Higher Secondary Main Exam - 2024

Subject – English (General)

Class – XII

Time Allowed: 3 hours **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

1. Attempt all questions.

2. Read the instructions carefully.

3. Marks allotted to each question are indicated against it.

SECTION – 'A'

(Reading)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

Compared to me, other wonders of the universe pale into insignificance. I am a one and a half kilo mushroom of grey and white tissue of gelatinous consistency. No computer exists that can duplicate all my myriad functions. My component parts are staggering in number: some 30 billion neurons and five to ten time that number of glial cell. And all this fitted into the crown of a size 7 hat! I am Joe's brain.

But I am not just part of Joe. I am Joe–his personality, his reactions. his mental capacity. He thinks that he hears with his ears, tastes with his tongue, fells with his fingers. All these things happen inside of me – ears, tongue and fingers merely gather information. I tell him when he is sick, when he is hungry; I govern his urge, his moods, everything.

Even when he is asleep I continue to handle traffic that would swamp all the world's telephone exchanges. The amount of information flooding in on Joe from the outside is staggering. How can I cope with it all? I simply select what is important, and Joe ignores the rest. If Joe puts a phonograph record on and attempts to read at the same time, he will concentrate on the record or the book, but not both. If Joe becomes involved in a particularly good novel, he should not be surprised if he doesn't remember hearing his favourite musical passage.

Of course, if something potentially dangerous happens, I instantly shift gears. Let Joe slip on the ice and I immediately direct him to regain his balance, and then signal his arms to break the fall. Finally, if he hits the ground, I let Joe know if he is hurt. And the event is stored in my memory to warn Joe to walk carefully on ice in the future.

In addition to taking care of such emergencies, I have thousands of hose keeping chores to perform. Overseeing breathing, for example. Sensors inform me that carbon dioxide is rising in Joe's blood and that he needs more oxygen. I step up the breathing rate timing the contraction and relaxation of chest muscles.

In thousands of such ways I baby Joe. In return, I am piggishly demanding. Although I represent only two percent of Joe's body weight, I require 20 percent of Joe's body weight, I require 20 percent of the oxygen he inhales

and a fifth of the blood his heart pumps. I am utterly dependent on a constant supply. Let three be a temporary shortage and Joe faints. Let the supply be cut off for a few minutes and I suffer grave damage – paralysis or death may result. I also demand a steady supply of nourishment – glucose. Even in situations of acute starvations, I get first call on any available, for without me Joe would die.

Questions :

(i) Who is 'I' in the passage ? **(1)**

(A) Joe (B) Joe's brain

(C) Joe's nose (D) Joe's ears

(ii) The weight of the brain is: **(1)**

(A) Half kg (B) 1 kg

(C) 1.5 kg (D) 2 kg

(iii) Joe's brain is Joe's: **(1)**

(A) personality (B) reactions

(C) mental capacity (D) all of these

(iv) The brain shifts_____ when something dangerous happens. **(1)**

(A) gears (B) mind

(C) nose (D) ears

(v) Ears, tongue and fingers collect _____ only. **(1)**

(A) collection (B) information

(C) production (D) inspiration

(vi) The _____ inform the brain that carbon dioxide is rising in Joe's blood. **(1)**

(A) nose (B) ears

(C) brain (D) sensors

(vii) Which among these is the adjective form of 'information'. **(1)**

(A) informative (B) inform

(C) informably (D) informing

(viii) "In thousands of such ways I baby Joe" **(1)**

Here 'baby' mean :

(A) elder (B) young children

(C) young animal (D) Joe's brain

(ix) The brain requires _____ of the oxygen he inhales. **(1)**

(A) 2 percent (B) 10 percent

(C) 20 percent (D) 30 percent

(x) Give the verb form of 'contraction' **(1)**

(A) contractor (B) contract

(C) contribution (D) contributor

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question given below:

The ultimate challenge is to make your mind calm. And the ultimate solution is meditation. In today's age every second person recommends meditation to the first! And for a student, there can't be a more powerful technique to improve long performance in studies.

Calm mind, better retention, better health, focus and concentration are the obvious benefits. You will realize the benefits, as your practice includes da general sense of well being and happiness and spiritual growth. The "mood" problem can be taken care of by this way – meditation.

There are many types of meditation. The simplest is of course, focussing on breathing. Since your breath is always with you, it can be done anytime, any place. But the best is to settle down in a cool place that has dim light and is relatively quiet.

You must focus all your attention on your breathing. Observe your breath as it comes in and goes out. You will see that your mind will tend to wander a lot – but soon you will be able to bring it back one breathing. Don't obstruct thoughts, let them go off. All you need to do is to keep your focus on breathing.

When you try this initially, you'll see how difficult it is to do! But soon, you'll gain mastery over it and who knows you might end up as a Zen master or a spiritual guru!

Questions :

(i) Make notes on the above passage in points. **(3)**

(ii) Give a suitable title to the passage. **(1)**

SECTION – B (Writing)

3. You are the head boy of your school. Draft a notice for house captains and vice captains to attend a meeting presided over by the Principal to prepare a plan for annual function. **(4)**

Or

Design an attractive poster on behalf of Indore Police to educate and warn the people against unclaimed articles like dolls, tiffins, bags, suitcases, transistors. mobiles lying in public places/trains/ buses.

4. You are Sunil, residing at 26, Gandhi Colony Ujjain. Write a letter to your friend Lalit/Leena telling him/her how you spent your summer vacation.

Or

Write a letter to the Post Master of Head Post Office to complain against the Postman of your are. You are Priyanshi Batra, residing at 17–Ekta Colony, Guna.

5. Write a paragraph in about 120 words on any one of the following topics: **(4)**

(i) The Role of Computers in every day life.

(ii) The Importance of Trees.

(iii) value of Games

(iv) My deal Teacher

Or

You have witnessed an accident. Write a report for a newspaper in about 120 words about the accident using the following details.

Where, when and how did the accident happen, people, vehicles involved, loss of life and property. The scene of the accident, details of casualties – deaths, injured, hospitalized.

SECTION – C (Grammar)

6. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option: (any five) **5 × 1 = 5**

(i) We keep our bread in the fridge _____ it doesn't go bad.

(A) after (B) so that

(C) since (D) although

(ii) How _____ milk do you buy daily?

(A) many (B) few

(C) all (D) much

(iii) Indian youth is full _____ hope for the bright future of the country.

(A) of (B) for

(C) at (D) on

(iv) Mohan _____ speak two languages.

(A) need (B) dare

(C) can (D) used to

(v) _____ man who wrote this book is my fiend.

(A) A (B) An

(C) The (D) No article

(vi) I know _____ he is ill.

(A) who (B) that

(C) which (D) where

7. Do as directed (any five) **(5 × 1=5)**

(i) My friend sent me a letter.
(change the voice)

(ii) As soon as I met my friend, I started weeping.
(Rewrite the sentence using 'No sooner …. than')

(iii) You can catch the bus if you take a taxi.
(Rewrite using 'unless' in place of 'if')

(iv) He had his launch.
(Change into 'past perfect' tense)

(v) (a) She did not talk to me.
(b) She did not look at me.
(combine the sentences using ‘neither …… nor’)

(vi) You / have / how much / experience / got ?
(Rearrange the words and make a sentence)

(vii) The tea is so hot that I can't drink it.
(Rewrite the sentence using 'too ……. to')

8. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions given below it: (5 × 1=5)

When I first visited Gandhi in 1942 at his ashram in Sevagram, in central India, he said, "I will tell how it happened I decided to urge the departure of the British. It was in 1917" .

He had gone to the December 1916 annual convention of the Indian National Congress Party in Luckknow. There were 2,301 delegates and many visitors. During the proceedings, Gandhi recounted, "a peasant came up to me looking like any other peasant in India, poor and emaciated, and said, 'I am Rajkumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district' !" Gandhi had never heard of the place. It was in the foothills of the towering Himalayas near the Kingdom of Nepal.

Questions :

(i) How many delegates were there in the annual convention of the Indian National Congress Party?

(A) 2,301 (B) 2,401

(C) 2,500 (D) 2,600

(ii) When did Rajkumar Shukla meet Gandhi?

(A) in 1916 (B) in 1917

(C) in 1942 (D) in 1947

(iii) Give the similar meaning of the word 'peasant' :

(A) visitor (B) traveller

(C) convener (D) farmer

(iv) Champaran is situated:

(A) in Sevagram (B) In Lucknow

(C) near Nepal (D) near Sri Lanka

(v) From which lesson this extract has been taken?

(A) The Last Lesson (B) Indigo

(C) The Interview (D) Going Places

9. (A) Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions given below: 3 × 1=3

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.

Question :-

(i) The poetess is coming from

(A) Cochin (B) her parent's home

(C) airport (D) Delhi

(ii) The word 'corpse' means

(A) father (B) a body part

(C) parents (D) dead body

(iii) Name the poet

(A) Kamla Das (B) Pablo Neruda

(C) John Keats (D) Robert Frost

(B) Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. **4 × 1= 4**

The chief astrologer placed his finger on his nose in wonder. A baby barely ten days old opens its lips in speech! Not only that. it also raises intelligent questions! Incredible! Rather like the bulletins issued by the war office, than facts.

The chief astrologer took his finger off his nose and fixed his eyes upon the little prince.

"The prince was born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies, therefore, death comes from the tiger," he explained.

Question :

(i) The chief astrologer placed his finger:

(A) on his mouth (B) on his head

(C) on this nose (D) on his leg

(ii) How many days old is the baby when he opens his lips in speech?

(A) ten days (B) twenty days

(C) thirty days (D) forty days

(iii) The prince was born

(A) in the hour of the bull

(B) in the hour of the tiger

(C) in the hour of the Bull and the Tiger

(D) all of these

(iv) From which lesson this extract has been taken?

(A) The Third Level (B) The Enemy

(C) The Tiger King (D) On the Face of lt.

10. Answer the following questions in about 30 words (any five) **(5 × 2=10)**

(i) What had been put up on the bulletin–board?

(ii) What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? Where has he come from?

(iii) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?

(iv) What doubts did Edla have about the Peddler?

(v) List the places that Gandhi visited between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran.

(vi) Why do most celebrity writers despise being interviewed?

11. Answer the following questions in about 30 words- [any three] **(3 × 2=6)**

(i) Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?

(ii) What is the 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem 'Keeping' Quiet?

(iii) List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.

(iv) What is the 'childish longing' that the poet refers to'?

12. Answer any two of the following questions in about 30 words each: **(2 × 2=4)**

(i) What does the third level refer to?

(ii) Who is the tiger king? Why does he get that name?

(iii) Will Hana help the wounded man and wash him herself?

13. Answer the following questions in about 75 words each: (any two) **(2 × 3=6)**

(i) What did Mr. Hamel say about French language?

(ii) What made the peddler think that he had indeed fallen into rattrap?

(iii) Is Saheb happy working at the tea stall? Explain.

14. Write the Answer of any one of the following questions in about 75 words **(3)**

(i) Write the central idea of the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.

(ii) Summarize the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.

15. Answer any one of the following questions in about 75 words. **(3)**

(i) What are the indications for the future of humankind?

(ii) What did the royal infant grow up to be?

***** End *****