

ENGLISH CORE
CODE NO.: 301
Class-XII
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER I

Section A: Reading

Max. Marks : 20

Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow:

12 marks

- 1 In spite of all the honours that we heaped upon him, Pasteur, as has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace, and the longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him. In truth he did become a great artist, though after his sixteenth year he abandoned the brush for ever. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For to him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that was to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win. The sight of injured children, particularly, moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in that suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at *Villeneuve Etang*, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, "practicing the Gospel virtues."
- 2 "He revered the faith of his fathers," says the same writer, "and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period."
- 3 The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: "The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant."
- 4 But even then in retirement he loved to see his former pupils, and it was then he would reiterate his life principles: "Work," he would say, "never cease to work." So well had he kept this precept that he began rapidly to sink from exhaustion.
- 5 Finally on September 27, 1895, when someone leant over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly: "I cannot," and with a look of perfect resignation and peace, seemed to fall asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of a world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday.

- 6 Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote at a plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth.
- 7 No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner's son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

487 words

1.1 Answer the following questions:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| a. Even accolades and honours did not change the simple man that Pasteur was. Why? | 2 marks |
| b. How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases? | 1 mark |
| c. How did Pasteur engage himself in the estate? | 2 marks |
| d. What advice did he always give to his pupils? | 2 marks |
| e. How did France, the country of his birth, honour this great scientist? | 2 marks |

1.2 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

3 marks

- | |
|---|
| a. To give up (para 1) |
| b. People belonging to the same period (para 3) |
| c. Vote by the people of the country to decide a matter of national importance (para 6) |

Question 2. Read the passage given below:

8 marks

Residents of the Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year-old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah's land, recalled : *"Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality"*.

He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji's Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Quamaruddin and became Bismillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in Varanasi.

His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him. For Bismillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bismillah Khan won't just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhanas to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was a

testimony to the plurality that is India. A practicing Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of *kusti* in *Benia Baga Akhada*. Every morning, Bishmillah Khan would do *riyaaz* at the Balaji temple on the banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn't desert Bishmillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a *thumri* to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music.

Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bishmillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the very end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

- 2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary. **5 marks**
- 2.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. **3 marks**

Section B: Advanced Writing Skills

35 marks

- Q.3 A.K International School is looking for a receptionist for the school. Write an advertisement on behalf of the administrative officer in the classified columns of the local newspaper giving necessary details. Draft the advertisement in not more than 50 words. **5 marks**

OR

Suman/Suresh has cleared the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental entrance examination. The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get-together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get-together. **5 marks**

- Q.4. You are Shekhar/Tripta a student of A.P Public School. Principals of two schools from Pakistan visited your school as part of a cultural exchange programme. Students of the school put up a cultural show in their honour. Write a report about it for your school magazine. (100-125 words). **10 marks**

OR

As you were driving back home from work you were witness to an accident between a Maruti car and a truck. The driver of the car was seriously injured. There was confusion and chaos prevailing on the road. Describe the scene in about 100 to 125 words. You are Sameer/Samiksha.

5. You are Nitin/Natasha a student of Class XII at K.P.N. Public School Faridabad. The student is required to cope with lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by students and suggest ways to combat the same.

OR

You are Suresh/Smita. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a Nursery teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching tiny-tots. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/she should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, AKS International, Indirapuram, New Delhi within 10 days with detailed resume.

6. Some colleges conduct entrance test for admission to under-graduate courses like English (Hons.) and Journalism (Hons.). Do you think that the entrance test is the right method of selecting students? Write an article in about 150-200 words. You are Rohan/Rachita, a student of class XII at A.P. International School Agra.

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Satish/Sakshi. You had the opportunity of playing Hide-n-Seek when you visited your cousins in a small town. You decide to write an article on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games for the school magazine. Write the article in 150-200 words.

- Q.7. *They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Are Aunt Jennifer's tigers real ? Give reasons for your answer. | 2 |
| b. Why do the tigers not fear the man beneath the tree? | 1 |
| c. What do you understand by 'chivalric certainty'? | 1 |

Or

*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. 'A thing of beauty is joy for ever'. Explain. | 2 |
| b. Why does a beautiful thing 'pass into nothingness'? | 1 |
| c. What does poet mean by 'a bower quiet for us'? | 1 |

b) Answer any three of the following questions in about 30-40 words. 2*3= 6 marks

1. According to Pablo Neruda, what is it that human beings can learn from Nature?
2. Why does Spender call Shakespeare wicked and the map a bad example?
3. What kind of ordeals is Aunt Jennifer surrounded by?
4. What is the significance of the parting words of the poet and her smile, in *My Mother at Sixty-six*?

Q.8. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words. (2*5= 10 marks)

- a. For Franz, what was much more tempting than going to school and why?
- b. Mention any two hazards of working in the glass bangles industry.
- c. How did Douglas overcome *the old terror*?
- d. The crofter can be called as a *good host*. Why?
- e. What was unique and distinctive about *Ecos* academic writing style ?

Q.9. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. 10 marks

Franz's attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the take over of his village by Prussians. Do you agree ? Discuss with reference to the *The Last Lesson*.

OR

How did the Champaran episode prove to be a turning point in Gandhiji's life? Explain with the reference to the text, *Indigo*.

Q.10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words. 7 marks

The modern consumerist world is full of fear, insecurities, stress and wars. What are the ways in which we try to combat them? Answer with reference to The Third Level.

OR

How can we say that Antarctica is the best place to study and understand about Earth's present, past and future ? Answer with reference to, *journey to the end of the Earth*.

Q.11. Answer the following briefly (30-40 words) 8 marks

- (1) Even though the Maharaja lost Rs. 3 lac, he was still happy. Why? (*The Tiger King*)
- (2) In a short span of 12 thousand years man has managed to create a ruckus on this earth. How? (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)
- (3) Why did Roger Skunk go in search of the wizard? (*Should Wizard hit Mommy*)
- (4) Mention any two reasons because of which it would take thirty minutes to an hour for Bama to reach home? (*Memories of Childhood- We Too are Human Beings.*)

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Marking Scheme

Section A: Reading

Max. Marks : 20

Answer Key 1.1

- a. • he continued to live in his childhood/ He remained a simple-hearted person. (2 marks)
- when he used to paint and always wished to be a painter
- b. Pasteur believed (1 mark)
- that the sufferer was something more than just a case to be dealt with and cured.
- c. Pasteur retired to the estate at *Villeneuve Estang* (2 marks)
- conducted study on rabies
- practiced the gospel virtues
- d. • he would tell his pupils never to stop working. (2 marks)
- Working according to him, was the most important of life principles.
- the French people voted him as the greatest man that France had ever produced.
- This was the greatest tribute that could have been paid to Louis Pasteur. (2 marks)

- 1.2** a- abandoned (3 marks)
- b- contemporaries
- c- Plebiscite

2.1. Title: Tribute to Bismillah Khan **5 marks**

Notes

- 1. Shock at the demise
 - (a) Cousin- tears in eyes.
 - (b) Care-taker recalled-
 - (ii) Giving two Rs. - boys
 - (iii) Five Rs. to girls
- 2. His early life
 - (a) Org. name Quamaruddin
 - (b) Play shehnai at temp. - with father
 - (c) Recognized as Bismillah- at Vns.

3. Music as Family heritage:
 - (a) Father - court poet at Dumaraon
 - (b) Pld. shehnai from age six
 - (c) At 31- played shehnai - Red Fort- 1947.
4. Daily routine in Vns.
 - (a) Taking dip in the Ganga
 - (b) Riyaaz at Balaji Temp.
 - (c) Before his last breath- hummed thumri
 - (d) used cycle rickshaw to travel
 - (e) bread-winner for 60 fml. mem.
5. Bismillah beyond religion
 - (a) Main principle- all religions one
 - (b) Life -testimony of plurality
 - (c) Pract. Muslim

Key to Abbreviations used:

Temp.	Temple
Vns.	Varanasi
Pract.	Practicising
Rs.	Rupees
Pld.	Played
Fml.	family
Mem.	member

2.2. Summary of the passage**3 marks**

Ustad Bismillah Khan born and brought up at Dumaraon got the taste of music at a very early stage of life. He started accompanying his honour who was an official musician at the Estate of Dumaraon. He got an honour to play his thumri tune at Red Fort on the occasion of Independence. He believed that all religions are one. He led a life of simplicity. Music was his soul and even on his deathbed he played his last thumri in the hospital at Varanasi.

3. Option -I

Objectives: To draft a classified advertisement giving all the necessary details.

Marking:

5 marks

Title : Situation Vacant

1 mark

Content: Details	3 marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Qualifications • Spoken English • Age • Pleasant personality • Whom to apply to and contact address • Last date 	

Expression	1 mark
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Option II

Format	Address of self Date Salutation	1 mark
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Content: Details	2 marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the occasion • Date and time • Venue • Theme for the party 	

Expression: Coherence, Relevance	1 mark
Grammatical accuracy, spelling	1 mark

Marking Scheme

Option I

Report		
Format	Heading/Title Name and class of the student	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ mark
Content	What? When? Where? Who organized it? Highlights of the guest's speech Any other relevant information	4 marks
Expression	Spelling, grammatical accuracy	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ marks
	Coherence, relevance	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ marks

Option II

Factual Description

Content	Value Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of accident site • Condition of occupants • Number of occupants • Condition of the vehicle • Presence of ambulance 	4 marks
Expression	Coherence and relevance	3 marks
	Grammar and spelling	3 marks

5. Marking Scheme

Format	Writer's address, receiver's address, date, subject, salutation and complementary close	2 marks
Content	Reasons for stress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increasing competition among students to score high marks • No time for recreation • Manifestation of stress in the form of anger, violent behaviour • Indulging in games, practising yoga, can combat stress • Listening to music etc are also ways of combating stress 	5 marks
Expression	Coherence, relevance spelling, grammatical accuracy	3 marks

Option II

Format	Writer's address, receiver's address, date, subject, salutation and complementary close.	2 marks
Content	Covering letter Reference to advertisement Conveying suitability for the post Submission of application Resume/ Biodata as separate enclosure Profile of self Educational Qualifications	3 marks

Professional Qualifications
Experience
Any other relevant information

Expression Spellings, grammatical accuracy, relevance 2 ½ marks
Coherence and cohesion 2 ½ marks

6. Article- Argumentative/ Imaginative

Format Title, writer's name 1 mark
Title - Entrance tests at colleges

Content 4 marks

- Language acquisition till class XII does not test their true abilities.
- Language not taken seriously by students
- Board results do not reveal the true potential
- Entrance test try to bring out their true capabilities
- Only students serious about the course will take the test
- So, these tests should be conducted
- Entrance test a burden on students
- Board results are fairly good as a yardstick as they judge 14 years of language acquisition.
- Students under lot of stress after studying for the whole year in class XII
- Unfair to put so much of pressure- no entrance test.

Expression - Coherence, relevance 2 ½ marks
Spelling, grammatical accuracy 2 ½ marks

Option II

- Outdoor games make us physically active, agile and alert
- Playing and running around with friends makes us happy
- It is exciting when we play , fight, agree and disagree
- Lot of exchange of ideas and thoughts
- Increase in number of friends hence social circle is broadened
- More joyful than sitting alone on computers and chatting

7. (a) Objectives : To test the student's comprehension of the poem, their ability to interpret, evaluate and respond to the lines of the poem.

Option - 1 Value points:

- (a) No,
- they are on a screen
 - can be seen on a panel
- (b) Symbol of chivalry
- they are powerful
- (c) they are sure of their power
- and the strength they possess
- OR
- (a) Long lasting impact
- never move into emptiness
 - we even think of them in our dream
- (b) long standing impression
- not subject to time
- (c) a shady place for one to sit and ponder

- 7(b)**
1. to be quiet and still
 - to grow at our own place
 - to be contented what we had (any two points)
 2. He says so
 - These have no meaning for children of slum
 - They will tempt them to steal
 3. Constraints of married life
 - The dominance of women by their husbands
 - The compulsion of their domestic life
 - Responsibility towards family (any two)
 4. It signifies hope
 - Promise of visiting the mother again
 - To leave a smiling face behind for her mother, (any two)

8. Objectives: To test the student's ability for local comprehension of the prose texts.

Marking Scheme:

Content : 1 mark

Expression : 1 mark

Value Point

- (a) Going out to play in bright warm sun
 - With birds chirping in the open field
 - To see the Prussians soldiers practicing drill
 - More tempting than learning the rules for participles
- (b) the chances of losing one's eye- sight
 - There is possibility of skin burn too
- (c) he confidently continued to swim on
 - The next morning he dived into the lake, swam across to the other shore and back. This way he conquered his fear of water.
 - The will to live helped him in conquering his fear.
- (d) he welcomed the tramp
 - Offered him hot supper
 - Gave him tobacco to smoke
 - Played cards with him
- (e) his academic writing style is playful and personal
 - Uses narrative style

9. **Objectives :** To test global comprehension of prose texts

Marking Scheme:

Content : 6 marks

Expression : 4 marks

Value Points:

- Franz decided to pay attention to the lesson
- School became very important for him
- Felt he would miss his school from next day
- M. Hamel became a good teacher from a boring one.
- Genuinely upset that Hamel was leaving the village
- Cranky Hamel seemed a good gentle man
- Liking developed for history and grammar.

OR

Marking Scheme:

Content : 6 marks

Expression : 4 marks

Value Points:

- Gandhiji was appalled at the condition of the share-croppers in Champaran

- Got a doctor for the village to help sick people
- Made the people understand the value of self-reliance
- Got support from lawyers to fight the case of share-croppers
- Tried to alleviate the distressed peasants.
- Made the ordinary people to contribute in national freedom.

This became a turning point in his career.

10. Objectives : To be able to comprehend incidents and evaluate it.

Marking Scheme:

Content : 1 mark for each value point (4 points)

Expression : 3 marks (1½ + 1½ accuracy and fluency)

Value Points

Present world rat race

- Every body running after power, money or success.
- One gets stressed out
- Feeling of being a failure develops
- To overcome such insecurities and fears one starts imagining
- Charley starts imagining his grandfather and the village he came from
- He starts believing that there is a third level at the grand station, New York from where trains went to Galesburg, Illinois, where his grand father used to live

OPTION II

Objectives : To be able to comprehend incidents and evaluate it.

Marking Scheme:

Content : 1 mark for each value point (4 points)

Expression : 3 marks (1½ + 1½ accuracy and fluency)

Value Points

Visit to Antarctica

- will give a grasp of where we have come from and where we could possibly be heading
- it will suggest the future possibilities(in millions years afterwards)
- study about the future climate change easily and more effectively
- tell us about the repercussions of environmental changes
- Realization of the appearance of the Future world (any four)

11. Objectives : To be able to comprehend incidents and evaluate it.

Marking Scheme:

Content : 1 mark

Expression : 1 mark

Value Points

- (1) Maharaja had bought fifty diamond rings
 - sent it to the wives of British officers to choose from
 - they kept all of them
 - but managed to retain his kingdom
 - this made him happy
- (2) Man has created villages, towns, cities and mega-cities by destroying nature
 - rapid increase of human population resulting in burning of fossil fuels
 - global warming
- (3) Every body made fun of Roger Skunk because he gave out a bad smell.
 - he was upset about this
 - He met the old owl who advised him to go to the wizard, which would help him and give him a pleasant smell.
- (4) The two reasons are:
 - She would watch all the fun and games that were going on the road
 - She would look at the shops and the bazaars
 - Used to look at the snake charmers and the monkey performing, (any two)