



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BOARD SAMPLE PAPER - III (2025-26)

SUBJECT :- ENGLISH ELECTIVE

Time : 03:00 Hours

CLASS - XII ARTS

M.M. - 80

Section A: Reading

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow-

1. Can you imagine a college without walls, professors or classrooms? Educator Bunker Roy can. More than 40 years ago, Roy, now 69, founded the Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan. His school admits rural women, often grandmothers and teaches them the basics of solar engineering and freshwater technology. His efforts have yielded enormous benefits. When the women return to their homes, they are trained enough to provide their communities, some of the world's most lonely places, with electricity and clean water. They also gain something important: a newfound self-confidence. The Barefoot model has already been used to empower women throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Last year, former President, Bill Clinton presented Roy with a Clinton Global Citizen Award, which honours leaders who are solving the world's problems in effective ways.

2. If you go all over the world, to very remote villages, you will often find only very old people and very young people. The men have already left. So two ideas were put into practice in order to make the Barefoot Model work. First it was declared that men are untrainable, restless, always ready to move, ambitious, and they all want a certificate to show for their efforts. And the moment you give one of them a certificate, he leaves the village looking for a job in the city. That is how, the simple, practical solution of training grandmothers came up. They are sympathetic, tolerant, willing to learn, and patient. All the qualities you need are there. And the second idea was not to give out certificates. Because the moment a certificate is given, a woman, like a man, will see it as a passport for leaving rural areas and going to urban areas to find a job.

3. Barefoot College follows the lifestyle of Mahatma Gandhi: Students eat, sleep, and work on the floor. They can work for 20 years or they can go home the next day. As of today, 604 women solar engineers from 1083 villages in 63 countries have been trained. The engineers have given solar power to 45,000 houses. These were done by women who had never left their homes before. They hate the idea of leaving their families and getting on a plane. When they reach India, sometimes after 19 hours of travel, they are faced with strange food, strange people, and a strange language. All the training is done in sign language. Yet in six months, they will know more about solar engineering than most university graduates. Some women face problems at home for attending college. Most of the husbands do not like their wives going to these colleges and tell

them not to come back if they do so. But, on her return when she is able to help provide her village with solar electricity, her husband wants her to get back home. The respect she now has is enormous and she considers herself no less than solar engineers. Bunker Roy dreams of providing the world's 47 least developed countries with Barefoot College trained grandmothers and solar electrify more than 1,00,000 houses.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer the questions that follow with the help of the given options: 1×2=2

(a) Why did the promoter of Barefoot Model decide to train grandmothers?

- (i) Men do not want to be trained.
- (ii) Grandmothers were patient, willing to learn and tolerant.
- (iii) Men are lazy, want to make money.
- (iv) Men and women are not skilled.

(b) The attitude of the husbands to their wives on their return from training is different because

- (i) of the respect they gain from the villagers
- (ii) they were away for a long time
- (iii) they will again be looked after
- (iv) they will not go back

Answer the following questions briefly:

1×6=6

(c) How is Barefoot College different from other colleges?

(d) What did the women gain from the college apart from technology?

(e) Why were certificates not given out after training?

(f) What are the difficulties the women have to face during their travel and their life in Tilonia, Rajasthan?

(g) How do the women consider themselves professionally, after their training?

(h) What is the narrator's dream about solar electrification?

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

1×2=2

(i) many/great in size (para 1)

(ii) far off (para 2)

2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow-

The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the * drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry' Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer any four of the questions given below. **1×4=4**

- (i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'.
- (ii) What reason did the publishers give for rejecting Rowling's book?
- (iii) What was the drawback of achieving fame?
- (iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket?
- (v) Find a word in the last para that means the same as 'insecure/helpless'.

3. Read the given poem carefully and answer the questions that follow- **4×1=4**

I'm an angel in disguise,
With dimpled cheeks and laughing eyes.
Don't you want me?
I have come as your little dream,
To fill your life with joy, it seems.
I'll dance in your heart, sweet and light,
And bring you love both day and night.
With every giggle, every smile,
I'll make your life so worthwhile.
So hold me close, don't let me go,
For I am the love you'll come to know.
In every moment, I will be,
The laughter and joy you see in me.

- 1. What does the unborn girl describe herself as?
(a) A monster (b) An angel in disguise (c) A fairy (d) A dream
- 2. What does she promise to bring into the life of her parents?
(a) Sadness. (b) Joy and love. (c) Wealth. (d) Fear.
- 3. How does the unborn girl intend to make her parents feel?
(a) Tired and bored. (b) Happy and worthwhile.
(c) Angry and upset. (d) Confused.
- 4. What imagery is used to describe the girl?
(a) Dark and gloomy. (b) Dimpled cheeks and laughing eyes.
(c) Tall and slender. (d) Quiet and shy.

Section B: Grammar and writing

4. **Transform any eight of the given sentences as per the instructions given-** **8×1=8**
1. Coming home she had her lunch. **(Begin: She....)**
 2. Besides being beautiful the girl is intelligent. **(Use: not only....but also)**
 3. He was ill, but he sat for the exam. **(Begin: In spite of....)**
 4. You must study hard to get good marks. **(Use: otherwise....)**
 5. He was guilty, and he ran away. **(Begin: Being...)**
 6. In spite of being long the book is interesting. **(Use: but...)**
 7. Study hard or you will fail. **(Use: lest...)**
 8. I have a friend and she is a writer. **(Use: who...)**
 9. Read more, and your writing capability will increase. **(Begin: If....)**
 10. Practice hard, or you cannot become a good singer. **(Begin: Unless....)**
5. **Write a long composition based on the given questions-** **5×3=15**
1. Scientists predict that all people will choose to talk the same global language in the future. Do you think this is a positive or negative development? Write an essay in not more than 150 words.
 2. Many crimes are often related to the consumption of alcohol. Some people think that the best way to reduce the crime rate is to ban alcohol. Do you think this is an effective measure against crime? What other solutions can you suggest?
 3. New household appliances have resulted in more free time for women and has enable them to both work and run a home with dependent children. What are the advantages for a family when the mother works? Do you think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages? Write a speech on the given topic.
 4. Art is considered an essential part of all cultures throughout the world. However, these days fewer and fewer people appreciate art and turn their focus to science, technology and business. Present your views about this topic giving effective suggestions to encourage people to take interest in arts.
 6. Nowadays students attend coaching classes early in the morning or after school hours. You feel that this trend makes them tired, affects their health and so their grades. Write an article in 120-150 words to make the students understand how this is not very helpful in improving the grades and is a waste of their precious time. You are Ram/ Rani.

OR

Cultural Society Sunshine Public School, Nellore organized an adult literacy camp in its neighbourhood. Write a report in 120-150 words on the camp for your school newsletter. You are P.V. Sunitha, Secretary.

Section C : Literature

7. **Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow-** **6×1=6**
- Her time was running out but she continued to sit by the window, leaning her head against the window curtain, inhaling the odour of dusty cretonne. Down far in the avenue she could hear a street organ playing. She knew the air. Strange that it should come that very night to remind her of the promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could. She remembered the last night of her mother's illness; she was again in the close dark room at the

other side of the hall and outside she heard a melancholy air of Italy. The organ player had been ordered to go away and given six-pence. She remembered her father strutting back into the sick-room saying: 'Damned Italians! coming over here!'

1. Name the collection from which this chapter 'Eveline' has been taken.
2. Who is referred as 'She' in this chapter?
3. What promise did she make to her mother?
4. What does the melancholic air of Italy symbolize?
5. What is she contemplating in the current scene?
6. Name the author who has written this creation?

OR

And yet, as a debate in which there are two reasonable sides, the epic Mahabharata itself presents, sequentially, each of the two contrary arguments with much care and sympathy. Indeed, the tragic desolation that the post-carnage land - largely the Indo-Gangetic plain - seems to face towards the end of the Mahabharata can even be seen as something of a vindication of Arjuna's profound doubts. Arjuna's contrary arguments are not really vanquished. No matter what the 'message' of the Bhagwad Gita is meant to be. There remains a powerful case for 'faring well' and not just 'forward'.

1. Who wrote this creation?
2. Which reference is being used here and why?
3. What is Mahabharata?
4. What is the matter of debate in the 'Bhagwad Gita'?
5. What were Arjuna's doubts?
6. What proves the doubts of Arjuna to be legitimate?

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

6×1=6

And mutual fear brings peace;
Till the selfish loves increase.
Then cruelty knits a snare,
And spreads his baits with care.

1. Name the poem from which the extract has been taken?
2. Name the poet of this poem?
3. What do you infer from the first line of this stanza?
4. Which poetic device is used in the third line of this stanza?
5. Which poetic device is used in 'selfish love'?
6. What is the tone of the poet?

OR

Beating their gongs round the clock,
Each slightly
Off the other's time, deeper or lighter
In its bronze, beating out a different
Sequence each half hour, out of the accidents
Of alloy

1. Who wrote this poem?
 2. What is the central idea of this poem?
 3. What does it mean by the accident of alloy?
 4. Why is there difference between the sounds of the gongs?
 5. Why is each clock tower slightly off the other's time?
 6. What is the tone of the poet?
9. Discuss the significance of the title 'I Sell My Dreams'. 2
- OR**
- Why do most people find it easier to conform, imitate and follow a self appointed guru?
10. What does Prakriti mean by, "I am your handmaid"? 3
- OR**
- How has Yeats deployed Swans to portray his longing for the lost past?
11. Why does Lawrence call the novel the "book of life"? 5
- OR**
- How does Dr. Margolin react towards his past and how does his past affect his present life?
12. What is R.K. Narayan's aim in creating the character of Raja? 2
- OR**
- How does Raja consider himself different from the tiger next door?
13. Why does the master say, "We must have a tiger for every village"? What does it signify. 3
- OR**
- Write in brief the encounter between Alphonse and the master.
14. The novel, 'A Tiger for Malgudi' presents a unique narrative technique and different story line in order to contemplate human tendencies. Comment. 5
- OR**
- Analyze Captain's character as a symbol of human arrogance and greed, and how his methods ultimately lead to his downfall.

