 **VELAMMAL BODHI CAMPUS**

**(A CBSC –IIT/NEET Integrated senior Sec. School)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE** (Code No. 184)

**Unit Test – I**

**Grade: X Time Allowed:** 90 mins

**Date: 11.03.2024 Maximum Marks:** 40

**Section - A (10 Marks)**

**Reading Comprehension (10 Marks)**

**I.A Question No. 1 to 10 is based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (10)**

1. Mankind’s fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself. The ancient Egyptians held gold in high esteem. Gold had religious significance for them, and King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that whatever he touched be turned into gold.
2. Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light can pass through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver, and it is particularly important in modern electronic industry.
3. People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of people in their ruthless search for gold. Even today, the economy of South Africa’s gold mines depend largely on the employment of black laborers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus boarding and lodging. They work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners die in South Africa each year.
4. Much of the gold’s value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it can be stored in a vault 60 feet square, or a super tanker. Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Issac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. The discovery of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century in California, (1848) and later in Australia and South Africa changed everything. Before the discovery, there wasn’t enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal.
5. An out -  of -  work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa into the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal in a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given a 12 pounds reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and was eaten by a lion.
6. One of the biggest gold mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex - prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex -  guards.
7. Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 percent of the metal goes into making jewellery. Italy is the biggest consumer of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewellers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold. Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have had no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently, "You have to choose between trusting the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government," he said "and with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise to vote for gold."

**Questions:**

1. **Why did Egyptians hold gold in great esteem?**

a) because it is a good conductor of electricity. b) because it is indestructible.

c) because of its religious significance. d) for lovely gold ornaments

1. **According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?**

a) Gold plays an important role in the modern electronics industry.

b) Gold can be easily beaten, hence it is easy to work with.

c) Apart from gold, copper and silver are good conductors of electricity.

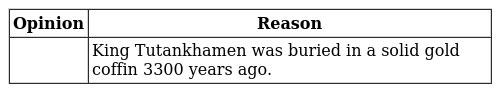
d) Gold is the best conductor of electricity.

1. **Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a) importance of religion b) can replace money

c) importance of the metal d) good conductor

1. **How were the black laborers exploited? (2)**
2. **Complete the following with the phrase from paragraph 1:**

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1. **Based on your reading of the text, list 2 reasons why the writer says that,Not only is gold beautiful but it is virtually indestructible. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Select the option that corresponds to the following:** *The ancient Egyptians and the modern electronic industry both hold gold in high esteem.*

a) Honesty is underrated whereas strategy is appreciated.

b) The hardworking student came first because of his diligent practice.

c) The vibrant colours made the interiors look luminous.

d) The steaming food was both appetizing and tasty

1. **Supply one point to justify the following:** The desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes. (2)

**Section – B (10 Marks)**

**Writing Skills (5 Marks)**

### II. Formal Letter Writing:

### A. You are Ashish/Astha, a resident of #254, Vigyan Vihar. Amla, Madhya Pradesh. You are worried to see your younger brother’s frequent habit of using internet as a homework tool. Taking ideas from the input given below and your own ideas, write a letter, in about 100-150 words to the Editor of a popular newspaper, expressing your opinion on the advantages and disadvantages of the dependence of youth and the computers in the present times. *(5 Marks)*

**OR**

### B. The washing machine you bought has started giving trouble and it is making a loud noise. Write a letter, in about 100-150 words, to the dealer about the same and request him to replace the washing machine at the earliest. Invent details on your own. You are Katrina/Kavi. *(5 Marks)*

**Grammar skills (5 Marks)**

**III. Complete the following questions: 5X1=5 Marks**

1. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: To ensure that this project gains strength, schools may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (organize) puppet shows and street plays.
2. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of the letter: Subject: Complaint about Poor Service. Dear Sir, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (will) like to draw your attention to the poor service provided by your technical team.
3. You look as if you are having trouble with your homework. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_you like me to help you with it?

a)May b)Did c)Could d) Would

1. I really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fishing with my friends, but unfortunately, I was down with the flu.

a) would rather go b) might go c) would like to have gone d) must go

1. Identify the error and supply correction for the following sentence. Use the given format for your response.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Error | Correction |
|  |  |

If you don’t start working harder, you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat the course next year.

**Section – C (20 Marks)**

**Literature**

**IV. Read the extract given below and attempt the questions that follow:**

**A**. **Question No. 1 to 5 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (5)**

***“"We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation". We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.”***

1.Who is the speaker?

a. Nelson Mandela b.Zenani c.Thabo Mbeki d.de Klerk

2. What pledge does he take?

a. To liberate his people from poverty

b. To make the nation free from suffering and deprivations

c. To devote himself to the wellbeing of his people

d. All of these

3. The NOUN for the word **emancipate** is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ​​​​​​

4. What has the speaker achieved? ​​​​​​ (2)

**(OR)**

**B. Question No. 1 to 5 are based on the given text. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** **(5)**

***“The way a crow***

***Shook down on me***

***The dust of snow***

***From a hemlock tree***

***Has given my heart***

***A change of mood***

***And saved some part***

***Of a day I had rued.”***

1. Trees can symbolize many things. Of many symbols, the hemlock tree represents, write the symbol that Frost drew upon in all likelihood, for this poem.

Symbol of Endurance: Oak Tree :: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : Hemlock Tree​​​​​​

2. Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem.

1.Reassured 2.Disappointed 3.Curious 4.Demotivated 5.Thankful 6.Disheartened 7.Impulsive

**Options:** a. i, iii and vii b. ii, iv and vi c. v and vii d. i and iii

3. Identify the option that DOES NOT use the word **rue** correctly.

1. The film was a disaster and he rued his decision to act in it.
2. I am sure she rued the day she listened to a fortune - teller.
3. It wasn’t long before I rued my disobedience and my deceit.
4. Others finally rue the one who is dishonest and heartless.

4. Synecdoche is a rhetorical device that uses a part to represent the whole. ***E.g., a great set of wheels!*** (Set of wheels has been used for car.) Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem. ​​​​​ (2)

**V. Answer *any three (3)* questions in not more than 40-50 words: 3X3=9 Marks**

1. There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated? ***(A Letter to God)***
2. What does the poet want to convey through the poem A Tiger in the Zoo?
3. Why did Hari Singh return to Anil, although he had stolen money and escaped easily?
4. How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?
5. ***"But if it had to perish twice"***; how will the world perish twice? Answer in the context of the poem Fire and Ice?

**VI. Answer any one of the following questions in not more than 120-150 words:**

**1X6=6**

1. Read the given anecdote and analyse the similarities and differences with reference to **A Letter to God**.

A very poor woman called - in a radio station asking for help from God. A non - believer, also listening to this radio program, decided to make fun of the woman. He got her address, called his secretary and ordered her to buy food and take it to the woman. However, the instruction was: "When the woman asks who sent the food, tell her that it’s from the devil." When the secretary arrived at the woman’s house, the woman was very happy and grateful for the help. The Secretary then asked her, "Don’t you want to know who sent the food?" The woman replied, "No, I don’t even care because when God orders, even the devil obeys!

**OR**

2. Hari Singh says -   **He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.** Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief’s Story.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **All the Best**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*