

CLASS-XII  
ENGLISH

TIME:3 HRS

MAX.MARKS:100

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General Instructions:

1. Only answers to be written in the answer sheet against the correct question numbers.
  2. Attempt all questions in each section.
  3. Adhere to the word limit. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the prescribed word limit.
  4. This paper is divided into 3 sections:  
Section A-Reading : 30 marks  
Section B -Advanced Writing skills: 30 marks  
Section C -Literature: 40 marks
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SECTION A- READING  
30marks

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (11 marks)

My first tryst with Shakespeare several years ago was an enforced one. The Merchant of Venice was a prescribed book in class IX at school. I had read the wonderful Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare and considered myself an authority on when I read the stories. I did not think it necessary to read the antiquated language or trudge through several seemingly abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point. To spend a whole year to decipher a play when I had understood the story in a few pages seemed to be a sheer waste of time. Yet, somewhere along the way, I was drawn into the world of the Merchants of Venice; their portly argosies, the signors and rich burghers and the news on the Rialto. The language yielded its riches slowly, the characters became well drawn, more rounded and the impassioned speeches of Shylock and Portia stirred up a flurry of unexamined questions. Since then, I read several other plays, saw a couple of theatrical performances and watched young Leonardo Di Caprio in a modern Romeo and Juliet film. Shakespeare has been around.

Shakespeare has shaped the writing and storytelling the English language like no other writer has. He liberally borrowed, bent and brought new words into the English language from addition, bump, and critic to. Worthless and zany. The phrases that he coined roll off our tongues as overused adages- All that glitters is not gold (Merchant of Venice), Jealousy is a green eyes monster (Othello) and the perennial 'All is well that ends well.' He has influenced several writers and is quoted by many of them. One of my favorite authors P.G Wodehouse had the odd Shakespearean phrase popping up in whacky situations like the 'milk of human kindness' sloshing inside someone or references to Banquo

And Macbeth explained to Bertie by the estimable Jeeves who knew his Shakespeare. The plays have been translated into most languages including several regional Indian bashes. They have lent themselves to film adaptations including the Vishal Bhardwaj's Cabool (Macbeth) and Omari (Othello).

The tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare cover every possible theme and idea-love, greed, jealousy, race is friendship, mistaken identities, murder, mutiny, politics, feminism and revenge. Like any other celebrity, he has been the subject of speculation and controversy. There have been several conspiracy theories afloat on the 'real' authorship of the plays eluding a recent claim by a professor in Sicily that Shakespeare was actually Italian. Despite everything, Shakespeare's appeal is universal,

the stories transcend language and nationalities. However more than 400 years after Shakespeare's birth, I can't help wondering if anyone will read his works in the days to come.

The average attention span in front of a television channel is about 4 seconds before flicking on the remote to move to another. It is perfectly acceptable to massacre the rules of grammar and syntax because you can say why this is so. When you can tell a whole story in 140 characters, reading 14 sentences can be a chore. Who will have the desire or patience to delve into the viscous text of a Shakespearean play to dredge up the treasures that lie within?

Shakespeare's works have proved to be sturdy, unshakeable through the centuries, moving with the times, lending themselves to newer forms. I hope they don't get relegated to a few die-hard literature students or musty libraries. Who knows, we might yet have a different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to the GenNext, a form that will induce them to approach an original play with a sense of anticipation, of beginning a quest to understand and appreciate a good story, well told.

*Nothing of him that does fade,  
But doth suffer a sea-change  
Into something rich and strange.*

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best Of the given choices. 3

1. The writer considered himself an authority on Shakespeare after reading \_\_\_\_\_:-

- a) The Merchant of Venice
- b) Romeo and Juliet
- c) Lamb's Tales
- d) Leonardo Di Caprio

2. The best known Shakespearean quote is \_\_\_\_\_

- a) All that glitters is not gold
- b) All is well that ends well
- c) Jealousy is a green-eyed monster
- d) Milk of human kindness

3. The claim of the Italian professor from Sicily was \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Shakespeare was an Italian
- b) that he covers every theme and idea
- c) that there have been many conspiracy theories
- d) Shakespeare was a subject of speculation

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly : 5

- a) Why was the author's first tryst with Shakespeare an enforced one?
- b) What did the author like about the play after reading it thoroughly?
- c) What is Shakespeare's contribution to shaping the English language?
- d) What, according to the writer, will make GenNext read Shakespeare?
- e) What was the speculation of the author about the GenNext?

1.3 Find word in the passage which means the same as the following. 3

- a) a private romantic meeting (para 1)
- b) go beyond the range (para 3)
- c) persuade or influence (para 5)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (11 marks)

1. It was three in the afternoon when Philip left the realms of commonsense. He was so weary with travelling that he had fallen asleep in the train. His fellow-passengers had the usual Italian gift of divination, and when Monteriano came they knew he wanted to go there, and dropped him out. His feet sank into the hot asphalt of the platform, and in a dream he watched the train depart, while the porter who ought to have been carrying his bag, ran up the line playing touch-you-last with the guard. Alas! he was in no humour for Italy. Bargaining for a legno bored him unutterably. The man asked six lire; and though Philip knew that for eight miles it should scarcely be more than four, yet he was about to give what he was asked, and so make the man discontented and unhappy for the rest of the day. He was saved from this social blunder by loud shouts, and looking up the road saw one cracking his whip and waving his reins and driving two horses furiously, and behind him there appeared the swaying figure of a woman, holding star-fish fashion on to anything she could touch. It was Miss Abbott, who had just received his letter from Milan announcing the time of his arrival, and had hurried down to meet him.

2. He had known Miss Abbott for years, and had never had much opinion about her one way or the other. She was good, quiet, dull, and amiable, and young only because she was twenty-three: there was nothing in her appearance or manner to suggest the fire of youth. All her life had been spent at Sawston with a dull and amiable father, and her pleasant, pallid face, bent on some respectable charity, was a familiar object of the Sawston streets. Why she had ever wished to leave them was surprising; but as she truly said, "I am John Bull to the backbone, yet I do want to see Italy, just once. Everybody says it is marvellous, and that one gets no idea of it from books at all." The curate suggested that a year was a long time; and Miss Abbott, with decorous playfulness, answered him, "Oh, but you must let me have my fling! I promise to have it once, and once only. It will give me things to think about and talk about for the rest of my life." The curate had consented; so had Mr. Abbott. And here she was in a legno, solitary, dusty, frightened, with as much to answer and to answer for as the most dashing adventuress could desire.

3. They shook hands without speaking. She made room for Philip and his luggage amidst the loud indignation of the unsuccessful driver, whom it required the combined eloquence of the station-master and the station beggar to confute. The silence was prolonged until they started. For three days he had been considering what he should do, and still more what he should say. He had invented a dozen imaginary conversations, in all of which his logic and eloquence procured him certain victory. But how to begin? He was in the enemy's country, and everything—the hot sun, the cold air behind the heat, the endless rows of olive-trees, regular yet mysterious—seemed hostile to the placid atmosphere of Swaston in which his thoughts took birth.

(Adapted from *Where Angels Fear to Tread* by E.J. Forster)

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices

3

1. Philip was able to reach Monteriano with the help of \_\_\_\_\_

- a) his co-passengers
- b) Miss Abbot
- c) the legno driver
- d) his own commonsense

(3) Enq skt

2. Miss Abbot proclaimed that she wanted to \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Go to Swastan
- b) Persuade the vicar
- c) go to Italy just once
- d) read books about Italy

3. According to Philip, the enemy country he was in \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Had a station master and a station beggar
- b) Had hot Sun and rows of Olive trees
- c) An adventurous mood
- d) Cold, air and no sun

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly: .

5

- a) Why would Philip's behaviour make the legno driver feel discontented?
- b) Why did Miss Abbot come hurrying down to the station?
- c) What facts do we gather about Miss Abbot from the passage?
- d) What was the dilemma faced by Philip in the presence of Miss Abbot?
- e) What does the expression 'John Bull' indicate?

2.3 Find out words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

3

- a) to prove something or somebody wrong (para 3)
- b) agreeable (para 2)
- c) very much (para 1)

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (8 marks)

1. Convenient, inexpensive, good for you and delicious: they have it all! Peanuts are the most popular and consumed nuts in the United States and can be found nearly everywhere. Perfect for a quick snack to cut a craving before grocery shopping or to boost your energy before a workout, a large selection of peanuts can be found at most gas stations, convenience stores and, of course, grocery stores. Not only do adults love these healthy treats, but research also shows that kids love the taste of peanuts. Recognized as a great source of protein and fiber, a handful of these nuts provide a highly nutrient food for less than 200 calories.

2. According to the Peanut Institute, the peanut plant originated in South America probably first domesticated and cultivated in the valleys of Paraguay. Spread by European explorers and traders, the plant eventually reached Asia, Africa and North America. Millions of peanuts are grown and consumed around the world. Peanuts started to be produced in large quantities in the 1900s due to the growing popularity of peanut butter, peanut candies and other peanut products.

3. Although peanuts come in many varieties, four main types can be found in the United States: Virginia Peanuts, Runner Peanuts, Spanish Peanuts and Valencia Peanuts. Peanuts are a wonderful food, rich in nutrients and flavour. The combination of fibre and protein in peanuts satiates hunger. Thus, eating peanuts helps manage weight and provide the key nutrients that are important to diets. Peanuts are also natural energy boosters that contain healthy fats, proteins and antioxidants. Research shows that eating peanuts can decrease your risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic health conditions. Peanut butter is also full of the good kind of fat also known as monounsaturated fat that is heart-healthy and prevents belly fat that people get from carbohydrates or saturated fat.

4. For centuries, peanuts have been used in many culinary applications, including Chinese, African and Western cooking – in stews, sauces, mixed dishes, boiled or even plain – nourishing various populations with an enjoyable flavour. The great advantages of using peanuts in the kitchen are their

availability and affordability. Peanut oil is also becoming a popular option for cooking because of its healthy fats and high cooking temperature.

5. Pureed peanut is also great to infuse nutty goodness into a variety of dishes such as soups, sauces, bread mixes, salsa recipes, salad dressings and pasta dishes. For those who like hummus, pureed peanuts and chickpeas are a great combination. On the sweet side, peanuts are commonly used for ice cream, brownie mix or cake batter. Peanut flour is an asset for pastry chefs because of its ability to act as a fat binder in confectionery products or to add flavour and extend shelf-life.

6. Peanut offers countless healthy properties and natural nutrition to all populations and age groups. They enhance the flavour and boost the nutritional value of food dishes from breakfast and snacks to dinner and dessert. As a nut, oil, flour or butter, peanuts are a very versatile and tasty ingredient.

a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, in points only 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)

b) Summarize the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

### SECTION B- ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

(30marks)

4. You are Suman / Suma of 331244, M.M. road, Mysore. You want to sell off your old desk top computer as you have purchased a new one. Draft an advertisement to be published in the Times of India under classified columns giving its details & the expected price.

OR

You are Krish Ahuja. You are opening an exclusive showroom of kids apparel. Draft a formal invitation to be sent to some close friends and relatives on the opening ceremony of the showroom.

(4marks)

5. You are Aaravi / Aruni living at 23 Lajpat Nagar, Delhi. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your concern about the inadequate parking in the street, which is causing a lot of problems to the people. Also give suggestions to solve the problem. (120-150 words)

OR

You are Rashi / Rashid of A 25 / B12, Bank Road, Chennai. Last month, you bought a Sony Bravo LCD T.V. from Devi Electronics, Tambaram. Now the T.V. is not working properly. Write a letter to the dealer asking him to replace it immediately. (6 marks)

6. You are Virna / Vimla. You are worried about the hike in the prices of essential commodities like gas, pulses, vegetables etc. Write an article in about 150-200 words about the price hike and suggesting certain steps to curb the price hike.

OR

Regular practice of yoga can help in maintaining good health and even in the prevention of so many ailments. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on the usefulness of yoga. You are Amrit / Amrita. (10 marks)

7. You are Yinod/ Veena, a student of Class XII of SGMS School, Cochin. While watching many reality shows on T.V. You felt that they are harmful for children. Write an article on the negative impact of reality shows on children. (150-200 words)

OR

You were shocked to know that fact that India has the largest no. of child workers in the world. As Arun/Anju, write an article for your School Magazine titled 'Child Labour-A Curse on Childhood' (150-200 words). (10marks)

SECTION C: LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXTS

40MARKS

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

4 marks

*A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing  
Therefore, every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth*

- What is the special virtue of a beautiful thing?
- How does a thing of beauty bless us?
- Explain the expression "A bower quiet for us".
- What do we do every day?

OR

*It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
We would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.*

- What would be an exotic moment for the poet?
- Explain: 'without rush without engines.'
- Explain: 'sudden strangeness.'
- How can man experience this exotic moment?

9. Answer ANY FOUR of the following questions briefly (30-40 words)

(4 x 3 = 12 Marks)

- What do the parting words of Kamala Das signify?
- How did Jo want the story to end and why?
- Why has Rajkumar Shukla been described as illiterate but resolute?
- What advice did Anna give to Barna to get honour and dignity for their community?
- Why does M. Hamel feel the need to safeguard their language?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120-150 words:

(6 Marks)

- Discuss the sum and substance of the chapter 'Going Places'
- How did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his kingdom? How was he able to avoid the

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120 -150 words: (6 Marks)

a) Discuss the values you have learnt from 'On the Face of it'.

b) There is a saying, 'Kindness pays, rudeness never'. In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards men and matter is different from her father's attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, 'The Rattrap'?

12. Marvel is a weak character. Discuss. (120-150 Words) (6 marks)

13. What were Dr. Cuss and Mr. Bunting doing in the Parlour of the 'Coaches and Horses'? What happened in the parlour? (120-150 words) (6 marks)