

Class XII Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 10

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:
2. This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
3. This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.
4. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
5. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
6. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. Read the following passage carefully:

[12]

1. As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.
2. **Unconditional love:** Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.
3. **Social connection:** Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.
4. **Increase physical activity:** Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether its going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.
5. **Emotional support:** Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

6. **Improve responsibility and self-care:** Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.
7. For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity, or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- i. What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society? (1)
 - A. It means increased physical activity.
 - B. It builds a sense of responsibility.
 - C. It helps young adults get more sleep.
 - D. It is a source of unconditional love.
- ii. A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by _____. (1)

Complete the above sentence appropriately, with a characteristic or description.
- iii. Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues. (2)
- iv. Explain in about 40 words the statement that **dogs are great ice-breakers**. (2)
- v. Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline? (1)
 - A. walking the dog daily
 - B. feeding it regularly
 - C. engaging the services of a dog trainer
 - D. Both (A) and (B)
- vi. What does this article aim to do? (1)
 - A. Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
 - B. Provide advice on how to get a dog.
 - C. Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.
 - D. Describe the experiences of dog owners.
- vii. Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase **take on the world**. (1)
 - A. travel the world
 - B. accept a responsibility
 - C. to be pessimistic
 - D. have a global outlook
- viii. What does the underlined part in the sentence **consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you** refer to? (1)
- ix. What is the tone of the article? (1)
 - A. critical but supportive
 - B. indifferent and bored

- C. positive and informative
- D. humorous and casual

x. How do dogs help young adults connect with others and form friendships? (1)

2. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[10]

1. We're all familiar with the usual reasons workers cite for wanting to stay away even after lockdowns have long ended: flexible schedules, not having to commute, and of course, increased productivity. However, productivity isn't the only reason people want to stay away from the office. We recently surveyed 1,000 remote workers to find out what's really keeping them tied to their work-from-home lives.
2. The findings include: 72% want to be able to take a nap or exercise during the day. Nearly three out of four remote workers surveyed stated that the ability to take a nap or workout during the workday was one of the reasons they wanted to stay home. Though these activities may very well increase worker productivity, there's no doubt that a nap on the kitchen couch would be frowned upon in the office.
3. 73% want to be able to watch TV while they work. Three out of four respondents again say that being able to entertain themselves with TV, podcasts, music, or other media is one of the reasons they want to keep their work-from-home lifestyle.
4. 62% cite concerns about their appearance. Well over half of respondents stated that they are concerned about their co-workers seeing them in-person again after such a long time apart. Whether it's weight loss or gain, not having the right clothes, or another concern about appearance, most would rather not have to worry about the way they look to their co-workers outside a Zoom call.
5. When asked to choose the reason that most affects their desire to keep working from home, predictable answers like caring for children and lack of a commute were still the most common number one reasons. 14% of respondents stated that working remotely was so important to them, that they would not go back to work in-person even if their employers required it.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

i. '..... these activities will increase productivity'. By 'productivity.' the author refers to (1)

- A. products produced
- B. efficiency of the employee
- C. time spent by the employee
- D. number of activities

ii. What change in the work place would bring those people back to office who want amusement? (1)

- A. giving long breaks
- B. free coffee and tea
- C. building entertainment lounge
- D. spacious conference hall

iii. As per the survey, why do health conscious people prefer to work from home? (1)

iv. Complete the following sentence appropriately: (1)

The passage ends on a note that some people are resolved to _____.

v. Explain one inference that can be drawn from para 1 about the reason for people's preference to work from home. (1)

vi. State whether the statement given below is True or False: (1)

The survey reveals that people deeply miss socializing in the work from home style.

- vii. Explain in your own words how appearance is one of the factors for people's preference for work from home. (2)
- viii. As per the survey, what top priorities of people prevent them from going to office? (2)

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. As Principal of Gyan Mandir School, Gyanpur, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the students of the extension in school timings, with effect from 1st of April, 2024. State valid reasons. Invent necessary details. You are Reena/Rakesh. [4]

OR

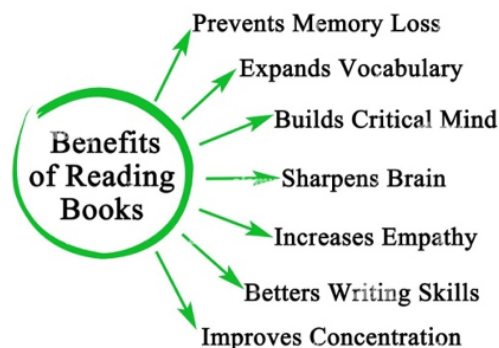
You are Secretary of Highrise Society, Vayu Nagar. Write a notice to the homeowners inviting them to attend the forthcoming meeting to discuss the election of the new committee and the changes to be made in the regulations. Include necessary details about the time and duration of the meeting.

4. The Literary Club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot'. As Secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudeesh Gupta to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in not more than 50 words. You are Govind/Gauri. [4]

OR

You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs at K.M Public School Roopshahar. Your school is organizing a two-week art and craft summer camp for the 10 - 14 year-olds. Create an invitation card, inviting renowned artist, Madhavan to inaugurate the exhibition-cum-sale of the products made during the camp. Invent necessary details.

5. National Book Trust organised a week-long book fair at Anna Grounds, Chennai. You visited the fair and bought a few books. You were pleased with the arrangements, enthusiasm of the visitors and the fact that books have not yet lost their relevance in the world of the Internet. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper to express your feelings. You are Lalit/Latha, 112, Mount Road, Chennai. [5]



OR

JB Academy, Ayodhya urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach Political Science for which they placed an advertisement in 'The Bhilai Express'. You are Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV, applying for the advertised post (120-150 words)

VACANCIES	
JB Academy	Mob: 9452044444 Email: jba@jbns.in
PGT (Political Science)	Salary - Rs. 46,500/- pm
Qualification	: Masters Degree in Political Science with B.Ed.
Counselor	: Salary Rs. 46,500/- pm
Qualification	: PG in Psychology or PG in Child Development or Graduation in Psychology with Diploma in Career guidance and counseling.
• Candidates with student friendly pedagogy will be preferred. • Candidates with fluency in written and spoken English will be preferred. • Only shortlisted candidates will be called for test/interview. • Outstation candidates will be paid one way II Sleeper/Bus fare	
JBNS Society Civil Lines, Distt Ayodhya (U.P.), Mob: 9452044444	

6. Corruption has become the order of the day. It has entered all walks of life. Write an article for your school magazine in 150-200 words on 'The role of youth in combating corruption. You are Vijay/ Vineeta. [5]

OR

Your school organised an exhibition-cum-sale of the items prepared under work experience by your school students. There was an overwhelming response from the public. Prepare a report in 100-125 words for a local daily. You are the Coordinator, SUPW activities, Nita School, Gurgaon.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

[6]

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

- i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the first line of the extract.
 - a. Life is a roller coaster ride.
 - b. The dazzling drizzle drenched all.
 - c. I'm as happy as I can be.
 - d. Nature is God's gift to us.
- ii. Which of the following may NOT be (symbolically) associated with the phrase 'massive weight' in the given context?
 - a. cumbersome
 - b. stress
 - c. superiority
 - d. obligations
- iii. Which of the following is/are reflected in Aunt Jennifer's life/nature?
 - i. dominating
 - ii. bad experiences
 - iii. struggle-free life
 - iv. better relationships
 - v. positive outlook

Choose the most appropriate option.

- a. Only (ii)
 - b. (i), (ii) and (v)
 - c. (i), (iii) and (iv)
 - d. (ii) and (iv)
- iv. Answer in ONE word.
- It became difficult for the aunt to pull her _____ up and down of the cloth out of fear.
- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
1. She trembles while she is embroidering the piece of cloth.
 2. She fears her husband as he doesn't approve of her hobby of embroidery.
- a. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
 - b. (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.
 - c. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
 - d. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

vi. Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

- a. Joy of Aunt's Wedding
- b. Uncle's Gift of Ivory
- c. Aunt's Heavy Ring
- d. The Ivory's Anguish

OR

Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and -darkened ways

Made for our searching:

(A Thing of Beauty)

i. Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? (1)

- A. The beautiful things in nature
- B. Things that cause unhappiness
- C. The immortality of human beings
- D. The early morning fragrance of flowers

ii. State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract. (1)

The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

iii. Complete the following sentence appropriately: (1)

We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because _____.

iv. The use of the word dearth creates a powerful image of _____. (1)

v. Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with days? (1)

- A. craze
- B. pays
- C. haste
- D. waste

vi. The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to: (1)

- A. create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.
- B. encourage the reader to understand grammar.
- C. forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.
- D. keep us connected to this earth.

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

[4]

To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was The World, and The World hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894.

i. Answer in one word:

The World is the name of a _____ that the narrator glanced at.

ii. Complete the sentence:

The significance of the year 1894 was _____.

iii. The phrase **Lead Story** means

- a. story about VIPs
- b. story about the President
- c. news given greatest prominence
- d. news read by a prominent actor

iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the author had reached the third level. (Clue : a line)

OR

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

DERRY: I hate it here.

MOTHER: You can't help the things you say. I forgive you. It's bound to make you feel bad things....and say them. I don't blame you.

DERRY: It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going.

MOTHER: You'll stop here.

DERRY: Oh no, oh no. Because if I don't go back there, I'll never go anywhere in this world again. And I want the world....I want it....I want it....

i. What does Derry not care about now? What was Mr. Lamb's contribution to this change?

ii. Which of the following characteristics of Derry's mother reflects in this extract?

- a. She is very understanding
- b. She treats him with a sense of pity
- c. She treats her son with a sense of dignity
- d. She contributes to her son's isolation

a. a and c

b. c and d

c. b and c

d. b and d

iii. Which of the following is the correct reason for Derry's mother stopping him to stay with Mr. Lamb?

- a. She feared that Mr. Lamb would scold him
- b. Because Mr. Lamb was not well and she didn't want Derry to bother him
- c. She thought Mr. Lamb would influence her son negatively
- d. She was overprotective and didn't want him to stay with a stranger

a. Option (a)

b. Option (b)

c. Option (c)

d. Option (d)

iv. **And I want the world**, to which **world** Derry wanted to go and why

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

[6]

I used every way I knew to overcome this fear, but it held me firmly in its grip. Finally, one October, I decided to get an instructor and learn to swim. I went to a pool and practised five days a week, an hour each day. The instructor put a belt around me.

- i. What did the author finally decide?
 - a. To quit swimming
 - b. To get an instructor and learn to swim
 - c. To call father
 - d. None of these
- ii. For how long did the author practise in a pool?
 - a. Five days a week, an hour each day
 - b. Only weekends, four hours each day
 - c. Six days a week, an hour each day
 - d. Two days a week, five hours each day

iii. Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.

William used every way he knew to overcome this fear.

iv. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

William's fear had **released** him over time.

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

- (1) The author decided to get an instructor.
 - (2) He wanted to learn to swim and get rid of his fear.
- a. (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
 - b. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
 - c. (1) is true but (2) is false.
 - d. (2) is the reason for (1).

vi. Rationalise, to support the given opinion:

The belt around William's waist was put purposefully for safety reasons.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock." This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission.

- i. Gandhi knew that he would not get an agreement on the demand for 50% repayment because
 - a. he had anticipated the negotiating tactics of the planter's representative.
 - b. he had been informed about the depleting funds of the planters.
 - c. he had taken the advice of the Reverend on board.
 - d. he had evaluated the commission's attitude towards Indians.
- ii. Given below are four real-life situations. Choose the option that perfectly describes a deadlock.

Situation 1 Tariq is unable to manage the front-end and the backend forums at his company without any support.

Situation 2 Sunita cannot get a job because she has no experience and she can't have any experience because she has no job.

Situation 3 The bank employees started protesting against their receding annual salary and other incentives.

Situation 4 Harpreet was stuck between deciding whether to go to the USA or the UK for higher studies.

- a. Situation 1
- b. Situation 2
- c. Situation 3
- d. Situation 4

iii. Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.

The money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers.

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

The deadlock ended with Gandhiji _____.

v. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE about the repayment of the peasants' money.

- a. The moneylenders had thought that Gandhi would ask for the full payment.
- b. But Gandhiji asked for only eighty percent of the amount.
- c. The planters offered to pay only 75 percent.
- d. For Gandhiji peasants bowing down was more important than money.

vi. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

The commission arrived at a discordant decision.

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [10]

- (a) Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Van Stahle? [2]
- (b) What were the thoughts that the poet had to put away by looking out of the car? Answer in reference to the poem **My Mother at Sixty-Six**. [2]
- (c) What sort of calculation is made to **soothe the wits of the poor**? Does this calculation work? How? [2]
(A Roadside Stand)
- (d) Sophie flits from one dream to another. What trait of her character is brought out by this action? [2]
- (e) Account for Subbu's importance in Gemini Studios. **(Poets and Pancakes)** [2]
- (f) State the reason for the huge success of the novel, **The Name of the Rose**. [2]

11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [4]

- (a) How was Gondwana different from today's world? Describe it. (Journey to the end of the Earth) [2]
- (b) Why did the servants decide to leave Dr. Sadao's house? [2]
- (c) How did Antarctica amaze the writer when he first saw it? **(Journey to the End of the Earth)** [2]

12. The different portrayals of grit in the character of Rajkumar Shukla (Indigo), William Douglas (Deep Waters), and Mukesh (Lost Spring) emerge due to their circumstances that render them strong. [5]

You have been asked to address your peers and share-

- the ways these portrayals highlight firm grit and determination.
- the importance of understanding each individual man's challenges and experiences which impel them to take steps that eventually build their characters.

Compose this draft, with reference to the prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone.

As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

OR

In an analytical paragraph, explain drawing a comparison of how the word **quiet** has different implications in the given context:

Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go. (Keeping Quiet)

...that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. (The Last Lesson)

13. In the story, **The Tiger King**, the Maharaja was annoyed when he was unable to find the hundredth tiger. [5]

Create a diary entry as the irate King, expressing his anguish referring to the steps he took in his tiger-killing spree.

You may begin this way:

Earlier when I was informed about the frequent disappearance of sheep from a hillside village, I was so happy that...

OR

In the story, **Memories of Childhood** two autobiographical accounts are presented based on two distant cultures. But there runs a commonality of theme in both of them.

As a reader, express your observation of this commonality in a diary entry commenting on the culture of oppression that it brings forth.

You may begin this way:

The **Memories of Childhood** presents autobiographical accounts of two women from socially marginalized sections in two distant cultures of the world...

Solution

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. i. (D) It is a source of unconditional love.
ii. A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by:
-Giving emotional support
-Keeping him happy
-Reducing anxiety and depression
-Helping in mental health issues
-Giving a sense of calm and comfort
-Engaging him in physical activities.
iii. Dogs' ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience, they alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and they support dealing with anxiety and depression.
iv. Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Dogs have a way of bringing people together. Having a dog, by the side of young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected, can be a great way to connect and form new friendships.
v. (D) Both (A) and (B)
vi. (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
vii. (B) accept a responsibility.
viii. To get a dog/pet/companion/any hairy animal that gives companionship.
ix. (C) positive and informative.
x. Dogs help young adults connect with others and form friendships by serving as ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether walking in the park, visiting a dog beach, or spending time at home, dogs bring people together, making it easier for young adults who may feel isolated to engage with their peers.
2. i. (B) efficiency of the employee.
ii. (A) Giving long breaks.
iii. Health-conscious people prefer to work from home because it allows them to take a nap or exercise during the day. This flexibility to engage in such activities during the workday is not typically available in an office setting.
iv. to continue working from home even if their employers require them to return to the office in-person.
v. One inference that can be drawn from para 1 about the reason for people's preference to work from home is that it is not just about productivity, but also about the convenience and flexibility it provides. Factors such as not having to commute, being able to set a flexible schedule, and maintaining a work-life balance play a significant role in this preference.
vi. False.
vii. The survey found that 62% of the respondents had concerns about their physical appearance, especially their colleagues seeing them in-person again after such a long time apart. The changes could be weight gain or loss, not having the appropriate clothing for office settings, or other concerns related to their physical appearance. Working from home eliminates the stress and anxiety of how they look to their co-workers outside of a virtual meeting, making it a preferred choice for many.
viii. Based on the survey, the top priorities that prevent people from returning to the office are caring for their children and lack of a commute.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

Gyan Mandir School

NOTICE

Date: 13th September 2024

Subject: Extension of School Timings

Dear Students,

Please note that from 1st April 2024, school timings will be extended by 1 hour to accommodate additional classes for academic enrichment and extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Principal,

Reena/Rakesh

OR

NOTICE

September 13, 2024

All homeowners are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the election of the new committee and proposed changes to the regulations. The meeting will be held on **Saturday, 21st September 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** in the **Community Hall**. Your participation and suggestions are highly valued.

Secretary

Highrise Society, Vayu Nagar

Guru Ram Ray Public School

Mumbai

17th November 20XX

Dear Mr. Gupta,

We request you to accept our invitation to be our guest of honour on 20th November 20XX and witness the rendition of the classic play Waiting for Godot, which is to be presented by our students in the school auditorium. The play presentation will begin at 5:00 pm, which will be followed by dinner at 8:00 pm. Kindly confirm your consent to be present on the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Gauri

4. (Secretary, Literary Club)

OR

K.M. Public School, Roopshahar

Cultural Affairs Department

Mr. Madhavan

(Renowned Artist)

We are delighted to invite you to the **Exhibition-Cum-Sale** of the wonderful creations made by our talented students during the **2-week Art and Craft Summer Camp**.

Event Details:

Date: July 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: K.M. Public School Auditorium, Roopshahar

We are honored to have Mr. Madhavan, a renowned artist, as our Chief Guest to inaugurate the event. His presence will undoubtedly inspire and encourage our young artists.

Join us in celebrating the creativity and hard work of our students. Enjoy a day filled with art, creativity, and community spirit.

Light refreshments will be served.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Warm regards,

Suresh/Surbhi Gupta

Student Head, Cultural Affairs

K.M. Public School, Roopshahar

Contact: +91-9850XXXXXX

Email: info@kmpublicschool.com

5. 112, Mount Road

Chennai - 600001

11th February, 20XX

The Editor

The Deccan Herald

Chennai

Dear Sir,

Subject: Relevance of book fairs

Through your esteemed columns, I would like to praise people's love for books. National Book Trust organized a six-day book fair at Anna Grounds, Chennai recently. I was delighted to see many books being displayed on a variety of subjects.

Different publishers including some foreign publishers had set up their stalls. A variety of books on diverse subjects were available on heavy discounts. A large crowd visited the book fair and publishers were encouraging people to buy their books. It was really a pleasure to see people's enthusiasm to buy books.

Today there is a craze for e-books. Still, people buy books which they can read sitting anywhere in their house. This shows that books still hold their relevance and importance. Modern technology and the internet cannot stop people from buying books. People have realized that books are cheaper and require no maintenance, unlike a computer. In fact, many online stores like Amazon, Flipkart, etc. try to sell the latest books at the cheapest prices. I hope you will publish my letter in your esteemed newspaper so that the readers never forget the value of books and the pleasure of reading.

Yours truly,
Lalit.

OR

21, Vasant Marg
Bhilai
01 April 2019
The Director
JB Academy, Ayodhya
Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Application for the post of a post-graduate teacher

In response to your advertisement in 'The Bhilai Express', dated March 25, 2019, for the post of a postgraduate Political Science teacher in your renowned school, I wish to offer my candidature.

I have done B.Ed. I am an MA in English with 1st division. I have achieved many certificates for co-curricular activities in my school and college level. I am a dedicated and industrious person who can adjust in any condition and not let my work hamper in any way. With my knowledge, I will surely be able to add value to your school. I am available for an interview on any day of your convenience. If given a chance to serve you, I assure you that I shall work with utmost sincerity and dedication up to your satisfaction for further growth and fame of the organisation.

Yours faithfully
Sanjana Sharma
Encl. : Bio-data

BIO-DATA

Name	Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma
Father's Name	Mithun Sharma
Date of Birth	25 July 1984
Address	21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai
Phone	9810085694
E-Mail	sanjsharma@gmail.com
Marital Status	Unmarried
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Hobbies	Trekking and reading
Strengths	Good communication skills, computer literate, proficient in English, Hindi and German
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6.

The Role of Youth in Combating Corruption

By Vineeta

Corruption has become the order of the day. It has entered all walks of life. The problem of corruption is spreading everywhere like mushrooms leading to a serious economic crisis. Consequently, the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. The fate of the country will be doomed if this problem is not taken care of immediately. It is said that "Youth is a spark which can either burn or lighten the country". Thus, it is high time that young people come forward and take some action. It is their duty to care about their future. They must represent the notion of fighting against corruption by introducing new ideologies, studying more about the laws and preparing an academic career so rich that it helps them in reaching to an authoritative position, creating more awareness among the public by accumulating individuals with same principles through writing and speaking about/against this practice and awakening to decide to create changes in the economy by taking their nation to the summit. Thus, the youth can be the spine of this revolution against corruption as they have access to more people and are energetic enough to promote the motif. So the youth must work hard in regards to their academics instead of deploying themselves in other activities. We need leaders who can induce and perform in the right direction to cut the roots of corruption. The higher the goal, the greater will be the potential to do the work and fruitful will be the results.

OR

Exhibition-Cum-Sale

XYZ, Coordinator, SUPW Activities,

Nita School, Gurgaon

Gurgaon, 8th September, 20XX: An exhibition-cum-sale was organised by Nita School on the 4th of September, 20XX. It was organised in the school theatre hall. The sale had an objective to sell the items prepared under work experience by our students. Not only the parents but also the general public overwhelmingly responded to our endeavour. It was really heartening to see that kind of a response. The public showed a lot of interest in the items made by the students. Candles, greeting cards, jewellery boxes, wooden handicrafts etc. were some of the wide array of items that had been prepared by our talented students. The students were really encouraged by the positive feedback they got from everyone. Our Principal too was personally present there throughout the sale. He collected a rough feedback through interactions with everyone. He appreciated the students' hard work and creativity and announced that the money collected from the sale of items would be donated to an orphanage in the vicinity of our school. Our Principal also decided that such initiatives would be taken up by our school more frequently to motivate the creative students and to help a noble cause.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. i. (b) The dazzling drizzle drenched all.
- ii. (c) superiority
- iii. (a) Only (ii)
- iv. needle
- v. (d) (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.
- vi. (c) Aunt's Heavy Ring

OR

- i. (A) The beautiful things in nature.
 - ii. True
 - iii. it helps us stay connected to the earth despite the challenges and despair we face.
 - iv. The use of the word dearth creates a powerful image of - a lack or scarcity of noble and virtuous people, contributing to a sense of gloom.
 - v. (B) pays.
 - vi. (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.
8. i. The Newspaper
 - ii. **historical.** The year 1894, mirrored a world characterized by romance, leisure, freedom, and tranquility.
 - iii. (c) news given greatest prominence
 - iv. The textual clue is "**It was The World, and The World hasn't been published for years.**" This line indicates that the narrator has gone beyond the present and is in a time period when The World newspaper hasn't been published for years, suggesting a third level of time travel.

OR

- i. Derry no more cared about his face or look. This change was the result of Mr. Lamb's company which gave him a positive outlook on life. Now, the important thing for Derry was how he thought and what he saw or heard.
- ii. (d) b and d

- iii. (d) She was overprotective and didn't want him to stay with a stranger.
 - iv. Derry wanted to go back to Mr. Lamb's garden where he could sit and talk with the old man. Mr. Lamb was successful in restoring the human connection that Derry longed for. Derry lived in the fear of the potential pain of being rejected, which was erased by Mr. Lamb.
9. i. To get an instructor and learn to swim
- ii. Five days a week, an hour each day
 - iii. William tried every way to ward off his fear.
 - iv. William's fear had gripped him over time.
 - v. (2) is the reason for (1).
 - vi. The instructor put a belt around William's waist to ensure that in case William drowned, the instructor would pull him out.

OR

- i. he had anticipated the negotiating tactics of the planter's representative.
 - ii. Situation 2
 - iii. The money which they had taken forcefully and dishonestly/fraudulently from the peasants.
 - iv. accepting the planters' offer.
 - v. The moneylenders had thought that Gandhi would ask for the full payment.
 - vi. The commission arrived at a unanimous decision.
10. Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:
- (i) The peddler signed himself as Captain von Stahle because he wanted Edla to know that he was a changed person now. She had treated him like a real captain. Edla's kindness transformed him completely. He realised his mistake and understood that not all the people in the world are selfish.
 - (ii) The thoughts that the poet had to put away by looking out of the car were the thoughts of separation from her mother. The poet could not come to terms with the fact that her mother had got old, weak and could die any time, and she would no longer be able to meet her again. She seemed to have a great attachment with her mother. She was in a guilt of leaving her mother at such a crucial stage in life when she needed proper care and attention.
 - (iii) To soothe the wits of the poor, the business-minded city people attract poor people with their calculated promotional offers and promises in such a way that poor people cannot escape the traps of the rich. The business men's calculations work as there is a more efficient brain behind all these promises.
 - (iv) Sophie was a dreamer who enjoyed creating her own fantasy world using her imagination. She wanted to change her working-class status by pursuing the ambition of being a fashion designer or an actress. She also wanted to date a young football prodigy. This shows that Sophie was immature and lived in her own unrealistic world. She chose to ignore the reality of her economic background and lived in a fantasy world.
 - (v) Subbu was a multi-faceted genius. He was a poet, a writer and a great actor. He gave a new meaning and direction not only to Gemini Studios but also to the art of film-making by using all his energy and creativity to the company's advantage. Moreover, because of his noble and charitable nature, he was loved by almost everyone.
 - (vi) There is no one reason for the huge success of the novel 'The Name of the Rose'. Umberto Eco himself calls its success a mystery. It is possible that this detective story that delved into metaphysics, theology and medieval history, interested the readers because the time in which it was written was most appropriate, neither a decade earlier nor a decade later.
11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:
- (i) Geologists say about 650 million years ago a giant 'amalgamated' supercontinent, Gondwana existed in the South. At that time India and Antarctica were parts of the same landmass. Gondwana had a warm climate and a huge variety of flora and fauna. This supercontinent survived for 500 years till the age of mammals got underway.
 - (ii) The servants decided to leave Dr. Sadao's house because they were unhappy with his decision to shelter an American prisoner of war. They did not want to become complicit in what they perceived as a crime, and being too poor to defend themselves, they feared the repercussions of harbouring an enemy.
 - (iii) When the writer first saw Antarctica he was amazed by its vastness and immense white landscape. It was an endless blue horizon and the fact that it was isolated from the rest of the world created an added sense of wonder and mystery about the continent.
12. Good morning, everyone.
- As I analyzed the allotted texts, namely "Indigo" by Louis Fischer, "Deep Waters" by William Douglas, and "Lost Spring" by Anees Jung, I noticed that the portrayals of Rajkumar Shukla, William Douglas, and Mukesh highlight their firm grit and determination in different contexts.
- Rajkumar Shukla, as depicted in "Indigo," showcases immense determination in his pursuit of justice. He relentlessly follows

Mahatma Gandhi, urging him to visit Champaran and address the issues faced by the indigo farmers. Shukla's unwavering commitment to his cause, despite facing numerous challenges and setbacks, demonstrates his firm resolve to fight for the rights of his fellow peasants.

Similarly, in "Deep Waters," William Douglas exhibits remarkable determination as he confronts his fear of water. Despite his initial struggles and anxieties, Douglas perseveres and overcomes his fear through sheer determination and practice. His unwavering commitment to conquering his fear highlights his firm resolve to overcome challenges and grow as an individual. In "Lost Spring," Mukesh, a young boy living in a slum, showcases firm grit and determination in his pursuit of education and a better life. Despite facing extreme poverty and discrimination, Mukesh is determined to break free from the cycle of poverty and become a role model for all Dalits. He adopts every possible way to win respect and improve his circumstances, showcasing his unwavering determination and resilience.

These portrayals highlight the importance of understanding each individual's challenges and experiences, which impel them to take steps that eventually build their characters. Rajkumar Shukla, William Douglas, and Mukesh all face different obstacles, but their determination and resilience enable them to overcome adversity and emerge stronger.

To conclude, I'd like to say that the firm grit and determination displayed by these characters serve as inspirations for us all. They remind us of the importance of perseverance, resilience, and the willingness to confront challenges head-on. By understanding and appreciating the struggles and experiences of individuals like Rajkumar Shukla, William Douglas, and Mukesh, we can learn valuable lessons about the power of determination and the potential for personal growth.

Thank you.

OR

The word "quiet" has different implications in the given context. In Neruda's poem "Keeping Quiet," the word "quiet" refers to a moment of stillness and introspection. It is a call to action, urging people to take a break from the world's frenzy and reflect on their actions.

Neruda ends up this poem by saying that now he will count up to twelve so that we all may become quiet. Here 'quiet' means to calm down and move towards the path of peace and harmony. After saying this he says, 'I will go'. He says so as he has conveyed his message to the people and wants them to be left alone to think about it and work in the direction of peace. In this context, "quiet" is a positive force that can lead to peace and brotherhood.

On the other hand, in "The Last Lesson" by Alphonse Daudet, the word "quiet" has a negative connotation. The phrase "as quiet as Sunday morning" refers to the silence that has descended upon the classroom, as the students realize that it is their last French lesson. In this context, "quiet" is associated with sadness and loss.

13. Earlier when I was informed about the frequent disappearance of sheep from a hillside village, I was so happy that I announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village and set out on the hunt at once. But days passed by, but the tiger was nowhere to be found. It seemed as if the tiger had wantonly hidden itself to flout my will. My obstinacy mounted alarmingly. I got so enraged that I called the dewan and ordered him to double the land tax of that village at once. The Dewan then started to argue with me that if we do so the subject would become unhappy, and our state might fall prey to the Indian National Congress. Dewan's words made me even more furious, and I warned him either to follow my command or be ready to leave his post. No one but only the hundredth tiger has the power to mollify my obsession.

OR

The "Memories of Childhood" presents autobiographical accounts of two women from socially marginalized sections in two distant cultures of the world. One highlights the evil practice of racial prejudice while the other talks about the hierarchical Indian caste system and untouchability. The first part traces how the author, a Native American, was victimized at the hands of the European staff of her boarding school. The second account gives a picture of the hardships and humiliations faced by the Indian 'Dalits' from the eyes of a third-standard student.

Although they are set in different cultures, both stories share a similar theme. They show the sufferings and oppression faced by their respective communities. The practice of social stratification is rebuked by both authors. Zitkala-Sa's hair was "shingled" at the behest of Europeans who considered themselves superior to the Native Americans. On the other hand, Bama witnessed untouchability being practised openly where people from 'lower castes' were considered impious and were not even allowed to touch the people from the upper castes. From a very young age, both Zitkala-Sa and Bama start protesting and resisting in their own ways.