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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **12** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period.

## ENGLISH (Core)

*Time allowed : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

### **General Instructions :**

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

## SECTION A : READING

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

1 For many years now the governments have been promising the eradication of child-labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world, plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living.

2 We have many laws that ban child-labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child-Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes implementation of these laws difficult.

3 Also, there is no ban on child-labour in non-hazardous occupations. The Act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganised or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters etc. among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child-labour continues because the implementation of the existing laws is lax.

4 There are industries, which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and

capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knotted carpets. There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. In Kashmir because of the political unrest, children are forced to work while many schools are shut. Industries like gem cutting and polishing pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children.

5           The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families, have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.

6           There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills, but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hell-holes like the sweet shops of the old there is no hope.

7           Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fire-works and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They

remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child-labour perpetuates its own nightmare.

8 If at all the government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child-labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate child-labour.

9 Surely, if 380 million children are given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, as former President Abdul Kalam says, "a second vision".

- (a) (i) On which two counts has the government not succeeded so far in respect of children ? 2
- (ii) What makes the implementation of child-labour law difficult ? 2
- (iii) Why do the industries prefer child-labour ? 2
- (iv) What are the adverse effects of hazardous industries on children ? Give any two. 2
- (v) What does the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provide ? 1
- (b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 3
- (i) risky/dangerous (para 1)
- (ii) very unfriendly (para 5)
- (iii) intended as punishment (para 8)

There is nothing more frustrating than when you sit down at your table to study with the most sincere of intentions and instead of being able to finish the task at hand you find your thoughts wandering. However, there are certain techniques that you can use to enhance your concentration. "Your concentration level depends on a number of factors," says Samuel Ghosh, a social counsellor. "In order to develop your concentration span, it is necessary to examine various facets of your physical and internal environment," she adds.

To begin with one should attempt to create the physical environment that is conducive to focussed thought. Whether it is the radio, TV or your noisy neighbours, identify the factors that make it difficult for you to focus. For instance, if you live in a very noisy neighbourhood, you could try to plan your study hours in a nearby library.

She disagrees with the notion that people can concentrate or study in an environment with distractions like a loud television, blaring music etc. "If you are distracted when you are attempting to focus, your attention and retention powers do not work at optimum levels," cautions Ghosh. "Not more than two of your senses should be activated at the same time," she adds. What that means is that music that sets your feet tapping is not the ideal accompaniment to your books.

Also do not place your study table or desk in front of a window. "While there is no cure for a mind that wants to wander, one should try and provide as little stimulus as possible. Looking out of a window when you are trying to concentrate will invariably send your mind on a tangent," says Ghosh.

The second important thing, she says, is to establish goals for oneself instead of setting a general target and then trying to accomplish what you can in a haphazard fashion. It is very important to decide what you have to finish in a given span of time. The human mind recognises fixed goals and targets and appreciates schedules more than random thoughts. Once your thoughts and goals are in line, a focussed system will follow.

She recommends that you divide your schedule into study and recreation hours. When you study, choose a mix of subjects that you enjoy and dislike and save the former for the last so that you have something to look forward to. For instance, if you enjoy verbal skill tests more than mathematical problems, then finish Maths first. Not only will you find yourself working harder, you will have a sense of achievement when you wind up.

Try not to sit for more than 40 minutes at a stretch. Take a very short break to make a cup of tea or listen to a song and sit down again. Under no circumstances, should one sit for more than one and a half hours. Short breaks build your concentration and refresh your mind. However, be careful not to overdo the relaxation. It may have undesired effects.

More than anything else, do not get disheartened. Concentration is merely a matter of disciplining the mind. It comes with practice and patience and does not take very long to become a habit for life.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title. 5

(b) Write a summary of the above in 80 words. 3

**SECTION B : ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS 35**

3. You are Secretary of Gymkhana Club, Madurai. Write a notice in not more than 50 words informing the members to attend an extraordinary meeting of the governing body. Include details like date, time, venue etc. Sign as Prabhu / Pratibha. 5

**OR**

Due to a sudden landslide and inclement weather, St. Francis School, Vasco has to be closed for a week. As Principal of that school, draft a notice in not more than 50 words to be displayed at the school main gate notice board.

4. You are Poorva / Partha, Cultural Secretary of your school, D.B. Senior Secondary School, Ambur. A week-long Music and Dance festival was organised by your school. Write a report in 100 – 125 words for your school magazine. Invent the details. 10

**OR**

The Debating Society of your school has recently held a workshop on 'Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation' (CCE) introduced for the students of Class X in all schools. The students discussed the assessment made by the school on the basis of their participation in various activities and the system of grading. Write a report in 100 – 125 words for your school magazine. You are Parveen / Payal, Secretary of the Society.

5. You are Raman / Rama, a member of Parent-Teacher Association of Little Valley Senior Secondary School, Hyderabad. Write a letter to the Principal of the school asking him to introduce vocational stream in the school providing facility of teaching such subjects as computers, insurance etc. so that the students may not needlessly continue academic studies. You are residing at 15, Anand Colony, Hyderabad. 10

**OR**

Write a letter to the Manager (Publications) of Little Flower Company, Hyderabad, placing an order for 4 books on Management and Administration recently published by them. You are Ronit / Rohini, Librarian, H.P. Engineering College, Tirupathi.

6. The invention of mobile phone has brought about a revolution in the lives of the people in the country. If used properly it can be a blessing but if misused it can prove to be a curse. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on 'Mobile phone – a boon or bane'. You are Kartik / Krishna. 10

**OR**

With the rising number of people in almost all the big cities of the country, the rate of crime has also increased proportionately. The police needs to be trained in new methodology of combating the crime besides changing its mindset. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on 'The role of police in maintaining law and order in the metropolitan cities'. You are Ravi / Ravina.



7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 4

Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear  
 The thought of so much childish longing in vain,  
 The sadness that lurks near the open window there,  
 That waits all day in almost open prayer  
 For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,  
 Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass,  
 .....

- (a) What is the 'childish longing' that the poet refers to ? 1  
 (b) Why does the poet say that it is in vain ? 1  
 (c) Why do the people driving in the cars stop sometimes ? 2

**OR**

Break O break open till they break the town  
 And show the children to green fields, and make their world  
 Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongues  
 Run naked into books the white and green leaves open  
 History theirs whose language is the sun.

- (a) To whom does 'they' refer ? 1  
 (b) What would they break ? 1  
 (c) What other freedom should they enjoy ? 2

8. Answer any **three** of the following in 30 – 40 words each : 2×3=6

- (a) What is the sadness that the poet, Pablo Neruda refers to in the poem, 'Keeping Quiet' ?  
 (b) What is the message of the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty' ?

- (c) What were Kamala Das' fears as a child ? Why do they surface when she is going to the airport ?
- (d) Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character ?

9. Answer the following in 30 – 40 words each :

2×5=10

- (a) Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons ?" What does this tell us about the attitude of the Frenchmen ?
- (b) Which factors led Douglas to decide in favour of Y.M.C.A. pool ?
- (c) Why was the peddler surprised when he knocked on the door of the cottage ?
- (d) Why was the Moral Re-Armament Army welcomed at the studios ?
- (e) What thoughts came to Sophie's mind as she sat by the canal ?

10. Answer the following in 125 – 150 words :

10

Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life ?

**OR**

'Lost Spring' explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Do you agree ? Why / Why not ?

11. Answer the following in 125 – 150 words :

7

Why is Antarctica the place to go to, to understand the Earth's present, past and future ?

**OR**

Dr. Sadao was compelled by his duty as a doctor to help the enemy soldier. What made Hana, his wife sympathise with him in the face of open defiance from the domestic staff ?

12. Answer the following in 30 – 40 words each :

2×4=8

- (a) Why does Mr. Lamb leave his gate always open ?
- (b) How did the Governor react to the two phone calls he received in quick succession ?
- (c) What advice did Annan offer Bama ?
- (d) Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg ?