

**NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI
HYDERABAD REGION**

FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2020-21)

Class: 12

Sub: English Core (301)

Max Marks : 80

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

General Instructions:

- 1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.**
 - 2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.**
Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
 - 3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.**
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Part A (40 Marks)

READING

(20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

(1x10 = 10)

1. If one early June morning, you are suddenly stopped in your walk by a ringing ‘piu-piu-pie-pee-piu-piu’ call coming from the trees in your park or garden, you will feel your heart suddenly lifted. Look around and you may see two large, handsome, black and white birds with long coattails chasing each other among the trees. They are pied cuckoos, that have come from Africa, and are said to announce the arrival of the greatest show on earth-the Indian monsoon. Be assured, the curtains will rise in a month or so.

2. To get the proper view of the onset of the monsoons, you really need to be stationed on the coastline of India or up in the hills. The grand show of grey clouds approaches like an airborne army, preceded by cool breezes, filling the air with electric charge so that you feel happy. Spear of lighting flickers in the sky and sound of thunder makes you feel excited. And then, it pours. The cracked earth without any green cover sucks down the flood of water, and then Mother Nature goes mad. Seed scattered or buried like grains of sand or pebbles in the ground suddenly come to life. Shoots of plants rocket skywards, roots plunge into the soft, spongy earth sucking up water and nutrients. It’s a hint that grasshoppers have been waiting for. And bugs, beetles, caterpillars, centipedes, etc. emerge in their billions, feasting on the fresh green plants in the fields (to the annoyance of many a farmers) as also on each other.

3. There are miracles and there is music too: singing golden frogs appear in large numbers in rain filled ditch, taking part in a group song that Bollywood would have envied. They vanish the very next day. They’d been waiting patiently all through the blistering summer, deep underground conserving whatever

moisture they had soaked up. Fireflies wink through the trees in the hills, sending their greenish signals to one another in codes as precise as any we may use for our most secret messages.

4. All this is what the birds have been waiting for. Most birds have spent the spring and summer courting and now it's time to settle down. Baby birds need a lot of high protein at frequent intervals, which the rich supply of insect life so happily provides: caterpillars are eaten up in millions, as are furry moths, earthworms slurped down like noodles, spiky dragon flies beaten to bits to soften them up into baby food. The long-legged storks and herons get busy with fishing. As for the big guys like lions and tigers in the jungles: they too had it relatively easy during the summer when their thirsty prey came to the waterholes. Now, with water easily available, in streams and ponds all over, they need to work harder for their meals. But yes, this is, perhaps, compensated by the arrival of baby deer, and fawns are sweet and soft, not very experienced in the merciless ways of the lions and tigers, even if they may seem more like a snack than a main course meal. The animals get a rest from us, parks and sanctuaries too close down, not so much out of kindness as because the roads become impassable.

5. And then, just as you beginning to get tired of the green mould on your shoes, belts and bags, and all of the sniffles and snuffles that the rains also bring (bacteria and viruses also love this season), clouds begin to disperse and float away in large armies. But before this happens, at least once, do go out in the midst of a downpour, raise your face to the heavens and dance and sing and celebrate this, the greatest show on earth.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer any ten of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

- (1) The winged messengers from Africa
 - a) bring rain from Africa
 - b) bring the message that the rains are coming soon
 - c) create a lot of horrible noise
 - d) are not welcome

- (2) Baby birds benefit from the rains because:
 - a) the mummy bird cannot fly in the rain
 - b) they need a lot of noodles
 - c) the rain brings a lot of insects which they eat
 - d) they like wet nests

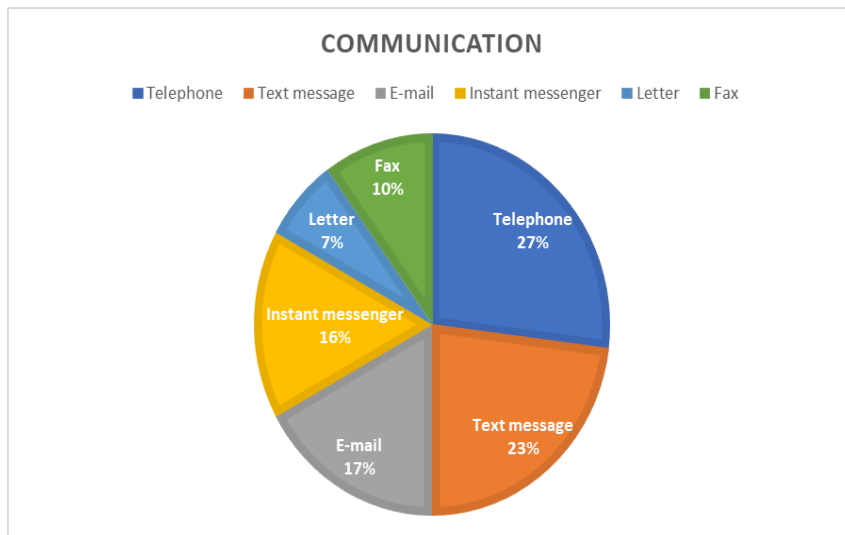
- (3) Humans don't visit the animals in sanctuaries during the rainy season because:
- a) humans don't like to get wet
 - b) the paths to the sanctuaries become waterlogged
 - c) baby animals are born in the sanctuaries
 - d) humans get bitten during the rainy season
- (4) The green mould that grows on leather comes
- a) from the creepy insects that come with the rain
 - b) because grass becomes very green during the rainy season
 - c) because of the moisture in the air during the rainy season
 - d) from fluffy clouds in the sky
- (5) Lions and tigers have easy life during summer because
- a) there is easy availability of water everywhere
 - b) they are not able to catch fawns
 - c) humans visit the sanctuaries a lot during the summer
 - d) thirsty animals come to the waterholes as easy preys
- (6) With the rains, we find
- a) that most of the birds court
 - b) that the clouds begin to disperse
 - c) parks and sanctuaries close down
 - d) clean shoes, belts and bags
- (7) During summers, where do the frogs live?
- a) deep underground
 - b) in the ponds
 - c) in gardens
 - d) none of these
- (8) What is the awaited time for birds?
- a) summer
 - b) spring
 - c) winter
 - d) rainy season
- (9) Pick out the word from the passage which means the same as 'declare' (used in para 1)
- a) ringing
 - b) announce
 - c) arrival
 - d) call

- (10) Pick out the word from the passage opposite in meaning to ‘vanishing’ (used in para 2)
- a) appearing b) disappearing c) waiting d) conserving
- (11) What does the word ‘mould’ mean in the passage?
- a) furry growth in fungi b) loose friable soil
c) pattern d) fashion

2. Read the passage given below.

(1x10 = 10)

1. A survey was conducted on student performances with respect to the most popular means of communication among them. Surprisingly, the students didn’t seem much interested in traditional means of communication. Only 7% were interested in writing letters to their friends or kins as compared to those who preferred e-mails.



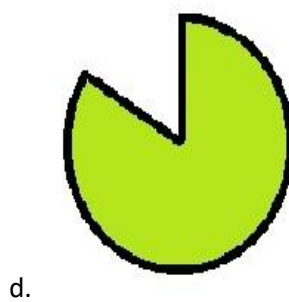
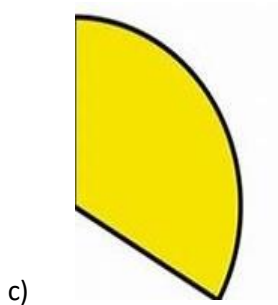
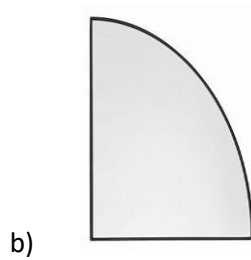
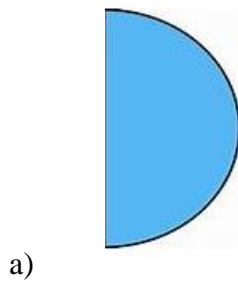
2. However, the chief competition is between users of instant messenger and those of telephone lines. The users of fax line as a medium of communication are only marginal. There are supporters of text messaging also. Overall, the survey had a mixed response from the students.

3. The students have indicated that they out of the choices given in the survey questionnaire, they have indicated the most preferred option. But, most of the students are of the view that video calling needs to be mentioned in the questionnaire as it is the most effective and most popular means of communication. Further, voice messages are the second most preferred means of communication.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer any ten of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

- (1) Which means of communications are not generally preferred by the students?
- a) traditional
b) modern

- c) all means of communication
 - d) None of these
- (2) Which means of communication totals to the combined usage of fax and letters?
- a) telephone
 - b) text message
 - c) E-mail
 - d) instant messenger
- (3) Which means of communication is liked by more than one-fourth of the students?
- a) telephone
 - b) text message
 - c) E-mail
 - d) fax
- (4) Which means of communication is liked by exactly one-tenth of the students?
- a) letter
 - b) fax
 - c) e-mail
 - d) telephone
- (5) How much of the students prefer either of telephones or text messages as medium of communication?



- (6) What is the overall response of the students to the survey?
- a) biased

- b) unbiased
 - c) mixed
 - d) none of these
- (7) What is the correct order of the medium of communication in decreasing order of preference?
- a) voice message, text message, instant messenger, fax
 - b) text message, instant messenger, voice message, fax
 - c) instant messenger, fax, voice message, text message
 - d) text message, instant messenger, fax, voice message
- (8) Which is the most preferred means of communication among the students?
- a) telephone
 - b) text message
 - c) voice message
 - d) video calling
- (9) Pick out the word or phrase from the passage which means the same as 'study'
- a) survey
 - b) popular
 - c) communication
 - d) kins
- (10) Pick out the word or phrase from the passage which means opposite to 'gradual'
- a) chief
 - b) instant
 - c) marginal
 - d) mixed
- (11) The word 'view' used in para 3 here means:
- a) sight
 - b) thinking
 - c) procedure
 - d) opinion

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4+4=8)

(A)

The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of their elders. Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad. Years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

- i. What are the people of Firozabad forced to do?
 - a. saree stitching
 - b. rag picking
 - c. construction labour
 - d. bangle making
- ii. Why are they not able to change their profession?
 - a. illiteracy
 - b. poverty
 - c. ignorance
 - d. all the above
- iii. What does 'lament' mean here?
 - a. profession
 - b. complaint
 - c. facility
 - d. resources
- iv. Why do bangle makers lack initiative and an ability to dream?
 - a. due to hard work
 - b. due to racism
 - c. due to bonded labour
 - d. none of the above

(B)

They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled.

The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

- i. The officials felt powerless because
 - a. of Gandhi's refusal to cooperate with them.
 - b. of Gandhi's polite and friendly behaviour.
 - c. the crowd was listening only to Gandhi.
 - d. the crowd was getting violent.
- ii. The demonstration proved that the
 - a. policies of the British had failed.
 - b. dread instilled in the hearts of Indians had begun to lessen.
 - c. dealings with the Indian citizens had been unsuccessful.
 - d. might of the British had not been understood by Indians.
- iii. What, according to the author, could be challenged by Indians?
 - a. hitherto dreaded and unquestioned behaviour of the British
 - b. the polite and friendly behaviour of the British
 - c. the polite and friendly behaviour of Gandhi
 - d. none of the above
- iv. Choose the word which means 'happening or done in a natural, often sudden way, without any planning or without being forced'.
 - a. spontaneous
 - b. liberation
 - c. prosecutor
 - d. dreaded

(C)

"It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I am going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going".

- i. Who is the speaker here?
 - a. Derry
 - b. Lamb
 - c. Derry's mother
 - d. none of the above

- ii. Where does the speaker want to go?
- a. to school
 - b. to playground
 - c. to Lamb's house
 - d. to railway station
- iii. Why, do you think, does the speaker show lot of enthusiasm to go out?
- a. to collect his ball
 - b. to meet his friends
 - c. to meet Lamb as he had promised
 - d. to collect money from Lamb
- iv. What does the speaker see when he returns?
- a. the apples have been taken away
 - b. Lamb is watering the plants
 - c. Lamb is lying on the ground
 - d. The garden is locked

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow.

(1 x 4 =4)

(A)

"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 realised with pain that she thought away"

- i. Where was the poet coming from? Where was she going?
- a. from her parents' home to Cochin
 - b. from Cochin to her home
 - c. from her home to hospital
 - d. from Cochin to hospital
- ii. How does the poet describe her mother?
- a. beautiful and energetic
 - b. old and her face was colourless
 - c. almost like a corpse
 - d. both b and c

iii. What did the poet realise with pain?

- a. fear of losing her
- b. may not meet her mother again
- c. both a and b
- d. mother was going abroad

iv. Identify the figure of speech used in these lines.

- a. metaphor
- b. simile
- c. personification
- d. alliteration

OR

(B)

“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”

i. Name the title and author of the poem.

- a. Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers by John Keats
- b. A Roadside Stand by Robert Frost
- c. Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers by Adrienne Rich
- d. Keeping Quiet by Pablo Neruda

ii. Why are Aunt Jennifer’s hands terrified?

- a. She is going through hard and bitter experience in her married life
- b. She is living in cold region
- c. She is terrified of her husband
- d. Both a and c

iii. What is the difference between her and the tigers?

- a. She is quite weak and submissive, whereas the tigers are strong, bold and powerful.
- b. She is as strong as her tigers
- c. She is strong and bold whereas her tigers are weak
- d. Tigers are weaker than her

- iv. What will happen to the tigers when she is dead?
- They will also die soon.
 - The tigers are eternal and will continue to be active
 - They will be taken away by zoo authorities
 - They will be taken care by her children

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions from the ten given below.

(1x 8 = 8)

- A First Day Cover is
 - a new stamp collected with the postmark and date
 - a new stamp collected on the day of its release
 - a gift wrapper
 - a gift wrapped in a beautiful wrapper.
- Concluding his last lesson by writing ‘Vive la France!’ on the blackboard shows that M. Hamel
 - was overwhelmed with emotions.
 - wanted to distract all attending class that day.
 - was keen on not leaving the country.
 - wanted to teach French participles through it.
- Edla pleaded with her father not to send the Vagabond away because
 - he was a gentleman who faced adversities in life
 - he resembled her father’s friend, the Captain
 - she liked him because he made amends for his sins
 - she was benevolent and compassionate
- What are the children like in the slums, according to Stephen Spender?
 - The children are bright and happy
 - The children are hale and healthy
 - The children are thin, weak, poor and malnourished
 - The children are bold and outspoken
- Saheb did not like to work in the tea-stall because
 - he was paid only Rs. 800 per month
 - he hated the steel canister
 - he was no longer his own master
 - he had to carry heavy bags now

6. Keats celebrates trees as a “boon” in the poem A Thing of Beauty. With reference to this statement, which of the following options is NOT TRUE?
- Trees give us sustenance.
 - Trees provide relief from heat.
 - Trees help keep the Earth clean.
 - Trees appear beautiful to the eye
7. What does the poem Keeping Quiet teach us?
- how to maintain silence
 - not to make noise
 - speaking creates noise
 - to be peaceful, thoughtful and have feelings of brotherhood
8. What were the series of emotions and fears that Douglas experienced when he was thrown into the pool?
- fear
 - confidence
 - overconfidence
 - mixed feelings of confidence and fear
9. Why does Jo want her father to tell her story in a different way?
- to give the story a sad ending
 - to understand the story better
 - to complete the story
 - to give the story a happy ending with an adult and mature understanding
10. What did Dr Sadao’s old American professor consider the surgeon’s cardinal sin?
- ignorance of the human body
 - improper medication
 - incorrect diagnosis
 - ignorance of patient’s history

PART B (40 marks)

WRITING

(16 marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 3)

analysis, using appropriate format and fluency, appropriacy of style and tone

An inter-class Drama Competition is to be held in Akshaya Vidyashram, Vijayawada, as a part of Annual Kala Utsav. As Saran / Saranya, Cultural Secretary of your school, draft a notice to be put up on the school notice board inviting entries from students. Provide all necessary information in about 50 words.

OR

Your school, Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Belgaum, is in need of a Coordinator for Co-Curricular Activities. On behalf of the Principal, prepare an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a local daily. Mention the educational and professional qualifications and other qualities required for the post, how to apply and last date for the receipt of applications.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 3)

analysis, using appropriate format and fluency, appropriacy of style and tone

Classic International School, Mangalore, has planned to organise its Annual Prize Distribution function for this academic year. The school has decided to invite Dr.Kirankumar, former Chairman of ISRO, to be the Chief Guest on the occasion. As the Secretary of the school, write a formal letter of invitation in about 50 words to Dr.Kirankumar. You are Mahesh / Maheshwari.

OR

You are Akshya / Aakriti, a child rights activist. You have been invited to participate in a webinar on 'Protection of Children during Covid-19 pandemic', organised by the Rotary Club of your district. Respond to the invitation by writing a letter of acceptance in about 50 words to the Secretary of the club.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

analysis, using appropriate format and fluency, appropriacy of style and tone

Karnataka Publishers Association organised a week-long book fair at Palace Grounds, Mysore. You visited the fair and bought a few books. You were pleased with the arrangements and enthusiasm of the visitors. You were happy to see many parents encouraging their children to buy books in the fair. This confirms the fact that books have not yet lost their relevance in the world of the Internet. Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to the editor of a local newspaper to express your feelings. You are Rahman / Rashmi, residing at 52 Avenue Road, Vijay Nagar, Mysore.

OR

You are Vijay / Vijaya of 149 Green View Apartments, Pune. Write an application to the Principal, D.A.V. Senior Secondary School, Kamalapur, in response to the advertisement given below for the post of a Music Teacher in the school.

Wanted – Music Teacher

Essential qualification – B.A., in Music, at least 2-3 years of teaching at high school level, expected to possess strong professional and organisational skill, fluent in English and Hindi, with ability to teach musical instruments to students. Apply with biodata to Principal, D A V Senior Secondary School, Kamalapur.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

analysis, using appropriate format and fluency, appropriacy of style and tone

You are Haseena / Hassan, a social worker and qualified student - counsellor. You are concerned about the stressed behaviour of both parents and students during the time of examination. Write an article in 150-200 words to be published in a local daily on 'Supportive parents and stress-free students' giving ideas to enhance healthy and meaningful Parent - child relationship and for making the atmosphere stress-free, relaxed and encouraging during examination time. You may use the following clues:

Students and parents under constant pressure – increased anxiety level – parents' duty to reduce stress – to help children to overcome – better interaction between parents and students – parents to be practical and realistic – parents to remain positive – appreciating even minor achievements of their children – encouraging to read good books – healthy and supportive relationship – genuine and earnest efforts that matters

OR

You are Sandhya/Samrat, the head girl/head boy of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jawahar Nagar, Nagpur. Your school recently hosted Regional Sports Meet of 10 schools in the region. You have been asked by your principal to write a report in 150 – 200 words of the same for your school magazine. Write the report. You may use the clues given below:

occasion/organiser - date, venue, objective - name of the competition, level, topic, if any, no of participants - inaugural ceremony/welcome - Chief guest, judges, etc.- highlights related to performance, result, etc. - prize distribution - special remarks/address (if any) - Vote of thanks

LITERATURE

(24 marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2x5=10)

- Why had the ragpickers come to live in Seemapuri?
- What is the exotic moment that the poet refers to in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
- Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?
- Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster?
- How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?
- What changes does the poet hope for in the lives of slum children?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 x2=4)

- a. What does the third level refer to? Do you think that the third level is a medium of escape for Charley?
- b. How does Jo want the story to end? Why?
- c. Who do you think has outwitted the other – Evans or the Governor? How?

12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words (1x5=5)

- a. Everybody in the class during the last lesson was filled with regret. Comment.

OR

- b. Why did Gandhi consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran? How did he achieve it?

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words (1x5=5)

- a. Do you think Dr.Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances?

What impression do you form of Dr. Sadao as a man and as a surgeon? Explain with reference to the story 'The Enemy'.

OR

- b. Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character Mr.Lamb from the chapter 'On the Face of it'.
