



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BOARD SAMPLE PAPER-I (2025-26)

SUBJECT : ENGLISH ELECTIVE

CLASS - XII

TIME : 03:00 Hours

M.M. : 80

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow- 12
1. We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimages we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfil our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful. It works to find shortcuts in simple and easy ways.
 2. Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead, we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the Supreme.
 3. All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on Vedic treatises; assists in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.
 4. The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude, they have allowed themselves to sink to. Nature is everyone's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later come and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.
 5. Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead, creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates. Buy vitamins and supplements
 6. This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with environment. What is

worse is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!

7. We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals this is what translates into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.

8. A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts.

9. This is the truth! On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer the questions that follow with the help of the given options: $1 \times 2 = 2$

(a) How can a pilgrim keep his body healthy?

(i) By travelling light

(ii) By eating a small amount of food

(iii) By keeping free from attachments

(iv) Both (i) and (ii)

(b) How do we satisfy our ego?

(i) By having a special darshan

(ii) By distributing alms

(iii) By treating it like a picnic

(iv) Both (i) and (ii)

Answer the following as briefly as possible:

$1 \times 6 = 6$

(c) What change has taken place in our attitude towards pilgrimages?

(d) What happens when pilgrimages are turned into picnics?

(e) Why are we complacent in our spiritual efforts?

(f) How does nature respond when we try to be clever with it?

(g) In olden days with what attitude did people go on a pilgrimage?

(h) What message does the passage convey to the pilgrims?

(i) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

$1 \times 2 = 2$

(i) made/turned (para 3)

(ii) very satisfied (para 4)

2. Read the given analytical paragraph and answer the questions that follow-

$4 \times 1 = 4$

Mental health awareness has gained significant traction in recent years as society recognises its importance in overall well-being. Mental health issues affect millions worldwide; however, stigma often prevents individuals from seeking help. This stigma can lead to feelings of isolation and despair among those struggling with mental health conditions.

Raising awareness about mental health is crucial for fostering understanding and empathy within communities. Educational programs can help dispel myths surrounding mental illness and encourage open discussions about emotional well-being. Furthermore, workplaces that prioritise mental health create supportive environments where employees feel safe discussing their challenges without fear of judgment.

Access to mental health resources is also essential for effective treatment. Governments should invest in mental health services that provide support for individuals in need. By promoting mental health awareness and resources, society can work towards breaking down barriers that hinder individuals from seeking help.

Questions: (Attempt Any Four)

1. Why is mental health awareness important, according to the passage?
2. What negative effects does stigma have on individuals with mental health issues?
3. How can educational programs contribute to mental health awareness?
4. What role do workplaces play in supporting mental health?
5. What should governments do regarding mental health services?

3. Read the given poem and answer the questions that follow-

4×1=4

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.
Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Questions:

1. What does the speaker mean by "still, like dust, I'll rise"?
(a) She will remain silent. (b) She will overcome adversity.
(c) She will disappear completely. (d) She will fall into despair.
2. How does the speaker describe her confidence?
(a) Like oil wells pumping in her living room. (b) Like a whispering breeze.
(c) Like a quiet stream. (d) Like a flickering candle.
3. What natural elements are used to symbolize resilience in the poem?
(a) Trees and rivers. (b) Moons and suns.
(c) Mountains and valleys. (d) Stars and clouds.
4. What does the phrase "Does my sassiness upset you?" imply?
(a) She feels ashamed of her attitude.
(b) She challenges those who oppose her confidence.
(c) She wants to be more serious.
(d) She doesn't care about others' opinions.

Section B: Grammar and Writing

4. Transform the given sentences as per the given instructions (any eight)

8×1=8

1. Not only I but also my brother is attending the party. (Begin: My brother)
2. I cannot afford cakes therefore I celebrate with pastry. (Begin: Since)
3. You should not give any advice _____ you are asked.
(Fill in the blank with appropriate conjunction)
4. The news that the enemy had landed spread like wildfire.
(Use landing and rewrite the sentence)
5. She has told him something. He knows only that much.

(Combine by using as much as)

6. In spite of atrocious weather, they celebrated Christmas.

(Begin: Despite)

7. She would rather die than beg.

(Begin: She prefer)

8. My mother said to me," You are the apple of my eye."

(Convert into indirect speech)

9. She is so small that she does not look her age.

(Use too---to)

10. Ritvik was preparing a new performance.

(Convert into passive voice)

5. Present your views on the given topics-

(i) Cashless economy and net banking is the new revolution in banking sector, but it has certain threats as well. Present your views on the topic 'Net Banking and Cashless Economy' in not more than 150 words. 5

(ii) Cases of gang wars, road rage and violence are day by day increasing. Youth is specifically getting affected by it. Present your views on the topic, "Growing Anger issues in Youth."

(iii) Cinema is not just meant for entertainment but also for educating the young generation, but in the modern times, it has done more harm than benefit to the society. Present your views in about, 150 words on the topic, "Impact of Cinema'.

(iv) Write an essay on the topic 'Role of Literature in Society.'

6. You are Samayra/ Saumya the editor of your school magazine. Write a report about the 'Career Guidance Seminar' held in your school to be published in the school magazine.

OR

Our ancient tradition and culture was not just a legend or folklore but a scientific tradition, which enabled India to be a 'Vishvaguru', Write an article on the topic 'Our Vaidik Culture'

Section C: Literature

7. **Read the given extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow-** **6**

Gazing at her, he knew his love had returned with full force. Already, he was trembling at the thought that they might soon have to part. The excitement and expectancy of youth filled him. He wanted to take her in his arms and kiss her, but at any moment someone might come in. He stood beside her, ashamed that he had married someone else, that he had not confirmed the reports of her death. 'How could I have suppressed all this love? How could I have accepted the world without her? And what will happen now with Gretl? - I'll give her everything, my last cent.' He looked round towards the stairway to see if any of the guests had started to come up.

(i) Name the writer who authored this piece of literary work?

(ii) What is the reference of this extract?

(iii) Who are the people involved in the description of this extract?

(iv) Who is Gretl?

(v) What is the tone of the author in this extract?

(vi) Find a synonym for the word, 'hope'.

OR

She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question. In her home anyway she had shelter and food; she had those whom she had known all her life about her. Of course she had to work hard both in the house and at business. What would they say if they found out that she had run away with a fellow? Say she was a fool, perhaps; and her place would be filled up by advertisement. Miss Gavan would be glad. She had always had an edge on her, especially whenever there were people listening.

- (i) Who is the 'she' mentioned here?
- (ii) What is she contemplating?
- (iii) Which literary device is used here?
- (iv) Who is Miss Gavan?
- (v) What does the protagonist do?
- (vi) What is the tone of the author?

8. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow-

6

I looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.
Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,
Attend upon them still.

- (i) Who has written this poem?
- (ii) Why is the poet's heart sore?
- (iii) What do the swans represent?
- (iv) What is the essence of this stanza?
- (v) What does it mean by companionable?
- (vi) Describe the contrast discussed here?

OR

Bright Flowers slit a Calyx
And soared upon a Stem
Like Hindered Flags - Sweet hoisted -
With Spices - in the Hem -
'Twas more - I cannot mention -
How mean - to those that see
Vandyke's Delineation
Of Nature's - Summer Day!

- (i) Name the poem and the poet?
(ii) What does it mean by hindered flag?
(iii) Which category would you place the poem in?
(iv) Why does the poet use the description of Vandyke?
(v) Why is it meant to those who see Vandyke's delineation?
(vi) Describe the central idea of the poem?
9. Why does the poet call time envious? 2

OR

- Give any two examples of the argumentative tradition breaking the barriers of gender?
10. What does it mean by the astral body hovering in the world of twilight? 3

OR

- What is tremulation upon the ether? How are the thoughts like a tremulation upon the ether?
11. How is Tagore's Chandaliika different from its source story and how does it deal with the caste discrimination and its impacts in the society? 5

OR

- A wedding in Brownsville beautifully describes the tragic experience and of Holocaust and its lasting impact onto the survivors? Elaborate with reference to the character of Dr. Solomon Margolin.
12. Mention the initial days of Raja in the forest. 2

OR

- How does Margayya's initial success as a financial expert contribute to his downfall later in the story?
13. "Rita presents an example of a perfect Indian wife." Explain. 3

OR

- What suspicions did Margayya have about the temple priest?
14. "R.K. Narayan succeeds in giving human qualities to the Tiger." Discuss. 5

OR

"A man whom the goddess of wealth favours need not worry much. He can buy all the knowledge he requires. He can afford to buy all gifts that goddess Saraswati holds in her palm" In the light of the above lines, elaborate the relation of the human and divine realms in R. K. Narayan's 'The Financial Expert'.