

# AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

## ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2019 - 20

Class : XI

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

### ENGLISH CORE (301)

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

*This paper contains three sections as under :*

*Section - A - Reading - 20 marks*

*Section - B - Writing and Grammar - 30 marks*

*Section - C - Literature - 30 marks*

*All sections are compulsory.*

*Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.*

*Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering questions.*

### SECTION A - READING

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

1. The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least, most of us could compile formidable lists of dos, and don'ts. The same old favourites recur year in and year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

2. Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

3. The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really upsetting but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By 10<sup>th</sup> January, I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect to television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to read A Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

**1.1. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.**

- a) According to the writer, past experience of resolutions has taught us \_\_\_\_\_.  
(frustration results from failure, certain accomplishments are beyond attainment, new year is a time for resolutions, failures are a part of time)
- b) Most of us fail in our efforts at self improvement because \_\_\_\_\_.  
(our schemes are too ambitious, we never have time to carry them out, we announce our resolution to everybody, all of these)
- c) It is a basic mistake to announce our resolution because \_\_\_\_\_.  
(we have no excuse to revert back to our earlier life, we can't be nice to people we don't like, we look more foolish when we slip back to our old ways, none of these)
- d) The writer did not carry out his resolutions on New Year's Day because \_\_\_\_\_.  
(he had attended an all night party, he was glued to the TV, the exercise was only for eleven minutes, everyone was awake and watching him)
- e) The writer thought of keeping his mind fresh by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(watching TV, exercising for eleven minutes, reading, finding more time to play with children)
- f) The word which is similar in meaning to 'decrease' is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(formidable, monotonous, attainment, diminish)

**1.2. Answer the following questions.**

- a) What do people normally resolve to do every New Year?
- b) Why do most of us fail in our efforts at self improvement?
- c) Why could the writer not carry out his resolution on the very first day of New Year?
- d) Why is announcing our resolution a fundamental error?
- e) 'The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance.' What performance is the writer talking about?
- f) Which book did the writer buy and why?

**2. Read the following passage.**

Every living creature has a time machine that regulates activities. It tells men or animal when to wake up, when to sleep, when to slow down psychological activities, it also deals with regulating the body temperature and release of specific hormones at the proper time. A few call it biological clock while others refer to it as the circadian clock. It's study is known as 'chrono-biology'.

The human body clock completes its cycle over a period of about 24 hours. In the normal circumstances activities of nerve cells drive the clock. In day-to-day life, one never experiences the rhythms of this state because the clock is always influenced by time cues in the environment.

These cues, called 'zeitgebers' (a German word meaning 'time givers') synchronize the clock with the daily solar cycle. Daylight, diet, physical activity, social behaviours are the well-known zeitgebers. How they influence the clock is still unknown, but it is certain that all the cues are interdependent. For example, regular cycle of sleep and activity affects the time we eat, social interaction and even exposure to daylight.

To prove that humans possess an internal, self sustaining clock and do not simply adjust their behaviour in response to environmental time cues it was essential to create a 'time-free' environment. The first experiments of this kind were carried out in the late 1970s and 1980s by groups in Europe and the US. During the experiment, which continued for months, the subject chooses when he or she eats and sleeps, but no information is given about time - no TV, no radio, no social contacts and no clock. It emerged that subjects placed in such an environment do not slip into random habits but maintain a routine, powerful evidence for the existence of an internal body clock in humans. All the subjects in the experiments, regardless of whether they were interested in what they were doing, tended to wake up at regular times.

Every person, to an extent, has an alarm clock fitted in the mind. Give it a try. Think and set the time in your brain before you set off to sleep. To your assignment, your brain will transmit signals and you will wake up at the required time. Our biological clock is set accordingly and

that's the reason that counsellors suggest students not to disturb their clock during their exams as it disturbs the whole metabolism. The 24 hour body clock should start at the regular time to have optimum performance during the exams. If we are regular and keep our routine under check we hardly need reminders for day-to-day activities. We need not see the clock for our lunch, dinner or other times.

- 2.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. 5
- 2.2. Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. Supply an appropriate title to it. 3

## SECTION B - WRITING AND GRAMMAR

3. Your school is organizing a summer camp for training students in Cricket and Basketball. Write a notice for the school notice board of Springdale School, Dehradun. You are Kishore, Sports Secretary of the school. 4

OR

You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a national daily giving all the necessary details. You are Niranjana / Niharika of Nabin Nagar, Delhi.

4. You are Asha / Ashwin of 15, JP Nagar, Bangalore. Write a letter to the Editor of 'Deccan Herald' about rising prices of essential commodities including ordinary vegetables. Give suggestions on how to control the price rise. 6

OR

After passing the secondary school examination, a candidate has to make a very difficult choice. He has to choose from a number of streams available to him for further studies at the senior school level. There is no valid mechanism to assess the suitability of a candidate for a particular stream. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, emphasizing the need of educational counsellors for guidance in this matter in each school. You are Vinita / Vinay, 48, Agra Fort, Agra.

5. Last month you purchased a TV set from Ram Electronics, Pushp Vihar, Ambala. It is not working properly (imagine a few defects). Write a letter of complaint in 120-150 words to the Manager asking for repair or replacement. You are Amar / Amrita, M 114, Model Town, Ambala. 6

OR

You are Ram / Rajani, Librarian, Sun Public School, Nagpur. Write a letter in 120-150 words to Blossom Books Ltd., 9 Band Marg, Hyderabad, placing an order for the books you require for your school library. Also ask about the discount allowed and the mode of payment. Insist on prompt delivery and good packing.

6. You feel disturbed when you read in the newspapers about rising incidents of crime against women. This is particularly so in the metropolitan cities. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'Role of Public and Police in curbing the crime against Women'. You are Kiran. 8

OR

Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic, 'Discipline Shapes the Future of a Student.' It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Karuna / Karan.

7. **Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs.** 2

It was a cold wintry night. It a) \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) since morning. A traveller somehow managed b) \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) a secluded farm house after the night c) \_\_\_\_\_ (fall). He d) \_\_\_\_\_ (knock) at the door and waited for somebody to open the door.

8. **The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the correct word along with the mistake in your answer sheet.** 2

A mother sheep know the difference between	a) _____
her lamb and another. Never matter how many	b) _____
lambs their are in the flock, she will always	c) _____
pick on her own with their specific odour. This	d) _____
is a good example for motherly instinct.	

9. **Rearrange the following words or phrases to make meaningful sentences.** 2
- obey / must / rules / we / traffic
  - not / children / below / of / age / the / must / drive / eighteen / years
  - protection / our / we / must / helmets / own / wear / for
  - must / used / phones / not / mobile / driving / while / be

### SECTION C - LITERATURE

10. **Read the extract given below and then answer any two of the questions.** 2

Silence surrounds us. I would have  
Him prodigal, returning to  
His father's house, home he knew,  
Rather than see him make and move  
His world. I would forgive him too,  
Shaping from sorrow a new love.

- Name the poem and the poet.
- Why does 'silence surround' them?
- For what does the father show his willingness towards the son?

OR

And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower.  
Which strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:  
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of rain,  
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.

- Who are the two persons involved in the conversation?
- Why was the answer 'strange'?
- What does the word 'impalpable' mean?

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

- What problem did Carter face when he reached the mummy? How did he find a way out?
- Why were Tibetan mastiffs popular in China's imperial courts?
- What opinion did the grandmother form of the English school in the city?
- To what is the goldfinch's movement compared to in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'? What is the basis of the comparison?
- How does Mrs Pearson make fun of her husband? How does he respond to it?
- Why was Ranga's homecoming a great event?

12. **Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** 6

Describe the steps taken by the captain and the crewmen to protect the boat 'Wavewalker' from the storm and the gigantic waves. Were they successful?

OR

Write a note on the concept of Shanshui as given in the 'Landscape of the Soul'.

13. **Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** 6

"No generation has a free hold on the earth. All we have is a life with a full repairing lease." Explain with reference to 'The Ailing Planet - The Green Movement's Role'.

OR

Compare and contrast Crocker Harris and Frank.

14. **Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** 6

Give a brief account of the efforts made by Andrew Manson to revive the still born baby.

OR

Describe how the head teacher made it easy for Albert Einstein to leave school.