



CBSE GUESS PAPER 2015
CLASS: XII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE
SET-I

Time: 3 Hours

MM= 100

General Instructions:

This question paper is divided into three sections:

- Section A - Reading : 30 Marks
- Section B - Writing : 30 Marks
- Section C - Literature: 40 Marks

SECTION A [READING] 30 MARKS

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (11)

Success, world-class health, internal fulfillment and sustained happiness don't just happen. These elements of your best life are created. All too often we look at a human being playing their best game on the playing field of life and assume they got lucky or were born into their lofty condition. What we don't see is all the devotion and discipline that went into crafting the extraordinary results we see.

What I'm suggesting is that personal and professional greatness takes work. I'm not someone who would ever tell you that you could get to your dreams without having to make some sacrifices and pay the price in terms of

dedication and self-control. The best amongst us make it all look so easy. I call it The Swan Effect- elite performers make personal excellence look effortless and seem to make things happen as gracefully as a swan moves along the water. But like the swan, what you don't get to see is all the hard-work taking place below the surface.

The best way to create spectacular results in the most important areas of your life is through daily practice. In my life, I have a series of practices that set me up for a great day. Yes, sometimes life sends you unexpected challenges that knock you off track-that's just life happening. But with a series of practices to keep you at your best, you'll stay in a positive state much more often.

Practices that will lock you into your best state include a morning journaling session where you record your feelings, thoughts, and the blessings you are grateful for. Or you may start your day with a strong workout and an elite

performer's meal. I often listen to music for 15 minutes, as it not only energizes me, it just makes life better. I also use success statements or affirmations to get my mind focused.

Success and joy and inner peace don't just show up. You need to create them. Find your series of practices, perform them with consistency. And then go out into this beautiful world of ours and shine.

(Robin Sharma)

1.1. Choose the most appropriate option: (1*3=3)

a. Achievements are the result of

- (i) Better luck
- (ii) Professional greatness
- (iii) Hereditary approaches
- (iv) Self discipline



- b. The article is about
- (i) Positive approach
 - (ii) Daily practices
 - (iii) Achieving success
 - (iv) None of the above

- c. What is the poet's message?
- (i) Hobbies can play a great role to get success
 - (ii) Some people are born lucky
 - (iii) Anyone can gain effortlessly
 - (iv) Persistence and labour are the pre requisite to success

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly: (1*6=6)

- a. What is the general notion of people about those who are successful?
- b. What leads to exceptional procurement?
- c. What makes the high achievers so humble?
- d. What is the best way one can start a day with?
- e. What is the writer's perception about his own self?
- f. What is the example the writer has included in his article to stress his message?

1.3. Find words from the passage which mean the same as: (1*2=2)

- a. best (para 2)
- b. exemplary (para 3)

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (11)

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:

Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune,
It moves us not.--Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.
(William Wordsworth)

2.1. Choose the most appropriate option:

(1*3=3)

- a. The poet is lamenting the fact that
- (i) Nature is getting destroyed
 - (ii) Natural disasters are increasing
 - (iii) Humans are becoming self-centred
 - (iv) All of the above
- b. We have given our hearts away " means
- (i) We love the natural things now
 - (ii) Humans are destroying the nature
 - (iii) Materialism is increasing
 - (iv) None of the above
- c. The poet's mood here is
- (i) concerned
 - (ii) sad
 - (iii) surprised
 - (iv) hopeful

2.2. Answer the following questions briefly:

(1*6=6)

- a. What is in the nature that is ours?

- b. How has the poet highlighted the beauty of the night?
- c. Which line suggests the poet's loneliness?
- d. What is the poet's regret in the poem?
- e. The poet has mentioned supernatural figures in the poem. Who are they?
- f. How do the humans lay waste their powers?

2.3. Find words from the poem which mean the same as: (1*2=2)

- a. Cheap
- b. Sight

Q3. Read the following passage carefully: (8)

In the democratic countries, intelligence is still free to ask whatever questions it chooses. This freedom, it is almost certain, will not survive another war. Educationists should, therefore, do all they can, while there is yet time, to build up, the men and women of the next generation who will otherwise be at the mercy of that skilful propagandist who contrives to seize the instruments of information and persuasion. Resistance to suggestion can be built up in two ways. First, children can be taught to rely on their own internal resources and not to depend on incessant stimulation from without. This is doubly important. Reliance on external stimulation is bad for the character. Moreover, such stimulation is the stuff with which propagandists bait their books, the jam in which dictators conceal their ideological pills. An individual who relies on external stimulations thereby exposes himself to the full force of whatever propaganda is being made in his neighborhood. For a majority of people in the West, purposeless reading, purposeless listening-in, purposeless listening to radios, purposeless looking at films have become addictions, psychological equivalents of alcoholism and morphinism. Things have come to such a pitch that there are many millions of men and women who suffer real distress if they are cut off for a few days or even a few hours from a newspaper, radio, music or moving pictures. Like the addict to a drug, they have to indulge their vice, not because the indulgence gives them any real pleasure, but because, unless they indulge, they feel painfully subnormal and incomplete. Even by intelligent people, it is now taken' for granted that such psychological addictions are inevitable and even desirable, that there is nothing to be alarmed at in that fact that the majority of civilized men and women are now incapable of living on their own spiritual

resources, but have become abjectly dependent on incessant stimulation from without.

How can children be taught to rely upon their own spiritual resources and resist the temptation to become reading addicts, hearing addicts, seeing addicts? First of all, they can be taught how to entertain themselves by making things, by playing musical instruments, by purposeful study, by scientific observation, by the practice of some art and so on. But such education of the hand and the intellect is not enough. Psychology has its Gresham's Law, it is bad money that drives out the good. Most people tend to perform the actions that require least efforts to think the thoughts that are easiest to feel. And they will tend to do this even if they possess the knowledge and skill to do otherwise. Along with the necessary knowledge and skill must be given the will to use them even under the pressure of incessant temptation to take the line of least resistance and become an addict to psychological drugs. Most people will not wish to resist these temptations unless they have a coherent philosophy of life, which makes it reasonable and right for them to do so. The other method of heightening resistance to suggestion is purely intellectual and consists in training young people to subject the diverse devices of the propagandists to critical analysis. The first thing that educators must do is to analyze the words currently used in newspapers, on platforms by preachers and broadcasters. Their critical analysis and constructive criticism should reach out to the children and the youth with such clarity that they learn to react to forceful suggestions the right way at the right time.

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. (5)

3.2 Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words, using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (3)

SECTION B – [WRITING] 30 MARKS

Q4. You want to sell your Washing Machine and for that you have to write an advertisement for the newspaper. Write the advertisement, giving the required details. (4)



OR

You are starting a Book Club for your society, along with your friends, which would function in the evening. Write an Invitation for the society members, inviting them on the inauguration of the Book Club.

Q5. You are Naman/ Neeta residing in 12/40, Fawn Street, Bangalore. You purchased a Three-in-one Printer, Copier and Scanner from Optimum Electronics. Write a Complaint letter to the General Manager of the showroom asking for free replacement as the product was supplied with six months Replacement Warranty. (120-150 words) (6)

OR

You are observing the rise of youth leaders in the world of politics. Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily, about the expectations of/ from and responsibilities of youth leaders.

Q6. You witnessed a chaotic scene on the road due to the clash between the members of two political groups which disrupted the traffic for hours. Write a Report for the newspaper, describing the incident in not more than 120-150 words. (10)

OR

Small –scale industries can assist in the control of increasing unemployment and poverty. Write an article in not more than 200 words on the role of Small scale industries and their importance in modern times.

Q7. There is a workshop on Crisis Management in your school organized by Resonance Club of your city. Write a speech you have to deliver in the workshop on the role of people during any crisis management. Do not exceed the word limit of 200 words. (10)

OR

You are Raksha/Rakesh a student of Class XII of MGH School, Geeta colony. You feel that mobile phones have become integral part of today's life. You think that every good thing has bad sides also. Write a debate in 150-250 words either in favour of or against the topic "Mobile Phone and Social Development of the Children".

SECTION C – [LITERATURE] 40 MARKS

Q8. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (4)

On their slag heap, these children
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

1. Who are the children mentioned here? (1)
2. What highlights the impoverish state here? (1)
3. What is the poet's concern in this poem? (1)
4. What appeal is made by the poet in the last stanza of the poem? (1)

OR

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 o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching

1. What brings anguish to the humans? (1)
2. How are we wreathing a flowery band every day? (1)
3. What dispels our gloom to keep us human despite pain and suffering? (1)
4. Give examples of beautiful things enumerated by the poet in the poem. (1)

Q9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 30-40 words: (3*4=12)

1. What annoyed the British officer & how did the Tiger king pacify him?
2. What was the misadventure that happened with William Douglas?
3. Why did the peddler think of the world as a rattrap?
4. What made Jack change the ending of the story ?
5. Why did Bama use to take a long time in returning home? Which incident amused her one day?

Q10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Amidst the self-centered approach prevalent in the Human minds, the careless prejudices hampering the values of mankind, there is still a ray of hope which keeps us human. It is the serene voice of our inner self that

leads to harmony in hearts. It is this approach which is above all hatred and negativity.

Dr. Sadao is an example of still existing moral culture and yet he is able to safeguard interests of his family as well. Comment on it with reference to the story " The Enemy".

Q11. Answer any ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words: (6)

The people of Firozabad are struggling to make both ends meet and in the process their entire life is consumed and many times exhausted in darkness. Give a description of the plight of bangle-makers.

OR

Our complexes and attitudes are based upon our own thoughts. Our physical surroundings has got nothing to do with it. How was Mr. Lamb able to motivate Derry despite his personal inhibitions? (On The Face Of It)



Q12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Describe the theft that took place at the house of Buntings.

Q13. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Can Dr. Kemp be accused of breach of faith? Do you think what he did was justified? Write a brief character sketch of Dr. Kemp.



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SECTION A [READING] 30 MARKS

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (11)

Our world is always changing,
Constantly re-arranging.
From ocean depths to mountain peaks,
Mother Nature moves and speaks.
While telling stories of our past
She tries to teach us how to last.
Mankind, so smart, sometimes blind
Leaves common sense far behind.
We're moving fast and living large,
Forgetting she's the one in charge.
Amazed when she rings our bell,
Sending us through living hell.
She can twist our steel, shake any city,

If her wrath you feel, we shall pity.
Yet some who speak on her behalf,
I fear just seek the golden calf.
It's true, we must treat her right.
Or we will incur a deadly plight.
Treat her with distinction
Or surely face extinction!

1.1. Choose the most appropriate option:

(1*3=3)

- a. The poem is about
i) Pollution
ii) Natural Disasters
iii) Humans destroying nature
iv) Nature's fury

b. Moving fast and living large may mean

- i) being self-centred and careless
ii) money -minded
iii) living in a lavish way
iv) Rash driving

c. "Extinction" here means

- i) death of wild animals
ii) destruction of natural resources
iii) wiping out of humans from the earth
iv) none of the above

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1*6=6)

- a. How does the Nature display the change in her?
b. How does the Nature endeavour to learn from the past?
c. What do you understand by " living hell"?
d. How can the Nature show her fury upon the humans?
e. What request the poet makes to the readers?



f. What message the poet has conveyed ?

1.3. Find words from the poem which mean the same as: (1*2=2)

- a. Anger
- b. Be subjected to

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (11)

1. As we sow, so shall we reap. An age old saying which holds the same relevance and meaning in modern times. Life is an echo. What we do is our action and the reaction follows accordingly. Karma is the crux of the hour. What is action? Action is not just physical. It is spiritual, mental and emotional. Our gestures speak what we think. When we think positive, we work in a positive way. When we think negative, we naturally assume a cunning and dubious appearance.

2. What we think depends on many conditions. What happens around us, we gather self experience and perceive the happenings in the light of our own wisdom. We keep on accumulating conclusions, judgments and decisions. We adopt self proclaimed assumptions and react in the same way. We create self comforted zone of our own mental dwelling. We accept what is simpler for us to understand.

3. Often we get hurt and disappointed due to the action of others. We judge everyone else by their gestures, actions and expressions. We are the moral upholders till others are concerned. But we fail to analyse our own actions. The moment we are criticized, we assume arrogance and egoist attitude. Mahatma Gandhi said that when we point one finger at others, three are pointed towards us only. But we escape from self-appraisal. We fear proving ourselves. We place our pride before us to act as a shield to save us from any humiliation.

4. The fact is, self acceptance is the only solution to view the world in a different way. Rectification is possible only when we leave aside vain pride and ego. We grope in the dark to collect pearls of joy. We expect from others to be benevolent enough to make us happy. But it's too far-fetched

an imagination. Happiness lies within us. What we give to others, we get it back. At least we get contentment of being kind.

5. So initiate goodwill. Make a head start towards peace and humanity. Survival will be less burdensome. Happiness would be smooth to access. One pebble can create ripples in the ocean. You are important. As Gandhi said "Be the change you wish to see in the world". Consider yourself as an integral part of this human system. Start your day by an appreciation. Help any one person during the day. Be humble in your dealings. People will reciprocate. Have firm faith in humanity. Nothing is impossible if done with a noble intention.

(Adapted from "Being Motivated-Habit of mind" by P.S)

2.1. Choose the most appropriate option: (1*3=3)

a. Our actions depend upon

- i) our environment
- ii) our upbringing
- iii) our thoughts
- iv) all of the above

b. When we are criticised

- i) we get upset
- ii) we blame others
- iii) we get annoyed
- iv) we become egoist and arrogant

c. The paragraph is about

- i) developing positive attitude
- ii) accepting faults and rectifying them
- iii) promoting goodwill and harmony by good actions
- iv) all of the above

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (1*6=6)

a. What constitutes an action?

b. How do we create a comfort zone for ourselves?

c. Mention three things we do when we are caught on the wrong foot.

- d. What is the sole basis for error correction?
- e. Mention any three things we can do to dwell in a peaceful abode.
- f. How can just one person bring about transformation?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as: (1*2=2)

- a. disseminating (para 2)
- b. to cause damage (para 4)

Q3. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8)

1. The tests of life are its plus factors. Overcoming illness and suffering is a plus factor for it moulds character. Steel is iron plus fire, soil is rock plus heat. So let's include the plus factor in our lives.
2. Sometimes the plus factor is more readily seen by the simple-hearted. Myers tells the story of a mother who brought into her home - as a companion to her own son - a little boy who happened to have a hunchback. She had warned her son to be careful not to refer to his disability, and to go right on playing with him as if he were like any other boy.
3. The boys were playing and after a few minutes she overheard her son say to his companion: "Do you know what you have got on your back?" The little boy was embarrassed, but before he could reply, his playmate continued: "It is the box in which your wings are and some day God is going to cut it open and then you will fly away and be an angel".
4. Often it takes a third eye or a change in focus, to see the plus factor. Walking along the corridors of a hospital recently where patients were struggling with fear of pain and tests, I was perturbed. What gave me fresh perspective were the sayings put up everywhere, intended to uplift. One saying made me conscious of the beauty of the universe in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle. The other saying assured me that God was with me when I was in deep water and that no troubles would overwhelm me.
5. The import of those sayings also made me aware of the nether springs that flow into people's lives when they touch rock bottom or lonely or even deserted. The nether springs make recovery possible, and they bring peace and patience in the midst of pain and distress.

6. The forces of death and destruction are not so much physical as they are psychic and psychological. When malice, hate and hard-heartedness prevail, they get channeled as forces of destruction. Where openness, peace and good-heartedness prevail, the forces of life gush forth to regenerate hope and joy. The life force is triumphant when love overcomes fear. Both fear and love are deep mysteries, but the effect of love is to build whereas fear tends to destroy. Love is often the plus factor that helps build character. It helps us to accept and to overcome suffering. It creates lasting bonds and its reach is infinite.

7. It is true that there is no shortage of destructive elements - forces and people who seek to destroy others and in the process, destroy themselves - but at the same time there are signs of love and life everywhere that are constantly enabling us to overcome setbacks. So let's not look only at gloom and doom- let's seek out positivity and happiness. For it is when you seek that you will find what is waiting to be discovered.

3.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Give the passage a suitable title. (5)

3.2. Write a summary of the notes prepared in not more than 80 words (3)

SECTION B – WRITING

Q4. You are the owner of Shivalik Creative Acedemy. Your academy has been asked to prepare a poster on the ongoing nation-wide Cleanliness Campaign. Prepare a draft so that final poster can be created. (4)

OR

You have been invited to the opening ceremony of an Electronics Goods Showroom, owned by your close friend. Write a Formal Acceptance, congratulating for the same.



Q5. You saw an advertisement in the newspaper regarding the post of Medical Representative for Brookline Chemicals. Write a job application with a befitting resume. (6)

OR

You are concerned by the rising apathy among the people today. You feel the need of a congenial atmosphere to balance the growing discontentment. Write a letter to the Editor of a Local Daily, expressing your views and suggestions in not more than 200 words.

Q6. You were crossing the National Highway when you saw that a car, near the railway crossing suddenly caught fire and fumes lit up. Write a report for the newspaper describing the incident in not more than 150-200 words. (10)

OR

You have recently purchased a branded camera through online shopping. Write an article for the newspaper about the rising competition between online shopping and shopping in person.

Q7. Polytechnic Institutions should be given due importance in today's competitive world. Write a speech for the morning assembly urging the students not to get disheartened for the want of high education from reputed institutions but to have positive approach towards the Polytechnic Institutions as well. Do not exceed the word limit of 200 words. (10)

OR

Generation gap is responsible for rising conflicts between youngsters and elders. It leads to lack of understanding and mutual distrust. Write a debate on the topic expressing your views for or against the motion.

SECTION C [LITERATURE] 40 MARKS

Q8. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

$1*4=4$

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness

1. What does the poet mean by being single-minded? (1)
2. Which sadness the poet talks about? (1)
3. What appeal the poet has made in the poem? (1)
4. How does the poet justify his concept of doing nothing? (1)

OR

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

1. Who are the denizens in this stanza ? Write any two qualities of them.(1)
2. What contrast the poet has made by the above description? (1)
3. Which poetic device is used in the first line of the stanza? (1)
4. Write the name of the poem and the poet. (1)

Q9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 30-40 words: (3*4=12)

1. How does the poetess feel about her mother during the drive to the airport? (My Mother At Sixty –Six)
2. Which words appear thunderclap for little Franz? What transformation he went through?
3. What made Gandhi concede to Raj Kumar Shukla’s request?
4. How were Sophie and Jansie entirely different , though of same age?
5. Zitkala –Sa was unable to resist against the cruel strings of racism. How?

Q10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Adults dwell in their own complicated words of fake ego and pride. Instead of resolving the curiosity breeding in the innocent minds of children, they prefer to snub it.

In the story "Should Wizard Hit Mommy", both Jack and Jo are at tenterhooks regarding the ending of the story. Who would you favour and why? What would be your own idea of ending the story in some other way which would pacify both father and the daughter?

Q11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Perseverance, hard work, determination and will power are the channels to make way to success. Comment on it with a reference to the story "Deep Water".

OR

James Roderick Evans is a happy-go, amiable and intelligent person, with only one congenital drawback. What led to the final escape of Evans despite the rigorous efforts taken up by the Governor?

Q12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

What instructions were given by Dr. Kemp to Colonel Adye, after Griffin escape from his home and what finally led to the death of Griffin?

Q13. Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)

Write a brief character sketch of Thomas Marvel.



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