

SUBJECT : ENGLISH (SET-II)

Time : 3 Hrs.

M.M.: 80

General Instructions :

1. *This paper is divided into three sections - A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
2. *Separate instructions are given with each question wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them meticulously.*
3. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION-A (READING)

- Q1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (12)
1. In this jet age, everyone is interested in making easy money. Thanks to the advancement in science and technology, these days life has become more easy and comfortable than earlier with a lot of domestic gadgets as well as instantaneous food recipes available in the market. This has resulted in making the people develop a mind-set to have anything immediately without waiting for – even at the traffic signals.
 2. A piano teacher described an interesting encounter she had with a young lady who came to inquire about music lessons. The young lady asked her, "How long will this course take? My father tells me that it is in fashion now to be able to play musical instruments and that I should learn one quickly. I want something that will be quick, fast and easy like, like" When the amused teacher explained that it would take a lifetime of meticulous practice to learn music, her face fell and, needless to say, she never came back.
 3. The single most important factor that distinguishes those of us who succeed in any venture from those of us who don't is this 'instant coffee' attitude. Most of us want results quickly. We want to reach the top immediately and get worked up when things go wrong. Perseverance and patience are forgotten words. We get upset, frustrated and angry when a skill or activity requires us to put in a lot of effort and time. We get dejected and want to give it up. Things should be easy. Why should things take long? It is unfair.
 4. Life is too short and there is not enough time to do all the things we want to. We tend to compare with others and get upset when they seem to be doing well – dismissing their achievement as pure luck – or think that they have support, help, approach ... that God is being too kind to them and not to us. And so we give up.
 5. But such thinking serves no purpose. For it doesn't solve the problem. Life is tough for those with the 'instant coffee' attitude.
 6. Success, real success and happiness come to those who have a 'bread-making' attitude. Those who are willing to knead the dough, wait for hours for it to rise only to punch it down and knead some more, wait for another couple of hours for it to rise again, then bake it before it is ready to be eaten. Nothing is instantaneous. For every endeavour – whether in the area of career, academics, music, sports, relationships, physical fitness and even in spirituality – it is a long arduous journey.
 7. Only if we are willing to spend time, put in painstaking effort and have faith, can we get results. If we don't accept this difficult but true fact of life, our lives will be far from being happy and fulfilling. For we may not make that extra effort which can change the course of life dramatically, for our benefit.
 8. I often come across clients who have changed their doctors and do that even after they have spoken to me – because they are on the lookout for a doctor who will instantly give them relief from their problems.

One who will ensure that by the time they reach home from the clinic they will have wonderfully fulfilling relationships with their families. No wonder, most of us get bitter and disillusioned with life and ourselves and look for escape routes which seem to promise quick results.

9. The major problem with these 'instant coffee' solutions is that they are invariably short-lived. If we stubbornly refuse to give up this search for quick solutions, all we do is end up on the wrong track. We never gain anything lasting from them. However, if we just pause to analyse what we are doing, we will realise how much time we are wasting searching for such magical solutions which simply do not exist. We actually save time when we stop this futile search and accept the proven methods of treading the straight and narrow path however difficult it may seem initially.

(A) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions :

- (a) How has life become easy due to the advancement made in the field of science and technology? (1)
- (b) Why did the young lady who wished to learn piano not go back to the teacher? (1)
- (c) What causes a person with 'instant coffee' attitude to get upset or dejected? (2)
- (d) Name some qualities which must be possessed by the people with a 'bread-making' attitude. (2)
- (e) What will be the disadvantage if we do not accept the 'difficult-but-true' fact of life? (1)
- (f) 'Instant coffee' solutions are instantaneous but they are short-lived. Elaborate. (2)

(B) Find words from the above passage which mean the same as : (3x1=3)

- (a) careful and precise (para 2)
- (b) an effort to attain something (para 6)
- (c) always (para 9)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (8)

Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and to concentrate on understanding what has been heard. Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First, they may drift. Their attention drifts from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter arguments to whatever a speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then, they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit with their own frame of reference. Finally they react. They let personal feelings about speaker or subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

What can a listener do to be more effective? The first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving a message his chances of success are high.

It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems, or because of the form in which they send a message. There is then a particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on what is being said.

Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side. One useful way for achieving this is intensive note-taking, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub-headings the speaker is referring to.

Note-taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees that listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the patterns of eye-contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's timing is aided – he can see when a note-taker is writing hard and can then make effective use of pauses.

Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backwards and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time it is seen by the speaker to be a positive feature amongst his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

- (A) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Also supply a suitable title to the notes. (5)
- (B) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION-B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

- Q3. You are Amit/Amita, Head Boy/Girl of Zenith Public School. Write a notice for your school notice board requesting for entries from students for Britannia Quiz Contest to be held in your school.

OR

Write an informal invitation to your friend asking him to attend your birthday party. (4)

- Q4. You purchased a Frost-free Godrej Refrigerator from ABC Company, Trivandrum. After using it for a month, you found that the freezing section is not functioning. Write a letter in about 150 words to the Sales Manager, complaining about it. You are Raja/Ragini of 23, Lake View Road, Trivandrum.

OR

You are Vivek/Vandana living at A-83, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi. You have, of late, been very disturbed by the news of road accidents in the newspapers every morning. Write a letter to the editor, The Indian Express, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, drawing the attention of the authorities to the rising number of road accidents. Write your letter in about 150 words. (6)

- Q5. You are Menaka/Manik. You strongly feel that the Indian Government is not taking adequate steps to promote tourism in India which could turn out to be one of the major revenue earning industries. Write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly giving your ideas on the steps the Indian Government could take to promote tourism.

OR

Computer games and video games have become popular with children today. As a result, outdoor games seem to have no place in their life anymore. You are Satish/Sakshi. You had the opportunity of playing Hide and Seek when you visited your cousins in a small town. You decide to write an article on your experiences about the joys of playing outdoor games for the school magazine. Write the article in 150-200 words. (10)

SECTION-C (TEXT BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT)

- Q6. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow :

A sweet face,

My mother's, that was before I was born

And the sea, which appears to have changed less,

Washed their terribly transient feet.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. (1)
- (b) Whose 'sweet face' is referred to and why? (1)
- (c) Explain - "terribly transient feet". (2)

OR

Father and son, we both must live
 On the same globe and the same land.
 He speaks : I cannot understand
 Myself, why anger grows from grief.
 We each put out an empty hand,
 Longing for something to forgive.

- (a) Whom does 'he' and 'I' refer to in the above lines? (1)
- (b) Explain - "We both must live on the same globe and the same land". (2)
- (c) What longing of the father and son remains unfulfilled? (1)
- Q7. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each : (4x3=12)
- (a) 'When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble.' Why was it so?
- (b) What steps has the Indian government taken to ensure the protection of the environment? What is the impact?
- (c) What dilemma was Andrew caught in? How did he resolve it?
- (d) What was the narrator's mother's opinion about Mrs. Dorling?
- (e) How did the narrator arrange a meeting between Ranga and Ratna?
- (f) How did the melon become the King?

- Q8. Answer the following question in 150 words : (6)
- 'The Portrait of a Lady' partly dwells on the loneliness and insecurity of the old age and the effort of the old to fit in. Driven by such thoughts while reading the lesson, you think about the life of many old men and women in India, who lead a lonesome existence in the fag end of their life. Write an article titled 'Plight of the Elderly People'.

OR

"We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children" - Margaret Thatcher's words highlight the theme of the lesson 'The Ailing Planet : The Green Movement's Role'. You feel very concerned about this earth which is being destroyed by all sorts of pollution, deforestation, depletion of resources etc. Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly of the school on the topic, 'Save the Mother Earth'.

- Q9. Answer the following question in 150 words : (6)
- The children braved the situation more maturely than their years. Discuss with reference to the story 'We're Not Afraid to Die ... If We Can All Be Together'.

OR

Do you find the title of the play 'Mother's Day' appropriate? Justify.

- Q10. How did the sudden disappearance of Virginia affect the family? What did they do to look for her? (150 words) (6)
- Q11. Write a pen portrait of Sir Simon de Canterville, the ghost. (150 words) (6)