



VISHNU BHAGWAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Pre Board Exam (2023-24)

Class – 12

Subject –English

{SET-B}

Time: 3:00 Hours

M.M:80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section-A : Reading Skills

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passage

[22 Marks]

1. Read the following text.

(12 Marks)

1. Given the standing of some of its institutions of higher learning, the IITs and IIMs, India is a potential knowledge power. Realising the potential, however, is not going to be easy. The impressive strides made by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) notwithstanding, universal access to quality school education- a minimum necessary condition for any progress towards making India a knowledge society', as the 2006 report of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) puts it-remains a distant goal.
2. There is as yet no legislation at the national level to affirm the right to education, a fundamental right under the Constitution. The number of school buildings for elementary and secondary education falls far short of requirements and so does the number of qualified teachers. The pressure on government budgets, which forces governments to hire teachers on contract paying a pittance of a salary, is playing havoc with quality. While the incursion of the private sector in the field is providing some competition, mechanisms to enforce the required standards are lacking.
3. Not that there are no national standards or standards-enforcing agencies. We have the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to bring out textbooks in various subjects for school education. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducts examinations for schools affiliated to it across the country. The states too have their school boards to conduct exams and enforce minimum standards. How even the standards vary widely. In their anxiety to show spectacular performance, some states are overly lenient-in marking answer papers.
4. Questions arise even over the standards applied by CBSE. Going by the number of students securing 90% or more in their higher secondary exam, it would appear India is on the brink of a knowledge revolution. The numbers are so large that the cut-off point for admission to top colleges is now above 90%. However, admissions to IITs and medical colleges are not based only on CBSE or State Board Exam results. Leading undergraduate colleges offering non-professional degree courses hold their own admission tests. Obviously, Higher Secondary School results are not taken to be a reliable index of the quality of a student's learning capability or potential.
5. The numbers seem to be growing every year. The standards applied by Higher Secondary wide it is am cool and what they have to face on entering institutions of higher learning.
6. In an attempt to remedy the situation, NCERT had recently commissioned experts to rewrite textbooks on economics. Though not entirely free from blemishes, these new texts should go some way in helping beginners get acquainted with the basic concepts in the subject and their applications.
7. Not surprisingly, their introduction is facing roadblocks. Teachers do not like to be compelled to look at textbooks they are not familiar with. Those who revel in seeing students score 90% are reluctant of ushering in something that may stop the rush of such scores.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.

Governments have to hire teachers on contract basis due to.....

(1)

- a) the non-availability of regular teachers
- b) abundance of teachers in an area
- c) the guidelines issued by the Central Government
- d) the pressure on government budgets

(ii) What is the tone of writer when he remarks "India is on the brink of a knowledge 'revolution'?"

(1)

- (a) Sarcastic (b) Optimistic (c) Imaginative (d) Presumptuous
- (iii) List the reason as why India is referred as a potential knowledge power. (2)
- (iv) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference with respect to the following. (1)
- The main factor that has affected the quality of education is
- (v) Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'plenty' from words used in Paragraph 2. (1)
- (a) Incursion (b) Mechanisms (c) Looking (d) Pittance
- (vi) Why do leading undergraduate colleges hold their own admission tests? (2)
- (vii) Based on the information given in the last paragraph, why do you think that teachers are opposing the introduction of new textbooks? (2)
- (viii) The writer would not agree with the following statements based on Paragraph 4 EXCEPT (1)

- (a) a large number of students score more than 90% in their higher secondary school
- (b) the cut-off point for admission to top colleges is above 85%.
- (c) admissions to IITs are based only on CBSE or state board results.
- (d) higher secondary school exam results are taken to be a reliable index of the quality of a student's learning capabilities.

(ix) State the feelings of the writer with reference to the topic concerned in the passage. (1)

2. Read the following text. (10)

1. Social media addiction is an emerging health problem in India, especially among the young population. Nowadays, irrespective of their socioeconomic background, adolescents have greater exposure to electronic gadgets like smartphones at a much younger age. The introduction of internet and the launch of low-cost data packages in 2016/2017 has put India on the global map for large-scale consumption of mobile data with active social media users going up to 197 million (14% of the population).

2. For adolescents, phone-based communication is an important way to maintain their social relationships. The use of social media websites then is one of the most common activities that has become an integral part of their day-to-day lives.

Hence, making them more prone to social media overuse or addiction which may have a deleterious effect on the physical and psychological health. Hence, it became important to study the pattern of social media usage and associated physical and mental health issues among Pre-University (PU) college students as they are the vulnerable group.

3. A cross-sectional study was conducted in Government and Private PU colleges situated in Urban Bengaluru city, Karnataka, India, during July to December 2016. The objectives of the study were to assess and compare the prevalence of social media addiction in different organisations, to assess the health problems related to social media usage and to assess the various factors associated with social media addiction.

4. A total of 1870 study participants were recruited from both Government and Private PU colleges. Each participant was administered a pretest and semi-structured questionnaire as the study tool. They were asked to answer about the non-academic usage of social media. Scale comprised 10 questions, each given a score ranging from 0 to 4 (0-never, 1-seldom, 2-occasionally, 3-often, and

4-always), with a minimum score of 0 and a maximum score of 40. Participants were classified based on the scores as: Normal (<12), mild addiction (13-20), moderate addiction (21-32) and severe addiction (233).

Distribution of Study Subjects According to Grading of Social Media Addiction.

Grading	Government	Private	Total
Mild	182 (80.8)	191 (66.3)	373 (72.7)
Moderate	39 (17.3)	93 (32.2)	132 (25.7)
Severe	4 (1.9)	4 (1.5)	8 (1.6)
Total	225 (100)	288 (100)	513 (100)

**Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages*

5. There was no difference in the prevalence of Social Media Addiction between Government and Private PU college study subjects contrary to the assumption that Private college subjects will be more prone to social media addiction due to higher social status and purchasing capacity. Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

(i) What, according to you, makes the adolescents susceptible to social media overuse? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(ii) Which of the following was NOT an objective for the study? (1)

(a) To assess the health problems associated with social media usage

(b) To assess and compare the prevalence of social media in a particular organisation

(c) To assess the various factors related to social media usage

(d) To assess and compare the prevalence of social media in different organisations

(iii) Give one reason for the rise in active social media users in India. (1)

(iv) Complete the following sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. (1)

The participants of the survey were asked to answer about the . . . usage of social media.

(a) academic (b) non-academic (c) sobar (d) None of these

(v) Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement. Higher social status and purchasing capacity is directly linked to Social Media Addiction. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(vi) Complete the sentence based on the following statement. (1)

It was assumed that private college students will be more prone to social media addiction. This was because of their ...

(vii) Identify study tool used in the survey from the following three (1)

(a) yes-no questions (b) a scale-based questionnaire (c) some physical and IQ based tests

(viii) State TRUE or FALSE. (1)

Adolescents belonging to poor families do not have greater exposure to smartphones at a much younger age.

Section-B: Creative Writing Skills [18 Marks]

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. (4)

A. You are Anil/Amira, the coordinator of St. Mark's School, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

Your school is organising a session on 'Study Skills' for the students of Classes

IX - XII. The session will be conducted by an eminent psychologist. Draft a notice informing the students about the session. Include all the necessary details.

OR

B. You are Abhishek/Avantika of Class XII, Swami Vivekanand Public School. Being the Activity Coordinator of the school, draft a notice addressing all the Activity Council members to discuss and plan the activities for 25th December (Christmas Day) celebrations.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. (4)

A. You are Adarsh Rampuria. You are opening a new branch of your business house

'Golden Threads' at C-32, RM Marg, Siliguri. Write an informal invitation to your uncle to attend the inauguration ceremony and bless you.

OR

B. You are a student of Laxmi Public School, Model Town, Delhi. The school is holding its Annual Function at 5:30 p.m. on 24th December, 20XX. The Education Minister has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invites.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. A student's anxieties never end. After clearing the Class XII Board Examination, there is the uncertainty of getting admission in a college and a course of one's choice. The cut-off percentage in good colleges rises every year. There are hardly any openings for average students. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily stating the problems and giving suggestions to create job-oriented vocational courses for students after passing Class XII. You are Arijit/Aperna.

Clues

- Cut off percentage rising
- Increasing demotivation in students
- Students are unable to get admission
- Create job-oriented courses

OR

B. You are Suresh/Sunita, 21 Vaishali, Bengaluru. You came across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement given below.

Applications are invited for the post of Junior Engineer. The candidate must have at least a diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognised institute. He/she should have at least 3 years experience of field work with qualifications and experience.

Apply to the Manager, Parsva Constructions Ltd, 24, Sector-10, Mysore within 10 days with detailed resume.

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of two, in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Media has a major impact on today's youth and you observe that, in today's environment, it is misleading the youth. Write an article for your school magazine expressing your views about it. You are Binod Trivedi of Class XII - A. You can use the following clues.

- Attraction towards Western Culture
- Anti-social activities
- Fake news/Misinformation
- Check on the shows

OR

B. Many job seekers are so desperate to leave their own country and start a new life in another country that they grasp any opportunity which they believe will enable them to do this. Sadly, many of them take risks with their lives and still do not fulfil their dream. As Aayushi/Aayush Mehra, write a report on the topic

'Desperate Emigrants' to be published in your school newsletter. You can use the following clues.

Clues

- Increasing number of emigrants
- Fall prey to unscrupulous 'agents'
- Desperate in seeking new jobs
- Illegal means of transportation
- Live under the threat of discovery and being deported

**Section-C: Literature Textbook and
Supplementary Reading Text**

[40 Marks]

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two given. (6)

A.

... but soon

*put that thought away, and looked out at young
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,
(My Mother At Sixty-Six)*

(i) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the last line of the extract. (1)

(a) Life is a roller coaster ride. (b) I'm as happy as I can be.

(c) The sizzling summer took a toll on us. (d) The flood swallowed more than a dozen villages.

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

"The merry children spilling out of their homes" is symbolic ofyouth.

(iii) Why were the young trees sprinting? (1)

(iv) The fact that the poem's narrative style is single sentence, punctuated by commas shows that (1)

(a) there is only one topic which made the poet fearful.

(b) there is only one thought which runs through the poem.

(c) the lines are all being intermingled in the poet's mind

(d) many sub ideas are connected to the main idea of the poem. (1)

(v) State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

The poet's action of looking out of the window did not work.

(vi) Give an apt title for the extract. (1)

OR

B.

*"Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain, The sadness
that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer*

For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car," (A Roadside Stand)

(i) What will the rural folk feel at the sound of stopping cars? (1)

(a) Hopeful and excited

(b) Faithful and shocked

(c) Shocked and devastated

(d) Excited and shocked

(ii) What can't the poet tolerate? (1)

(iii) Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following.

The rural folk are innocent people hoping for someone to give them money. (1)

(iv) State whether the given statement is True or False.

The poet believes that someone will help the rural folk. (1)

(v) Select the word that will complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The word 'squeal' is an example of the figure of speech ...

(a) personification (b) metaphor (c) onomatopoeia (d) oxymoron

(vi) Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract. (1)

The squeal of brakes and the stopping of the cars indicate

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given. (4)

A. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream Ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe.

Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate -not just because it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively 'pristine' in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The questions asked by the narrator signify

(ii) Give reason why Antarctica holds importance. (1)

(iii) "Maybe. Maybe not" indicates (1)

(a) suspicion (b) uncertainty (c) foretelling (d) despair

(iv) What does the author mean by the statement "... it's the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore, remains relatively 'pristine'..? (1)

OR

B. It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't important. It's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear. And I'm going back there.

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1)

When Derry goes 'back there', he sees (On the Face of it)

(ii) What kind of a person has Derry become? (1)

(iii) What do Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from? (1)

(a) Burnt face (b) Burnt leg (c) Tin leg (d) Both (a) and (c)

(iv) What was the reason due to which Derry wanted to return to that place? (1)

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given. (6)

A. I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk. Not till then, when I had got a little over my fright, did I see that our teacher had on his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt, and the little black silk cap, all embroidered, that he never wore except on inspection and prize days. Besides the whole school seemed strange (The Last Lesson) and solemn.

(i) Who is referred to as the narrator's 'teacher' in the above extract? (1)

(a) New German teacher (b) Frank (c) None of these (d) M. Hamel

(ii) There were a few villagers sitting in the back. Why? (1)

(iii) Why was M. Hamel's dress special? (1)

(iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the teacher. (1)

1. He was strict teacher.

2. He was getting emotional in the class.

3. He wanted to make this lesson special

4. Both (a) and (c)

(v) Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the school was different that day. (1)

(vi) Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. (1)

M. Hamel was dressed so formally because

B. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an office boy!). On the days when there was a crowd shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. He wasn't exactly a

"boy"; he was in his early forties, having entered the studios years ago in the hop of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer.

(Poets and Pancake)

(i) What was the responsibility of the 'office boy'? (1)

(ii) On a day of crowd shooting, the office boy would be.. (1)

(iii) Which of the following expresses the office boy's age? (1)

- (a) 10-20 years old (b) 40-50 years old (c) 20-30 years old (d) 30-40 years old
 (iv) Rationalise, to support the given opinion. (1)
 A hierarchy existed in the Gemini Studios.
 (v) The line "...players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy..." can be best classified as (1)
 (a) a fact (b) an opinion (c) a theme (d) a plot point
 (vi) Why was the office boy disappointed? (1)
 (a) As he could not become a star (b) Could not become a lyric writer
 (c) Could not succeed as a director (d) All of these

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, about in 40-50 words. 5X2=10

- (i) How was Gandhi treated at Rajendra Prasad's house? (*Indigo*)
 (ii) Why does one feel 'a sudden strangeness' on counting to twelve and keeping quiet? (*Keeping Quiet*)
 (iii) Mention any two things which cause pain and suffering. (*A Thing of Beauty*)
 (iv) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water? (*Deep Water*)
 (v) Why did Sophie not want Jansie to know anything about her meeting with Dang, Casey? (*Going Places*)
 (vi) Read the given quote. In your opinion, what silence does the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' break?

Every poem breaks a silence that had to be overcome. — Adrienne Rich

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2X2=4

- (i) What great miracle did the ten-day-old Jilani Jung Bahadur perform? How did it affect the people who listened to him? (*The Tiger King*) (2)
 (ii) Answer the questions in the context of the following lines from 'The Enemy'. (2)
"Then certainly I can allow nothing to happen to you," the General said with anxiety. His long pale Japanese face became expressionless, which meant that he was in deep thought."
 How did Dr. Sadao perform his duty as a patriotic Japanese? (*The Enemy*) (2)
 (iii) Why did the landlord's man ask Bama's brother on which street he lived? What was the significance? (*We too are human beings- Memories of Childhood*) (2)

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Mukesh and the other bangle makers are unable to break out of the vicious circle of poverty due to the collusion of government agencies and the police. You are to write a blog on the feeling you had when you read the short story *Lost Spring* in your Class XII book. Including the responsibilities of these four categories of people towards the bangle makers and their children, write the blog. You may begin like this:

Every day, you learn something new which makes you understand a much larger picture. I understood this larger picture when I read about the little Mukesh and the other bangle makers who are unable to break out of the vicious circle of poverty due to the collusion of government agencies and the police. You must be thinking who is Mukesh. Well, Mukesh is.....

OR

B. Imagine the mother gets to know of the poet persona's fears. Write a letter, as the mother, telling the daughter why she must not dwell on these fears. You may begin this way:

Pallipuram Cochin, Kerala

22nd August '60

My dear Kamala

I am writing to you because when you left me at the airport, I felt something wasn't right.

Judging by how little you spoke that day (continue).....

With love

Amma

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (5)

A. Write a speech on how the feeling of loneliness is much more painful than physical impairment with reference to *On the Face of it*.

OR

B. What are Phytoplankton? How are they important to our eco-system? (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)