

CBSE Question Paper 2008
Delhi Set-2
CBSE Class-12 English Core

General Instructions:

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

SECTION - A
(READING)

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

1. The word 'depressed' in common usage means sad, frustrated, fed up, bored up and pessimistic. The mood of a depressed person is much lower at his or her best moments than the mood of the normal person at his or her worst. Depression is a state of mind. It is specifically a mental disorder characterized by a lowering of the individual's vitality, his mood, desires, hopes, aspirations and of his self-esteem.
2. Depression arising out of environmental factors is called reactive depression whereas depression arising out of some biochemical changes in the brain is called endogenous depression. If depression is mild or moderate and if the individual is in touch with his surroundings, it is known as neurotic depression. If the individual is severely disturbed and is not able to comprehend what is happening around, such a state is called psychotic depression.
3. Old age is one of the stages of human development, where a person attains wisdom, maturity, social and economic stability with social recognition and emotional fulfillment. Generally, societies show a great respect and consideration for the aged. In ancient times old people were considered as the guiding stars in Indian families, since they were symbols of tradition, respect, wisdom and experience. In primitive, ancient and medieval cultures, old

persons had a recognized social role. They were of great value because they could impart knowledge and skill to youngsters. The old people were considered as repositories of wisdom and traditions and were not perceived as problems.

4. At present, social structures and values are undergoing transformation from traditional to modern. There is a rapid stride in urbanization and industrialization leading to the breaking up of joint families and property. This has ultimately weakened the traditional families, social position and status of the aged in the family. From time to time changes in the institutions of marriage and family have diminished the control of parents over their children. It has increased the freedom of children and they view the aged as a useless and non-productive entity. Modernization has eventually led to the degradation of their status and authority. Consequently the integrity of the family and the existence of the elderly as an integral part of the family are being uprooted. The importance of their functional positions thus declines and consequently their authority and much of the respect and prestige that they enjoyed earlier get faded. These changes generally bring about depression in older people.

5. As old age advances even at home may also contribute more to their problems. The 'empty nest' feeling arising as a result of the grown up children leaving the home, daughter as a result of wedlock and sons leaving station in pursuit of higher education or jobs may make the aged more lonely. The loneliness also arises because of premature loss of spouse. This would deprive the person of a long standing emotional bond that had provided plenty of emotional succor and security. The loss wherever it might occur in the later years leaves the individual terribly lonely and at the mercy of the sons and daughter-in-law. Added to these the increasing gap and international stress and strain in the family may leave the elderly without peace of mind. The elderly as a result of these developments feel marginalized, alienated and left out of the main stream. The foregoing are the common problems faced by most of the elderly. These either directly or indirectly lead to a state of depression and make ageing for many an unwanted and unpleasant event to be abhorred.

6. Usually, the mild depression which is caused due to environmental factors is temporary. The person reconciles within a short time and tries to forget the loss. Kind words, and timely support of friends, relatives and family members help one recover from depression.

(a) (i) What does 'depressed' mean in common usage? (2)

(ii) What is reactive depression? (1)

(iii) What was the status of the old people in ancient India? (2)

(iv) What are the causes for disintegration of joint family system? (2)

(v) How does one recover from mild depression? (2)

Ans. (i) unhappy / sad / frustrated / fed up / mental disorder / bored up and pessimistic

(ii) depression arising out of environmental factors

(iii) – considered as guiding stars

– had a recognised social role

– were of great value as they could impart knowledge (any two)

(iv) – transformation of social structures and values from traditional to modern

– rapid stride in urbanisation and industrialization

(v) – with kind words

– timely support of friends, relatives and family members

(b) Pick out the words from the passage that mean the same as the following: 3x1=3

(i) decreased (para 4)

(ii) to feel that they do not belong to a group (para 5)

(in) a husband or wife (para 5)

Ans. (i) diminished / degradation / declines / weakened

(ii) alienated / marginalised / left out

(iii) spouse

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

A vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India, damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall patterns and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk, according to a new study.

The startling findings of scientists working with the United Nations Environment Programme indicate that the spectacular economic growth seen in this part of the world in the past decade may soon falter as a result of this pollution.

Research earned out in India indicates that the haze caused by pollution might be reducing winter rice harvests by as much as 10 per cent, the report said.

“Acids in the haze may, by falling as acid rain, have the potential to damage crops and trees. Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impacts of reduced sunlight on earth’s surface. The pollution that is forming the haze could be leading to several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases,” it said. Results from seven cities in India alone, including Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata, estimate that air pollution was annually responsible for 24,000 premature deaths in the early 1990s. I*y the mid-1990s they resulted in an estimated 37,000 premature fatalities.

“The haze has cut down sunlight over India by 10 per cent (so far) - a huge amount! As a repercussion, the North West of India is drying up,” Prof. V. Ramanathan said when asked specifically about the impact of the haze over India. Staling that sunlight was going down every year, he said. “We are still in an early stage of understanding of the impact of the haze.

Asked whether the current drought in most parts of India after over a decade of good monsoon was owing to the haze, he said, “it was too early to reach a conclusion. If the drought persists for about four to five years, then we should start suspecting that it may be because of the haze.”

India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover. The preliminary results indicate, that the buildup of haze, a mass of ash, acids, aerosols and other particles is disrupting weather systems, including rainfall and wind patterns and triggering droughts in western parts of the Asian Continent. The concern is that the regional and global impacts of the haze are set to intensify over the next 30 years as the population of the Asian region rises to an estimated five billion people.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. **(5)**

Ans. (a) NOTE MAKING

Distribution of Marks

Abbreviations / Symbols (with /without key) – any four Title

Content (minimum 3 sub-headings, with proper Indentation and notes)

Suggested Notes

Title: Pollution / Effects of Pollution / Global Impact of Pollution / Any other suitable title)

1. Effects of polln. (in S. E. Asia)

1.1 cuts sunlight – 10% in India

1.2 damages agri.

1.3 modifies rainfall patterns

1.4 people at risk / hindering eco. growth

2. Findings of UNEP

2.1 blanket of polln. across S. E. Asia

2.2 growth may falter

2.3 might reduce winter rice harvest

3. Research about India

3.1 acid rains damage crops & trees

3.2 ash on leaves reduces sunlight

3.3 respiratory diseases

3.4 2400 premature deaths

3.5 N. W. India drying up due to drought

4. Far reaching global impact

4.1 esp. in India, China, Indonesia due to

- popu. density
- economic growth
- depleting forest cover

4.2 effect

- haze disrupts weather system
- triggers drought in West Asia

(b) Write a summary of the passage in 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. **(3)**

Ans. Summary

The summary should include all the important points given in the notes.

Content

Expression

SECTION B

(ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

3. You lost your wrist watch in your school auditorium. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving a detailed description of the watch. You are Anirudh/ Arundhati of class XII of Spring fields School, Pune. **(5)**

OR

You are Dr. Madhu, M.D. You are looking for an independent house in Ghaziabad on a reasonable rent for your residence-cum-clinic. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Hindustan Times, New Delhi. Your telephone no is 12341234.

Ans. ADVERTISEMENT

Content

Expression

Suggested value points

(MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE / FOR SALE)

- make
- model
- mileage
- colour
- condition
- price expected
- contact name, address, phone

OR

NOTICE

Format

Content

Expression

Suggested value points

(SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN)

- day / date / time / name of school (venue)
- duration of camp

- age group
- creative skills (art, craft, clay modelling, music)
- last day of registration
- resource persons
- participation fee
- whom to contact

4. You are Amrit'Anuradha of B.M.B. Public School, Dalmianagar. Recently your school celebrated Environment Week. Giving details of the celebrations write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine. **(10)**

OR

You are Akash / Ambika. You attended a seminar arranged for class XII students by AMC School, Chennai on the topic, 'How to face the examination with confidence.' Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine. Invent the necessary details.

Ans. Suggested value points:

(PICKPOCKET)

- when
- where
- how the incident happened
- treatment given to the offender / pickpocket
- response and reaction of the passengers
- the outcome
- help from the police
- caution for others

OR

Suggested value points:

(EXHIBITION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

- when
- where the exhibition was organised
- duration
- how organised (displaying working models, charts, posters etc)
- participants from other schools
- chief guest, other visitors
- response of invitees

5. As Cultural Secretary, Himalaya Public School, Guntur, write a letter to the Director, C.C.E.R.T. New Delhi, requesting him to provide details of scholarships admissible to school students who secure distinction in music and dance. You are Vishal/Vinita. **(10)**

OR

You are In charge of Physical Education in your school, A.P.S. Moradabad. Write a letter to Messrs Pioneer Sports Co., Ambala, placing an order for a minimum of 4 sports items with details. Ask for the discount also. Sign as Raman.

Ans. LETTER WRITING

Format

1. sender's address, 2. date, 3. receiver's address, 4. Subject heading, 5. salutation, 6. complimentary close.

Content

Expression

Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling

Coherence and relevance of ideas and style

(LETTER TO EDITOR - STRAY ANIMALS)

Suggested Value Points

- highlighting the problem
- purpose of writing the letter
- problems caused (traffic jam, accidents, delays, littering, (eyesore) etc.
- attitude of the authorities
- suggested solutions
- request for early redressal of the problem by the concerned authorities

OR

(APPLICATION FOR JOB)

Suggested Value Points

- covering letter
- reference to post advertised / post applied for
- assurance of quality performance if given a chance
- resume (name, date of birth, father's name, educational qualifications &/or professional qualifications, work experience, references, salary expected, contact number)

[NOTE: Resume may be a part of the letter or written separately]

6. National Cadet Corps is an organization which not only inculcates discipline in the youth but also prepares them for the defence of the country. It also provides an opportunity to the students to participate in various other activities such as adventure, culture etc. Write an article in 150-200 words on the need to make N.C.C. compulsory in all schools in the country.

(10)

OR

Joint family system is gradually disintegrating in the country. Many elderly people get neglected because of the nuclear set up of families. It increases the need of homes for the aged. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic entitled “Should there be Homes for the Aged in India.”

Ans. ARTICLE WRITING

Format (Title and writer's name)

Content

Expression

Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling

Coherence and relevance of ideas and style

Suggested Value Points

(CAR – A STATUS SYMBOL?)

- owning cars not only for convenience but also a status symbol
- why people buy bigger cars and many cars
- problems caused (various types of pollution, traffic congestion, increase in road rage, delays, affecting physical and mental health)
- How can the problems be solved?
- improving public transport system – (metro, monorail, modern buses); curb on buying and owning more than one car per family, encourage car pools, introduce and implement stricter traffic rules
- any other relevant point (any four)

OR

Suggested Value Points

(VULGAR DISPLAY OF WEALTH IN MARRIAGES)

- unwanted pomp and show
 - inconvenience caused to the general public
 - wastage of food and drinks
 - misuse of fireworks and firearms
 - drunken brawls
 - complexes caused in those not so rich
 - creating unhealthy race for such vulgarities
 - any other relevant point (any four)
-

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

7. (a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

..... but soon
put that thought away, and
looked out at young
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes

- (i) Who looked out at young trees? **(1)**
- (ii) Which thought did she put away? **(2)**
- (iii) What do young sprinting trees signify? **(1)**

OR

Perhaps the Earth can teach us

as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

- (i) What does the earth us? **(2)**
- (ii) Why does the poet count up to twelve? **(1)**
- (iii) What will be keeping quiet help us achieve? **(1)**

Ans. (i) – embroidering / making designs

(ii) – feel the burden of an unhappy marriage / weight of wedding band / nervousness

(iii) – to express her hidden desire of freedom and fearlessness / escape from the constraints of the offensive and exploitative married life

OR

(i) – without rush / without engines

(ii) – by taking a break from the mindless obsession with movement and activities / keeping quiet for a while / counting up to twelve / introspection

(iii) – unusual quietness / stopping all activities

(b) Answer any three of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 3x2 = 6

(i) What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?

(ii) What does the poet wish for the children of the slums?

(iii) How does the poet describes Aunt Jennifer's tigers?

(iv) What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings? (A Thing of Beauty)

Ans. (i) – to highlight contrasting picture between old age (withering, fading) and young children full of life (jumping / sprinting happily)

– trying to distract herself from the pitiable condition of her dozing mother and look towards cheerful side of life

(ii) – the utter neglect of the slum children / their pathetic plight

– what can be done to release them from this misery (provide better opportunities for the betterment of their life)

(iii) – their death as grand as their life / their achievements remained grand even after their death / led a successful life, left glorious legacy / present reflects their past grandeur

(iv) – poor / poverty stricken / want betterment of their life – the life as shown in movies and promised by the politicians / feel the pinch of injustice of the disparity and economic inequality

8. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each: 5x2 = 10

(a) Garbage to them is gold. Why does the author say so about the ragpickers?

(b) How was the scene in the school in the morning of the last lesson different from that on other days?

(c) How did Shukla succeed in persuading Gandhiji to visit Champaran?

(d) Why did the 'boy' in the make-up department come to the author? Why was the author praying for crowd shooting all the time?

(e) 'The Name of the Rose' deals with medieval history. Was it responsible for the novel's success?

Ans. (a) – M. Hamel was dressed in his best dress which he used to wear on inspection and prize days

– whole school seemed strange and solemn (unusually quiet)

– village people sitting quietly in the classroom (any two)

(b) – frightened but not out of his wits; lungs ready to burst, felt suffocation, grew panicky, tried to yell, but could not, felt paralysed and rigid (any two)

(c) – Stephan Spender, poet and editor was invited by Vasan, the boss of Gemini Studio who was himself

(d) – told her brother that she met Casey in the arcade

– they had talked about his buying a shop / he did not have any girlfriends / she recognized him and confirmed whether he was Derry Casey / she asked him for an autograph for her brother, but he could not give it since neither of them had a paper or pen / she said they also talked about clothes in Roger's window and he wanted her to meet him next week so that he could give her the autograph (any one)

(e) – has a dream of better life by becoming a motor mechanic whereas the family wants him to continue with the trade of bangle making / family is fatalistic whereas Mukesh is Ambitious

9. Answer the following question in 125-150 words:

How did the swimming instructor 'build a swimmer' out of Douglas? **(10)**

OR

Why did the iron master's invitation to the peddler to spend Christmas eve with him make him think that he was going to fall into a trap?

Ans. Distribution of marks:

Content

Expression

Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling

Coherence and relevance of ideas and style

Value points:

– first contact with the people at grass root level

– demonstrated that the British could not order the Indians in their own country

- realised the importance of self-reliance
- got the confidence to fight for the rights of the common people
- came to know about the exploitation laws of the British masters
- the success of this venture proved to Gandhi that British power

(hitherto dreaded and unquestioned) could be uprooted by arousing conscience of the common man

OR

- consider an unnecessary intrusion into their private lives
- feel that it somehow diminishes them (lose a part of themselves)
- interview brings unwanted publicity and people pestering for autographs
- some consider it as crime, immoral, cowardly, vile, an assault on their personality

10. Answer the following question in 125-150 words:

How did Mr. Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life? (7)

OR

The world's geological history- is trapped in the Antarctica. How is the study of this region useful to us?

Ans. Distribution of marks

Content

Expression

Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling

Coherence and relevance of ideas and style

Value Points:

- kind, competent, generous, helpful, sincere to his duties as a doctor
- served the wounded American soldier – though their respective countries were at war
- believed in humanity and humane values more than narrow patriotism
- risked his and his wife’s life, and his reputation for the sake of conscience

OR

- wizard had changed the stinking smell of Roger Skunk into rose fragrance

No and Yes

- Yes because the wizard had done something against the nature and characteristics of skunks
- No because wizard had tried to help the little skunk so that he was not avoided by his friends because of his foul smell
- decided to punish the wizard by going back and hitting him / getting the original smell back

11. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each: 4x2 = 8

- (a) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charlie? Why?
- (b) What was the Dewan’s tiger like? How did he take it into the forest?
- (c) Hana told Yumi to wash the soldier. How did Yumi react?
- (d) How does Jo want the story to end and why?

Ans. (a) – Mr Lamb had a tin leg – real one blown off / kids called him Lamey Lamb / was not ashamed of his disability, instead, had a great sense of humour / loved life / was philosophical / jovial / happy-go-lucky / had a positive attitude / very practical / patient / understanding / positive / motivating hvd(any two)

(b) – that he was called “Evans the Break” by the prison officers

- thrice he had escaped from prison

(c) – 30 minute to reach home for a ten-minute walk

– she dawdled along watching all the fun and games that were going on the roadside

(d) – to prove the prophecy of the astrologer wrong that he would be killed by a tiger / since he had already killed ninety nine tigers he wanted to kill the hundredth also for a long life