

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

AMRITA PRE BOARD EXAMINATION 2019 - 20

Class : XII

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

ENGLISH CORE (301)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the passage given below.

LIFE BEYOND ACADEMICS

1. Academics has always been an essential part of human development. It prepares us to survive in the outside world and establish an identity of our own. But, is an individual's development restricted to merely academics? In India, from an early age, we have been taught that education is limited to the boundaries of academics only; the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining practical experience, is always considered a hoax. This has hindered students' development. But, the truth is that education represents a considerably broader field than we know of it. Our teaching, from the basics, has been focused on getting good grades and job offers, rather than being creative and unique.

2. In the 21st century, the pure academic type of education is slowly paving way for a whole new type. The paradigm shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education is a 360 degree activity that should focus on students' overall development, rather than restricting him / her to the classroom.

3. Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom but reinforce or supplement classroom curriculum, in some way, have become a point of focus today. These activities help in the growth of the child, in more than one way. Participating in such activities helps youngsters grow mentally, socially and individually. Intellectual development of a student is developed in the classroom, but for the aesthetic development such as team-building, character-building and physical growth, students must step out into the outside world. For instance, if a student is a part of school football team, he/she will learn team-work and coordination, in a practical manner, which cannot be taught in the class.

4. Similarly, in colleges and institutions, there is a need for practical exposure so that the students can experience the actual working of an industry. For example, taking a student to a manufacturing firm will give him / her the real insight and better learning of the industry. Catering to this change, most professional colleges including B-Schools, have started providing practical exposure to students through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences, seminars, cultural festivals and so on. With industry visits, students are able to better identify their prospective areas of work in the overall organizational function. Moreover, they help enhance interpersonal skills and communication techniques. In addition, guest lectures are equally important for all-round development of students. It is a great way for students to gain maximum exposure, as guest speakers talk about their real-life experiences and not what is there in the text books.

5. Through such events, students are made to participate and coordinate different events wherein, they get to know how exactly things are managed. Classroom teaching provides the foundation

and co-curricular activities provide practical exposure and opportunities to implement what students learn in the classroom. This helps in developing the overall personality of the students, inculcating various soft - skills in them, which otherwise are difficult to teach. Clearly, life beyond academics creates creative and empowered professionals.

1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any five of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option. **5**

- a) Students' development is hindered by _____.
(limiting education to academic boundaries, getting out to the field, being creative and unique, gaining practical knowledge)
- b) The shift in the education system means _____.
(to restrict to classroom activities, to focus on academic development, to ignore 360 degree activity, to focus on overall development)
- c) Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom do not help in _____.
(teamwork and co-ordination, mental and social growth, intellectual development, character building)
- d) Guest speakers talk about _____.
(all round development, their real life experiences, what is in text books, gaining exposure)
- e) Classroom teaching provides _____.
(practical exposure, opportunities to implement what is learnt in classroom, chance to learn soft skills, the foundation)
- f) Life beyond academics facilitates _____.
(organizational functions, creativity, professional fields, industrial visits)

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly. **5**

- a) From earlier times what has not been the focus of education?
- b) Where should students go for aesthetic development?
- c) What kind of co-curricular activities have become points of focus today?
- d) What will give children a better insight into industry?
- e) Why are soft skills difficult to teach in the classroom?

1.3. Pick out the words / phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following. **2**

- a) untrue (Para 1) b) cooperative effort (Para 3)

2. Read the passage given below.

BALANCING THE SCALES

Artificial intelligence (AI) is making a difference to how legal work is done, but it isn't the threat it is made out to be. AI is making impressive progress and shaking up things all over the world today. The assumption that advancements in technology and artificial intelligence will render any profession defunct is just that, an assumption and a false one. The only purpose this assumption serves is creating mass panic and hostility towards embracing technology that is meant to make our lives easier.

Let us understand what this means explicitly for the legal world. The ambit of AI includes recognizing human speech and objects, making decisions based on data and translating languages. Tasks that can be defined as 'search-and-find' type can be performed by AI.

Introducing AI to this profession will primarily be for the purpose of automating mundane, tedious tasks that require negligible human intelligence. The kind of artificial intelligence that is employed by industries in the current scene, when extended to law will enable quicker services at a lower price. AI is meant to automate a number of tasks that take up precious working hours lawyers could be devoting to tasks that require discerning, empathy and trust - qualities that cannot be replicated by even the most sophisticated form of AI. The legal profession is one of the oldest professions in the world. Thriving over a 1000 years; trust, judgement, and diligence are the pillars of this profession. The most important pillar is the relationship of trust between a lawyer and clients, which can only be achieved through human connection and interaction.

While artificial intelligence can be useful in scanning and organizing documents pertaining to a case, it cannot perform higher-level tasks such as sharp decision making, relationship-building with valuable clients and writing legal briefs, advising clients and appearing in court. These are over and above the realm of computerization.

The smooth proceeding of a case is not possible without sound legal research. While presenting cases lawyers need to assimilate information in the form of legal research by referring to a number of relevant cases to find those that will favour their client's motion. Lawyers are even required to thoroughly know the opposing stand and supporting legal arguments they can expect to prepare a watertight defense strategy. AI, software that operates on natural language enables electronic discovery of information relevant to a case, contract reviews and automation generation of legal documents.

AI utilizes big-data analytics which enables visualization of case data. It also allows for creation of a map of the cases which were cited in previous cases and their resulting verdicts, as per the website Towards Data Science. The probability of a positive outcome of a case can be predicted by leveraging predictive analytics with machine learning. This is advantageous to firms as they can determine the return on investment in litigation and whether an agreement or arbitration should be considered.

- a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 4
- b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 4

SECTION B - WRITING

3. Mr. Virendra Sehwaq, who was to deliver a talk to help the cricket players do well in the game is not able to come on the given day. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the new date on which he is coming. You are Gopal / Garima, Secretary Sports Club, Uday School, Green park, Kanpur. 4

OR

Your old friend, Suresh Upreti has invited you to join him on his 10th marriage anniversary. Unfortunately, you are not able to attend the function. Write a message in about 50 words expressing your inability to be present on the occasion. You are Gitika / Ganesh, 10, Pandit Nagar, Nashik.

4. You live in Raghu Nagar, Delhi a densely populated locality. It is unfortunate that there is no playground for the children of this area. Children can be seen playing in the streets, along the roads and wherever they find space. This is nothing short of exposing themselves and others to risk. There is a large tract of vacant land near the locality which can be developed into a playground. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper to draw the attention of the authorities to develop the vacant land into a playground. You are Roshan / Roshini, 21, Raghu Nagar, Delhi. 6

OR

You placed an order with Regent Computer Accessories House for the supply of laptop tables, computer stationery etc. However, you felt disappointed when you opened the consignment. Two out of the eight tables ordered have wobbly legs and two reams of paper contain defective sheets. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the manager requesting him to replace the defective supplies. You are Sudha / Sudhir, Manager, Communication Services Centre, Pushp Vihar, Delhi.

5. Taking selfies has become a rage and is a global phenomenon. It has lost us several lives and also immortalized several moments. Write an article for a National Daily on the trend of taking selfies and its impact on people. You are Aditi / Aditya. (150-200 words) 10

OR

One must have a clear-cut and realistic goal in life. But simply having a goal is not enough. We must have fire in the belly to achieve it. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic, 'My

goal and My plans'. You are Rahul / Rekha.

6. The eminent Psychologist, Dr. Madhumita was invited by your school authorities to speak to the students on the topic, 'How to maintain robust mental health'. She delivered a lively speech without using any medical technical terms. After the lecture the students asked many questions especially about how to cope with stress during examinations. Dr. Madhumita addressed their concerns very patiently and gave them some very useful tips. Write a report in 150-200 words for your school magazine describing the session with the psychologist. You are Girish / Gouri Head girl / Head boy, National School, Sonpat. 10

OR

'Gyms and fitness centres have reduced the importance of exercise in the park'. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. **Read the extract given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each.** 8

a) The little old house was out with a little new shed, In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped, A roadside stand that too pathetically pled

- (i) Why had a new shed been put up?
(ii) Which traffic is referred to here?
(iii) Why is the stand's existence said to be 'pathetic'?
(iv) '..... That too pathetically pled'. Name the figure of speech used.

b) I laughed and said, "Well, Mr. Terror, what do you think you can do to me?" It fled and I swam on.

- (i) Who is 'I' here? Who is being addressed to as Mr. Terror?
(ii) Why has Mr. Terror been addressed so?
(iii) Why did the narrator laugh?
(iv) Why did Mr. Terror leave?

8. **Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each.** 10

- a) Who did M. Hamel blame when Franz was unable to answer a question on French participles?
b) Why does Anees Jung say that the bangle makers are caught in a vicious web?
c) What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla?
d) How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her?
e) How did 'The World' help Charley to confirm his doubts regarding the existence of a third level?
f) How did the woodland creatures react to the skunk's new smell?
g) What happened on the seventh day after Dr. Sadao had typed the letter?

9. **Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.** 6

How did Gandhiji succeed in getting justice for the Indigo sharecroppers?

OR

Author has used gentle and subtle humour to point out human foibles and idiosyncrasies in the lesson 'Poets and Pancakes'. Elucidate.

10. **Answer the following question in 120-150 words.** 6

Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry.

OR

How did the mistakes committed by the prison authorities help Evans in escaping from the prison?