness* (Paras, 6, 9)
- (c) *feeling of pleasure or excitement* (Paras 9, 10)

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

The kingdom of books is as vast as the universe, for there is no corner of it which they have left unexplored. There is no dearth of books on any topic, be it as simple as the composition of sodium nitrate or as intricate as the mechanism of a spacecraft rocketing towards Mars. We make use of books for the dissemination of useful ideas, for popularising the fruits of our research in various fields of knowledge, and for spreading our progressive views on matters which are of vital concern to our fellow beings. In fact, no single product of human labour has been as helpful to the advancement of civilisation as books which are written in all languages of the world and which are decoratively placed in bookshelves in our homes and tastefully displayed in bookstalls and libraries. If to Keats, works of ancient poets like Homer were realms of gold from which he derived much joy as well as inspiration, to the modern lover of books, the labours of all geniuses, including those of Keats, are mines of inestimable intellectual wealth which he goes on exploring for the sake of his mental and spiritual advancement.

There was a time some five centuries back when books, as we know them today, did not exist, and when there were few people who could read things written on stuff that certainly was not paper. At that time our ancestors used rocks, pillars and parchment with a view to recording and perpetuating their most important thoughts and achievements in the language they then understood. Now-a-days, the book-producing machinery gives to the work of every

great scientific thinker, poet or philosopher the character of permanence, reproduces in attractive forms old and rare manuscripts and caters to the differing tastes of millions of people for whom book-reading is an extremely pleasant, intellectual exercise. Moreover, the high percentage of literacy, the growth of libraries in towns and villages and the tendency of intellectuals to have their own private collection of useful books, have given birth to a number of big publishing houses with branches in many parts of the world and publications numbering thousands. In recent years, paperbacks have begun to reveal their attraction for the reading public, and although they have not completely thrown into neglect the hard-cover market, they have appealed to people who would not have thought of buying books not so very long ago. These paperbacks are generally reprints of popular fiction or of established classics or translations from foreign works which are in constant demand at all bookstalls.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable short forms, wherever necessary (minimum four). Supply an appropriate title to it.

5

2.2 Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words

3

SECTION B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

(35)

Q.3. You are Saran/Swati, Cultural Secretary of Queen's Senior Secondary School, Shimla. Write a

Notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving details of the cultural

Programme to be organised by the your school. Invite the names of the participants. (5)

Or

You want to sell your car as you are going abroad. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the classified columns of "The Hindu" give necessary details of the car. You are Suman/Sushil, 21 Ram Nagar, Delhi.

Q.4. Your school celebrated the Founders Day. Write a report in 100—125 words for your school magazine, giving details of the celebrations. You are Amit/Amita of Maharani Laxmibai School, Gwalior. (10)

OR

You are a staff reporter 'The Hindu', New Delhi. You have witnessed a road accident involving a lorry and a Maruti car at Mathura Road. Write a report in 100—125 words. You are Ashok/Aruna

Q.5. Describe in 100—125 words how you spent your last Sunday differently from the usual routine Sundays. (10)

OR

Recently a programme was arranged in your city with the help of the film stars Kargil Relief Fund. Write a report in about 100 words for a local daily.

Q.6. You are Gopal/Gopika, a social worker. You have observed that young boys and girls go on increasing their academic qualification without proper direction. Most of them do not get any employment creating the problems of educated unemployed. Some of them drift into unsocial activities. Write an article in 150—200 words on how this problem of the 'educated unemployed' can be solved. (10)

OR

Write a letter to the editor of a news paper, 'The Times Of India' New Delhi expressing your concern regarding the safety of girls in Delhi.

SECTION—C LITERATURE (45)

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

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.

- a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines. (1)
- b) What sort of wars are mentioned in the above lines? (1)
- c) What kind of victory will it be? (1)
- d) How should the lovers of war behave? (1)

OR

Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open prayer

For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,

- a)What is childish longing? (1)
- b)Why does sadness lurk near the open window there? (1)
- c)What do the people at the roadside stand wait for and why? (1)
- d)Find words in the stanza which means:
i)tolerate ii)strong desire iii)lies hidden iv)cries (1)

B)Answer any three of the following questions in 30---40 words each: (2x3=6)

- i)What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?
- ii)Describe the tigers created by Aunt Jennifer.
- iii)Why does the poet,Stephen Spender call the map a bad example?
- iv)What do the parting words of the poet,Kamala Das, to her mother signify?

Q.8.Answer the following questions in 30---40 words. (5x2=10)

- i)What was Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps?Where has he come from and why?
- ii)How did the drowning experience affect Douglas?
- iii)Why did the peddler accept Edla's invitation?How did he feel?
- iv)How was Gandhiji able to influence the lawyers ?
- v)Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff's silence?

Q.9.Answer the following question in 125---150 words. (10)

'Civil disobedience had triumphed,for the first time in modern India.'Relate the events during Gandhi's Stay in Champaran that led to the triumph.

OR

Describe the bond between Geoff and Sophie in spite of differences in their temperament and thinking.

Q.10.Answer the following questions in 125---150 words. (7)

How has the rapid increase of human population left its mark on nature and her resources?What are the Indications for the future of mankind?

OR

What factors,other than friends,do you think,contributed to the success of the plan of escape devised By Evans?

Q.11.Answer the following questions in 30---40 words each. (4x2=8)

- i)How did the crown-prince Jung Jung Bahadur grow up?

ii)What do you learn about 'Gondwana' from the chapter 'Journey to the end of the earth'?

iii)In what context does Hana remember General Takime? What does she infer?

iv)What advice did Annan offer Bama? What was result?

THE ASIAN SCHOOL
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION JANUARY 2013

ENGLISH-CORE CLASS –XII

SET-I

NRV

Time ; 3 Hours

MM -100

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SECTION-A: READING

(20)

Q.1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

MAGIC MACHINE

✓ Mohammed Jamshed Khan replaced the ATM card in his wallet and counted the crisp new notes he'd just withdrawn from the machine. ₹ 6000? "This can't be right!" thought the young Mumbai civil contractor. He counted again. It was indeed ₹ 6000. "All I'd asked for was ₹ 1200," Khan told his friend Faisal Mukhi who was standing nearby.

"You pressed the wrong buttons, silly," said Mukhi.

"No way!" exclaimed Khan as he pushed his card back in again, keyed in his numeric password and asked for ₹ 1000. Beep, clickwhirr, beeeep ! Out popped ₹ 5000 and a little transaction slip that read. WITHDRAWAL ₹ 1000.

"Let's try again," said Khan. Card, password, 2-0-0-0.....beeeep ! But he got ₹ 10,000. By now it seemed certain that the ATM was giving away 500-rupee notes instead of hundreds.

"May be something's wrong with your card," Mukhi told Khan, "let me try mine." Mukhi's balance was low—only ₹ 1300. He pushed his card in and asked for ₹ 1000. The machine spat out 5000.

"ATMs (short for automated teller machines) are extremely secure and among the hardest of machines. Look up the Encyclopaedia Britannica for "ATMs" and you'll find entered under "Locks"—it's virtually impossible to fool an ATM. And the probability of an ATM overpaying is virtually nil. But here they were, two buddies with ₹ 26000 between them—₹ 20,800 of it free money.

There were no other customers in sight on that warm July afternoon. And they could have kept on going. Instead, Khan and Mukhi went outside the ATM's enclosure and summoned the guard on duty. "The machine's all mixed up," they told him. The two men then gave the guard a demo: "Look here," said Khan as he inserted his card one last time and hit the buttons, "I'm withdrawing ₹ 500but here's 2500 !

"Don't let anybody near this place," they told the guard as they hopped into an autorickshaw and sped off with all the money.

It looked like a daylight robbery—in reverse. For they drove two kilometres, to the nearest branch of the bank that owned the ATM, placed the cash—₹ 28,500 on the bank manager's desk and complained about their faulty machine.

"We could have lost a real lot that day," says the manager. This is the kind of honesty we can only dream about. A human error made while loading cash in the ATM had caused the problem. Although we could have traced the customers, it might have meant a lot of trouble for us, had they kept our money."

But did either Mohammed Khan or Faisal Mukhi ever think of keeping the money during their moment with the magic machine? "Not once," says Khan. Adds Mukhi: "Never."

1.1 Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) Why was Mohammed Jamshed Khan surprised? How did he express it and to whom? **2**
(b) What efforts did the two friends make to verify the behaviour of the machine? **2**
(c) What do you know about ATM? What was peculiar about this particular ATM? **2**
(d) "It looked like a daylight robbery—in reverse." Substantiate this statement. **1**
(e) How did the manager react to the disclosure? **2**

1.2 Find words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following : 3

- (a) Slightly stiff (b) almost (c) called

Q.2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

(8)

It is an unpretentious structure tucked in a corner of Chandni Chowk. It could be missed by a passer-by but for the chirping which gives away its unique mission. The charity Birds Hospital is the only one of its kind in the country. Many people arrive here daily with injured birds which they may have found lying by the roadside. After a quick inspection, an attendant makes a simple entry in the register: name of the person, kind of bird and date and "admits the patient" for treatment free of cost. The bird then becomes the sole responsibility of the hospital.

The ailing bird is administered first-aid and then kept in an isolated cage. Often medication and proper care is all that is needed. After the wound heals, the bird is moved to a common section with other birds of its kind. Soon it will be healthy enough to fly away, may keep visiting the terrace for food and water.

The work began way back in 1929 in a small one-room structure. One Lala Lachumal Jain, along with others, decided to start a medical facility for birds. A few years later it became increasingly difficult to treat the large number of birds being brought. In 1957 the present building was inaugurated.

The progress of the hospital has been slow but steady. Till 1968 only ayurvedic treatment was being administered. Allopathy was adopted that year. And it was as recently as in 1992 that a laboratory was set up to conduct pathological tests. Though surgery is conducted at times and doctors try their best to save the bird's life, it is often too late. The mortality rate is quite high: around five to six birds die everyday.

The hospital survives only on charity. The trustees proudly claim that there is a steady flow of donations. Rich businessmen, visitors and even tourists donate generously. Till date they have never approached the government for funds.

However, the hospital has drawbacks. It does not accept carnivorous birds and does not admit pet birds. Moreover, the bird is subjected to a lot of stress as, being in old Delhi, the place is not easily accessible. Since it survives on charity, it is unable to take up research work.

But work goes on. The staff says, they have received as many as 50-60 cases a day. The hospital has an emergency ward and stays open round the clock. It spends approximately ₹ 6 lakh to ₹ 7 lakh annually and at any given time looks after 4000 to 5000 birds.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title. **5**

2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. **3**

SECTION---B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

(35)

Q.3..As Head Boy/Head Girl of your school you are organizing a Career Counselling Session

For xi and xii Std. students of your school. Write a notice giving details of it to be

Displayed on your school notice-board.(word limit 50 words)

(5)

OR

You want to let out a portion of your house. Draft a suitable advertisement giving details to be published in the 'To Let' column of a newspaper giving your contact number as Tel. 26252140.

Q.4. You are Usha/Umesh. As the president of a voluntary organization you have visited a slum

Area in your city destroyed in a massive fire. Write a report on the tragic situation of these homeless people to be published in a magazine. Word limit: 125 words. (10)

OR

You are reporter for 'The Hindustan Times'. Write a report on the recent visit of President

Barrack Obama to India. Word limit 125---150.

Q.5. As librarian, Model Secondary School, Neyveli, write a letter to M/s Sohanlal & Bros.,

Booksellers, Agra, placing an order for books (mention at least 4 titles of the books) to be supplied immediately. (10)

OR

You are Karthik/Kritika of Modern Public School, Dehra Dun. Of late, chain snatching incidents

Are increasing in the city. Write a letter to the editor of Doon Times, drawing the attention of the concerned authorities.

Q.6. Write an article in 200 words on 'The Role of Youth in National Development' to be published in your school magazine. You are Rohit/Radha of Mayo School, Ajmere. (10)

OR

You are Ravi Khera of 24- Sarojini Nagar New Delhi. Write an application to the Principal.

Sanskriti Public School, New Delhi, in response to an advertisement for the post of an English

Teacher in that school.

SECTION -----C LITERATURE. (45)

Q.7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. (4)

A) On their slag heap, these children

Were skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel

With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

All of their time and space are foggy slum.

So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.

i) What two images are used to describe these slums? What do these images convey? (2)

ii) What sort of life do such children lead? (1)

iii)What does the poet convey through ‘So blot their maps with slums as big as doom’? (1)

OR

.....and

Looked but soon

Put that thought away,and

Looked out at young

Trees sprinting,the merry children spilling

Out of their homes.

i)What did the poet realize? How did she feel? (1)

ii)What did she do then? (1)

iii)What did she notice in the world outside? (1)

iv)Find words in the passage which mean:

a)running fast b)moving out. (1)

B)Answer any three of the following questions in 30 ---40 words. (3x2=6)

i)What does the poet’s mother do after the security check-up? What does she notice?

ii)What is the theme of the poem ‘An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum’? How has it been presented?

iii)Under the apparent stillness there is life.Justify this statement giving an example from the poem ‘Keeping Quiet’

iv)What does the line,’Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth’ suggest to you?

Q.8.Answer the following questions in 30---40 words. (5x2=10)

i)What was Franz expected to be prepared with for the school that day?

ii)Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water ?

iii)Why was the Crofter so talkative and friendly with the Peddler?

iv)Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at Gemini Studios?

v)Why didn’t Sophie want Jansie to know about her story with Danny?

Q.9. Answer the following question in 125---150 words. (10)

What are the dreams of the poor like 'Saheb-e-Alam' and Mukesh? Could these be realized?

What is the reality of the situation?

OR

Give an estimate of Subbu's qualities of head and heart and the reasons for his success.

Q.10. Answer the following question in 125---150 words. (7)

What efforts does Mr. Lamb make to strike up a friendship with Derry, the small boy, who

Enters his garden?

OR

Do you agree that between crime and punishment it is mainly a battle of wits? (Evans tries an

O-Level)

Q.11. Answer the following in 30---40 words each. (4x2=8)

i) How does the hundredth tiger take its final revenge upon the Tiger King?

ii) What example does the author give to highlight the strangeness of the atmosphere in

Antartica?

iii) Why was Dr. Sadao being kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops?

iv) How long would it take Bama to walk home from school and why?