

PRACTICE PAPER-1

ENGLISH ELECTIVE

(Subject Code : 520)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Class XII Maximum

Marks : 80

SESSION : 2023- 24

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains four sections- READING, WRITING, LITERATURE and DRAMA.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

SECTION - A

READING

(12 marks)

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

(6 marks)

1. I was only a year and some months younger than Valodya; we grew up, studied and played together. No distinction of elder and younger was made between us. But just about the time I am speaking of I began to realize that I was no companion for him, either in age, in interests or in ability. It even seemed to me that Valodya himself was aware of his superiority and was proud of it. This idea (it may have been a wrong one) was inspired by my vanity which suffered every time I came in contact with him. He was better than me in everything; at lessons, in arguments and in manners, and all this took me farther from him and caused me moral anguish which I could not understand. When Valodya was given a tucked linen shirt for the first time I was unhappy for not having a shirt like that. I am sure I would have felt happier if I was convinced that every time he arranged his collar it was not done to annoy me.

2. What tormented me most was that it sometimes seemed to me Valodya understood what was going on inside me but tried to hide it. But perhaps my sensitiveness and tendency to analyse deceived me in this case. It may be Valodya did not feel at all as I did. He was impulsive and his enthusiasm in different hobbies did not last long.

3. He would suddenly develop a passion for pictures, himself take up painting, spend all his money buying them and beg them of his drawing master, of papa and of grandmamma. Then it would be a craze for curios to decorate his table, collecting them from every room in the house, or a mania for

novels which he obtained on the sly and read all day and night. I could not help being impressed by his hobbies but I was too proud to imitate him and too young and not independent enough to choose a hobby for myself. But there was nothing I envied so much as Valodya's happy large heartedness which showed itself most strikingly when we quarreled. I always felt that he was behaving well but I could not do likewise.

4. Once when his passion of ornaments was at its height, I went up to his table and accidentally broke an empty bright-coloured little scent bottle.

“Who asked you to touch my things?” demanded Valodya coming into the room and seeing how I had upset the symmetry of the different treasures on his table. “And where is the scent bottle? You must have.....”

5. “I knocked it over by accident and it broke. What does it matter?”

“Do me the favour-never dare touch my things again”, he said, putting the pieces of broken flask together and looking at them sorrowfully.

“And you please don't issue orders” I retorted, “that's all.” And I smiled, though I did not feel in the least like smiling.

“Yes, its nothing to you but it does matter to me,” pursued Valodya, jerking his shoulder, a gesture he had inherited from pap. “He goes and breaks it and then laughs, the nasty little brat!”

“I am a little brat; and you're big but you're stupid.”

“I am not going to quarrel with you,” said Valodya, giving me a slight push, “go away.”

“Don't push!”

“Get away!”

“Don't push, I tell you!”

Valodya took my word and tried to drag me away from the table; but I was beside myself by now; I got hold of the leg of the table and tipped it over. “There now!” And all his china and glass ornaments crashed to the floor. “You disgusting little boy!” cried Valodya, trying to save some of his falling treasures.

“Well, now it is all over between us,” I thought as I left the room, “we have quarreled for good.”

6. As soon as afternoon lessons were over I left the room. I was too scared, uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with my brother. After our history lesson in the evening I took my exercise books and started towards the door. As I passed Valodya, though I wanted to go up to him and make friends

I scowled and put on an angry expression. At that moment Valodya raised his head and, with a meaningful smile, looked me full in the face. Our eyes met and I knew that he understood me; but some irresistible feeling made me turn away.

7. “Nicky!” he said in a most natural voice without a scrap of pathos. “Don’t be cross any more. Forgive me if I offended you.” And he held out his hand. Something that came higher and higher seemed to be pressing my chest and stopping my breath but this only lasted a second; tears came to my eyes and I felt better. “Forgive....m-me, Val-dya,” I stammered, squeezing his hand. Valodya looked at me as if he could not make out at all why there should be tears in my eyes.

- Leo Tolstoy

(Excerpts from his autobiographical novel ‘Boyhood’ originally written in Russian, translation by C.J. Haqar

On the basis of your reading of the above excerpt, answer any six out of eight questions briefly:-

1. Which of the following is NOT true for Valodaya?

- (i) He was fond of reading.
- (ii) He was inclined towards painting.
- (iii) He was reckless with money.
- (iv) He liked collecting curios and works of art.

2. “I am a little brat, and you’re big but you are stupid.” This line highlights that Nicky –

- (i) was disrespectful towards his brother
- (ii) was impulsive and volatile, but loved his brother
- (iii) was jealous of his brother
- (iv) was unapologetic towards his brother

3. Why did Nicky feel that he was not an apt companion for Valodaya?
4. About which aspect of Valodya's personality was Nicky most upset?
5. Why did Nicky feel uncomfortable and ashamed to be alone with his brother ?
6. What did Nicky do to show that he was sorry for all that he had done in the morning?

7. Choose the synonym of pride (para 1)

- (i) vanity
- (ii) superiority
- (iii) anguish
- (iv) distinction

8. Choose the antonym of comforted (para 2)

- (i) deceived
- (ii) tormented
- (iii) impulsive
- (iv) enthusiasm

Q 2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (6 marks)

(From "The Passing of Arthur"; Alfred Lord Tennyson)

And slowly answer'd Arthur from the barge:

'The old order changeth, yielding place to new,

And God fulfils Himself in many ways,

Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

Comfort thyself: what comfort is in me ?

I have lived my life, and that which I have done

May He within himself make pure ! but thou,

If thou shouldst never see my face again,

Pray for my soul, More things are wrought by prayer

Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice

Rise like a fountain for me night and day.

For what are men better than sheep or goats

That nourish a blind life within the brain,

If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer

Both for themselves and those who call them friend ?

For so the whole round earth is every way

Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

But now farewell.

1. What does Arthur suggest about the changing order in the first two lines of the poem?

- a) It remains constant
- b) It yields to the old
- c) **It yields to the new**
- d) It corrupts the world

2. How does Arthur describe the relationship between the whole round earth and God?

- a) A chaotic clash
- b) **Bound by gold chains**
- c) Separated by a wide gap
- d) Unaffected by divine influence

3. Why does Arthur emphasize the importance of lifting hands in prayer?

- a) **To show humility**
- b) To seek attention
- c) To exercise the body
- d) To follow a tradition

4. What does Arthur compare men to in the poem?

- a) Lions and tigers

b) Sheep or goats

c) Eagles and falcons

d) Fish and dolphins

5. What does the speaker ask the listener to do if he fails to return?

6. Identify and name the figure of speech in lines 10 – 13.

7. What makes human beings different from animals?

8. Which word in the extract means the same as 'giving'?

SECTION-B

WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR

(2X6=12 marks)

Q 3. Attempt any two out of the following three questions in 100-120 words. (1×6=6 marks)

(a) You are Shantanu, residing at Ghar B-94, Balimela Road, Malkangiri. You come across the following classified advertisement in a local daily. Write a letter, in 120–150 words, applying for the position of a volunteer for the *Each One Teach One* campaign.

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED committed volunteers, aged 18 years and above, to teach underprivileged children, for one hour a week, in the district of Malkangiri. Ability to speak, read and write Odiya fluently, important. Experience not required. All volunteers to receive training. Contact Nethra N, Coordinator (*Each One Teach One*), 4Literacy, Ambaguda, Malkangiri, Odisha -764045

(b) Write a paragraph in 80 - 100 words on the topic, 'Only hard work pays in life'.

(c) 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, you participated in the event, write a report for your school magazine in 120- 150 words. You are Ravi/ Ravina.

Q4. Rewrite the sentences according to the instructions given:

(1×6=6 marks)

(a) Combine the following sentences into a compound sentence:

The cat slept on the windowsill. The dog barked outside.

(b) Convert the following sentences from direct to indirect speech:

He said, "I have finished my homework."

(c) Change the voice of the sentence:

The police arrested the suspect.

(d) Complete the dialogue using appropriate modals:

Student: _____ I borrow your pen for a moment?

Friend: Of course, you _____.

(e) Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences:

The group of friends are playing in the park.

(f) Complete the following conditional sentences:

If it rains tomorrow, _____

SECTION-C

LITERATURE (Short Stories, Poetry and Non-fiction)

Q 5. Choose any one extract and give the answer the questions that follow: (1x5=5 marks)

The nineteenth autumn has come upon me

Since I first made my count;

I saw, before I had well finished,

All suddenly mount

And scatter wheeling in great broken rings

Upon their clamorous wings.

1. How many autumns has the speaker experienced since they first started counting?
2. What did the speaker witness suddenly while making their count?

3. Describe the movement of the creatures mentioned in the poem. What do they do with their wings?
4. Can you identify any specific imagery or symbolism in the lines "scatter wheeling in great broken rings"?
5. Which word best describes the mood or atmosphere created by the phrase "great broken rings"?
 - a) Joyful
 - b) Chaotic
 - c) Calm
 - d) Mysterious

OR

A Bird sat careless on the fence –

One gossiped in the Lane

On silver matters charmed a Snake

Just winding round a Stone –

Bright Flowers slit a Calyx

And soared upon a Stem

Like Hindered Flags – Sweet hoisted –

With Spices – in the Hem –

- a. What is the snake doing in the poem?
- b. What is the imagery used to describe the flowers' ascent?
- c. What do you think the poet is trying to convey through the imagery of the bird, snake, and flowers?
- d. What could the use of "silver matters" and "spices" symbolize in the poem?
- e. What do the Hindered Flags symbolize in the poem?

- a) Victory
- b) Defeat
- c) Celebration
- d) Obstruction or hindrance

Q 6. Choose any one extract and answer the questions that follow (1X5=5 marks)

That sensation had been forgotten long ago; and Captain Hagberd himself, if not forgotten, had come to be disregarded—the penalty of dailiness—as the sun itself is disregarded unless it makes its power felt heavily. Captain Hagberd's movements showed no infirmity; he walked stiffly in his suit of canvas, a quaint and remarkable figure; only his eyes wandered more furtively perhaps than of yore.

1. Why did Captain Hagberd disregard himself?
2. Why did Captain's eyes wander cyptic way?
3. How does the passage describe Captain Hagberd's physical appearance?
4. What is suggested by the statement, "only his eyes wandered more furtively perhaps than of yore"?
5. What is likened to the sun in the passage?
 - a. Captain Hagberd's movements
 - b. The sensation
 - c. Captain Hagberd himself
 - d. The penalty of dailiness

OR

In reality, that was her only trade. She had been the third of eleven children born to a prosperous shopkeeper in old Caldas, and as soon as she learned to speak she instituted the fine custom in her family of telling dreams before breakfast, the time when their oracular qualities are preserved in their purest form. When she was seven she dreamed that one of her brothers was carried off by a flood.

1. What was the trade of Frau Frieda?
2. Where was the city of old Caldas?
3. Why do the people tend to rely on dreams and take certain precautions?
4. What was the fine custom instituted by the protagonist in her family?
5. What does the term "oracular" most likely mean in the context of the story?
 - a) Mysterious
 - b) Prophetic
 - c) Ancient
 - d) Enigmatic

Q 7. Answer any two out of the following three questions in 120-150 Words. (2x5=10 marks)

- (a) Why did Dr. Margolin not particularly want his wife to accompany him to the wedding?
- (b) Describe the conflict of emotions felt by Eveline on the day she had decided to elope with Frank?
- (c) “Throughout the fiction we find mis-use and abuse of one’s cognition and conation” Discuss.

Q-8 Answer any four out of the following five questions in 30-40 Words (2x4=8 marks)

- (a) What does the ‘weak witness of thy name’ refer to?
- (b) How is the shadow after noon referred to?
- (c) Who is Kubla Khan with reference to the theme of the poem?
- (d) What is the donor’s whim?
- (e) What is the central idea of the poem Blood by Kamala Das?

SECTION D

DRAMA

Q 9. Answer any one out of the following questions in 120-150 Words (1x5=5 marks)

- (a) Why does something so ordinary and commonplace as giving water to a wayfarer become so significant to Prakriti?
- (b) How does the churning of emotions bring about self-realisation in Prakriti even if at the cost of her mother’s life?

Q 10. Answer any one out of the following questions in 120-150 Words (1x5=5 marks)

- (a) ‘Broken Images’ takes up a debate that has grown steadily since 1947 – the politics of language in Indian literary culture, specifically in relation to modern Indian languages and English. Discuss.
- (b) What is the posture the celebrity adopts when the camera is on and when it is off?

Q-11 Answer any four out of the following six questions in 30-40 Words (2x4=8 marks)

- (a) When the image says – ‘Her illness was unfortunate. But because of it, she got the best of everything.’ What is the nature of Manjula’s reply?
- (b) How does Prakriti’s mother react when she hears of Prakriti’s encounter with the monk?
- (c) Does writing in an ‘other tongue’ amount to betrayal of the mother tongue?
- (d) How does the dramatic technique suit the theme of the play?
- (e) The play is called a monologue. Why is it made to turn dialogic?

(f) Why was Prakriti attracted towards Ananda?

Q-12 Answer the questions based on poetic devices and figure of speech. (1X4=4 marks)

(a) Which figure of speech is in the sentence?

"Her smile was like sunshine on a cloudy day."

(b) Identify a metaphor in the following line and explain its meaning.

"The world is a stage, and we are all actors."

(c) What poetic device is used in the following line?

"The wind whispered through the willow trees."

- i. Alliteration
- ii. Simile
- iii. Personification
- iv. Metaphor

(d) Define Alliteration.