



V & C Patel English School 2017-18
Term End Examination
Std.: XI

Date: 20-09-17
Subject: English Core

Max.Marks-80

SECTION A – READING.

Read the following passage carefully.

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 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 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 marveled 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. [4]

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-to-day basis
 - b. They build character in small ways
 - c. They believe in performing everyday
 - d. All of these

II. Answer the following questions as briefly as follows: [6]

5. How do small actions and choices impact our lives?
6. Describe organic process of growth through an example from the text?
7. What according to the author is the 'universal law of nature'?
8. How did Gandhi accomplish the most difficult tasks effortlessly?
9. Which things about Gandhi's life were not seen by most people?
10. How can we achieve our 'ideal goals'?

III. Pick out the words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: [2]

- a. Intentionally / purposely (para 3)
- b. Of deep significance (para 5)

Q 2. 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 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 disadvantages. 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 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. Give an appropriate title. [5]
- b. Write a summary of the above in 80 words using the notes. [3]

SECTION B – ADVANCED WRITING SKILL AND GRAMMAR

B.1. As the Head Girl/Head Boy of "Delhi Public School, Raipur" write a notice for your school notice board asking the students to participate in Science Exhibition. Invent necessary details. You are Sunil/Shoba [4]

Or

India Book House, Delhi is going to organize a Book Fair in memory of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October. Design a poster on the book fair highlighting the importance of books. [4]

2. You are very much interested in learning a foreign language. Unfortunately, these had been dropped from your school as no one was opting for it. After having a conversation with some of your friends, you decide to highlight this matter. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the principal of your school requesting him to re-introduce a foreign language at the Senior Secondary level. [6]

Or

On Teacher's Day, you read in a newspaper that privately owned and managed schools in small towns or even in the suburbs of metropolitan cities exploit their teachers by paying them just a fraction of their authorized salaries. This affects their performance in the classrooms and thus the lives of their students. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily raising your voice against such exploitation. Suggest ways to solve this problem.

B.3. Technology has brought about a revolution in all the walks of life. Write an article in 200 words on how people are becoming dependent on gadgets. [10]

Or

Write a speech for the morning assembly on the topic "India of my Dreams " in about 100 – 150 words.

B.4. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction as given below, against the correct blank [4]

The hijacked plane have a hundred and fifty passengers which had suddenly turned hostages. None on them could ever believe if to be real. Different passengers had an range of experience which would also be determine by how they took the trauma of been captured for seven full days. The government was tried its best to free the hostages.

Incorrect

Correct

- (a).....
- (b).....
- (c).....
- (d).....
- (e).....
- (f).....
- (g).....
- (h).....

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B.5. The following passage has not been edited. It has a missing word in each line. Locate the word and write your answer along with the word which comes before and after the missing [4]

In his letter, his son Hazlit advises him to treat other boys at par with himself. He never despise anyone anything that he can't help least all for his poverty. He should not succumb to prejudices. He know that there other people whose interests have to considered and taken care of.

Before

Missing

After

- (a).....
- (b).....
- (c).....
- (d).....
- (e).....
- (f).....
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B.6. Rearrange the following words/phrases into meaningful sentences. [2]

- (a) by / cherished / food/ youngsters / healthy/ cooked/ is/ home / no longer.
- (b) many famous / some/ is exhibiting/ paintings/ the gallery/ of beaches/ of his.

SECTION D – LITERATURE AND NOVEL.

D.1. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

*"I descend to l'ave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn:"*

- (i) Who does 'I' refer to here?
- (ii) Explain the role of rain in the above stanza.
- (iii) How is everything unborn without rain?

Or

"All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the Uncle with the camera. 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".

- (i) Who are 'all three' in the above lines?
- (ii) Why does the poet say that the sea appears to have changed less?
- (iii) Explain 'terribly transient feet'.

D.2. Answer any three of the following in about 30 words each.

[9]

1. Tut was buried in March-April. How did Carter conclude this?
2. Why did the narrator finally decide to forget the address?
3. List the steps taken by the captain to protect the ship when rough weather began.
4. Describe the homecoming of Ranga. Why was it a 'great event' in the village?

D.3. Ranga's views on marriage were modern, yet he followed the old custom of 'arranged marriage'.

Comment.

[6]

Or

How does the story *We're not afraid to die.....* suggest that optimism helps to endure 'the direst stress'?

D.4. How does the writer justify that the Canterville Chase is a haunted place?

[6]

D.5. Attempt a character sketch of Mrs Umney.

[6]