



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA
MID TERM EXAMINATION
Class : XII

Subject : English Core
Date : 21/09/2019

M.M : 80
Time : 3 Hours

General Instructions:

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

SECTION- A (READING) 20 Marks

1. Read the passage given below :

1. Kanjikuzhi, a coastal village in Kerala's Alappuzha district presents a picture very different from the rest of India. At a time when vegetables are getting scarce even in villages, Kanjikuzhi is brimming with surplus veggies, that too grown organically. The only vegetable-sufficient panchayat in Kerala, Kanjikuzhi is a model worth emulating. More so because it started its experiments in organic farming way back in 1994, when most of India hadn't heard of the concept.
2. How did it all start? Since Kanjikuzhi's soil was deemed unfit for agriculture, it had to depend chiefly on vegetables procured from other parts of Kerala. This jacked up the prices of veggies. On top of this, the villagers' income from local industries (chiefly coir) was measly. So, the then panchayat heads called for a revolution: they decided that the future lay in organic farming, undertaken by farming families of the village. "It was important that vegetables were not bought, but grown right here," says the panchayat president, M.G. Raju.
3. Formulating a plan, the panchayat committee invited the 8,600 families to grow vegetables — from bitter melon, red spinach, cauliflower, to beans and more — at home, in backyards and on terraces. The idea was to use every available space for farming. The initial funding came from the panchayat. "To ensure sustained practice, a smaller committee called Karshika Karmasena was trained to monitor and encourage the growers. It was an arduous process, but eventually the pH balance and nutrient levels of the soil were restored, and pest-prevention methods were implemented while techniques that support organic farming were developed locally," explains Raju.
4. Once the system had been put in place, the responsibility to keep it running was vested with the villagers. So, to this day, each family monitors the amount of manure required and the pest-control procedure. "The farmers know what works best for them. They

arrive at it through a trial-and-error method,” says Raju. If there is one absolute rule, it is that no chemicals are to be used in cultivation. How is a system, begun in 1994, sustained even today? “Last year we gave away more than 50 lakh saplings. We also provide facilities for low-cost, eco-friendly composting,” says Raju. “Earlier vegetables had to be brought to the village from neighbouring cities. Now we have our fresh, organically-grown vegetables sold in the local market,” says Raju. When they began to produce surplus, shanties appeared on the highway, selling the vegetables to travellers. “Our vegetables began reaching the cities from which we had once bought them. When we offer organic produce at a reasonable price, we believe we are addressing two aspects of a buyer’s need — finance and health.”

5. Life in the village has changed. The bounty has brought in prosperity. Some of the villagers earn as much as Rs.50,000 a month, and they farm all through the year. They also give classes on organic farming; some have even developed hybrid vegetable varieties. Forty-eight-year-old Subhakeshan supports his family by selling the seeds of a local hybrid bean referred to as the Kanjikuzhi bean. “I started cultivating 2% land — this has expanded to 25% now; farming has changed my life,” he says.
6. Lessons on farming are compulsory in local schools to prepare the next generation. “The soil is rich with nutrients now and our children grow up having healthy, chemical-free food,” says Raju, speaking for the village. The panchayat had an annual turnover of Rs.14 crore in the last financial year and Kanjikuzhi’s produce is relished all over Kerala, no mean feat for a village that started out as a sandy beachside place.

(Source- The Hindu)

Answer each of the question given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

(1x5=5)

- (i) How does a system begun more than 25 years ago, continue to thrive? _____
 - a. The villagers are responsible for the system's functioning
 - b. Only Karshika Karmasena monitors the growers
 - c. The panchayat provides facilities for low-cost, eco-friendly composting
 - d. The panchayat's careful planning of the project as well as the continuous support coupled with reasonable pricing
- (ii) The decision to begin organic farming in Kanjikuzhi was revolutionary as _____
 - a. Farmers were scared of this unknown system
 - b. No one had heard about organic farming
 - c. The panchayat members had far-sighted vision when they made the decision
 - d. None of the above
- (iii) Why are lessons in farming taught at school? _____
 - a. Students must value the hard work put in by the panchayat
 - b. It is a lesson in motivation for students to follow in future
 - c. The soil and conditions are perfect for the future generations to earn benefits
 - d. All of the above

- (iv) How has organic farming ensured continuous farming and prosperity for the farmers?
- a. The villagers earn upto Rs.50000 per month b. They farm only 2% of their entire land
- c. Only because organic vegetables are highly priced d. The farmers' entire land is cultivable leading to increase in income brought in by farming the entire year
- (v) The success of organic farming in Kanjikuzhi can be credited to factors like _____
- a. the quality of soil deemed unfit for agriculture b. Karshika Karmasena alone
- c. taking care of pH balance, nutrition level of soil, pest-prevention techniques d. pH balance, nutrition level of soil, pest-prevention techniques implemented as well as local organic farming techniques

Answer the following questions in brief.

(1x4=4)

- (vi) Which issues did growing vegetables within the villagers address?
- (vii) What do you understand by this 'when most of India hadn't heard of the concept'?
- (viii) When the panchayat first began with the plan of adopting organic farming what must have been the hurdles they faced?
- (ix) State any three lessons from the success story of Kanjikuzhi village that can be replicated in other villages.

Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

(1x3=3)

- (x) to copy something achieved by someone else and try to do it as well as they have (para 1) -
- (xi) a large amount of something, esp. food (para 5) -
- (xii) something difficult needing a lot of skill, strength, courage, etc. to achieve it (para 6)-

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

- Giving the lie to the old fables about the unflagging industriousness of ants, bees, beavers, and the like, a new specialty known as time budget analysis reveals that the great majority of creatures spend most of their time doing nothing much at all. They eat when they must or can. Some species build a makeshift shelter now and again; others fulfill the occasional social obligation, like picking out fleas from a fellow creature's fur.
- A fair analysis of animal inactivity shows it is almost never born of aimless indolence, but instead serves a broad variety of purposes. Some animals lounge around to conserve precious calories, others to improve digestion of the calories they have consumed. Some do it to stay cool, others to keep warm. The hunted is best camouflaged when it's not fidgeting or fussing, and so too is the hunter, who wishes to remain concealed until the optimal moment for attack. Some creatures linger quietly in their territory to guard it, and others stay home to avoid being cannibalized by their neighbors.
- Even the busy bees or worker ants dedicate only about 20 percent of the day to doing chores like gathering nectar or tidying up the nest. Otherwise, the insects stay still. The myth of the tireless social insect probably arose from observations of entire hives or

anthills, which are little galaxies of ceaseless activity. But now that scientists have learned to tag individual insects to see what each does from one moment to the next, they find that any single bee or ant has a lot of surplus time.

4. Biologists studying animals at rest turn to sophisticated mathematical models, resembling those used by economists, which take into account an animal's energy demands, fertility rate, the relative abundance and location of food and water, weather conditions, and other factors. They do extensive cost-benefit analyses, asking questions like: How high is the cost of foraging compared with the potential calories that may be gained? Such a calculation involves not only a measure of how much energy an animal burns as it rummages about relative to what it would spend resting, but also a consideration of, for example, how hot it will become in motion, and thus how much of its stored water will be needed to evaporate away heat to cool the body. Once they complete their computations, the biologists usually acknowledge their respect for the animal's decision to lie low.
5. Humans generally spend more time working than do other creatures. One reason for human diligence is that we can often override our impulses to slow down. Many humans are driven to work hard by a singular desire to gather resources far beyond what is required for survival. Squirrels collect what they need to make it through one winter; only humans worry about college bills or retirement.

(Excerpt from "Busy as a Bee?" from *The Beauty of the Beastly*)

- 2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary- minimum four). Also supply an appropriate title to it. (4)
- 2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80-100 words. (4)

SECTION-B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) 30 Marks

3. You are Nina / Nehal, Secretary of the Cultural Club of your school. You plan to organise an educational tour to Rajasthan during the winter break. Prepare matter for the school notice board in not more than 50 word, mentioning the schedule of the tour, expenses to be incurred, permission letter from parents and last date for giving names etc. (4)
OR
You are the Vice President (HR), Veena Infocomm, Orissa. Write an advertisement to be published in the classified column of a newspaper for suitable accommodation on rent to be used as a guesthouse for the company.
4. You are Tarun / Tarika from 60, Samudra Township, Cochin. Write an application along with a personal resume in 120-150 words in response to the following advertisement:
Wanted an experienced music teacher having B.Mus degree for our school. Apply to the Principal, Model Public School, Bengaluru by 25th September 2019. (6)
Or
As Abhay Prasad, Manager, New India Hotel, Chandigarh write a letter to Sheena Saha, Head Girl, Crescent School, providing her necessary information for her enquiry related to availability of rooms and charges for a school trip.

5. Teenage is commonly perceived as the most joyful period of an individual's life. Vani, being a teenager, feels that the pressure of the competitive world they live in has made teen years less exciting and expresses her ideas in an article titled, 'On Being a Teenager' for the 'Youth Times'. Write the article in 150-200 words.

Or

(10)

The recent fire in the Amazon rainforest caused extensive damage to the delicate ecological balance. As an environmentalist you feel that human greed was responsible for the fire and it is high time humans curb this greed and become responsible guardians of nature's resources. Write an article in 150-200 words for Down To Earth magazine. You are Amar/ Akanksha.

6. You recently read the following newspaper article:

A study by the London School of Economics says that computers kill childhood. They do it by making redundant a host of skills which a child would otherwise acquire naturally. The mind hardly meditates when the mouse is scampering along the information highway. Learning is not the act of juggling information. Education is about learning to pause and wonder, skills a child has in abundance, about nurturing and embellishing these inborn skills to observe and create, and to listen and narrate. Technology is more a hindrance than an aid in such a process of learning.

Shocked by the recent study that shows how computers are killing childhood by making redundant a host of skills which a child would otherwise acquire naturally, you decide to speak in the morning assembly of our school, advising students not to lose themselves in virtual reality. Write the speech in 150-200 words.

Or

(10)

You are Vikram/Vidya, Head Boy/ Head Girl of Vidya Niketan School, Jaipur. Prepare a suitable speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly, highlighting the importance of cleanliness and the need to keep our surroundings clean. Suggest suitable measures for students to achieve cleanliness in their immediate environment at home, school and the neighbourhood.

SECTION C: (LITERATURE TEXTBOOKS) 30 MARKS

- 7.1 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

*"Far far from gusty waves these children's faces
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor;
The tall girl with her weighed-down head."*

- (i) Who are these children? (1)
- (ii) What does the poet mean by 'gusty waves'? (1)
- (iii) What has possibly weighed-down the tall girl's head? (1)
- (iv) Identify the figure of speech used in these lines. (1)

Or

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep;
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing."*

- (i) Describe the kind of joy a beautiful thing provides. (1)
- (ii) Explain 'its loveliness increases'. (1)
- (iii) Why does a thing of beauty not pass into 'nothingness'? (1)

- (iv) What does the word 'bower' mean? (1)
7.2 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

'Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded..."'

- (i) What caused Sadao to hesitate? (1)
(ii) What feeling did Sadao experience for the stranger? (1)
(iii) Who was the stranger? What did Sadao observe about him? (1)
(iv) What does the word 'whole' used here, mean? (1)

Or

'The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got power to clear himself.'

*"Written with friendship
And high regard,
"Captain von Stahle."'*

- (i) Who is the speaker? To whom is it addressed? (1)
(ii) What does the term 'world's rattrap' mean? (1)
(iii) How had the writer of the letter been raised to the level of a captain? (1)
(iv) Who was the writer- a rat or Captain von Stahle? Explain. (1)

8. Answer *any five* of the following questions in brief.

- (i) Draw a character sketch of Edla Wilmansson. (2)
(ii) Which factors led Douglas to decide in favour of YMCA pool? (2)
(iii) What were Kamala Das' fear as a child? How do they surface when she is going to the airport? (2)
(iv) What according to Pablo Neruda, will counting up to twelve and keeping still help us achieve? (2)
(v) What was Sam's purpose of writing to Charley? (2)
(vi) What is the author's indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the willfulness of human beings in 'The Tiger King'? (2)

9. Answer *any one* of the following question in not more than 120-150 words. (6)

Gandhiji won the struggle for Champaran specifically because of his good leadership qualities. Write an article of about 120-150 words on 'Qualities of a good leader'.

Or

'I will do it later' is quite a common refrain we use or hear these days. How does procrastination affect life? Explain with reference to the story, The Last Lesson.

10. Answer *any one* of the following question in not more than 120-150 words. (6)

Saheb gave up his freedom and began working at a milk booth. Imagine a different ending to his story. Elaborate how it would unfold.

Or

What is your stance regarding the two endings to the Roger Skunk story.