

**RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY SCHOOL, BANGALORE**  
**PRE-BOARD EXAMINATIONS 2023-24**  
**CLASS XII**  
**ENGLISH (CORE)**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs**

**Max Marks: 80**

**SET- I**

General instructions:

1. This Paper consists of three sections:-  
SECTION - A: READING: 22 MARKS  
SECTION - B: WRITING: 18 MARKS  
SECTION - C: TEXTUAL: 40 MARKS
2. Attempt all the questions in one section before moving to the next one.
3. Separate instructions are given against each of the questions. Read them carefully and follow them faithfully.

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<b>SECTION – A: READING</b>	<b>20 MARKS</b>
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**Q1** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1 I've always held the belief that rationale or logic has no place in faith. If you have faith in the Supreme then you must also accept that you are not out there to defend your faith based on any scientific evidence. Those who don't share your belief have an equal right to their opinion. What matters is your personal stand. If you feel peaceful and joyous, if you feel inspired to do good deeds by having your faith, then, by all means, keep it, there's no reason to abandon it.

2 Einstein once got a letter asking if he believed in the Supreme. Einstein sent a telegram in response stating, "I believe in Spinoza's idea of the Supreme who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in someone who concerns himself with the fates and actions of human beings." In case you are not familiar, Baruch Spinoza (1632 – 1677) was a Dutch philosopher (yes, not just brilliant engineers, they have philosophers too). An unorthodox and independent thinker, his views were revolutionary at the time. His philosophy is thought - provoking.

3 So, where does that leave us in regards to faith? To me, faith is a sentiment, it's an emotion. Just like you fall in love and you surrender in love and you find yourself willing to

do anything for the person you love, the same is with faith. Faith is love. When you have faith, you let go of your worries of the future, you let go of your guilt of the past because you have surrendered to the divine will. You remain committed to a life of goodness and action. But, you also recognize that there are other bigger forces, of immense scale, in play in the grand scheme of things and it'll do you much good to play along. You gain this courage, zest and zeal to work hard, to excel, to serve. Life looks beautiful and everything looks priceless then because it truly is. Even our suffering is priceless. It gives you strength; it makes you reflect on you. It is priceless because you appreciate life more, it brings you closer to you, the real you.

4 Don't limit yourself by asking petty things from the Supreme. Trust the immensity of nature. Faith does not mean all your dreams will come true, it simply means you look upon everything that's granted to you as a blessing. Just focus on your needs and before long, you'll be filled beyond measure. Accepting the transient nature of this world, and its eternal impermanence is the definitive path to inner peace. Either live in complete surrender or exercise total control. If your boat is neither anchored nor guided, it'll just drift then. It'll drift in the direction of your thoughts, desires and emotions. Here today, there tomorrow. Cosmic intelligence is infinitely more subtle, smart, organized and selfless than individual intelligence. Anchor your ship if you are tired of rowing. Have faith.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions: (1x10=10)**

- (i) Rationale or logic has no place in faith as
  - a. You can defend your faith based on scientific evidence.
  - b. You cannot defend your faith based on scientific evidence.
  - c. Faith fills us with joy and peace
  - d. Faith is indefensible
- (ii) When should one keep one's faith?
- (iii) What did faith mean to Einstein?
- (iv) When you have faith neither past guilt nor future worries trouble you. Why?
- (v) Life looks beautiful and everything looks priceless when -----

- (vi) In what way does suffering become priceless?
- a. You start limiting yourself
  - b. You start appreciating yourself
  - c. You lose focus in life
  - d. You become disillusioned
- (vii) What is the definitive path to inner peace?
- a. Being afraid of the changing world
  - b. Realizing that life is permanent
  - c. Accepting the impermanence of life
  - d. Living in complete surrender
- (viii) How is cosmic intelligence superior to individual intelligence?
- a. it is more subtle, smart, organized and selfless
  - b. it is selfish
  - c. it is cruel and impersonal
  - d. all of these
- (ix) 'Here today, there tomorrow' refers to
- a. our thoughts, desires and emotions
  - b. our faith
  - c. our emotions
  - d. our desires
- (x) The word in para 4 similar in meaning to 'short-lived/passing quickly' is:
- a. eternal
  - b. subtle
  - c. transient
  - d. immense
- (xi) What is the definite path to inner peace?
- (xii) 'Anchor your ship if you are tired of rowing.' What does the author mean?

Q2 Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

1 Cricket is a passion for people around the globe. It is played everywhere from test match arenas to village greens, tropical beaches, and dusty backlots. Cricket is the world's second most popular spectator sport after soccer.

2 The origin of cricket can be traced back to the Dark Ages. All research concedes that the game is derived from a very old, popular, and uncomplicated pastime by which one player served up an object, be it a small piece of wood or a ball, and another hit it with a suitably fashioned club. The game of cricket was first recorded in 16th-century England, and it was played in grammar schools, farming communities, and everywhere in between. But things really took off when 18th-century nobles realized it was a great sport.

3 The oldest surviving set of cricket laws dates to 1744, which was printed on a handkerchief. Naturally, it's now in the MCC Museum at Lord's in London. The oldest permanent fixture is the annual Eton v/s Harrow match, played since 1805. A young Lord Byron turned out for Harrow in the first match, though history doesn't record how poetic – or “mad, bad, and dangerous” – his bowling was.

4 The first international match was held in 1877 when Australia beat England in Melbourne. The match was dubbed a ‘Test’, since the grueling nature of playing over five days was deemed the ultimate test for any side. However, it was Australia's first win on the English soil – in 1882 at The Oval in London – that led to matches between the two nations being christened as the ‘Ashes’. Following the defeat, newspapers published an obituary mourning “the death of English cricket,” adding that “the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.”

5 A One Day International (ODI) is a form of limited overs cricket, played between two teams with international status, in which each team faces a fixed number of overs, usually 50. The Cricket World Cup is played in this format. The international one-day game is a late twentieth-century development. The first ODI was played on 5 January 1971 between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

6 Table 1 represents the list of Cricket world cup winning countries as well as the runners-up for every Cricket World Cup played until 2015.

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2015	Australia	New Zealand
2011	India	Sri Lanka
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka
2003	Australia	India
1999	Australia	Pakistan
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia
1992	Pakistan	England
1987	Australia	England
1983	India	West Indies
1979	West Indies	England
1975	West Indies	Australia

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions: (1x10=10)**

- (i) Which of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in paragraph 3?
- (a) The oldest surviving set of cricket laws dates to 1744, which was printed on a handkerchief.
  - (b) MCC Museum is at Lord's in London.
  - (c) The oldest permanent fixture is the annual Eton Vs Harrow match, played since 1805.
  - (d) The first international match was held in 1877 when Australia beat England in Melbourne
- (ii) 'Following the defeat, newspapers published an obituary mourning "the death of English cricket." Which defeat were the British newspapers mourning?
- (iii) What led to the matches between England and Australia being christened as the 'Ashes'?
- (iv) The word in para 4 which is synonymous with 'exhausting/tiring' is .....

(v) Read the following statement:

Based on the information in Table 1, both the winning country as well as the runner-up country were Asian countries in the year 2011.

Write True - if the statement agrees with the information.

False - if the statement contradicts the information.

Not Given - If there is no information on this

(vi) How did newspapers react to the defeat of England by Australia in Cricket World Cup in the year 1882?

- (a) Mourned the death of the English Cricket team
- (b) Published an obituary in English
- (c) Mourned the death of English Cricket
- (d) Condemned the Australian Cricket Board

(vii) Pick the option listing statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

(I) The game of cricket was first recorded in 18th-century England, and., it was played in grammar schools, farming communities, and everywhere in between.

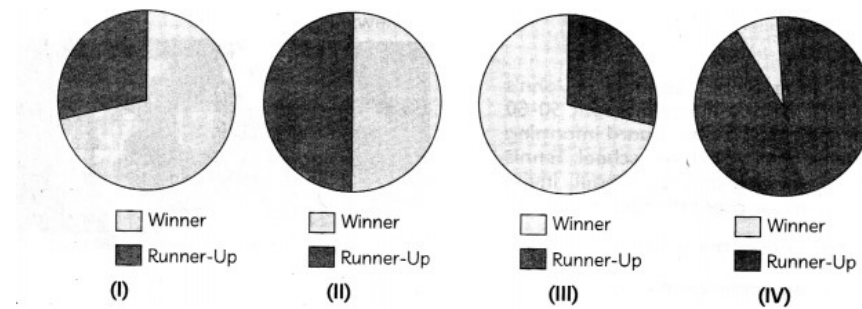
(II) The first international match was held in 1877 when Australia beat England in Melbourne.

(III) The first ODI was played on 5 January 1971 between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

(IV) The origin of cricket can be traced back to the late Middle Ages.

- (a) (I) and (III)
- (b) (I) and (IV)
- (c) (II) and (IV)
- (d) (III) and (IV)

(viii) Based on the data in Table 1, choose the option that correctly depicts the performance of Australia in Cricket World Cup as winner and as runner-up.



- (a) (I) (b) (II)  
 (c) (III) (d) (IV)

(ix) Based on the data in the Table 1, choose the option listing the statements that are TRUE.

- (I) England won the runners-up trophy thrice between 1975 and 2015 during Cricket World Cup.  
 (II) The Table 1 records all the countries which participated in the Cricket World Cup from the year 1975 to 2015.  
 (III) Australia was the winning country for five consecutive Cricket World Cups.  
 (IV) The most recent Cricket World Cup was played in the year 2015.

- (a) (I) and (II)  
 (b) (II) and (III)  
 (c) (III) and (IV)  
 (d) (IV) and (I)

(x) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct timeline of the events in the history of Cricket.

- (I) In 18th-century nobles realized that cricket was a great sport.  
 (II) The oldest surviving set of cricket laws dates to 1744, which was printed on a handkerchief.  
 (III) The game of cricket was first recorded in 16th-century in England.  
 (IV) Australia's first win on the English soil – in 1882.  
 (V) The first international match was held in 1877 when Australia beat England in Melbourne.

- (a) (III), (I), (V), (IV), (II)  
 (b) (III), (I), (IV), (V), (II)  
 (c) (I), (III), (V), (IV), (II)  
 (d) (III), (I), (II), (V), (IV)

Q3 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (4)

A You are Rakesh Mohan, the President of Resident Welfare Society, Magnum Heights, Dilshad Garden, New Delhi. Write a notice, in not more than 50 words, requesting the residents not to use potable water for cleaning purpose in view of shortage of clean water.

B You are Rohan, the President of the Health Club of St Joseph's School, Bangalore. Write a notice, in about 50 words, informing the students of Classes XI & XII about a workshop on mental health to be conducted by the School Counsellor.

Q4 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (4)

A The Sports Captain of St. Ann's School, Jaisalmar, invited Shri. Harshvardhan Singh, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the Annual Sports Day of the School to be held on 27th of June 2022. On behalf of the minister draft a reply to the invitation expressing your inability to attend the function. Do not exceed 50 words.

B Your school Rajkumar College, Raipur is organizing the IPSC Science exhibition. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation, in 50 words, to be sent to the member Schools to participate in the event.

Q5 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (5)

A You are AjoySarkar, of 83, Model Town, Guwahati, Assam. There is no proper system in place for collection and disposal of garbage from the streets, shops and private households in your locality. Write to the Editor of The Daily Express, Guwahati, expressing your concern about the apathy of the civic authorities.

B While going through the newspaper, you came across the following advertisement for vacancies for TV anchors and Newsreaders. Send in your bio-data with a cover letter, specifying why you are suited to the opening. Do not exceed 150 words.

AN EXCITING, CHALLENGING, FUN OPPORTUNITY

WANTED ANCHORS-CUM-NEWS REPORTERS

A leading national television network requires newscasters



Key Responsibilities:

- ☐ Anchor news stories
- ☐ Assist in writing stories
  - ☐ Research news
- ☐ Cover news events

Requisites:

- ☐ Good command over language
- ☐ Strong oral and written skills
- ☐ Knowledge of computers

Requirements:

- ☐ Participation in debates, dramatics etc.

Apply to:

The Advertiser, Box No.345, Jan Shakti, New Delhi

Q6 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below: (5)

A You read a newspaper report about how rising greenhouse gas emissions could soon outstrip the ability of many communities to adapt. You decide to write an ARTICLE on 'Climate Change' for a local daily. Write this article, in 120-150 words, using the cues given below:

- prolonged heat waves
- frequent forest fires
- increasing rainfall and flooding
- rising sea levels & coastal erosion
- increase in the frequency of storms and cyclones
- energy crisis
- economic problems

B You participated in a career counseling programme organized by 'Careers India' at your school Vidya Bharati School, Nasik. You had an opportunity to listen to professionals from various fields such as data mining, animation, journalism, event management, food technology etc. A large number of students and their parents attended the programme and interacted with the experts. As Student editor of your School newsletter, write a report on the programme in about 120 – 150 words. You are Amit.

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SECTION – C: LITERATURE 40 MARKS

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Q7 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given with reference to context: (1x6=6)

A "Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me,

doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse and realized with  
pain that she was as old as she  
looked but soon put that thought away, and ...”

- (i) Where was the poet driving to? Who was sitting beside her?
- (ii) What does the poet notice about her mother?
- (iii) Which thought was painful to the poet?
- (iv) What does the comparison of her mother’s face to that of a corpse tell us about her fear
- (v) Name the figure of speech used in the expression: ‘her face ashen like that of a corpse’
- (vi) What does the poet do to put her painful thought away?

B “Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits.”

- (i) The phrase “every morrow” means
  - (a) every afternoon
  - (b) every new unborn day (tomorrow)
  - (c) every today
  - (d) every yesterday
- (ii) The literary device used by the poet in the following lines is: “are we wreathing /A flowery band to bind us to the earth.”
  - (a) simile
  - (b) personification
  - (c) alliteration
  - (d) metaphor
- (iii) What does the phrase ‘spite of despondence’ mean?

(iv) The lines: “ Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways/ Made for our searching”  
speak about our own

- (a) goodness that makes us strong to fight any circumstance we are in
- (b) strengths that can comfort us in every moment of time
- (c) carelessness that cause us to ignore all suffering and pain
- (d) imperfections and shortcomings that make us gloomy and sad

(v) What makes us love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

(vi) The rhyme scheme of the given lines are:

- (a) aabccddee
- (b) abbccdde
- (c) abbcddee
- (d) aabccdde

Q8 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given with reference to context: (1x4=4)

A “Certainly, Your Excellency,” Sadao said. He suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. “I can swear to your loyalty, Excellency,” he said to the old General, “ and to your zeal against the enemy.”

“You are a good man,” the General murmured and closed his eyes. “You will be rewarded.”

But Sadao, searching the spot of black in the twilighted sea that night, had his reward. There was no prick of light in the dusk. No one was on the island.

(i) ‘have someone in the palm of one’s hand’ means:

- (a) have complete power or control over him
- (b) persuade someone to accept something by lying to him
- (c) cheat someone
- (d) pretend to be what one is not

(ii) Sadao was safe and would not be arrested because -----.

(iii) What was it that compromised the General’s position?

(iv) Sadao had his reward. What was it?

B MR LAMB: Look, boy, look.... what do you see?

DERRY: Just....grass and stuff. Weeds.

MR LAMB: Some call them weeds. If you like, then.... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there.... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'? Where's the difference. It's all life.... growing. Same as you and me.

DERRY: We're not the same.

MR LAMB: I'm old. You're young. You've got a burned face, I've got a tin leg. Not important. You're standing there.... I'm sitting here. Where's the difference?

- (i) Why does Mr Lamb attract Derry's attention to the weeds?
- (ii) What does Mr. Lamb seek to do by bringing up distinctions?
- (iii) What is 'not important' according to Mr Lamb?
- (iv) Which of the following represents Mr. Lamb's analysis of flowers and weeds?
  - (a) Comparison is an act of violence against the self.
  - (b) If you have a garden in your library, everything will be complete.
  - (c) One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist.
  - (d) The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff.

Q9 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given with reference to context: (1x6=6)

A "Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds - one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of the caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the sahkars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare."

- (i) 'them' here refers to -----
- (ii) In the phrase 'a web of poverty', the figure of speech is -----
- (iii) The word 'stigma' as used here means:
  - (a) a wound
  - (b) a mark
  - (c) a bad reputation
  - (d) a bad idea

- (iv) 'the baggage' which the child accepts naturally refers to:
  - (a) the rag picker's bag
  - (b) the bangle maker's bag
  - (c) the means of survival
  - (d) heavy responsibility
- (v) Why does the child accept the baggage naturally?
- (vi) 'To do anything else would mean to dare...' What does the author mean?

B "My introduction to the YMCA swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened."

- (i) The narrator as a young boy chose the YMCA swimming pool to learn how to swim because -----
- (ii) What are the 'unpleasant memories' referred to here ?
- (iii) The word 'childish' in the phrase 'childish fear' means:
  - (a) silly
  - (b) irresponsible
  - (c) innocent
  - (d) of or typical of a child
- (iv) "I did this two or three times on different days ....." What does 'this' mean here?
- (v) How did the narrator as a young boy tried learning how to swim?
- (vi) The 'misadventure' that happened later was:
  - (a) getting knocked down by the waves on the California beach
  - (b) getting tossed into the deep end of the pool by another boy
  - (c) getting scolded by the swimming instructor
  - (d) getting almost drowned in the Yakima river

Q10 Answer any five of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (2x5=10)

- (i) What is the 'childish longing' that the poet refers to in 'A Roadside Stand'? Why is it 'vain'?
- (ii) Aunt Jennifer's tigers are completely different from her own character. Highlight this contrast.
- (iii) How does Saheb find working at the tea stall a different experience?
- (iv) Discuss the significance of the makeup room in 'Poets and Pancakes.'

- (v) What condemnatory attitude Rudyard Kipling had towards interviews?
- (vi) What is Sophie's story with Danny Casey?

Q11 Answer any two of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (2x2=4)

- (i) What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?
- (ii) What explains the attitude of the General in the matter of the enemy soldier?
- (iii) What advice did Annan give Bama that made a deep impression on her?

Q12 Answer ANY ONE of the following question in 120-150 words: (5)

A Explain the significance of the title, 'Lost Spring: Stories of Stolen Childhood.'

B What does the metaphor 'rattrap' stand for in the story "The Rattrap"? How does the peddler save himself from getting trapped in the rattrap?

Q13 Answer ANY ONE of the following question in about 120-150 words: (5)

Antarctica is the place to go to if we want to study and examine the earth's past, present and future. Comment.

OR

Derry's meeting with Mr Lamb becomes a turning point in his life. Comment.