

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL, DAMMAM  
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – JUNE 2012

CLASS : XII  
SUBJECT : ENGLISH CORE

MAX. MARKS : 100  
TIME : 3 HRS

SET A

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper is divided into three sections – A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions have been provided with each section or question wherever necessary.  
Read the instructions and follow them carefully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

SECTION A – (READING SKILLS)

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

12

TWO WAYS TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH

1. Some of the greatest scientists have attributed their spark of genius to spiritual inspiration. "I assert that cosmic religious experience is the strongest and the noblest driving force behind scientific research," said Albert Einstein.
2. Scientists today are striving to discover how creation came into being, and how human beings came to be. A state-of-the art space telescope has been able to detect some of the earliest moments of the Big Bang. By picking up the signals from several light years away, we are able to glimpse the early universe, whose light is only now reaching us, billions of years later. Will we ever be able to discover the secret of creation?
3. The question –who created us? – continues to haunt us. Few scientists are satisfied with the theory that creation was a mere accident, the outcome of a combustion of cosmic dust. Spiritual seekers, too, are engaged in a similar quest. They are interested in the scientific law of nature, but wish to go even further to find out the divine law that brought everything into being. While scientists search through outer instrumentation, spiritual scientists plumb the inner consciousness.
4. There have been numerous accounts of people who have had near-death experiences. In fact, more such cases are being reported today because advances in medical techniques have enabled doctors to bring patients literally 'back to life' from what is called 'clinical death'. Reports talk about how more people today are turning to religion and spirituality, evincing keen interest in near-death experiences and the afterlife. Such people see no contradiction between science and spirituality.
5. What people take to be miracles are nothing more than higher laws hidden from us. Scientists are coming to realize that this universe is not as solid as we thought it was. Matter is vibrating energy that appears to the physical eye as solid. Performing miracles is nothing more than tapping into energy and manipulating it by power of thought and spirit.

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6. Medicine today is slowly evolving towards a more holistic approach to healing. being said about the mind-body connection – of healing the body by healing the mind. Meditation as a way to reduce stress and eliminate stress-related illness is being explored.
7. Innovators have often confessed that their ideas were the result of some kind of “divine” inspiration. Some people live only to gratify their own desires and wants. But those who come in contact with a higher power discover that the greatest purpose of our life is to love and serve others. Scientists, for instance, devote their lives to better the lives of others. Thus, we find that the mission of both scientists and spiritual masters is one and the same. They are both here to find the hidden laws of nature, the higher power that created everything, and use their discoveries to better the lives of others. The striving is relevant for, as the great mystic poet, Sant Darshan Singhji Maharaj wrote:
8. “We are communing with the moon and the stars, but have not reached the heart of our neighbour.”
9. Science and spirituality make for a mutual partnership. If those engaged in science spend some time in silence, looking within, they will get inspired to find answers to the question they ask. Similarly, spiritual seekers, when they test hypotheses in the laboratory of their own body and soul, will find the answers.
10. So one can safely conclude that science and spirituality are two sides of the same coin. The aim of science is to uncover the deepest truths, and the aim of spirituality is to search for the cause behind the scientific fact.

(a) Answer the following questions briefly:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (i) What are the scientists trying to discover these days?                           | 1 |
| (ii) How did creation come into being according to the Big Bang Theory?              | 2 |
| (iii) How have advances in medicine led to a renewed interest in spirituality?       | 2 |
| (iv) What rational explanation does the author give for the performance of miracles? | 2 |
| (v) How can quiet introspection prove useful to scientists and spiritualists alike?  | 2 |

(b) Find words in the passage that mean the same as: 3

- (i) Up to date/ modern ( para 2)
- (ii) Exploiting (para 5)
- (iii) Pioneer/ reformer (para7)

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 8

Laugh together without reason for a healthy life, is a concept propagated by the followers of laughter therapy. Those who propound the therapy insist that laughing has various physical and psychological effects which are good for our health. As a result, innumerable laughter clubs have cropped up almost everywhere.

According to researchers, laughter releases stress. This causes the immune system to act more quickly and efficiently. Due to this cells increase both in their number and energy level. Thus, through laughter, blood pressure is lowered, and the immune system and mental health of a person becomes stronger.

A typical laughter session in this therapy would include pure laughing, without any jokes combined with stretching and various breathing exercises.

2

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**SET B**

General Instructions:

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**SECTION A – (READING SKILLS)**

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8

Laugh together without reason for a healthy life, is a concept propagated by the followers of laughter therapy. Those who propound the therapy insist that laughing has various physical and psychological effects which are good for our health. As a result, innumerable laughter clubs have cropped up almost everywhere.

According to researchers, laughter releases stress. This causes the immune system to act more quickly and efficiently. Due to this cells increase both in their number and energy level. Thus, through laughter, blood pressure is lowered, and the immune system and mental health of a person becomes stronger.

A typical laughter session in this therapy would include pure laughing, without any jokes combined with stretching and various breathing exercises.

Laughter therapy has many benefits. It is one of the most effective forms of antistress measures. Laughter is considered one of the best muscle relaxants – it expands blood vessels and improves blood circulation. Laughter is also known to reduce the level of stress hormones, epinephrine and cortisol.

The T-cells, which fight infections, become more active when a person laughs. Laughter is also said to increase immunoglobulin A and B. Immunoglobulin A works for the respiratory tract and has protective qualities against virus, bacteria and other micro-organisms. Immunoglobulin B provides antibodies with the strength to attack dysfunctional cells.

When you laugh, you inhale more oxygen and thus you feel refreshed. Researchers have found that one minute of laughter is equal to ten minutes on the rowing machine. This means that laughter stimulates the heart and blood circulation equivalent to any other standard aerobic exercise. Laughter exercise is suited for those who are confined to bed or a wheel chair.

Laughter helps control blood pressure by reducing the release of stress related hormones and bringing relaxation. Experiments have proved that there is a drop of 10-20 mm in blood pressure after participating in a 10 minute laughter session.

Laughter also helps in stopping the further progress of heart disease as it improves blood circulation and oxygen supply to the heart muscles. Due to improvement of blood circulation, there are less chances of forming a clot.



Laughter increases the level of endorphins in our bodies which are natural painkillers. Endorphins released as a result of laughter also help in reducing the intensity of pain. People suffering from arthritis, spondylitis and muscular spasms. It is also said to alleviate migraine and tension headaches.

Laughter is considered a very good exercise as it improves lung capacity and oxygen levels in the blood. However patients should consult a doctor before taking up laughter therapy.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a title. 5

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 12

### TWO WAYS TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH

1. Some of the greatest scientists have attributed their spark of genius to spiritual inspiration. "I assert that cosmic religious experience is the strongest and the noblest driving force behind scientific research," said Albert Einstein.
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6. Medicine today is slowly evolving towards a more holistic approach to healing. A lot is being said about the mind-body connection – of healing the body by healing the mind. Meditation as a way to reduce stress and eliminate stress-related illness is being explored.
7. Innovators have often confessed that their ideas were the result of some kind of "divine" inspiration. Some people live only to gratify their own desires and wants. But those who come in contact with a higher power discover that the greatest purpose of our life is to

love and serve others. Scientists, for instance, devote their lives to better the lives of others. Thus, we find that the mission of both scientists and spiritual masters is the same. They are both here to find the hidden laws of nature, the higher power that created everything, and use their discoveries to better the lives of others. The striving is relevant for, as the great mystic poet, Sant Darshan Singhji Maharaj wrote:

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(b) Find words in the passage that mean the same as: 3

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## SECTION B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

(35 Marks)

3. You are Surya / Roshni , Sports Secretary of Anand Vidyalaya, Allahabad. Your school is organizing a summer camp to train interested students in hockey and basketball. Write a notice in 50 words informing students about it. Invent all necessary details. 5

OR

You are the Marketing Manager of Dream Villa Projects. Design a suitable advertisement for a new project of luxury villas you wish to offer to the public. Include details like area, surroundings, facilities etc.

4. There were many vacant spaces in your colony that were lying unattended and uncared for. You and your friends decided to beautify and develop these areas into green parks for the benefit of all. With practically no funds but a lot of enthusiasm, your project became a roaring success and has attracted the attention of the media.  
Write a brief report in 100-125 words on how you organized the project. You are Nithin / Neha, a resident of Chandigarh. 10

OR

Your school has recently opened a new spacious library with many facilities and it draws more students thus promoting the reading habit. Write a factual description of the new library in 100-125 words.

5. Shrubin / Sheela a class XII student residing at 15, M.G. Road, Bangalore desires to be a fashion designer. He/She writes to the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ahmedabad seeking information about their courses, admission procedure, eligibility criteria, fee structure, placement opportunities etc. Write the letter in about 150 words. 10

OR

You are Rohan / Rita of 45, Hans Apartments, Jaipur. You happen to see the following news item in the local daily. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Hindu' about your views on the matter.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has passed an order that it is the responsibility of every citizen to look after his / her aged parents. If they fail to do so they will have no right of inheritance to their parents' wealth and property.

6. Computers have literally revolutionized the world. Today's youth are totally dependent on computers. Write an article in 150-200 words on how the computer has become indispensable for the present generation. You are Hemant / Hema. 10

OR

A devastating earthquake in Bihar has destroyed thousands of homes, rendering innumerable people homeless. Deepak / Deepa is the school captain of Loyola School, Hyderabad. The Principal has asked him / her to give a speech in the morning assembly appealing to students to donate generously for this noble cause. Write the speech in 150-200 words.

### SECTION C (LITERATURE)

(45 Marks)

7. (a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

4

.....I looked again at her, wan, pale  
As a late winter's moon and felt that old  
Familiar ache, my childhood's fear,  
But all I said was, see you soon, Amma,  
All I did was smile and smile and smile.....

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.  
(b) What was the poet's 'childhood fear'?  
(c) Where was the poet going and what day of the week was it?  
(d) Which poetic device has been used in the second line?

OR

*It would be an exotic moment  
Without rush, without engines,*

*We would all be together  
In a sudden strangeness.*

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Why would it be an 'exotic moment'?
- (c) What does the poet wish for men of different nations?
- (d) Which poetic device has been used in the last line?

(b) Answer any three of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

2x3=6

- (i) What realization came to the poet as she looked at her mother's face?
- (ii) Why has the poet compared the slum classroom to the catacombs?
- (iii) What is the 'sadness' that pervades human life?
- (iv) What does the poet wish for the slum children?

8. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

2x5=10

- (a) 'What a thunderclap these words were to me!' Which words and why?
- (b) What was ironical about Saheb's name?
- (c) Why was the office boy of Gemini studios disappointed?
- (d) Why did Gandhi agree to a 25 percent refund to the farmers?
- (e) 'This was a Geoff thing, not a Jansie thing.' Why does Sophie think so?

9. Answer the following in 125-150 words:

10

Describe how the story, 'The Rattrap' shows that basic human goodness can be brought out through understanding and love.

OR

Dreams and fantasies are an integral part of adolescence. Explain with reference to the lesson, 'Going Places'.

10. Answer the following in 125-150 words:

7

Describe the efforts made by the Tiger King to override his fate?

OR

Antarctica is the place to go to, to understand the earth's past, present and future. Explain.

11. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

2x4=8

- (a) What was the psychiatrist's interpretation of Charley's visit to the third level?
- (b) Why did the Maharaja order the dewan to double the land tax and how did he respond?
- (c) What are Geoff Green's reasons for initiating the 'Students on Ice' program?
- (d) Jack had a special talent in telling stories. Explain.

