

Roll No.

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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.*

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : 12

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 Sonu / Sonali, Sports Secretary of Maharani Public School, Gwalior. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, asking students interested in playing hockey to give their names for selection in the school hockey team. Invent date, time, eligibility criteria etc. 5

**OR**

You are Babul / Bubbli of S.R.M. Vidyalaya, Agra. As Coordinator of Red Cross Society wing of your school, you propose to organise a one day blood donation camp at your school. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words to be placed on your school notice board appealing to the students to motivate their parents and neighbours to participate in this noble cause.

4. You were travelling by Konark Express from Chennai to Bhubaneshwar. In the wee hours, 3 bogies of the train got derailed and the train came to a grinding halt when it was nearing Bhubaneshwar. All the passengers were awakened from their slumber to realize that their lives were in danger. Co-passengers from the other bogies of the train came to their rescue. Draft a report in 100 – 125 words for Anand Bazaar Patrika, Bhubaneshwar. You are Priyanka / Pritham travelling in an unaffected compartment of the same train. 10

**OR**

You attended a meeting of Anandlok Apartments Residents Welfare Association, wherein the police personnel explained various ways adopted by the burglars to make an entry into the houses and suggested the precautions to be taken to prevent such incidents. Write a report in 100 – 125 words to be published in Alwarpet Times. You are Syed / Saroja, a reporter.

5. Write a letter to the Editor, The Times of India, Delhi about the frequent traffic jams in Gurgaon, especially during the rains, stating the problems faced by the people and also suggesting ways to cope with it. You are Prayas / Preeti, 12 Shradhanand Colony, Gurgaon. 10

**OR**

You are Renu / Ravi, 21 Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai. An open and well-maintained park meant for the children and residents of your area would soon be converted into a shopping complex. Write a letter to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Chennai, requesting him not to disturb the park which is the only open space in your area.

6. Water is very precious. Everyone knows its importance. In spite of enough rains in the country we experience scarcity of water. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on the importance of the conservation of water by adopting all available modern techniques. You are Pratham / Pratha. 10

**OR**

'Direct to Home' lessons relayed on TV channels are no substitute for actual classrooms. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on 'Can DTH classrooms ever replace schools or colleges?'. You are Jyoti / Jagan.



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

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
 Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
 The tigers in the panel that she made  
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (a) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified ? 1  
 (b) Why did she make the tigers ? 2  
 (c) What will happen to her tigers after her death ? 1

OR

It would be an exotic moment  
 without rush, without engines,  
 we would all be together  
 in a sudden strangeness.

- (a) What will happen if there is no rush or running of engines ? 1  
 (b) Why would it be called an exotic moment ? 2  
 (c) How would we feel at that moment ? 1

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

- (a) Why has Kamala Das compared her mother to a 'late winter's moon' ?  
 (b) What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum' ?

- (c) What is the childish longing that the poet refers to ? Why is it in vain ? (A Roadside Stand)
- (d) What is the 'endless fountain' and what is its effect ?  
(A Thing of Beauty)

9. Answer the following in 30 – 40 words each : 2×5=10

- (a) Mention any two hazards of working in the bangle industry.
- (b) What were the series of emotions and fears that Douglas experienced when he was thrown into the pool ?
- (c) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being resolute ?
- (d) Why did Sophie wriggle when Geoff told her father that she had met Danny Casey ?
- (e) What secret does Umberto Eco reveal about his time management ?

10. Answer the following in 125 – 150 words : 10

Give a character-sketch of Subbu.

**OR**

The story, 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with this statement ? Why/why not ?

11. Answer the following in 125 – 150 words : 7

What is the bond that unites the two — old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the small boy ? How does the old man inspire the little boy ?

**OR**

How did Evans and his friends plan Evans' escape most meticulously down to the minutest detail ? Did they succeed ? How ?

2. Answer the following in 30 - 40 words each : 2×4=8

- (a) What warning did the astrologers give the Tiger King when he killed the first tiger ? Did the predictions of the astrologer come to be true ?
- (b) What did the narrator come across in his stamp collection ? Why was he surprised ?
- (c) Why was Roger Skunk's mommy angry ?
- (d) Which actions of the people would Bama watch keenly in the bazaar ?