

**ENGLISH ELECTIVE NCERT
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER-SEMESTER-II
2021-2022
CODE NO. 001
CLASS XII**

Time allowed: 2 hours

Maximum Marks: 40

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The question paper has FIVE sections.
2. It is compulsory to attempt each section.
3. Section A-READING is of 14 marks.
4. Section B-WRITING SKILLS is of 5 marks.
5. Section C-APPLIED GRAMMAR is of 5 marks.
6. Section D- LITERATURE is of 11 marks.
7. Section E- FICTION is of 5 marks.

SECTION A-READING

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

[8]

1. A fisherman, enfeebled with age, could no longer go out to sea so he began fishing in the river. Every morning he would go down to the river and sit there fishing the whole day long. In the evening he would sell whatever he had caught, buy food for himself and go home. It was a hard life for an old man. One hot afternoon while he was trying to keep awake and bemoaning his fate, a large bird with silvery feathers alighted on a rock near him. It was Kaha, the heavenly bird. "Have you no one to care for you, grandpa?" asked the bird. "Not a soul." "You should not be doing such work at your age," said the bird. "From now on I will bring you a big fish every evening. You can sell it and live in comfort." True to her word, the bird began to drop a large fish at his doorstep every evening. All that the fisherman had to do was take it to the market and sell it. As big fish were in great demand, he was soon rolling in money. He bought a cottage near the sea, with a garden around it and engaged a servant to cook for him. His wife had died some years earlier. He had decided to marry again and began to look for a suitable woman.

2. One day he heard the royal courtier make an announcement. Our king has news of a great bird called Kaha," said the courtier. "Whoever can give information about this bird and help catch it, will be rewarded with half the gold in the royal treasury and half the kingdom!" The fisherman was sorely tempted by the reward. Half the kingdom would make him a prince!

3. "Why does the king want the bird," he asked. "He has lost his sight," explained the courtier. "A wise man has advised him to bathe his eyes with the blood of Kaha. Do you know where she can be found?" "No...I mean ...no, no..." Torn between greed and his sense of gratitude to the bird, the fisherman could not give a coherent reply. The courtier, sensing that he knew something about the bird, informed the king. The king had him brought to the palace.

4. "If you have information about the bird, tell me", urged the king. "I will reward you handsomely and if you help catch her, I will personally crown you king of half my domain." "I will get the bird for you," cried the fisherman, suddenly making up his mind. "But Kaha is strong. I will need help. The king sent a dozen soldiers with him. That evening when the bird came with the fish, the fisherman called out to her to wait. "You drop the fish and go and I never get a chance to thank you for all that you've done for me," he said. "Today I have laid out a feast for you inside. Please alight and come in. Kaha was reluctant to accept the invitation but the fisherman pleaded so earnestly that she finally gave in, and alighted. The moment she was on the ground, the fisherman grabbed one of her legs and

shouted to the soldiers hiding in his house to come out. They rushed to his aid but their combined effort could not keep Kaha down.

5. She rose into the air with the fisherman still clinging onto her leg. By the time he realised he was being carried away, the fisherman was too high in the air to let go. He hung on grimly, and neither he nor Kaha were ever seen again.

I. Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer three of the four questions. [3 x 2 =6]

- a. Why did the fisherman start fishing in the river?
- b. How did the fisherman spend the day before he met Kaha?
- c. How did the fisherman betray Kaha?
- d. Why was the fisherman doubtful about revealing information about Kaha to the courtier?

II Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are opposite in meaning to the following: (2x1=2)

- a. Take off (Para 1)
- b. Readily (Para 4)

Q2. Read the given case-based passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (6)

Case study of museums

1. We don't go to museums. We prefer malls, cinema halls, and restaurants. Visiting a museum is best left to schools which make it mandatory. After all, it is an academic exercise. And what entertainment can these places possibly offer? India doesn't boast the greatest of museums, but one can't doubt the collection of artifacts in these repositories of heritage, even for a second. Our eventful history has handed down us numerous masterpieces, but unfortunately, we don't find them compelling enough. Cultural historian and museologist Jyotindra Jain says that the habit of going to museums has just not been inculcated in us. One of the best museums in the country, National Museum in Delhi charges a mere Rs. 20. According to Joyoti Roy, outreach consultant, National Museum, it receives between 6,00,000 to 7,00,000 visitors each year and anything between 2,500 and 3,000 per day. The mix includes Indians, foreigners, and school students. For an Indian museum, it is an astounding figure, but still nowhere close to the footfalls museums, we consider the finest, get.

2. It has not been many days since the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore, hosted A. Ramchandran's expansive retrospective covering five decades of his artistic journey. As we sat outside the first-floor gallery after Ramchandran walked me through his sketches, sculptures, and paintings, the senior artist, a bit disappointed said, "Had an exhibition of this scale taken place abroad, people would have come in thousands." There were about three-five visitors inside the gallery at that time. Jain, who has also helmed institutions like the Crafts Museum and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi, puts the onus on museums. "We developed the museums but didn't evolve the infrastructure around it. And it is the museum's responsibility to do it. When you know, people are not going to come to you, you must go to them. Crafts Museum shares its wall with India Trade Promotion Organisation. It receives lakhs of people during the trade fair. I fought tooth and nail to get that door opened during my tenure (1984-89) so that the visitors spill over to the Crafts Museum as well. Museums need to rethink their strategies and outreach should be a major point of concern for them."

3. In **2010**, UNESCO brought out a report on the terrible conditions at India's top eight museums, citing sub-standard maintenance, lighting, and signage, among other issues. The Ministry of Culture put together a **14-**point museum reforms agenda and things have moved forward since then. Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, the oldest museum in Mumbai has received **3,00,000** visitors over the past year. On an average, the museum witnesses **500** visitors every day, with an average of **2,000** visitors **over weekends**. Not big numbers again, but impressive enough in the Indian context. And this is when the museum re-emerged after a revamp in **2008** with an extensive exhibition programme. Collaborations, screenings of movies of different genres, and workshops for adults and children contributed to the increase in the number of footfalls. The public-private partnership model of the museum is unique and can be replicated in other cases as well.

4. Robust publicity of exhibitions and creating links between different art spaces can also fetch the audience. Different art institutions located in proximity can host a series of events to be held in each one of them simultaneously. Museums also need to transform their cafes, upgrade their museum shops, and most importantly, invest in their human resource. So, what do we do until then? Let's go and explore these storehouses of history, culture, and knowledge because unless and until we claim them, they will remain indifferent to our needs.

After studying the case study of museums, answer any *three* of the following questions. (2x3=6)

Q a. What according to the author is the reason for fewer footfalls to the museums in India?

Q b. What measures are suggested in the passage to multiply the visitors to the museums?

Q c. What was the proposition given by A. Ramachandran during his tenure at Crafts Museum?

Q d. Between National Museum of Delhi and Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, which museum has more footfall on daily basis? Justify using statistics provided in the study.

SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. Answer any one of the two questions given in about 120 - 150 words :

(5 marks)

(a) "Teenagers are never too young to teach others a thing or two -be it about technology or environment". This is the topic on which Shirin/Sharad ,the Head Girl/ Head Boy of your school has to deliver a speech on, during the morning assembly. Write the speech within the given word-limit.

OR

(b) Recently your school held a Seminar on Conservation of Water as a part of World Water Day celebrations. As the Head Boy/ Head Girl of your school, who participated in the event, write a report for your school magazine in 120- 150 words. You are Ravi/ Ravina.

SECTION C - APPLIED GRAMMAR

4. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, following the direction given with each question.. Answer any five out of the given six questions: (5 marks)

(i) Lata said she would only go to the party if her mother bought her a new dress.
(Use ' UNLESS')

Lata said she her mother bought her a new dress.

(ii) I'm sorry I didn't meet you at the airport - my car wasn't working.
(Use ' MET')

I..... at the airport if my car had been working.

(iii) My uncle would call my dog 'the wolf' when he used to visit.
(Use ' REFER')

My uncle would 'the wolf' when he used to visit.

(iv) Fifty years ago, cars were slower than they are nowadays.
(Use ' AS')

Fifty years ago, cars they are nowadays.

(v) Some shops try really hard to help you.
(Use ' EFFORT')

Some shops really to help you.

(vi) Have you got a belt that is cheaper than this one?
(Use ' LESS')

Have you got than this one?

SECTION D - LITERATURE

5. Answer any one out of the two questions in (30-40) words [1 x 2= 2]

(a) Why did Dr. Margolin not want his wife to accompany him to the wedding?

OR

(b) What were the personality traits that endeared Dr. Margolin to others in his community?

Q6. Answer any two out of three questions in (40-50) words. [2 x 3 =6]

(a) What do you understand by 'Psalteries of summer'?

(b) What is the central theme of the poem- 'Time and again'?

(c) Draw out the contrast between the liveliness of the swans and human life?

Q7. Answer any one out of two questions in (40-50) words.

[1 x 3 =3]

(a) What does the author mean by 'tremulations on ether' and 'the novel as a tremulation'?

OR

(b) What apprehensions does Ingram harbour regarding the contemporary film industry?

Q8. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words.

[1 x 5 = 5]

(a) "If I find you fighting again, I'll be back to stop it. Take care; you should not need a tiger to keep the peace." How do the above lines align with the novel 'A Tiger for Malgudi'?

OR

(b) Describe the relationship between Captain and his wife in the novel 'A Tiger for Malgudi'.

OR

(c) Lakshmi Holmstrom in "The Novels of R. K. Narayan" *Calcutta: Writers Workshop Publication, 1973*, comments "Different abilities and values are opposed and matched until Pal becomes a "nightmare to Margayya". Keeping the above statement in mind, trace the evolution of Margayya and Mr. Pal's relationship.

OR

(d) "A man whom the goddess of wealth favours need not worry much. He can buy all the knowledge he requires. He can afford to buy all gifts that Goddess Saraswathi holds in her palm" In the light of the above lines, elaborate the relation of the human and divine realms in R.K. Narayan's *The Financial Expert*.