

# Maharashtra State Board

Stream : 12 (HSC) Commerce

Subject : English

Time : 3 Hrs (Oct-14)

Marks : 80

## Section A

(Reading Skills, Grammar, Vocabulary, Note-making and Summary)

- 1 A** **Read the following extract and answer the questions given below :** **11**
- I tramped back to the farm, drenched, shamed, furious, and picked the soggy bundle from the ash can. I dried it in the kitchen oven. Then I flung it on the table and set to work again with a kind of frantic desperation. I lost myself in the ferociousness of my purpose. I would not be beaten, I would not give in. I wrote harder than ever. At last, towards the end of the third month, I wrote finis. The relief, the sense of emancipation, was unbelievable. I had kept my word. I had created a book. Whether it was good, bad or indifferent I did not care.
- I chose a publisher by the simple expedient of closing my eyes and pricking a catalogue with a pin. I dispatched the completed manuscript and promptly forgot about it.
- In the day which followed I gradually regained my health, and I began to chafe at idleness. I wanted to be back in harness.
- At last the date of my deliverance drew near. I went around the village saying good-bye to the simple folk who had become my friends.
- As I entered the post office, the postmaster presented me with a telegram-an urgent invitation to meet the publisher. I took it straight away and showed it, without a word, to John Angus.
- The novel I had thrown away was chosen by the Book Society, dramatized and serialized, translated into 19 languages, bought by Hollywood. It has sold millions of copies.
- 1** What is the extract about ? **1**
- 2** What were the writer's reactions at the completion of his novel ? **2**
- 3** How did the Book Society popularize the writer's novel ? **2**
- 4** What qualities do you think are essential to achieve success ? **2**
- 5** Rewrite the following sentences in the ways instructed : **1**
- i** I flung it on table and set to work again. **1**
- (make it a simple sentence.)
- ii** I had created a book. **1**
- (Rewrite it using the Present Perfect Continuous tense.)
- iii** I went around the village saying good-bye to my friends. **1**
- (Rewrite it using the infinitive form of the underlined word.)

6 Match the words in Column 'A' with their meanings in Column 'B' :

1

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

i) Drenched

a) Slavery

ii) Emancipation

b) Completely wet

c) Shocked

d) Freedom

B Grammar (Do as directed) :

4

i It is paradoxical that ..... average consumer cannot decide which technology will offer him ..... highest standards of water purification.

1

(Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles.)

ii The lady took the girls ..... a hall where they met a few more girls who were waiting ..... her instructions.

1

(Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.)

iii "Why did you throw it away?" said the father to his son. "I didn't like," said the son.

2

(Change it into Indirect Speech.)

2 A Read the following extract and answer the questions given below :

11

Researchers recently announced the earth could actually stand up to 200,000 times the current population. They arrived at this figure by calculating the amount of heat a human body emits, and only at 1.3 million billion would the earth be too hot to be habitable. And though it would feel like being in a can of sardines if that figure were ever reached, the earth is capable of comfortably sustaining a population several times the current 6.5 billion.

11

In fact, fertility is actually on the decline worldwide. Though population has grown, the rate of growth has fallen sharply. Twenty years ago, the UN projected that population would reach 11.16 billion in 2050, today they say it will reach only 9.37 billion. Moreover, human population will stabilize at about 11.5 billion. While this figure is almost twice the current one, it is hardly claustrophobic.

True, the demands on resources are heavy even now, but this is more due to the manner in which these resources are being used. In fact, figures show that a bigger population does not amount to greater consumption. Over 20% of the world's people in the highest-income countries account for 86% of total private consumption expenditure—the poorest 20% a tiny 1.3%. With just 5% of the world's population, the US consumes about 40% of the world's resources. Would you say the US is overpopulated?

Concerns on scarcity of food are equally baseless. In fact, global food production has actually kept up with population growth.

- 1 What is the main idea of the first paragraph 1
- 2 What is the relationship between population and the available resources ? 2
- 3 Why do the researchers claim that earth is capable of sustaining a bigger population ? 2
- 4 What, according to you, are the problems caused by increasing population ? 2
- 5 Rewrite the following sentences in the ways instructed :
  - i The earth would be too hot to be habitable. (Remove 'too'.) 1
  - ii Ythough population has grown, the rate of growth has fallen sharply. (Rewrite it using 'but'.) 1
  - iii Moreover, human population will stabilize at about 11.5 billion. (Make it 'less definite'.) 1
- 6 Find out the words from the extract which mean : 1
  - 1) Natural capacity to produce
  - 2) Shortage.

B

**Note-making : Read the following extract and complete the table given below :**

Children are perpetually asking questions. As adults, we are awkward with questions. We link the act of asking questions to ignorance. It indicates that we do not know; hence we may look stupid when asking questions.

Children have no shame, whereas adults suffer from layers and layers of shame. Because children have no shame, they are more capable of failing at something and moving on from it. Our sense of shame makes us inhibited. So we do not try new things at work.

Children quickly make friends with strangers. Put two small kids alongside a few toys and they will start playing before they care to know about each other's antecedents. As adults, we seek the false comfort to known relationships before we agree to play with each other.

Children freely express their emotions; adults learn to suppress their emotional side. We come to the workplace and are frequently counselled, "Do not get emotional."

Children play. They find play in everything. Adults shun play and consider it the opposite of "serious work". To a child, every act is an act of play.

**Traits Linking Childhood and Adulthood :**

	Traits	Children	Adults
1	Asking questions	Perpetually ask questions freely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel awkward with questions</li> <li>• .....</li> </ul>
2	Feeling shame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel no shame</li> <li>• .....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffer from shame</li> <li>• Inhibited to try new things at work</li> </ul>
3	Making friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick in making friendship without knowing each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .....</li> </ul>

3 A Read the following extract and complete the table given below : 11

Organic farming is the form of agriculture that relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions. Organic farmers ensure soil fertility with the help of crop rotation, compost and other biologically-induced soil amendments. A healthy soil structure increases its ability to hold water and the plants become better equipped to resist diseases and insects and there is no need to depend on synthetic fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, plant growth regulators, livestock feed additives and genetically modified organisms, all of which are extremely harmful to the plants as well as human beings who consume them.

According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement : "Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved....." In India, the Green Revolution, which was water intensive and involved a heavy dose of chemical fertilizers, has not been a boon. Many farmers have seen the effects of chemical farming-soil erosion and loss of soil nutrients, loss of nutrition in food, and human diseases resulting from the chemicals that seep into the water table.

But organic farming is often hard for the farmers who have to invest considerable time, energy and resources to regenerate the soil and reestablish the delicate balance between soil, water, air, animals and the products more expensive, putting the burden on the consumers who choose to eat healthy.

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1   | What does the first paragraph focus on ?  | 1 |
| 2   | Why was the Green Revolution not a boon for Indian farmers?   | 2 |
| 3   | How is organic farming advantageous to farmers ?  | 2 |
| 4   | What agricultural problems, according to you, do farmers face ?   | 2 |
| 5   | Rewrite the following sentence in the ways instructed :   |   |
| i   | Organic farmers ensure soil fertility with the help of crop rotation.<br>(Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'Soil fertility')             | 1 |
| ii  | A healthy soil structure increases its ability to hold water.<br>(Frame a 'Wh-question' to get the underlined part as its answer.)          | 1 |
| iii | Chemical fertilizers are extremely harmful to the plants as well as human beings.<br>(Rewrite the sentence using 'not only ..... but also') | 1 |
| 6   | Find out the words from the extract which mean :  | 1 |
|     | i) Leak slowly  |   |
|     | ii) Substance added to improve something  |   |

B Summary :Write a summary of the above extract with the help of the following point and suggest a suitable title. 4

Organic farming — depends on — ensures soil fertility by — organic agriculture promotes- difficulty for farmers because — burden on consumer. 4

## Section B

### (Poetry)

- 4 A** **Read the following extract and answer the questions given below :** **4**  
**4**
- I celebrate the virtues and vices  
Of suburban middle-class people  
Who overwhelm the refrigerator  
And position colourful umbrellas  
Near the garden that longs for a pool :  
For my middle-class brother  
This principle of supreme luxury  
What are you and what am I, and we go on deciding the real truth in this world
- 1** How do the suburban middle-class people imitate the rich ? **1**  
**2** Why, according to you, do the middle-class people, long for items of luxury ? **1**  
**3** Pick out an example of 'Antithesis' from the extract. **1**  
**4** Pick out the expression from the extract which people use to compare their status with others. **1**
- B** **Read the following extract and answer the questions given below :** **4**  
**4**
- My father told the tenants to leave  
Who lived in the house surrounding our house on the hill  
One by one the structures were demolishd  
Only our own house remained and the trees  
Trees are sacred my grandmother used to say  
Felling them is a crime; but he massacred them all  
The sheoga, the oudumber the nem were all cut down  
But the huge banyan than all our lives  
My father ordered it to be removed.
- 1** What did the poet's grandmother say about trees ? **1**  
**2** How are trees helpful to mankind ? **1**  
**3** Name and explain the figure of speech in the following line : **1**  
"But the huge banyan tree stood like a problem."  
**4** Pick out the words from the extract suggesting destruction. **1**



## Section C

### (Rapid Reading and Composition)

- 5 A Read the following extract carefully and rewrite it from the point of view of the writer's mother : 4

You may begin with : 'there was certainly a skeleton in the cupboard and although my son had never seen it .....

4

Yes, there was a skeleton in the cupboard, and although I never saw it, I played a small part in the events that followed its discovery. I was fifteen that year, and I was back in my boarding school in Simla after spending the long winter holidays in Dehradun. My mother was still managing the old Green's hotel in Dehra-ahotel that was soon to disappear and become part of Dehra's unrecorded history. It was called Green's not because it purported to the spread of any greenery (its neglected garden was choked with lantana), but because it had been started by an Englishman, Mr Green, in 1920, just after the Great War had ended in Europe. Mr Green had died at the outset of the Second World War. He had just sold the hotel and was on his way back to England when the ship on which he was travelling was torpedoed by a German Submarine. Mr Green went down with the ship.

The hotel had already been in decline, and the new owner, a Sikh businessman from Ludhiana, had done his best to keep it going. But post-War and post-Independence, Dehra was going through a lean period. My stepfather's motor workshop was also going through a lean period-a crisis, in fact-and my mother was also glad to take the job of running the small hotel while he took a job in Delhi.

She wrote to me about once a month, giving me news of the hotel, some of its more interesting guests, the pictures that were showing in town.

B

- 1 You may begin with : "Anita : Poor bird! Nobody gave it even a drop of water in the evening." 4

"I wish I could console the poor lark," through the daisy. It could not move one of its leaves, but the fragrance of its delicate petals streamed forth, and was much stronger than such flowers usually have : the bird noticed it, although it was dying with thirst, and in its pain tore up the green blades of grass, but did not touch the flower.

The evening came, and nobody appeared to bring the poor bird a drop of water; it opened its beautiful wings, and fluttered about in its anguish; a faint and mournful "tweet, tweet" was all it could utter, then it bent its little head towards the flower, and its heart broke for want and longing. The flower could not, as on the previous evening, fold up its petals and sleep; it dropped sorrowfully. The boys only came the next morning; when they saw the adorned it with flowers. The bird's body was placed in a pretty red box; they wished to bury it with royal honours. While it was alive and sang they forgot it, and let it suffer want in the cage; now, they cried over it and covered it with flowers. The piece of turf, with little daisy in it, was thrown out on the dusty highway. Nobody thought of the flower which had felt so much for the bird and so greatly desired to comfort it.

OR

- 2 I imagined how she must have suffered too, fear, a constant companion. And yet here we were both survivors, in a new world. 4

'There was a camp next to the farm.' Roma continued. 'I saw a boy there who would throw apples everyday.'

What an amazing coincidence that she had helped some other boy. ' ' What did he look like?' I asked. ' He was tall, skinny, and hungry. I must have seen him everyday for six months."

My heart was racing. I couldn't believe it. This couldn't be. "Did he tell you one day not come back because he was leaving Schlieben ?

Roma looked at me in amazement ' 'Yes!"

' ' That was me!"

I was ready to burst with joy and awe, flooded with emotions. I couldn't believe it! My angel

' 'I m not letting you go." I said to Roma. I proposed to her.

## Section D

### (Writing Communication)

#### 6 A Letter – Writing Write any one of the following letter :

4

Read the following advertisement and prepare a letter of application in resonse toit using the informatio given in the CV that follows :

4

SITUATION VACANT	
Accountant	
Commerce graduate, Computer Literate wih 1-2 years' experience, good knowledgr of English essential. Apply to : Manager, Cosmic Bank, Agarkar Road, Sahakar Nagar, Pune – 411003.	
CV [Resume]	
Name	: Aaryan Kumar Lokhande
Address	: 370, Karishma Apartments, Vidya Nagar, Pune
Date of birth	: 7 July, 1986
Education	: 2008-09 : B. Com. (First Class), Pune University 2009-10 : Completed Tally
Experience	: 1 year as an accountant at Patel and Sons Pvt. Ltd., Pune
Interests	: Reading, browsing the Internet

OR

- 2 The condition of roads in your city / town is extremely bad resulting in increasing road mishaps and inconvenience to people. Write a letter to the editor of anewspaper drawing attention of the authorities to take prompt action.

4

#### B Write on any one of the following items as directed :

4

- 1 Prepare a short tourist leaaflet on any place of historical importance with the help of the following points :

4

- How to get there
- Accommodation
- Best time (season) of the year to visit.

oR

- 2 Read the following headlines of the news items. Choose any ONE of them and write the dateline, intro and a short continuing paragraph in about 120 words :

4

i 4 hurt assb bushits an autorickshaw

Or

ii Women's Organization starts Tree Plantation Programme

C Write on any ONE of the following items :

4

- 1 Study the following tree diagram on 'Types of Gastro – intestinal Disorders' and write a short paragraph containing all the information in it in about 120 words :

4

or

- 2 Prepare a paragraph with an appropriate title to be used for Counterview Section on the following topic in about 120 words :

4

Should dress code be enforced on employees ?'

You can take help of the following points included in the View Section

View Section
Dress code is quite popular nowadays'
• helps to create the image of the company.
• displays professional spirit.
• makes people form judgements based on appearance.
• creates equality and uniformity among employees.

7 A

.  
You intend to know about a reputed doctor in your area. Prepare a set of at least 8 questions for taking his/her interview. You may include the points like-choice of his/her career, his/her social work, his/her message, ect.

4

B

.  
You wish to take part in the elocution contest in your Junior College. One of the topics there in is 'Disadvantages of Television'. Prepare a speech on it n about 100 words.

3

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*