



PREBOARD EXAMINATION (2021-22)

TERM I - SET-B

Subject: ENGLISH (Core)

Max. Marks: 40

Grade: 12

Time: 90 MIN

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections.
2. Section A-READING has 18 questions. Attempt a total of 14 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
3. Section B-WRITING SKILLS has 12 questions. Attempt a total of 10 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
4. Section C-LITERATURE has 30 questions. Attempt 26 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
5. All questions carry equal marks.
6. There is no negative marking

SECTION A

Reading Comprehension

- I.** Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world. They grow to be as high as 380 feet. Compare that to an American football field, which is 300 feet long. A redwood would impress you if you stood near one. But why do they grow so tall?

It's hard to see from the ground, but the redwoods are competing. They are fighting with each other to get the most sunlight. The trees that get the most sunlight grow taller. Trees that get stuck under other trees do not get as much light. They lose the opportunity to grow taller. So redwoods must grow taller to compete or they will get trapped on the bottom.

Growing so tall is risky. The wind is more threatening to a tall tree. It is also hard to grow so much. Redwoods use all their energy to grow tall. The trees might be better off if they didn't have to grow so tall to survive. Their lives would be safer and easier. But there is no way for them to coordinate. They cannot agree to stop growing as tall as possible. So they compete their whole lives.

People face similar challenges. For example, nations spend a lot of money to protect themselves from other nations. The US spends more than half its budget on defense. Most other nations spend 10-30% of theirs on arms and armies. That's a lot of money.

We could spend that money on schools, roads, and parks. We could spend it on feeding hungry people or helping the environment. We could spend it on advancing art, philosophy, or science. So why don't we?

The problem is that if a nation has no military, then they face the risk of invasion. A nation with a mighty army may take their resources and destroy them on a whim.

Like the redwoods, which grow taller to their own *detriment*, we are locked in a harmful race. Most people agree that world peace is better than an arms race. In a peaceful world, we could use all our resources to make our lives better.

That sounds nice, but what if one nation broke the agreement? What if they built an army in secret? What if they used their secret army to destroy us? Can we afford to take that risk? Most nations decide that they cannot. Rather, they choose to spend a lot of money on defense programs.

People face similar challenges. For example, nations spend a lot of money to protect themselves from other nations. The US spends more than half its budget on defense. Most other nations spend 10-30% of theirs on arms and armies. That's a lot of money.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, attempt any **EIGHT out of TEN questions** by choosing the correct option.

- Q1. Why does the author believe that redwoods grow so tall?
- A. They are in a life-or-death fight for sunlight.
 - B. They want more oxygen, which is higher in the atmosphere.
 - C. They want more rain, so they race toward the clouds.
 - D. They want more exposure to wind, so they grow high.
- Q2. Which best describes the author's purpose in the FIFTH paragraph?
- A. To propose ways that we could fix the redwoods and save the forests
 - B. To make a wish list of what he would do if he were the president
 - C. To explain how our government is corrupt and evil
 - D. To list how tax money could be better spent than on defense
- Q3. Why does the author think that it'd be better for redwoods if they were shorter?
- A. Growing wider helps the tree to get more sun.
 - B. Growing tall is dangerous and hard.
 - C. Growing tall is boring and time-consuming.
 - D. Growing wider helps the tree get more wind.
- Q4. What risk do redwoods take if they stop growing taller?
- A. They will have less access to wind and water.
 - B. The wind is more likely to knock them over.
 - C. They are more likely to be harmed in a war.
 - D. Other trees will take their sunlight.
- Q5. With which statement would the author most likely AGREE?
- A. Spending tax money on defense is wasteful and we should NOT do it.
 - B. Spending tax money on defense is the best thing we can do as a species.
 - C. Spending tax money on defense is wasteful but we should still do it.
 - D. Spending tax money on defense is good because missiles help people.
- Q6. Which best defines the word *detriment* as used in paragraph 7? Use the context clues.
- A. To make things worse
 - B. To make things better

C. To keep things about the same

D. To come to an agreement

Q7. According to the text, a nation that doesn't spend on defense faces which risk?

A. They will not be able to control their citizens.

B. They will not be able to invade other lands.

C. Another nation may invade and destroy them.

D. Another nation may want to trade with them.

Q8. According to the text, which statement is TRUE?

A. Most nations spend around a quarter of their budgets on defense.

B. Most nations spend more than half of their budgets on defense.

C. Most nations spend almost none of their budgets on defense.

D. Most nations spend all of their budgets on defense.

Q9. With which statement would the author most likely DISAGREE?

A. Redwoods use a lot of energy to grow so tall.

B. There are no downsides to maintaining a strong army.

C. Growing too tall is dangerous for a tree.

D. Defense budgets use a lot of resources.

Q10. Which statement best expresses the MAIN IDEA of this text?

A. SOME competitions are harmful to ALL competitors.

B. ALL competitions are good for ALL competitors.

C. NO competitions are good for ANY competitors.

D. NO competitions are harmful to ANY competitors.

II. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Like many people acting on the desire to eat healthy and local, Acropolis resident Eduardo Jimenez decided to plant a garden in his backyard. He tilled the soil, he planted the seeds, and he even erected a fence to keep out the deer. Eduardo did everything right. Or so it seems. Harvest time has come, and he has not one tomato, bean, or leaf of lettuce to show for his hard work. How did this happen? The answer comes in the form of a small, brown, particularly smelly insect: the stink bug.

Unlike their fastidious cousins, stink bugs feed on some 300 species of plants, including figs, mulberries, corn, and citrus fruits as well as soybeans, legumes, and weeds. Although they do little damage to the plant itself, they make the fruits and vegetables unmarketable. For this reason, stink bugs pose the most serious threat to the big agriculturalists and macro farm operators. Macro farmers have more invested in their produce, and therefore have more to lose. While hobbyists like Eduardo are left to face the disappointment of an unsuccessful garden, macro farmers are forced to live with the loss of entire tracts of cash crops—a fact that has left many barely able to clothe their children or put food on the table. Last season alone, several New Jersey pepper farmers saw 75% of their crops damaged. Pennsylvania lost half of its peach population, and, according to the US Apple Association, apple farmers in the mid-Atlantic states lost \$37 million. This year could be worse.

As a result of this decline in the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables, shoppers have seen adjustments—sometimes quite dramatic—in prices at the grocery store. Prices of apples in Maryland are up 8%. In the north-Atlantic states, prices for peppers shot up an astounding

14%. Not only are these items becoming more expensive, but they are also getting harder to find. Last week, Marge Jenkins of Athens, Georgia reported having to check three different stores before stumbling upon a decent batch of peas. And this, she assures us, is a regular occurrence.

Accidentally brought from Asia, the stink bug has no natural predators in America, and thus its population is soaring. Reported sightings of stink bugs are becoming increasingly numerous, as the desiccated, brown, trapezoidal shells of the dead bugs are ubiquitous in some areas. This has farmers and scientists alike scratching their heads in search of a remedy. Hope, they believe, may lie with an Asian parasitic wasp, which helpfully lays its eggs inside stink bug eggs. The larvae of the wasp devour the stink bug from the inside. Implementation of such a solution is still several years away, as scientists must first determine if it is safe for the wasp to be introduced into America. Until then, some farmers are resorting to homemade traps. Others have even contemplated the use of peacocks and praying mantises, which, they hypothesize, will gulp down the little stinkers

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, attempt any **SIX out of EIGHT questions** by choosing the correct option.

- Q11. It is typically a good idea to begin a new paragraph with a transition sentence. Transition sentences are used to introduce a new idea, and to make a smooth shift from the previous paragraph to the next. This helps prevent the reader from getting lost or confused. Using this information, which of the following is the best transition sentence to insert at the beginning of paragraph 2?
- A. An increasing number of them have been found in North America, occupying over half of the continental United States as well as Mexico and parts of Canada.
 - B. Unbeknownst to Eduardo, the local population of stink bugs has increased dramatically over the last decade, especially in and around the town of Acropolis.
 - C. A member of the Pantatomidae family, stink bugs surprisingly do not share the eating habits of related insects.
 - D. Brown marmorated stink bugs, which first appeared in America in the late 1990s, are now found in over 30 states.
- Q12. Based on its use in paragraph 2, it can be inferred that fastidious belongs to which of the following word families?
- A. forward, assertive, proactive
 - B. demanding, particular, critical
 - C. delicate, insubstantial, frail
 - D. passionate, fervent, avid
- Q13. In paragraph 2, the author most likely refers to people like Eduardo as "hobbyists" in order to
- A. illustrate the type of person who plants a home garden
 - B. characterize the type of person who is most likely to be affected by stink bugs
 - C. emphasize the idea that gardeners are relatively unskilled compared to farmers
 - D. juxtapose the impact of stink bugs on gardeners with that on farmers
- Q14. According to the author, what is the biggest problem resulting from stink bugs?
- A. Hobbyists like Eduardo Jimenez are unable to eat healthy and local.
 - B. Fresh fruits and vegetables are becoming harder to find.

- C. Peppers and apples are becoming increasingly scarce.
D. Macro farmers are losing their crops.
- Q15. Based on the information in paragraph 3, it can be inferred that an increase in supply results in
A. a decrease in price
B. an increase in demand
C. low availability
D. reduced importance
- Q16. Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?
A. The fight against stink bugs is hopeless.
B. There is a possible remedy to the stink bug problem, but it is unlikely to succeed.
C. In hopes of eradicating stink bugs, several solutions are in the works.
D. While the stink bug problem is difficult, most believe it to be short-lived.
- Q17. Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that
I. Macro farmers commonly use pesticides, artificial hormones, and other synthetic materials.
II. Until a solution to the stink bug problem is found, it is probably not a good time to start a home garden in Washington DC.
III. Introducing foreign insects to closed environments can cause hazardous imbalances.
- A. I only
B. II only
C. I and II only
D. II and III only
- Q18. As used in the final paragraph, which of the following describes something that is ubiquitous?
A. On Valentine's Day, our school was littered with little pink love notes. I even found one stuck to my shoe when I got home.
B. Ignacio counted eight purple trucks on the way to work today. He is in the market for a new truck and would like to get a color that nobody else already has.
C. The copier malfunctioned and showered paper all over the room. It took Earnest twenty minutes to clean it up.
D. Upon taking the hot dogs from the fire, flies swarmed the campers. Jaime wished he had brought bug spray.

SECTION B WRITING

- III. Answer **any four** out of the **five questions** given, with reference to the context below.

REQUIRED a young, dynamic, smart, charismatic and friendly female receptionist for Sunrise Global School, Agra. Attractive salary with fringe benefits...

- Q19. Select an appropriate title for the advertisement.

- A. SITUATION AVAILABLE
B. SITUATION REQUIRED

C. SITUATION WANTED

D. SITUATION VACANT

- Q20. What should be the most appropriate educational qualification of the candidate?
- A. MBA
 - B. B.Ed.
 - C. B.A/BSc. /B. Com
 - D. None of the above
- Q21. What other required skills of the candidate can be included in the content?
- A. Good communication skills
 - B. Sporting skills
 - C. Soft Skills
 - D. (A) and (C)
- Q22. With reference to the above advertisement, select the correct order of the body of the advertisement.
- A. Contact info, personal qualities, academic qualifications, benefits of the job
 - B. Academic requirements, personal qualities, benefits of the job, contact info
 - C. Personal qualities, benefits of the job, academic requirements, contact info
 - D. Personal qualities, academic requirements, benefits of the job, contact info
- Q23. What should not be included in the contact information of the advertisement?
- A. Personal email ID
 - B. School email ID
 - C. Pin code
 - D. Local address

IV. Answer **any six** of the **seven questions** given, with reference to the context below.
Radha G, a member of NGO AWAAZ wants to write a letter to the Editor of a national daily for a public movement to clean the Yamuna River. She must include in the letter how the people are to be blamed for polluting the river and give suggestions to tackle with the problem. the need for installing water treatment plant to clean the river)

- Q24. Select from the options an appropriate subject for Radha's letter.
- A. Stop River pollution
 - B. Initiative to start public movement
 - C. Appeal to public to keep Yamuna clean
 - D. All of the above
- Q25. Which of the following falls under the category of National daily?
- A. The Hindustan Times
 - B. Telegraph
 - C. The Sunday Times
 - D. Both (A) & (B)
- Q26. Which among the list given below is a valid cause for Yamuna pollution?
- A. Traffic jam
 - B. Garbage, sewage, filth
 - C. Illiteracy
 - D. Poverty
- Q27. What is not a consequence of such a problem?
- A. River water is full of bacteria & toxic material

- B. Unfit for consumption
 - C. Covered with silt & unwanted vegetation
 - D. Intense smog
- Q28. Select best possible solution that Radha can suggest in her letter.
- A. Water conservation
 - B. Rainwater harvest
 - C. Water treatment plant
 - D. Denitrification
- Q29. What is the purpose of writing this letter to the Editor?
- A. To notify the Editor
 - B. To arouse public awareness
 - C. To urge the Editor to take action
 - D. To press for prompt action by Jal Shakti
- Q30. Find the most appropriate complimentary close for her letter.
- A. Your's truly
 - B. Yours truly
 - C. Yours faithfully
 - D. Yours affectionately

SECTION C

Literature

This section has sub-sections: V, VI, VII, VIII, IX. There are a total of 30 questions in the section. Attempt any 26 questions from the sub-sections V to IX.

- V. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:**
- ” My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive. “What a thunderclap these words were to me!
- Q31. Why does M Hamel want the students to be attentive?
- A) Because it is his last French lesson
 - B) Because the order has come from Berlin
 - C) Because he is about to reveal the humiliating defeat of the French
 - D) Because the government officer is on a visit.
- Q32. Which order from Berlin is called as “thunderclap” by Franz?
- A) The order to continue teaching in German
 - B) The order to stop teaching French
 - C) The order to execute anyone in Alsace & Lorraine
 - D) The order to demolish the school building
- Q33. How would you describe Franz ‘s tone when he says, —’What a thunderclap these words were to me’”?
- A) Angry
 - B) Gloomy
 - C) Perplexed
 - D) Irritated

- Q34. Statement I: M Hamel had been subjected to mental torture with the decision taken, that only German would be taught in Alsace and Lorraine.
Statement II: Nobody except Franz was able to realize the pain in M Hamel 's eyes.
- A) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false
B) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true
C) Both Statement I & II cannot be inferred from the passage
D) Both Statement I & II can be inferred from the passage
- Q35. In which of the following options can the underlined words not be replaced with “wretch ‘?”
- A) The beggar has broken my car window.
B) Items like a stick and grenadier are now variable.
C) He is a lonely and miserable rogue.
D) Before the poor knave had time to speak, he was shot.

VI. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

“I will learn to drive a car,” he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India’s glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

- Q36. How Mukesh is different from the other bangle makers?
- A) He wants to open his own bangle making company
B) He wants to become a pilot
C) He wants to open his own garage
D) He wants to be his own master
- Q37. The phrase “dreams looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets” indicates that Mukesh dream was
- A) A reality, yet seemed distant
B) Lost in the sea of dust
C) Illusory and indistinct
D) Hanging in the dusty air
- Q38. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in bangle making indicates that
- A) Bangle making is the only industry that flourishes in Firozabad
B) The entire population of Firozabad is involved in making bangles
C) Majority of population in Firozabad is involved in bangle making
D) Bangle making is most loved occupation in Firozabad
- Q39. Why is the writer calling it as his 'dream'?
- A) He cannot become a driver
B) He will not be allowed to go as per his wish and work else were
C) His parent will not allow him to work elsewhere
D) He is lazy and loves to daydream
- Q40. Which of the following quotes mentioned below confirms to the figure of speech used in the given extract?

- A. A room without books is like a body without a soul.
- B. Books are the mirrors of the soul.
- C. Illustrative books reach out to kids well.
- D. In this book, a smug caterpillar is slithering up a slope.

VII. Surely, Shakespeare is wicked,
The map a bad example ‘with ships and sun and love
Tempting them to steal - For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?’

- Q41. What all tempts these children?
- A. Pictures of Shakespeare
 - B. Pictures of sun, ships and love
 - C. Pictures of Tyrolean valley
 - D. All of these
- Q42. What does the expression ‘cramped holes’ imply?
- A. Small holes in school walls
 - B. Very small houses
 - C. Dingy congested shacks
 - D. None of above
- Q43. Who is the poet of these lines?
- A. W.B. Yeats
 - B. Stephen Spender
 - C. Robert Frost
 - D. Pablo Neruda
- Q44. What does the map represent?
- A. World of the rich and the corrupt
 - B. World of the poor
 - C. World of the slum children
 - D. World of natural beauty and prosperity
- Q45. What does “From fog to endless night” refer to?
- A. Children studying in a slum school
 - B. Children living in cramped holes
 - C. Bleak and uncertain future of the children
 - D. Slum children are victims of malnutrition

VIII Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There’s probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe — because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape — maybe that’s how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea.

- Q46. The above extract is NOT an example of _____.
- A) allegory
 - B) analogy
 - C) imagery
 - D) simile

- Q47. Charley decided not to tell his psychiatrist friend about his idea. Choose the option that reflects the reaction Charley anticipated from his friend.
- A) "That's such a lovely comparison. Why don't you become a writer, Charley?"
 - B) "Oh Charley. It is so sad to see your desperation to run away! So very sad."
 - C) "Maybe that's how you entered the third level. Who would have thought?!"
 - D) "You need help, my dear friend. You are way too invested in this crazy thought!"
- Q48. Look at the given expressions that lists some of the ways in which the symbolism of a tree is employed.
- Which of the following would represent an example as used by Charley in the above extract?

Be Like a Tree Stay grounded Connect with your roots Bend before you break Turn over a new leaf Enjoy the view Keep growing

- A) 'Stay grounded' as the train station is underground.
 - B) 'Connect with your roots' as he desires to go back to his past.
 - C) 'Enjoy the view' as the station leads to all tourist sights of the city
 - D) 'Keep growing' as the station keeps renovating and expanding.
- Q49. The idiom 'feeling its way' implies _____ movement.
- A) swift
 - B) tentative
 - C) circular
 - D) disorganized
- Q50. Who is a psychiatrist?
- A. A doctor who treats patients through therapy
 - B. A doctor who treats mental, emotional or behavioral behaviour
 - C. A doctor legally equipped to prescribe medications for mental well being
 - D. All of the above
- IX. Attempt the following.**
- Q51. "I landed in a sitting position, swallowed water, and went at once to the bottom". Which place narrator is talking about
- A) At Yakima with mother
 - B) At sea with father
 - C) At YMCA pool
 - D) At sea with instructor
- Q52. ASSERTION (A): Franz was tempted to stay out of doors.
REASON (R): The weather was warm; birds were chirping, and Prussian soldiers were drilling.
- (A) Both, A and R, are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
 - (B) Both, A and R, are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - (C) A is true but R is false
 - (D) A is false but R is true

- Q53. What is the theme conveyed through the title “My Mother at Sixty-Six”?
- Poet’s fear of losing her old mother
 - Poet’s fear of aging fast
 - Correlation between age and diseases
 - All of these
- Q54. Why does the poet wish to be without 'rush or engines' in “Keeping Quiet”?
- one would get time to self-introspect ones’ own activities
 - one would think of others’ activities
 - calmness in one's life
 - strangeness in one's life
- Q55. Why does Charley compare the station’s growth to a tree?
- it has many corridors and staircases
 - because of its consistent extension
 - it is an underground station
 - it is very huge
- Q56. What is hobby of stamp collecting called?
- Philately
 - Numismatist
 - Discophile
 - Bibliophile
- Q57. Why has the poet mentioned Whales and not fish?
- It is the staple food for the coastal people
 - Whales are killed for Commercial purpose
 - Whales are a type of fish
 - All of the above
- Q58. Why did Charley want to go to Illinois?
- in 1894 he could go anywhere in the United States
 - it was easy to get there
 - his friend Sam was there
 - he could lead an idyllic life there
- Q59. Dr. Sadao was not a ____ person
- patriot
 - an expert surgeon
 - compassionate
 - self- centred
- Q60. The chap that threw him into the pool was just for the sake of fun. Choose option mentioning the personality traits of this chap
- Persuasive
 - Irresponsible
 - Domineering
 - Manipulative
 - Callous
- 1, 2, 4
 - 2, 4, 5
 - 2, 3, 5
 - 1, 3, 5
