

**PRE-BOARD EXAM (2024-25)**

**CLASS: X**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**M.M.:80**

**General Instructions: -**

- (i) The Question Paper is divided into four sections- A, B, C, and D.
- (ii) All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

**SECTION – A (20 Marks)**

**(READING SKILL)**

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

**(10 marks)**

(i) Today we know about each and everything about the world. There is no land or sea that is not known to us. Man has explored every corner of the world, and he knows all the ways and routes from anywhere to everywhere in the world. He can reach from one place to the other as safely, easily and quickly as he likes. He has maps to guide him and fastest means of transport to carry him.

(ii) But for ages, most of the world was unknown to man. To begin with, he lived in caves. Then he came out of caves and started making homes in little corners of forests or behind the hills. He was afraid of wild animals and also of the clouds and the winds. He offered prayers and sacrifices to gods who, he thought, controlled the clouds and the winds. But slowly, through long centuries, men began to explore what lay beyond their caves, hills and forests where they had homes. They went in their boats, first on the rivers and then across the seas. At first, they remained close to the shore, and each new voyager went a little further than the previous one.

(iii) To those early travelers, the earth seemed to be a vast, flat world. They feared what would happen if they reached the edge. They believed that if they sailed southward, the sea would become so hot and boiling that life would be impossible. Toward the North, they thought, it must be too cold for anything to live. Till only five hundred years ago, nearly all men believed this. When some Portuguese explorers began to sail southward, their seamen revolted and refused to go further. They believed that the steaming waters of the southern seas would boil them like potatoes.

(iv) When some clever men of those days said that the earth was not flat but a ball or sphere, people would laugh at them. 'How could there be people or trees on the other side of the world? They would say "Would men walk and trees grow upside down? And how could they stay on the other side? Surely they would fall off."

### **Questions:**

1. We can travel as we like \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) safely      (b) easily  
(c) quickly      (d) all the above
2. The modern man can reach anywhere he likes with the help of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) maps to guide him      (b) fastest means of transport  
(c) both (a) and (b) above      (d) neither (a) nor (b)
3. After leaving the caves, man started making little homes \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) in corners of forests      (b) behind the hills  
(c) either (a) or (b)      (d) neither (a) nor (b)
4. Why would people not believe that the earth was not flat but round?  
(a) They said that if the earth were round, it would roll away like a ball.  
(b) They said that if the earth were round, people and trees on the other side would fall off.  
(c) They said that if the earth were round, water would not stay at one place.  
(d) They said that if the earth were round, it would look like the sun and the moon.
5. What is meant by the word 'voyager'?  
(a) A person who makes sacrifices in order to please gods.  
(b) A person who goes about begging from place to place.  
(c) A person who wants to explore new lands.  
(d) A person making a long journey
6. Where did men in ancient times build their homes and why?
7. Why were sacrifices offered to gods?
8. What did the early explorers think about the earth?
9. What did the early sailors think about the northern and southern 'ends' of the world?
10. Why did the seamen of Portuguese explorers revolt?

### **Q2. Read the Passages given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)**

(i) A wife shared all her husband's privileges and was his companion and helpmate in his activities. This freedom for women continued even after the Vedic age and it is only when we reach the time of Manu that we find women regarded as chattels, whose place in is nowhere but in the home, though even he allows that there they are like goddesses. Where women are honoured, there the gods are pleased. But Manu's attitude is summed up in the following quotation: 'A woman's father protects her in childhood, her husband protects her in youth and her son protects her in old age; she is never fit for independence.

(ii) Why women lost their high position is not quite clear, nor why Manu depreciated them; but perhaps one of the reasons may have been the fact that when the Aryans first came to India, it was not essential to be specifically trained in order to take part in sacrifices and religious ceremonies. But later, when years of study in learning the Vedas were required for a priest, women were necessarily excluded because their household duties left them no time to pursue Vedantic studies.

(iii) Whatever be the cause, gradually women were deprived of rights and given a status inferior to that of men. However, the Vedic wife was supreme in her household and free to do what she

liked. In richer houses, there were separate apartments for ladies where they met and sewed and chatted. A woman could sing and play on the Vina and dance, especially on the festive occasions. Some could also probably read and write. Early marriage was not the practice, and girls could choose their own husbands.

### **Questions:**

1. What was the position of women in ancient India?
2. What are Manu's views about women?
3. What was the position of Vedic wife in her household?
4. How do you think the position of women changed after the coming of Aryans?
5. What was the attitude towards women in ancient India?
6. Which of the following verb tenses is predominantly used in the passage?  
(a) Present Tense      (b) Past Tense      (c) Future Tense      (d) Present Perfect Tense
7. Which of the following statements suits appropriately to be the title of the passage?  
(a) The Role of women in Vedic Society      (b) The rise and fall of women in Ancient India  
(c) Manu's laws: Impact of women's Rights      (d) Ancient India: A Patriarchal Society
8. The word '**Perhaps**' means the same as:  
(a) Certain      (b) Equal      (c) Privileges      (d) Probably
9. The opposite of the word 'later' is:  
(a) Late      (b) Soon      (c) Early      (d) After
10. The synonym of 'ancient' is:  
(a) Old      (b) New      (c) Recent      (d) Fresh

### **Section-B (Grammar)**

**10 marks**

**Q3. Attempt any ten sentences from the given items.**

**(10 X 1 =10)**

**A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb:**

- (1) My servant \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) the door if you had given him a brush.
- (2) They \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the park when we reached there.

**B. Punctuate the following sentences:**

- (3) harpreet is a student of khalsa college amritsar
- (4) mahatma gandhi was cremated at rajghat delhi

**C. Fill the blanks with suitable articles wherever necessary:**

- (5) Keep to \_\_\_\_\_ right.
- (6) The more \_\_\_\_\_ merrier.

**D. Change the following sentences into indirect speech:**

- (7) The teacher said to the students, "Stop making a noise."
- (8) He said, "Farewell, my friends!"

**E. Fill in the blanks with appropriate modals:**

- (9) \_\_\_\_\_ God grant peace to the departed soul!
- (10) \_\_\_\_\_ I sit on the chair, please?

**F. Combine the following sentences:**

- (11) She said something. I did not hear it.
- (12) He will pass this year. It is certain.

### Section-C (Writing Skill)

10 marks

**Q4. Attempt any one of the following:** (5)

(i) You bought some crockery from Saurav Goods Emporium, Rohtak and found them in broken condition. Write a letter to them asking to replace the goods.

(ii) Suppose you are Ravi/Riya. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the incidents of violence taking place with the aged alone at home, drawing the attention of the authorities towards the problem.

**Q5. Attempt any one of the following:** (5)

(i) Write a story on the topic 'Honesty is the Best Policy' with the help of the given outline.

Once a woodcutter... cutting a tree... axe fell into the water...God appeared... golden axe... woodcutter refused... silver axe.. iron axe... God happy... moral

or

(ii) Suppose you are Dr. Sahil, MD. You are looking for an independent house in Ghaziabad on a reasonable rent for your residence- cum-clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.

or

(iii) Given below is an extract from an article from a 'Newsweek'

For years, "I ate fast food because it was tasty and cheap, I had no idea I could be damaging my health" says Mohan, 56 a maintenance worker with heart disease.
--

Write a letter to the editor of a news paper on the health hazard s cause by junk food using your own ideas and also from units you read on Health and Nutrition.

### Section-D (Literature)

(40 marks)

**Q6. Do any one of the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:** (5)

In life, every man has twin obligations- obligation to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children, and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations. In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.

#### Questions:

1. What twin obligations does the writer mention?
2. What can one do in a civil and humane society?
3. What was impossible for the blacks in South Africa to do and why?
4. How were the blacks treated if they tried to live as human beings.?
5. Find in the passage words that mean - (i) a written contract or bond (ii) to put apart.

**OR**

The baker made his musical entry on the scene with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo stick. One hand supported the basket on his head and the other banged the bamboo on the ground. He would greet the lady of the house with "Good morning" and then place his basket on the vertical bamboo. We kids would be pushed aside with a mild rebuke and the loaves would be delivered to the servant. But we would not give up. We would climb a bench or the parapet and peep into the

basket, somehow. I can still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. Loaves for the elders and the bangles for the children. Then we did not even care to brush our teeth or wash our mouths properly. And why should we? Who would take the trouble of plucking the mango-leaf for the toothbrush? And why was it necessary at all? The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all!

**Questions:**

1. Name the chapter and its author.
2. How did the baker make his musical entry?
3. What can the author still recall?
4. What did the author and other kids do to look into the baker's basket?
5. Find from the passage words which mean the same as :  
(i) helped      (ii) welcome.

**Q7. Attempt any two of the following questions :**

**(2 X 3=6)**

- (i) Why was Mr Keesing annoyed with Anne Frank? What would he ask her to do?
- (ii) When and why did Maxwell think of keeping an otter as a pet?
- (iii) What type of a person is the conductor in 'Madam Rides the Bus'?
- (iv) How did Siddhartha get the name of the 'Buddha'?

**Q8 Attempt any one of the following questions:**

**(6)**

'The sight of the food maddened him.' What does this line suggest in reference to 'His First Flight'?

**OR**

Justify the title of the play 'The Proposal'.

**Q9. Attempt any one of the following stanzas:**

**(5)**

The true Chameleon is small,  
A lizard sort of thing:  
He hasn't any ears at all, And not a single wing  
If there is nothing on the tree.  
'Tis the chameleon you see.

**Questions:**

1. Name the poem and its poet.
2. What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza?
3. How does a chameleon look like?
4. Where can you see a chameleon?
5. Identify the poetic device used in the given extract.

**OR**

Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!  
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,  
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,  
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

**Questions:**

1. Why did Belinda cry for help?
2. How did Ink behave?
3. What did Mustard do when it heard Belinda's cry?
4. Where did the mouse slip away?
5. Name the poem and the poet.

**Q10. Attempt any two of the following questions:**

**(2 X 3 = 6)**

- (i) Where was the poet standing and what happened to him there? (The Road Not Taken)
- (ii) What is the effect of the loss of the ball on the boy? (The Ball Poem)
- (iii) What is Amanda asked to do or no to do? (Amanda!)
- (iv) What did the old religious man declare in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'?

**Q11. Attempt any two of the following questions**

**(2 X 3 = 6)**

- (i) Why did the thief boy want to become an educated man?
- (ii) Why were the two boys in London surprised and fascinated?
- (iii) What did Matilda and her husband do when they found the necklace missing?
- (iv) Who are in the library on the Earth? What are they doing there?

**Q12. Attempt any one of the following questions:**

**(6)**

Give a brief character sketch of Horace Danby.

**OR**

Why does Think-Tank decide not to invade the earth?