

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL , BANGALORE

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION: CLASS XII: 2023-24

ENGLISH (CORE)

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

SET II

General Instructions:

- (i) This QP is divided into 3 sections:
A - Reading Skills, B - Creative Writing Skills and C - Literature.
- (ii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer booklet.
- (iii) Separate instructions are given with each question/part. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (iv) Adhere to the prescribed word-limit.

SECTION – A READING SKILLS 22 MARKS

Q1 Read the passage given below:

1 Mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself. The ancient Egyptians esteemed gold, which had religious significance to them, as King Tutankhamun was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that everything he touched be turned into gold.

2 Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light passes through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver and it is particularly important in the modern electronics industry.

3 People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in the human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of Indians in their ruthless search for gold. Often the only rule in young California during the days of the gold rush was exercised by the mob with a rope. Even today, the economic running of South Africa's goldmines depends largely on the employment of black labourers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus room and board, and who must work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners are killed in mine accidents in South Africa each year, or one for every two tons of gold produced.

4 Much of gold's value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it could storeinavault60 feet square, or a super tanker.

Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Isaac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. But until the big discoveries of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century – starting in California in 1848 and later in Australia and South Africa – there simply wasn't enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal.

5 An out-of-work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa to the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal on a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given a 12 Pounds reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and was reportedly eaten by a lion.

6 One of the big gold mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex-prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex-guards.

7 Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 per cent of the metal goes into jewellery. Italy is the biggest user of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewelers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold.

8 Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently: "You have to choose (as a voter) between trusting to the natural stability of gold and the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the Government. And, with due respect for these gentlemen, I advise you, as long as the Capitalist system lasts, to vote for gold."

(From an article in Newsweek)

Q Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

(12)

(i) According to the passage, ' mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself.' Pick the option which is NOT mentioned

- (a) KingTutankhamun was buried in a solid gold coffin
- (b) Story of legendary King Midas
- (c) King Ravana had his palace in Lanka built with pure gold
- (d) Israelites worshipped a golden calf

(ii) What does the author mean when he says gold is 'virtually indestructible.'

(iii) Read the lines and find three words defining the properties of metal gold '*One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 Square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light passes through it. An ounce of gold can be also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long.*'

- (a) Malleable, Transparent, Ductile
- (b) Malleable, Translucent, Fragile
- (c) Transparent, Opaque, Ductile
- (d) Transparent, Fragile, Ductile

(iv) The reason of ruthless and cruel human nature (as mentioned in para 3) is the

result of

- (a) Colonial expansion
 - (b) Mining
 - (c) Longing to possess gold
 - (d) Industrialization
- (v) The person who established a fixed price for gold was—
- (a) George Harrison
 - (b) George Bernard Shaw
 - (c) Sir Isaac Newton
 - (d) King Tutankhamun
- (vi) Pick the option which has NOT been matched correctly
- (a) South Africa in Gold age –1886
 - (b) Fixed price for gold in Great Britain –1717
 - (c) Kolyma River Region is in California
 - (d) Gold Rush–1848
- (vii) Complete the sentence.
The desire to hoard gold at home popular among----- classes is the result of-----
- (viii) What scientific conclusion one can draw from the line below-
'Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver.'
- (a) Gold is not a good conductor of electricity, only copper and silver are
 - (b) Copper and silver are better conductor of electricity than gold
 - (c) Gold is equally a good conductor of electricity when we compare it with copper
 - (d) All the above statements are incorrect
- (ix) Which option showcases an example of Action(A)–Result(R) from the passage
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Longing for gold(A) | Worst human character(R) |
| 2. Faith in paper money(A) | Hoarding of gold(R) |
| 3. Longing for gold(A) | Hoarding of gold(R) |
| 4. No faith in gold(A) | Hoarding of paper money(R) |
- (a) Option1
 - (b) Option2
 - (c) Option3
 - (d) Option4
- (x) What is Kolyma river region special for?
- (xi) Quote the line from the passage which proves that gold is valuable because it is not found in abundance.
- (xii) What is the biggest use to which gold is put?

Q2 Read the following passage:

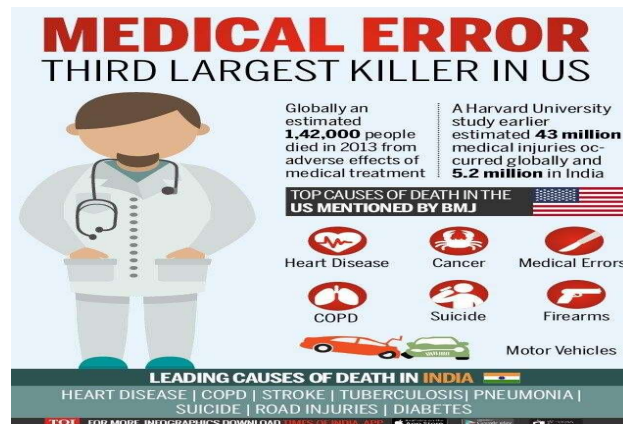
1 Medical error is the third leading cause of death in the US, accounting for 250, 000 deaths every year, according to an analysis released recently.

2 There is no US system for coding these deaths, but Martin Makary and Michael Daniel, researchers at John Hopkins University's School of Medicine, used studies from 1999 onward to find that medical errors account for more than 9.5% of all fatalities in

the US. Only heart disease and cancer are more deadly, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The analysis, which was published in the British Medical Journal, said that the science behind medical errors would improve if data was shared internationally and nationally “in the same way as clinicians share research and innovation about coronary artery disease, melanoma, and influenza”. But death by medical error is not captured by government reports because the US system for assigning a code to cause of death, the international classification of disease (ICD), does not have a label for medical error.

3 The ICD is also used by 117 countries, including Canada and the UK, according to the World Health Organization. “Sound scientific methods, beginning with an assessment of the problem, are critical to approaching any health threat to patients,” the researchers said. “The problem of medical error should not be exempt from this scientific approach. “To determine the medical error death rate, the researchers’ analyzed data collected by the government and compared it with hospital admission rates from 2013. They extrapolated that information and found that 251,454 deaths in the US were caused by medical error that year. Stacked against the annual list of most common cause of death in the US, the researchers’ calculations put medical error far ahead of respiratory disease which the CDC lists as the third most common cause of death for killing 147, 101 people in 2015.

4



5 The researchers acknowledged that human error is inevitable and said these deaths are not necessarily always the fault of doctors. However, they said the information shows that there is room to institute a clearer monitoring system for tracking medical error, which could inform the design of more effective, and safer, systems. To reduce the number of deaths from medical error, the authors offered several recommendations, including adding a field to death certificates for whether the person died of a preventable complication tied to their medical care and for hospitals to hold more rigorous and speedier investigations into these deaths. “The role of error can be complex,” the researchers said. “While many errors are non-consequential, an error can end the life of someone with a long life-expectancy or accelerate an imminent death.”

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions below: (10x1=10)

(i) According to the passage death due to medical error is not regarded as cause of death because -

(a) There is a system of coding these deaths

than 50 words and asks the students to drop-in the names of the books that they want to get for free.

(b) You have lost your wallet in the School canteen. Draft a notice, in not more than 50 words, to be placed on your School notice board about the same. You are Joy/Jessica, student of Class XII of Delhi Public School, Mathura.

Q4 Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions given below: (4)

(a) The literary Club of your school is putting up the play 'Macbeth'. As a head of the Club, invite the famous author Sabama Roy to attend the same as the Guest of Honour, in not more than 50 words.

(b) Your friend has invited you to attend the wedding of her brother. You find that you have an important paper of pre-board examination on the day of the wedding. Thus, you cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words an informal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Geet/Geetika Rastogi, 1/22, Anand Vihar, Bangalore.

Q5 Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions given below: (5)

(a) You are Neha/Naveen, staying at 30, Friends Colony, Indira Nagar, Ghaziabad. There are no street lights on the main road leading to this colony. The road gets so dark after seven in the evenings in winter that the possibility of some major accident cannot be ruled out. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily drawing attention of the government towards this serious problem of the residents of Indira Nagar.

Hints:

- (i) Appalling state of civic amenities
- (ii) Darkness with no street light
- (iii) Possibility of some major accident
- (iv) Crime rate has gone up
- (v) Women and children of the locality are the worst sufferers.

(b) You are Pawani/Pawan living at B-90 Shivaji Road, Green Park, Gurgaon. You come across following advertisement in a national daily. You wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to the Managing Director, in 120-150 words, along with your bio-data/resume.

<p>Indian Chemical Industries, Gurgaon Requires <u>Accounts Officer</u> Qualification: MBA (Fin) Experience: Min 05 years Salary: Best in the Industry Apply to The Managing Director, Indian Chemical Industries, Industrial area, Gurgaon</p>

Q6 Attempt ANY ONE of the two questions given below: (5)

(A) P V Sindhu, Sakshi Malik, Mithali Raj, K Malleswari, K Humpy, Mary Kom – all daughters of India have put those to shame who do not love a girl child. If they are given good education, encouragement and proper training, daughters can bring name, fame and support to the family. Write an article in about 120-150 words on 'Save, Love and Respect

Girl Child.' You are Madhav/Madhavi.

You may use the following clues:

*Daughters can bring name and fame*fighting a great battle for survival* God's divine creation*victims of gender discrimination *facing several challenges*equal opportunities*need to change the mindset*let daughters of India unite....

(B) Last week, a friendly Cricket match was played between your School – The Heritage School, Jadhavpur, Kolkata and Wisdom Tree Public School, Barrackpore, Kolkata. Write a report in about 120-150 words on the match for your school newsletter. You are Kartik/Kritika, Captain of your School cricket team. You may use the following clues:

A Friendly Cricket Match:

occasion*chief guest * winning of toss* the two innings* runs scored* batting* bowling* result* prize distribution

SECTION - C

LITERATURE

40 MARKS

Q7 Read the given extracts and attempt the questions of ANY ONE with reference to context: (6x1=6)

(A) *“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) “Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to the Earth”. Choose an option that states the correct meaning of the given phrase-

- (a) We fill ourselves with joy.
- (b) We attach ourselves with beautiful things.
- (c) We make garlands of flowers to be happy.
- (d) We bind the flowers to the Earth.

(ii) By 'inhuman dearth of noble natures', the poet means that

- (a) There is a shortage of inhumanity in the current world.
- (b) There is a shortage of men on earth.
- (c) There is a shortage of noble men in the current world.
- (d) There is no inhuman men on earth.

(iii) A thing of beauty takes away all our -

- (1) Pain
- (2) Joy
- (3) Excitement
- (4) Suffering
- (5) Beauty

- (a) (1), (3) and (5)
- (b) (1) and (4)
- (c) only (2)
- (d) only (3)

(iv) Choose the option that, reflects the correct meaning of the phrase: 'the pall From our dark spirits'.

- (a) The gloom from our spirits.
- (b) The darkness from our rooms.
- (c) The happiness from our life.
- (d) The soul from our dark spirits.

(v) Identify the poetic device in 'A flowery band to bind us to the earth.'

(vi) List the correct rhyme scheme of the given stanza.

(B) *"Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand."*

(i) Select the correct options from the given statements, based on your reading of the extract.

1 Aunt Jennifer's trembling hands were a result of her oppressed married life with her dominating husband.

2 Aunt Jennifer's trembling hands were a result of her old age.

- (a) (1) is false but (2) is true
- (b) (2) is false but (1) is true
- (c) Both (1) and (2) are false
- (d) Both (1) and (2) are true

(ii) Name the poetic device in the line – 'The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.

(iii) Identify the traits of character that the Aunt's tigers had but lacked in her own self.

(iv) The 'wedding band' was a symbol of for Aunt Jennifer.

- (a) the misery of her married life
- (b) the love for her husband
- (c) the proof of her marriage
- (d) the style sense

(v) Identify Aunt Jennifer's condition from the phrase- "fluttering fingers".

- 1 happy
- 2 old
- 3 scared
- 4 mature
- 5 nervous

- (a) (1) and (4)
- (b) (2), (3) and (5)
- (c) (3) and (5)
- (d) (2) and (4)

(vi) The phrase 'sit heavily' means -

- (a) makes one sad
- (b) makes one overburdened

- (iii) Select the option with correct opposite ideas that are explored in the given extract.
 - (a) long hair and short hair
 - (b) strength and submission
 - (c) freedom and oppression
 - (d) trials and rebellion
- (iv) Which word is the opposite of the word 'rebelled'?
 - (a) obliged
 - (b) revolted
 - (c) despised
 - (d) opposed

Q9 Read the two extracts given and attempt questions on ANY ONE: (6)

(A) Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!" And off I'd go for another length of the pool. This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, sidestroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

(i) Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the extract.

- (a) Triggs Island and Stamp Act Island are both located in Lake Wentworth
- (b) Lake Wentworth is a part of Triggs Island
- (c) Stamp Act Island is two miles away from New Hampshire
- (d) Lake Wentworth is connected via docks to New Hampshire

(ii) Douglas mentions that the old sensation returned in miniature. He means that he felt the familiar feeling of fear

- (a) at irregular intervals
- (b) on a small scale
- (c) repeatedly
- (d) without notice

(iii) How did Douglas handle the old sensation?

- (a) Addressed it
- (b) Avoided it
- (c) Submitted it
- (d) Stayed in difference

(iv) Give an antonym of 'tiny'

(v) William Douglas was a friend and adviser of.....

- (a) President Kennedy
- (b) President Cleveland
- (c) President Roosevelt
- (d) President Clinton

(vi) How did Douglas make sure that he had conquered the old terror?

- (a) By visiting California
 - (b) By jumping into the waters
 - (c) By taking a lesson from the instructor
 - (d) By swimming into the lake Wentworth
- (B) What about the injustice to the sharecroppers, Gandhi demanded. The lawyers withdrew to consult. Rajendra Prasad has recorded the upshot of their consultations — “They thought, amongst themselves, that Gandhi was totally a stranger, and yet he was prepared to go to prison for the sake of the peasants; if they, on the other hand, being not only residents of the adjoining districts but also those who claimed to have served these peasants, should go home, it would be shameful desertion.”
- (i) What was the injustice the writer is talking about?
 - (ii) Who told Gandhi ji about the injustice?
 - (iii) Gandhiji went to Champaran to -
 - (a) Fight the Britishers
 - (b) Meet Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - (c) Solve the problems of the poor peasants.
 - (d) Raise funds for his ashram
 - (iv) According to agreement the sharecroppers had to grow indigo on 15% land and surrender the whole crop to the landlords as rent.
 - (a) True
 - (b) False
 - (v) Gandhiji might be sent to jail because
 - (a) He was working against the British Govt.
 - (b) He was an outsider.
 - (c) He was charged for civil disobedience
 - (d) No other advocate was helping him.
 - (vi) Find a word from the para which means the same as departure
- Q10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 40-50 words each: (5x2=10)
- (i) Franz thinks, “Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons’ What could this mean? (There could be more than one answer.)
 - (ii) How did the peddler defend himself against not having revealed his true identity?
 - (iii) What is Umberto Eco’s concept of ‘interstices’? Explain how he uses them.
 - (iv) Did Geoff believe Sophie’s story of meeting Danny Casey or not? Explain.
 - (v) What is the weight that lies heavy on Aunt Jennifer’s hand? How is it associated with her husband?
 - (vi) What are the things mentioned in the poem, ‘A Thing of Beauty’ that cause miseries, sorrows and sufferings to man?
- Q11 Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-5- words each: (2x2=4)
- (i) Why is Antarctica and its understanding important for the survival of the world?
 - (ii) The actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment is often much less than the sense of alienation felt by the person with disabilities. What is the kind of behavior that the person expects from others? Write your answer giving reference from the lesson ‘On the face it.’
 - (iii) Zitkala-Sa decided to fight when Judewin told her that her hair would be shingled. Why?

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

(a) "Gandhi protested against the delay. He read a statement pleading guilty... when the court reconvened; the judge said he would not deliver the judgment for several days." Undoubtedly, only a socially just country has the right to exist. In modern India, justice is a concept, muscle is the reality. Corruption has become the way of life. The destitute are exploited ruthlessly. Many people feel that 'to make a living, craftiness is better than learnedness'. Write an article expressing your views on the issue.

(b) "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room" said Blaise Pascal once. What does Pablo Neruda tell us about the necessity of quiet introspection in his poem 'Keeping Quiet'?

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

(a) The story 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the conceit of those in power and their callousness. Elaborate.

(b) There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy.'
