

INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR TERM II EXAMINATION (2023-'24) ENGLISH CORE (CODE NO. 301)

MAX. MARKS:80 TIME: 3 HOURS

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DATE:15/02/2024 General Instructions:

CLASS: XI

The Question Paper contains THREE sections -READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
 Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (26 MARKS)

I. Read the following text.

- 1. Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial for health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.
- 2. Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connect is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
- 3. You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain All these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.
- 4. We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.
- 5. Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.
- 6. The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature.

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

 Io go out for a walking tour or walking exercise is- 							
c. to hike.	d. to saunter						
ii. Why does the writer say that the mind is at ease when you hike?							
b. It impr	b. It improves concentration.						
d. It allev	viates stress.						
iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from the passage.							
intolerable : noise :: unlimited :							
iv. Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 2.							
A contact is established between us and nature.							
	c. to hike. nind is at ease b. It imp d. It allev orrectly with a based on info	c. to hike. d. to saunter nind is at ease when you hike? b. It improves concentration. d. It alleviates stress. orrectly with a word from the passage.					

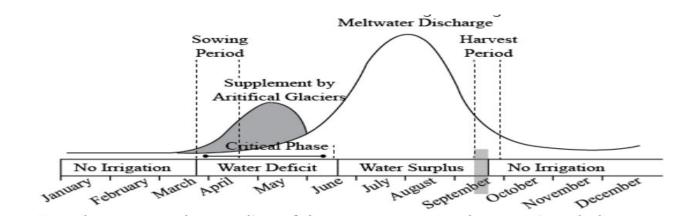
v. Which word serves as the antonym of "mundane" in the passage?							
	a. routine	b. thrilling	c. urgent	d. solace			
	vi. List any two exa	amples of minute of	observations yo	ou make while on a hike. (30-40 words)	2		
	vii. Substitute the phrase in italics in the following sentence from the passage with one word similar in						
	meaning.				1		
	The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts ' <i>leap with joy</i> '.						
	viii. Why is hiking o	considered as one	of the healthie	st sports? (30-40 words)	2		

II. Read the passage given below:

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir Government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.

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- 2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000 3,500 meters above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt, unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. But over the years, with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the extreme winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
- 3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April-May, the crucial sowing season. Further, layers of ice above melt with the increasing temperature, thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Therefore, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about 1,50,000 and above to create a glacier.
- 4. Fondly called the glacier man, he has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by the President of India.
- 5. There are a few basic steps followed while creating an artificial glacier. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter i.e., in November, the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools which freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an 'artificial glacier'.



Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions below:

i. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. Areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortage but life didn't grind to a halt.					
ii. How does the passage characterize the farming conditions in Ladakh during the winter months?					
iii. In creating artificial glaciers, where is river water typically redirected to?					
a. low-lying areas	b. shaded area facing south				
c. high altitude shaded areas facing north	d. open fields				
iv. What is Chewang Norphel fondly referred to as and why?					
v. From the chart, determine which months indicate excessive water formation due to glacier melts.					
a. January, February b. November, December	c. July, August, September d. April, May, June				
vi. The word 'located' in paragraph 3 means:					
a. nearby b. locally available	c. adapted d. situated				
vii. How is the process of creating glaciers typically carried out? (30-40 words)					

III. Read the following passage carefully:

- 1. Every living creature has a time machine that regulates activities. It tells men or animals when to wake up, when to sleep, when to slow down psychological activities. A few call it biological clock while others refer to it as the circadian clock. Its study is known as 'chrono-biology'.
- 2. The human body clock completes its cycle over a period of about 24 hours. In the normal circumstances activities of nerve cells drive the clock. In day-to-day life, one never experiences the rhythms of this state because the clock is always influenced by time cues in the environment.
- 3. These cues, called 'zeitgebers' (a German word meaning 'time givers') synchronize the clock with the daily solar cycle. Daylight, diet, physical activity are the well-known zeitgebers. All the cues are interdependent. For example, regular cycle of sleep and activity affects the time we eat, social interaction and even exposure to daylight.
- 4. To prove that humans possess an internal, self-sustaining clock and do not simply adjust their behaviour in response to environmental time cues it was essential to create a 'time-free' environment. The first experiments of this kind were carried out in the late 1970s and 1980s. The experiments continued for months. The subject chooses when he or she eats and sleeps, but no information is given about time no TV, radio, social contacts and clock. It emerged that subjects placed in such an environment maintain a routine, powerful evidence for the existence of an internal body clock in humans. All the subjects in the experiments, tended to wake up at regular times.
- 5. Every person, has an alarm clock fitted in the mind. Give it a try. Think and set the time in your brain before you set off to sleep. Your brain will transmit signals and you will wake up at the required time.
- 6. Our biological clock is set accordingly and that's the reason that counselors suggest students not to disturb their clock during their exams as it disturbs the whole metabolism. The 24-hour body clock should start at the regular time to have optimum performance during the exams. If we are regular and keep our routine under check we hardly need reminders for day-to-day activities. We need not see the clock for our lunch, dinner or other times.
- On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub- headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four) and a suitable format. Also, supply an appropriate title to it.
- ii. Write a summary of the passage in not more than 50 words.

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IV. Do as directed: (Any Seven)

i. I ______ (hear) that my cousin has won the match and I _____ (like) to wish him in person.

- a. hear, liked b. heard, have liked c. am hearing, will like d. heard, would like
- ii. Despite his failure, he _____ to try one more time. (Choose the correct option).
- a. was determined b. is determined c. will determine d. has determined
- iii. Amir worked hard. Amir failed to qualify. (Transform into a compound sentence.)
- iv. There have been heavy rains, so the Yamuna (flow) pretty fast. (Rewrite using the right form of the verb given in brackets.)
- v. His sister (write) a novel (March 2020). (Rewrite using 'since'.)
- vi. Make hay while the sun shines. (Identify the subordinate clause and name it.)
- vii. Rearrange the words given below to make a meaningful sentence.

of questions / based on /exams/ sentence/ types/ reordering come/ national/ different/ level/ in viii. You won a scholarship. I am happy to know it. (Transform into a complex sentence.)

v.

Creative Writing Skills (16 MARKS)

i. Draft a poster in 50 words creating awareness among young students about Digital India Programme. 3

The Health Ministry has launched a special immunization campaign for mothers and children. Design a poster to create awareness in 50 words. 3

ii. You are the manager of Star Field Ltd., Prabhat Nagar, Surat. You need an efficient data entry operator for your office. Write an advertisement in 50 words for the 'Situation Vacant' column of a local daily. 3

<u>OR</u>

You are Suresh of Tagore Street, Kolkata. Your cousin, Vikram, aged 8, 124 cm tall, is missing for the past two days. Draft a suitable advertisement in the 'Missing Persons' column of a daily newspaper in not more than 50 words.

iii. Write a speech in 120-150 words on the topic, 'The Importance of Embracing Change'. It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Praveen/ Meena. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to write the speech.

CUES:

- Change is inevitable; resistance leads to stagnation.
- Embrace change opportunity for growth and innovation.
- Adaptability fosters resilience and success.
- Embrace change, navigate uncertainty, thrive in dynamic environments.

You are Nayana/ Neeraj. Write a speech in 120-150 words on the topic, 'Let Dreams Become Your Wings', to be delivered in the morning assembly for the students of Class XI & XII. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to write the speech. 5

CUES:

- Dreams ignite passion and purpose.
- Chase your dreams fearlessly.
- Let dreams inspire action and determination.
- Transform aspirations into achievements.
- Embrace your dreams as the fuel for your journey.
- iv. 'Brain drain is not a bane for a developing country.' Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion. You are Tarun / Tara. Use the given verbal input along with your own ideas to write the debate.

CUES:

For the Motion:

- Skill acquisition
- Global connections
- Efforts to retain skilled workforce
- stimulate economic growth and alleviate poverty

Against the Motion:

- Loss of talent
- Economic impact
- Inequality
- Social fragmentation
- Loss of innovation

Technology today is an effective and convenient means of learning. Write a debate in 120-150 words either for or against the motion. You are Suwarna / Sujit. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to write the debate. 5

CUES:

For the Motion:

- Improves engagement and retention.
- Promotes interactive collaborative learning
- Prepares students for future.
- Reduces cost.

Against the Motion:

- Distracting
- Reduces problem solving skills.
- Expensive to maintain.
- Information may not be authentic

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SECTION C: LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

VI. Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to the context.

i. Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.

 A. "And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower, Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain"

- i. What is strange in the above extract?
 - a. The poet asking questions to the rain. b. The rain answered the question.
 - c. The rain calling itself the Poem of Earth d. That the poet was a translator.
- ii. Why does the rain call itself 'the Poem of Earth'?
- iii. "I am the Poem of Earth", said the voice of the rain. Which poetic device is used in the above line? Explain.

- B. "Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt, She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up Of chitterings and a tremor of wings, and trilling The whole tree trembles and thrills."
- i. Name the poetic device in the first line.
 - a. Anaphora b. Alliteration c. Simile d. Metaphor
- ii. What is the engine of the machine? Why is it called so?
- iii. What happens to the laburnum top when the bird flies away?

ii. Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.

A. "The sun can beat down like a hammer this far south in Egypt, and Carter tried to use it to loosen the resins. For several hours, he set the mummy outside in blazing sunshine that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit. Nothing budged. He reported with scientific detachment that 'the consolidated material had to be chiseled away from beneath the limbs and the trunk before it was possible to raise the king's remains."

- i. What 'resins' are being referred to in this extract:
 - a. The oils used for cooking by Egyptians.
 - b. The oils that were poured over King Tut's body during the funeral
 - c. The eatables kept in the pharoah's room
 - d. The flowers kept over King Tut's body.

ii. Who was Carter?

iii. What does the expression 'scientific detachment' refer to here?

<u>OR</u>

B. "Further on, where the plains became more stony than grassy, a great herd of wild ass came into view. Tsetan told us we were approaching them long before they appeared. "Kyang," he said, pointing towards a far-off pall of dust. When we drew near, I could see the herd galloping en-masse, wheeling and turning in tight formation as if they were practising manoeuvres on some predetermined course."

i. How does the wild ass herd behave as the group draws nearer?

a. They dispersed in random directions.

b. They maintained a slow pace.

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- d. They stopped and grazed peacefully.
- ii. What was the indication that the group was approaching the wild ass herd?
- iii. Who warned whom about the wild ass herd?

c. They exhibited coordinated movements.

iii. Attempt EITHER ONE of the two extracts given.

- A. "That'll do then. [She moves towards the door left then turns] But remember-keep firm-or you've had it. [She opens the door. Calling] Hoy! You can come in now. [Coming away from the door, and moving right slightly. Quietly] But remember-remember-a firm hand."
- i. Who is the speaker of the above lines?
- a. Mrs Pearson b. Ms. Doris c. Mrs. Fitzgerald d. The Narrator
- ii. Who is called into the room when these words are being spoken?
- a. Mr. George b. Ms. Doris c. Mr. Cyril d. All of them
- iii. What does the speaker want the other person to remember?
- iv. What did the speaker mean when she said, "or you've had it"?

- B. He went into the house for his bag, then together they set out for Number 12 Blaina Terrace. The night air was cool and deep with quiet mystery. Usually so perceptive, Andrew now felt dull and listless. He had no premonition that this night call would prove unusual, still less that it would influence his whole future in Blaenelly.
- i. How is the night air described in the extract?
 - a. shallow, calm and mysterious b. cool, windy and clear
 - c. intense, enigmatic and cool d. Puzzling, meaningful and excitable
- ii. How does Andrew feel as they embark on their journey to Number 12 Blaina Terrace?
 - a. Energetic and lively b. Dull and devoid of energy
 - c. Excited yet lacked energy d. Anxious and curious
- iii. What did the narrator do before he set out to Joe's house?
- iv. What does the excerpt suggest about the significance of the night call?

VII. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words each:

- i. The poet talks about a particular cardboard. Why is it special to her?
- ii. "I didn't want to worry you when you were trying to save us all," said Sue. What had happened to her?
- iii. Who was Professor Gaitonde and why was he going to the library?
- iv. Why does the father say 'this child', not 'my child'?

i. After reading the story 'Birth', you were inspired to give a speech in your school assembly about the miraculous revival of the still born child by Dr. Andrew. Write the speech in 120-150 words, discussing about how bookish knowledge is theoretical and it is practice and observation that makes a man perfect in his field.

OR ii. In 'The Tale of Melon City', how was the new ruler of Melon City selected? Discuss how Melon City is

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Was the distance in the relationship deliberate or due to the demands of the situation? Elaborate.

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

OR

poem 'Childhood'.

the satire of the society.

IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

instances to justify this statement. ii. Finally the narrator in the chapter 'The Address' turned over a new leaf. Elucidate.

i. Is independent thinking a step towards adulthood? If yes, then how? Explain with reference to the

ii. Gradually, the author and the grandmother saw less of each other and their friendship was broken.

VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 40-50 words:

i. Mourad was a kind hearted young boy who was compassionate to animals. Mention any two

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