

Atomic Energy Central School-4, Rawatbhata

Sample Question Paper (Half Yearly Exam)– 2015

CLASS-XI

Time: Three Hrs

Max Marks-100

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i. *This paper is divided into FOUR Sections: A, B, C AND D. All the questions in each section 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.*
- iv. *Handwriting should be neat and legible.*

SECTION-A (READING)-20 MARKS

A.1 Read the passage given below.

1. Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by 2 hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.
4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

(I) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1×4 = 4 Marks)

1. The main idea in the first paragraph is that

- a. Big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great
- b. Small actions and decisions are important in one's life
- c. Overnight success is possible for all of us
- d. Personal changes are not important

2. What does the writer mean by saying 'chipped away at their bad habits'?

- a. Steadily gave up bad habits
- b. Slowly produced bad habits
- c. Gradually criticized bad habits
- d. Did not like bad habits

3. Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third paragraph?

- a. Gandhi became great overnight
- b. Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself
- c. Every day Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way
- d. Gandhi never made mistakes

4. What is done by great people to transform their lives?

- a. They approach life on a day-by-day basis
- b. They build character in small ways
- c. They believe in performing everyday
- d. All of these

(II) Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: (2 Marks)

- a. intentionally / purposely (Paragraph 3)
- b. of deep significance; far-reaching (Paragraph 5)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully.

1. South India is known for its music and for its arts and rich literature. Madras or Chennai can be called the cultural capital and the soul of Mother India. The city is built low in pleasant contrast to the ghoulish tall structures of Mumbai and Kolkata. It has vast open spaces and ample greenery. The majestic spacious Mount Road looks like a river, wide and deep. A stroll on the Marina beach in the evening with the sea glistening in your face is refreshing. The breeze soothes the body, it refreshes the mind, sharpens the tongue and brightens the intellect.
2. One can never feel dull in Chennai. The intellectual and cultural life of the city is something of a marvel. Every street corner of Chennai has a literary forum, a debating society and music, dance and dramatic club. The intelligent arguments, the sparkling wit and dashing irony enliven both the political and the literary meetings. There is a young men's association which attracts brilliant speakers and equally brilliant listeners to its meetings. It is a treat to watch the speakers use their oratorical weapons. Chennai speakers are by and large sweet and urbane, though the cantankerous, fire-eating variety is quite often witnessed in political campaigning. The more urbane speakers weave their arguments slowly like the unfolding of a leisurely Karnataka raga.
3. Music concerts and dance performances draw packed houses. There is hardly any cultural family in Chennai that does not learn and patronize music and dance in its pristine purity. Rukmani Devi Arundale's 'Kalakshetra' is a renowned international centre. It has turned out hundreds of celebrated maestros and dancers who have brought name and glory to our country. Karnataka music has a peculiar charm of its own. It has the moon's soft beauty and moon's soft pace. Thousands of people flock to the

- temple 'maidans' to get drunk with the mellifluous melodies of their favorite singers. They sit out all night in the grueling heat, swaying to the rhythm of 'nadaswaram' and rollicking with the measured beats of 'mridangam'. M.S Subbulakshmi is considered to be the nightingale of the South.
4. The Gods might descend from heaven to see a South Indian damsel dancing. There are several varieties of South Indian dance – Bharat Natyam, Mohini Attam, Odissi, Kathakali etc. age cannot wither nor custom stale its beautiful variety. Bharat Natyam is the most graceful and enchanting dance form whereas Kathakali is most masculine and virile. South Indian dances combine voluptuousness with purity. Here every muscle and fibre of the body vibrates into life, and as the tempo increases, a divine flame-like passion bodies forth as if making an assault on heaven.
 5. South Indian dress, particularly of the males, is puritanically simple. There you cannot distinguish a judge from an 'ardali' by their dress. South Indian ladies too look charming and graceful in their colourful Kanjeevaram and Mysore silk saris.
 6. South Indian cuisine, especially 'dosa', 'idli' and 'vada' are so delicious that now we can enjoy them almost everywhere in India as well as in some foreign countries. The Madras 'idli', which was a favourite of Gandhiji is served with 'sambhar' and coconut 'chutney'.

(I) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible.

(1×6 = 6 Marks)

1. How does the breeze on Marina Beach affect the author?
2. How do we know that music is very important for the people of South India?
3. What is the common connection between language, music and dance of South India?
4. What makes Karnataka music charming?
5. Enumerate the features of Bharat Natyam and Kathakali form of dance.
6. What is Kalakshetra renowned for?

Q3. Read the following passage carefully.

Whether work should be placed among the causes of happiness or among the causes of unhappiness may perhaps be regarded as a doubtful question. There is certainly much work which is exceedingly irksome, and an excess of work is always very painful. However, work is not, to most people, more painful than idleness. There are, in work, all grades; from more relief of tedium up to the profoundest delights, according to the nature of the work and the abilities of the worker. Most of the work that most people have to do is not interesting in itself, but even that work has certain great advantages. To begin with, it fills a good many hours of the day without the need of deciding what one shall do. Most people, when they are left free to fill their own time according to their own choice, are at a loss to think of anything sufficiently pleasant to be worth doing. And whatever they decide on, they are troubled by the feeling that something else would have been more pleasant here. To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization and at present very few people have reached this level. Moreover the exercise of choice is tiresome in itself. Except, to people with unusual initiative, it is positively agreeable to be told what to do at each hour of the day, provided the orders are not too unpleasant. Most of the idle rich suffer unspeakable boredom. At times they may find relief by hunting big game in Africa or by flying around the world, but the number of such sensations is limited, especially after youth is past. Accordingly, the more intelligent rich men work nearly as hard as if they were poor.

Work, therefore is desirable, first and foremost as a preventive of boredom, although uninteresting work is as boring as having nothing to do. With this advantage of work, another associated advantage is that it makes holidays much more delicious when they come. Provided that a man does not have to work so hard as to impair his vigour, he is likely to find far more zest than an idle man would possibly find.

The second advantage of most paid work and some of unpaid work is that it gives chances of success and opportunities for ambition. In most work, success is measured by income and while our capitalistic society continues, this is inevitable. However dull work too, becomes bearable, if it is a means of building up a reputation. Continuity of purpose is one of the most essential ingredients of happiness and that comes chiefly through work.

- 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 – minimum 4) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5 Marks)
- B. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3 Marks)

SECTION-B (WRITING) 25 MARKS

- B.1: You are saumya/ Samir Dey, Secretary of the Literary Society of New Era Public School, New Delhi. Recently you organized a Story Writing Contest in your school in which various schools of Delhi also participated. The contest was in two groups- Senior and Junior. Write a Factual Description of the event in about 50 words for the school magazine. 5 marks

OR

- You are Karan/Kanika, Secretary Cultural club of your school. Your school is organising a Dramatics workshop during the Winter Break for senior students of the school. Draft a notice for the school notice board in about 50 words informing the school notice board informing the students giving all relevant details 5 marks

- B.2: Youths form the very back bone of a nation as they are a great store house of energy and strength. Using this input write an article in (150- 200) words on “The Role of Youth in National Development” to be published in “The Indian Express” you are Puneet/Purnima of Vandana International School Delhi. 10 Marks

OR

- You are Swati / Sarthak of Rukhmani Devi Public School, Delhi and commute to your school every day by the newly started Metro Rail. You notice its benefits of travelling, controlling air pollution and traffic jams. Write an article for a local news paper on the same. Your article should be within (150-200) words using following input under the title “Metro Rail - A Boon for Traffic. 10 Marks
- Input :-Stress free travelling ___ time saving___ No Traffic Jam No need to face scorching heat ___ all the stations come closure ___ easy to go ___ more sociable ___ fully airconditioned ___ computerised ___ more secure.

- B.3: You are Sadhana / Shubham, summer time is a difficult time for all the dwellers of Metro Cities because of the acute shortage of water as well as the supply of polluted water. In some areas they are getting polluted water even after process of filtration. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner to take effective steps for proper supply of clean water and make arrangements to store rain water that can be utilized in other work. Also give suggestions to create awareness among the people to save water. 10 Marks

OR

- You are Pratibha/Pramod of Mont Fort School, Ashok Vihar. You are interested in doing a short term course in computer programming during summer vacations. Write a letter to the director of the institution enquiring about the duration of such a course and the terms and conditions for admission. 10 marks

SECTION-C (GRAMMAR) 10 MARKS

C.1: Fill in suitable determiners from those given in brackets:-

1X5=5Marks

- 1) There is _____ milk in the fridge. (Some / Any)
- 2) Have you got _____ butter? (Some / Any)
- 3) _____ customers have come into the shop. It has been fairly busy. (few/ a few)
- 4) Do you get _____ storms here? (many/much)
- 5) Do you eat _____ fruit? (many/much)

C.2: Correct the following sentences using proper tense forms:

1X5=5Marks

1. I am liking it very much.
2. Madhu is always writing beautiful poems.
3. If you will go to Ludhiana, buy a good shawl for me.
4. Where you got this pen from?
5. If you informed you earlier, I would have helped you.

SECTION-D (LITERATURE) 45 MARKS

Q. D.1: Read the following extract and answer the questions.

1X4=4Marks

A sweet face, my mother's that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.

- (a) What for did the poet's mother go to the sea?
- (b) Why does the poet say the sea appears 'to have changed less'?
- (c) Why does the poet call the feet as 'transient'?
- (d) Find a word from the stanza that means 'subject to death'.

Q.D.2: Answer the following questions in about 25 words.

2x3=6 Marks

- a. Who are the people in the Photograph?
- b. What does the rain do to the earth?
- c. What does the poet mean by "Poem of Earth.....? Explain

Q.D.3: Answer the following questions in about 30 words.

2x5=10 Marks

- a. How were the narrator and the grandmother good friends?
- b. The grand mother did not like English. Why?
- c. Who had made round-the-world voyage 200 years ago in 1776 ?
- d. Why had Mourad come to see Aram at four in the morning?
- e. How did the narrator arrange the marriage of Ranga?

Q.D.4: Answer the following questions in about 100 words.

1x10=10 Marks

Throw light on the character of Mrs. Dorling.

OR

Discuss the character of the narrator of the story Ranga;s Marriage.

Q.D.5: Answer the following questions in about 100 words.

- a. What helplessness did the ghost express when Virginia asked him to behave himself. 8 Marks
- b. What is rthe common trait between a human being and a ghost? 7 Marks
