

**Roll No****Code No****1/1**

**CBSE GUESS PAPER  
CLASS – XII  
ENGLISH CORE**

**Time allowed: 3 hours****Maximum Marks: 100**

\* Please check that this question paper contains 5 printed pages.

\* Please check that this question paper contains 12 questions.

\* Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.

**General Instructions:**

- (i) This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION A: READING**

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:
  1. I want to share with you, the life lessons these events have taught me. I will begin with the importance of learning from experience. It is less important, I believe, where you start. It is more important how and what you learn. If the quality of the learning is high, the development gradient is steep, and, given time, you can find yourself in a previously unattainable place.
  2. Learning from experience, however, can be complicated. It can be much more difficult to learn from success than from failure. If we fail, we think carefully about the precise cause. Success can indiscriminately reinforce all our prior actions.
  3. A second theme concerns the power of chance events. As I think across a wide variety of settings in my life, I am struck by the incredible role played by the interplay of chance events with intentional choices. While the turning points themselves are indeed often fortuitous, how we respond to them is anything but so. It is this very quality of how we respond systematically to chance events that is crucial.
  4. Of course, the mindset one works with is also quite critical. It matters greatly whether one believes that ability is inherent or that it can be developed. The former view, a fixed mindset,

creates a tendency to avoid challenges, to ignore useful negative feedback and leads people to plateau early and not achieve their full, potential. The latter view; a growth mindset, leads to a tendency to embrace challenges, to learn from criticism and enables people to reach higher levels of achievement.

5. The fourth theme is cornerstone of the Indian spiritual tradition: self-knowledge. Indeed, the highest form of knowledge, it is said, is self-knowledge. I believe this greater awareness and knowledge of oneself is what ultimately helps develop a more grounded belief in oneself, courage, determination, and, above all, humility - all qualities which enables one to wear one's success with dignity and grace.
6. I would like to end with some words of advice. Do you believe that your future is pre-ordained, and is already set? Or, do you believe that your future is yet to be written and that it will depend upon sometimes fortuitous events? Do you believe that these events can provide turning points to which you will respond with energy and enthusiasm? Do you believe that you will learn from these events and that you will reflect on your setbacks? Do you believe that you will examine your successes with even greater care? I hope you believe that the future will be shaped by several turning points with great learning opportunities. In fact, this is the path I have walked to much advantage.
7. A final word: when, one day, you have made your mark on the world, remember that, in the ultimate analysis, we are all mere temporary custodians of the wealth we generate, whether it be financial, intellectual, or emotional. The best use of all your wealth is to share it with those less fortunate.
8. Go forth and embrace your future with open arms, and enthusiastically pursue your own life journey of discovery!

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following in your own words:

- (i) Why does the writer feel it is easier to learn from failure than from success? 1
- (ii) How can experience help a person or an enterprise to grow? 1
- (iii) According to the writer how does one benefit from chance events? 2
- (iv) How do people with a positive mindset benefit from experience? 1
- (v) According to the writer what are the qualities that are essential for a person to succeed gracefully? 2
- (vi) Explain the phrase: "We are all merely temporary custodians of the wealth we generate." 2

(b) Pick out words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: 3

- (i) hard to believe (para 3)
- (ii) foundation (para 5)
- (iii) caretakers (para 7)

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

The modern garden has a history going back many thousands of years. Early humans were hunters and gatherers and usually did not stay in one place for a long time. Instead, they traveled from place to place following the food (plants and animals) according to the seasons. During the Neolithic period this slowly began to change; humans started to domesticate certain plants which meant they could remain in one place and grow their own food. The first ‘garden’ was a vegetable garden, where early humans cultivated different types of plants for food.

Evidence of early agriculture includes edible plants such as wheat and lentils and also includes more ornamental plants for decorative purposes. Plants for medicine were grown as were herbs and spices for flavouring or preserving food.

Certain plants also had religious or spiritual value and were not only grown because they were useful or edible but had a religious significance. They were planted to honour the gods or used in religious ceremonies. Certain plants were sacred, for instance the tulsi. The ancient Greeks planted groves for their gods, and many cultures believed that gardens were holy.

Gardens were a way to show that their owners were rich or powerful. Ancient rulers created huge gardens to display their wealth in the same way that large places were symbols of prosperity. Sir Francis Bacon described gardens as “purest of human pleasures.” The ancient Greeks believed that growing food was a job for the poor but gardens were places for enjoyment and contemplation. The English word ‘Paradise’ comes from the Persian word ‘Pairidaeza’ meaning a walled space; garden. One of the most famous early gardens was the Hanging Garden of Babylon. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world, it was created 2600 years ago, near the river Euphrates. It was designed so that the river could continually irrigate it and as a result was green all year round.

As gardens have developed over the years, design and beauty have become more and more important. Humans have learnt about nature and to design gardens precisely, like a work of art or building. The garden of Versailles , in France and our very own Mughal Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan are excellent examples of “Garden Architecture” – everything is symmetrical and even the trees are pruned to fit in with the design.

Carefully planned or not, gardens are still beautiful and relaxing places to visit. On a fine day you might even find a little part of Paradise if you look hard

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub- headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3

### **SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS**

3. The Indian Army issued an appeal to the youth of the country to join it for a challenging and adventurous career. As Secretary of Social Science Club, draft a poster in 50 words prompting the youth to join the Indian Army. 5

**OR**

You are Kamal / Kavya, the Sports Secretary of Army Public School Tezpur. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, informing the students about a camp for training students in Yoga. 5

4. You attended a public meeting at the Community Hall, Patna recently, wherein people expressed their sentiments that many rationing items were not available at several public distribution outlets in the city, expressing apprehension of their misuse. Write a report in 100 – 125 words to be published in a local daily, *The Patna Times*. You are Komal / Karan, a reporter. 10

**OR**

You were travelling by Doon express from Howrah to Dehra Dun. Two AC coaches of the train caught fire when it was running between Nimiyaghat and Parasnath in which seven people lost their lives and over fifty injured. Draft a report in 100 – 125 words for *The Telegraph*, Kolkata. You are Zafar / Sana, travelling in an unaffected compartment of the same train. 10

5. Career Counselling workshops have become a regular feature for the students of senior classes (X-XII) in most reputed schools of today. You are Rahul / Rima, a student of Class XII of New Model Secondary School, Pune. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on the utility of such workshops. 10

**OR**

You are Ritwik / Raveena, staying at D-47, Friends Colony, New Delhi. You came across the following advertisement in *The Times of India* on 30 November 2011.

Destination Moon! Destination Mars!  
The Indian space Odyssey is set to conquer many new frontiers.  
Welcome abroad.  
To begin a most exciting Journey!  
Join IIST, Sign up for ISRO

Write a letter of inquiry to the Director, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, asking for details of the programme offered, entrance examination to be held, duration, course fee and placement service provided. 10

6. The aim of a progressive educator is to provide learning in a stress free environment. A congenial environment plays a major role in a child's holistic development. Write an article on the topic "Role of Environment in Holistic Growth" in 150 – 200 words for your school magazine. You are Afrooj / Afreen. 10

**OR**

You are Vinod / Vinita. Write an article in 150 – 200 words for your school magazine focusing on the impact and influence of the internet on the youth and the need to educate the youth about the positive power of the internet. 10

**SECTION C: LITERATURE**

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 4

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hand will lie  
still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by  
the tigers in the panel that she made  
will go on prancing proud and unafraid.

- (a) What are the ordeals that Aunt Jennifer faced in her life? 2  
(b) How are the tigers different from her? 2

**OR**

It is in the news that all these pitiful kin  
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in  
To live in villages, next to the theatre and to the store  
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore?

- (a) Who are all these pitiful kin? 1  
(b) Where will they be settled? How? 2

- (c) Why won't they have to think for themselves anymore? 1
8. Answer any three of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words each: 3X2=6  
(a) Why does Keats associate 'grandeur' with 'mighty dead'?  
(b) What does the poet Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums?  
(c) What is the exotic moment the poet, Pablo Neruda, wishes for?  
(d) Why has the poet, Kamala Das, brought in the image of merry children spilling out of their homes?
9. Answer the following questions in about 30 – 40 words each: 5X2=10  
(a) What did Umberto Eco mean by empty spaces?  
(b) "The battle of Champaran is won." What led Ghandiji to make this remark?  
(c) Why does Asokamitran call Subbu, 'a charitable and improvident man'?  
(d) How did the incident at Y.M.C.A. pool affect Douglas?  
(e) 'Edla sat and hung her head even more dejectedly than usual.' What two reasons forced her to behave in that manner?
10. Answer the following question in about 125 – 150 words: 10  
Bring out the humour and satire stating how they enliven the account of the events and personalities at Gemini Studios as portrayed by Asokamitran in ***Poets and Pancakes***.  
**OR**  
The story, ***Going Places***, draws a beautiful contrast between fact and fiction. Comment.
11. Answer the following question in about 125 – 150 words: 7  
What precautions were taken by the prison authorities to ensure that the German exam was conducted smoothly and also under strict security?  
**OR**  
The lesson, ***On the Face of It***, is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain
12. Answer the following questions in about 30 – 40 words each: 4X2=8  
(a) What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut?  
(b) How did Dr. Sadao ensure that sailor left his house but he himself remained safe and secure?  
(c) What makes Jack feel caught in an ugly middle position?

(d) What were the writer's feelings on reaching Antarctica?

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