



Student Name					
Date		Grade	XII	Roll No.	
Subject	English	Marks	80	Time	3 hours

S A - 1 –Set A [2020-21]

GENERAL INSTRUCTION:

The question paper is divided into three sections

Section A : Reading	20 Marks
Section B : Advanced Writing Skills	30 Marks
Section C : Literature and long Reading Text	30 Marks

Section A : Reading **20 Marks**

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : **[12 Marks]**

1. Call it a blessing or a curse of Mother Nature, we have to breathe in over 10,000 litres of air in a day (more than four million litres in a year) to remain alive. By making it essential for life, God has wished that we try to keep the air we breathe clean. Everyone can see the food that is not clean and perhaps refrain from eating it, but one cannot stop breathing even if one can feel the air to be polluted.

2. Several harmful and noxious substances can contaminate the air we breathe. Generally, much is said and written about outdoor air pollution, most of which is due to vehicular and industrial exhausts.

3. Given the fact that most of us spend over 90% of our time indoors, it is most important to recognize that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill-health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume significance in closed ill-ventilated places.

4. The air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill-health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume The indoor air pollution can lead to allergic reactions and cause irritation to the skin, the eyes and the nose. But as is logical to assume, the brunt of insult by pollutants is borne by the lungs. It can lead to the development of fresh breathing problems, especially in those who have allergic tendencies, or it can worsen the existing respiratory illnesses like asthma and bronchitis.

5. There can be several sources of indoor air pollution. Tobacco smoke is one of the most important air pollutants in closed places. "Passive smoking" or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) pollution can lead to all the harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in the smokers in their non-smoking companions. ETS as a health hazard has been unequivocally proven and is also getting social recognition now. One can occasionally see signs displaying the all-important message: "Your smoking is injurious to my health" in offices and homes. The children of smoking parents are among the worst affected persons.

6 The exposure of young children to ETS leads to increased respiratory problems and hospital admissions as compared to non-exposed children. Several studies, including those done at the PGI, have shown an increased risk of lung cancer among women exposed to passive smoking. ETS also worsens the existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis. It may be responsible for the development of asthma in children.

7 The next most important source of indoor air pollution is the allergens. House dust mites (HDM) are very small insects not visible to the naked eye and are the commonest source of allergy in the house. They are ubiquitous and thrive in a warm and moist atmosphere. They breed very fast and are very difficult to eradicate. Modern houses present ample breeding spaces for them in the form of carpets, curtains, mattresses, pillows, etc.

8 Exposure to HDM can be prevented by the frequent washing of linen and by encasing the mattresses and pillows in a non-permeable cover. Pets form an important part of life for some of us. But they can add plenty of allergens to our indoor atmosphere. Cats are notorious for doing this. Fine particles from feline fur can remain stuck to the upholstery and carpets for a long time* even after the removal of the animal and lead to the worsening of asthma and skin allergies. Fortunately, owing to religious and social customs cats are not very popular pets in India. Dogs, however, are quite popular and can be as troublesome. Pets should be kept out of the bedrooms and washed frequently. To remove the fur particles one has to use vacuum cleaners as the ordinary broom and mop are not effective.

9 Moulds, fungi and several other microorganisms thrive in damp conditions and can lead to allergies as well as infections. Humidifiers in the air-conditioning plants provide an ideal environment for certain types of bacteria and have led to major outbreaks of pneumonia. It is important to clean regularly the coolers, air-conditioners and damp areas of the house such as cupboards, lofts, etc to minimise this risk.

10 toxic gases can also pollute the indoor environment. Biomass fuels (wood, cowdung, dried plants) and coal, if burned inside, can lead to severe contamination by carbon monoxide (CO): The poor quality of stoves and other cooking or heating appliances that cause incomplete combustion of LPG can also lead to the emission of CO or nitrogen dioxide.

Formaldehyde (a gas) can be released from adhesives that are used for fixing carpets, upholstery and also in making plywood and particleboard.

11. The gases are very toxic in high concentrations as may be encountered during industrial accidents, but even in very minimal amounts, as may be prevalent in homes and offices, they can cause irritation to the skin or the eyes, rashes, headache, dizziness and nausea. Improving the ventilation is an important preventive measure, besides trying to eliminate the source that may not be always feasible.

12 Other indoor pollutants are toxic chemicals like cleansing agents, pesticides, paints, solvents and inferior-quality personal-care products, especially aerosols. Very old crumbling pipes, boilers, insulation or false roofing can also be important sources. Asbestos is a hazardous product that can cause cancer in humans.

13 It is important to realise that the air we breathe at home may not be clean always and we must try to eliminate the source of pollution. We should give due consideration to ventilation.

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

[1 x 4 = 4 marks]

(a) The Almighty wants that human beings.....

1. should try to breathe clean air
2. should not pay attention to pollutants
3. must ignore ETS
4. should become passive smokers

(b) The toxic gases cause

1. rashes
2. headache
3. dizziness
4. all of the above

(c) Air conditioning plants become the cause of

1. allergies
2. pneumonia
3. heart attack
4. infection

(d) Asbestos is a hazardous product because it can

1. cause cancer in humans
2. cause respiratory problems
3. prove fatal to the children
4. none of these

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

[1 x 6 = 6Marks]

(a) What is essential for our life? How?

(b) Why should we pay attention to the quality of air we breathe indoor?

(c) Name eight important sources of indoor air pollution.

(d) What do you understand by ETS? How is it harmful? Give two instances.

(e) How can the risk of allergies be minimized?

(f) How can the toxic gases pollute the indoor environment?

C. Find words in the passage similar in meaning as:

[1 x 2 = 2 Marks]

(a) make impure (Para 2)

(b) clearly and unmistakably (Para 5)

2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:

When plastic waste is burnt, a complex weave of toxic chemicals is released. Breaking down polyvinyl chloride (PVC) — used for packaging, toys and coating electrical wires — produces dioxin, an organ chlorine which belongs to the family of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). A recent Dioxin Assessment Report brought out by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) says the risk of getting cancer from dioxin is ten times higher than reported by the agency in 1994.

Yet the Delhi government is giving the green signal to a gasification project which will convert garbage into energy without removing plastic waste. Former transport minister Rajendra Gupta, the promoter of this project, says this is not necessary.

He claims no air pollution will be caused and that the ash produced can be used as manure. An earlier waste-to-energy project set up in Timarpur failed. The new one, built with Australian assistance, will cost ₹ 200 core. It will generate 25 megawatts of power and gobble 1,000 tones of garbage every day.

“Technologies like gasification are a form of incineration,” says Madhurima Dutta, central coordinator with Toxics Link, New Delhi. Incineration merely transfers hazardous waste from a solid form to air, water and ash, she points out.

Toxins produced during incineration include acidic gases, heavy metals as well as dioxins and furans. “The ‘manure’ will be hazardous and a problem to dispose,” says Data.

Municipal solid waste contains a mix of plastics. Breaking down this waste emits hydrochloric acid which attacks the respiratory system, skin and eyes, resulting in coughing, vomiting and nausea. Polyethylene generates volatile compounds like formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, both suspected carcinogenic. Breathing styrene from polystyrene can cause leukemia. Polyurethane is associated with asthma. Dioxin released by PVC is a powerful hormone disrupter and causes birth defects and reproductive problems. There is no threshold dose to prevent it and our bodies have no defense against it. “Even the best run incinerators in the world have to deal with stringent norms, apart from contaminated filters and ash, making them hugely expensive to operate,” says Dutta. In Germany, air pollution devices accounted for two-thirds the cost of incineration. Despite such efforts, the European Dioxin Inventory noted that the input of dioxin into the atmosphere was the highest from incineration.

“India does not have the facility to test dioxin and the cost of setting one up is prohibitively expensive,” says Dutta.

Besides, Indian garbage has a low calorific content of about 800 cal/kg, since it has high moisture and requires additional fuel to burn. Toxics Link calculates that the electricity generated from such technology will cost between ₹ 5-7 per unit, which is six times higher than conventional energy. India has chosen a dioxin preventive route and burning of chlorinated plastics is prohibited under Municipal Solid Waste and Biomedical Rules. Nearly 80 per cent of Indian garbage is recyclable or compostable. Resident associations, the informal sector and the municipal corporation can make Delhi’s garbage disappear in a sustainable manner. “Instead, the government promotes end of pipeline solutions,” says Dutta.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions briefly:

[8 Marks]

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

[1 x 4 = 4 marks]

(a) Dioxine causes

1. cancer
2. heart attack
3. sickness
4. hypertension

(b) The gasification process transforms

1. energy into garbage
2. garbage into energy
3. water into energy
4. none of the above

(c) Garbage can be converted into energy by

1. gasification
2. gratification
3. a chemical process
4. incinerators

(d) Indian garbage contains

1. low moisture
2. high moisture
3. no moisture
4. none of these

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

[1 x 6 = 6]

- (a) Which toxic chemical is released on burning plastic waste? How is it harmful?
- (b) What is the aim of waste-to-energy project? What is likely to happen during incineration?
- (c) How will burning plastic adversely impact the health of citizens?
- (d) What two arguments are advanced against the use of incinerators?
- (e) Why would gasification of waste prove a wasteful luxury in India?
- (f) What facts are revealed in the passage pertaining to Indian garbage?

Section B Advanced Writing

[30 Marks]

3 You are Raman/Rama, a member of the Parent-Teacher Association **[6 Marks]**

of Little Valley Senior Secondary School, Hyderabad. **Write a letter** to the Principal of the school asking him to introduce vocational stream in the school providing facility of teaching such subjects as computers, insurance etc. so that the students may not needlessly continue academic studies. You are residing at 15, Annx and Colony

OR

Read the advertisement given below and **write a letter** applying for the job. Also give your detailed resume to be sent along with the letter. You are Praveen Kumar of 95 HAL Colony, Bengaluru.

Situations Vacant

Wanted Post Graduate Teacher in English to teach Senior Secondary Classes in a reputed school in Bengaluru. Candidates should have a minimum of three years of teaching experience. Apply to Box No. 178, C/o 'The Deccan Herald', Bengaluru 500 015

4 You are the General Manager of E.V.L. Company which requires posh [4 Marks] bungalows in company lease, as guest houses. Draft **an advertisement** in not more than 50 words under classified columns to be published in 'The New Indian Express'.

OR

As Sports Secretary of PUNA International School, Ahmedabad draft a notice [4 Marks] In not more than 50 words for your school **notice** board informing the students about the sale of old sports goods of your school. You are Rohini/Rohit.

5 You had attended a workshop on personality development for students. Many [10 Marks] eminent personalities had been present. Write **a report** in 125-150 words on how the workshop proved to be beneficial. You are Rajesh/Rajshree.

6. You are Saurabh /Surabhi. Your school has been invited to participate in an [10 Marks] inter-school on-the-spot writing competition, organized by the Lions Club of your area. Based on your past performance in such competitions you once again get selected for this proposed competition. The organisers of this competition have given only one topic to write about: " My Dreams of the Next Millennium." Write an article in about 200 words on this topic.

Section C Language and Literature

[30 Marks]

7 Read the following lines and answer the questions that follows: [8 Marks]

A Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still

For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak any language, let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much

- i) What is the significance of number twelve?
- ii) Which two activities does the poet want us to stop?
- iii) What does the poet mean by 'Let's not speak in any language'?
- iv) Who is the poet of the poem?

B) "Viva La France" became an emotional evidence of M. Hamel's?

- i) Sadness and patriotism
- ii) Finality and depression
- iii) Nostalgia and emotional outburst
- iv) Love for the school and teaching as a profession

8) Answer any 5 of the following questions in 30 to 40 words. [10 Marks]

- a) Why is the order from Berlin called a thunder clap by Franz?
- b) What did the psychiatrist think when Charley told him about the third level?
- c) Why had the rag pickers come to live in Seemapuri?
- d) Why was the Y.M.C.A pool considered safe to learn swimming?
- e) How are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?
- f) How does the poem, 'An Elementary School: Classroom in a Slum' portray the children?
- g) Which is the exotic moment that the poet refers to in 'Keeping Quiet'.
- h) What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

9) Answer any one of the following questions in 120- 150 words. [6 Marks]

- a) Our native language is a part of our culture and we are proud of it. How does the presence of village elders in the classroom and Mr. Hamel's last lesson show their love for French?
- b) What does Aneez Jung tell us about life at Mukesh's home in Firozabad?

10) Answer any one of the following questions in 120- 150 words. [6 Marks]

- a) Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why not explain with reference to the story, "Enemy".?
- b) Philately helps in keeping the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?