

ST. ANTHONY'S.SR.SEC. SCHOOL

PREBOARD EXAMINATION I

2023-24

CLASS -XII

ENGLISH CORE (SET -B)

ANUSKA SHARMA
XII-Humanities
R-

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HRS

MAX. MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i. The Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This Question Paper contains THREE sections- Section A: READING SKILLS, Section B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS and Section C: LITERATURE.
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/ part, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.

**SECTION -A
READING SKILLS**

22 MARKS

1. Read the given passage.

1. Cooking is a necessary life skill that everyone should learn. But as a teenager, it can seem like a daunting task. From figuring out what ingredients to use to trying to avoid burning the kitchen down, there are a lot of challenges that come with cooking as a teenager in an Indian household.

2. One of the biggest challenges is trying to please your parents' taste buds. In Indian households, food is a sacred thing. And if you don't get it right, it can result in a lecture from your parents that feels like it's lasted for an eternity. Trying to get the right amount of spices can feel like a science experiment gone wrong. You add a pinch of salt and suddenly your dish tastes like the Dead Sea. But add too much, and it can turn into a spicy inferno that no one wants to eat.

3. Another challenge of cooking as a teenager in an Indian household is the pressure to make everything from scratch. Making roti (Indian bread) is like trying to solve a Rubik's Cube blindfolded. It's hard, and it takes a lot of practice. And when you finally do make the perfect roti, your mom says, "It's good, but not as good as mine."

4. But the biggest challenge of cooking as a teenager in an Indian household is trying to make something that everyone will like. With so many different tastes and preferences, it can feel like you're trying to please a jury. Cooking as a teenager in an Indian household can also be a sensory overload. The smell of cumin, turmeric, and coriander can make your nostrils flare up like fireworks. The sound of oil sizzling in a pan can be like a symphony but it can quickly turn into a cacophony when you accidentally burn something.

5. But despite all the challenges, there is a certain joy that comes with cooking as a teenager. It's like trying to solve a puzzle, and when you finally get it right, the satisfaction is indescribable. It's like a metaphorical pat on the back from your grandma, who is smiling down at you from heaven.

6. In conclusion, cooking as a teenager in an Indian household can be challenging, but it's also a great learning experience. It teaches patience, persistence, and the importance of trying new things. And if you're lucky, you might even be able to impress your parents with your culinary skills. Just remember, don't be too hard on yourself if your first attempt at cooking turns out to be a disaster. After all, you have to break a few eggs to make an omelette.

On the basis of your reading, answer the twelve questions given below. (12)

Fill the blank appropriately, with ONE word only.

i. The writer has been able to effectively convey the challenges and emotions involved in cooking, as a teenager in an Indian household by the use of _____ language. (1)

ii. What is the author's attitude towards the pressure of making everything from scratch in an Indian household?

- A. Believes it is an important aspect. B. Finds it unnecessary and outdated.
C. Acknowledges it as a challenge but accepts it. D. Thinks that it is an unreasonable expectation. (1)

iii. List any one aspect that is highlighted, with reference to the use of the phrase "science experiment gone wrong". (1)

iv. Paragraphs 2 and 5 compare the process of learning to cook as a teenager in an Indian household, to a puzzle or solving one. Explain the analogy in about 40 words. (1)

v. Fill the blank with the correct option.

The comparison to a jury (in paragraph 4), highlights the _____ that comes with trying to please a diverse group of people. (1)

- a. pressure b. precision c. pleasure d. panache

vi. What does the 'metaphorical pat on the back from your grandma, who is smiling down at you from heaven', symbolize? (Paragraph 5) (1)

vii. Which of the following do NOT pose a challenge for teenagers learning to cook in an Indian household, according to the passage? (1)

- A. Managing the various spices and flavors used in Indian cuisine
B. Understanding and following traditional cooking methods
C. Finding time to cook amidst schoolwork and other responsibilities
D. Having access to high-quality cooking equipment and ingredients

viii. State TRUE or FALSE for the given statement.

In paragraph 4, symphony and cacophony have been used as references because they are rhyming words.

ix. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The mood of the phrase "After all, you have to break a few eggs to make an omelette" could be seen as reassuring because it _____ . (Paragraph 6)

- x. How are the first and the last paragraphs connected to each other in the passage? (1)
- xi. Explain in your own words- 'After all, you have to break a few eggs to make an omelette.' (1)
- xii. Give a suitable title to the passage. (1)

2. Read the given passage.

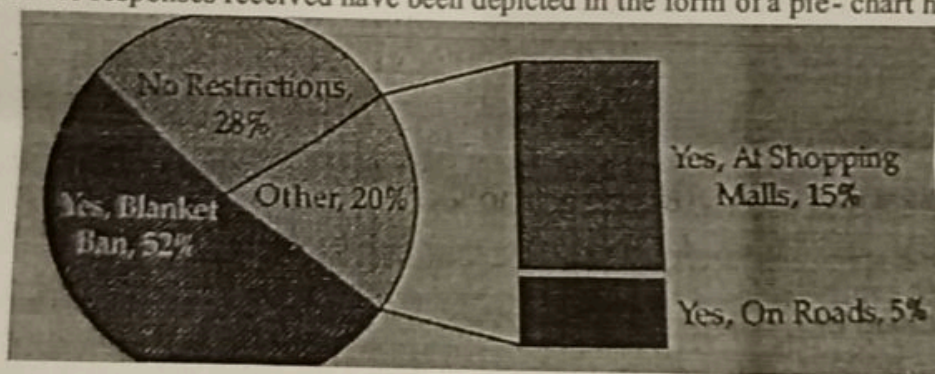
(1) Most of us know that smoking causes cancer, lung disease, heart disease, can shorten life by 10 years or so and can cost a smoker thousands of rupees a year. So, why are people still smoking? The answer, in a word, is addiction.

(2) Smoking is a hard habit to break because tobacco contains the very addictive chemical nicotine. The body and mind quickly get used to the nicotine in cigarettes. Soon, a person needs to have it just to feel normal

(3) People start smoking for different reasons. Some think it looks cool. Others start because their family members or friends smoke. Almost all adult tobacco users started before they were 18 years old. Most never expected to become addicted.

(4) Many of the chemicals in cigarettes, like nicotine and cyanide, are poisons that can kill in high doses. The body is smart. It goes on the defense when it is being poisoned. First time smokers often feel pain or burn in their throat and lungs and some even cough vigorously the first few times when they try tobacco. Over time, smoking leads to health problems such as heart disease, stroke, lung damage and many types of cancer -including lung, throat, stomach and bladder cancer.

(5) A survey was conducted to collect views of the people whether smoking should be allowed or not in public places. The results of the responses received have been depicted in the form of a pie- chart here.



Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (10)

(i) Which of these can be caused by smoking? (1)

- (A) Heart disease (B) Cancer (C) Lung disease (D) All of these

(ii) Write an explanation for - why is smoking a hard habit to break? (1)

(iii) Which of these is the defense system that appears in first time smokers? (1)

- (A) Vomiting (B) Burning in lungs
(C) Dizziness (D) All of these

- (iv) What is the meaning in which 'cool' has been used in Para 3 of the passage?
 (A) Chill (B) Unfriendly (C) Calm (D) Stylish
- v. Complete the given statement using a single word (1)
 contains an addictive substance called nicotine.
- vi. Which place has been approved for smoking by most people? (1)
 (A) Shopping Mall (B) Home (C) Home (D) Roads
- vii. From the given pictorial representation, choose the option that correctly states the percentage of persons who say that smoking should have a blanket ban as compared to those supporting no restrictions on smoking. (1)
 (A) 20 %: 100% (B) 20 % : 52%
 (C) 52 %: 28 % (D) 28 %: 52%
- viii. Which of the following statements is FALSE, from the given set of statements. (1)
 (A) 15 % of the people fall in the category of Others.
 (B) Every human has their own personal reasons for smoking.
 (C) Poisonous chemicals go in the making of cigarettes like - methamphetamine and cyanide.
 (D) Body activates its defense mechanism when these pollutants enter our system,
- ix. What is the percentage of people that opted for 'No Restrictions'? (1)
 (A) 28.5 % (B) 28.9 % (C) 28% (D) 15 %
- x. Give an appropriate title to the passage. (1)

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

18 MARKS

3. Answer ANY ONE out of the following two questions in about 50 words. (4)
- 3.A As the Secretary of RWA draft a notice for the residents of your apartment informing them to attend the General Body Meeting of the Society. Invent the other details.
- OR
- 3.B You are the HOD Sports and have been assigned the duty to ensure students do not litter in the ground and the canteen area during recess. Draft a notice regarding the need to use dustbins and stringent actions that will be taken against defaulters.
4. Answer ANY ONE out of the following two questions in about 50 words. (4)
- 4A. Write an informal letter to your friend Meena inviting her to attend your birthday party, on December 14, 2023. At you residence, 20 Prithviraj Road, Delhi. You are Zara.
- OR
- 4B. On December 15, 2023 your school is going to hold its Annual Sports Day. You want Mr. Dhanraj Pillai, a noted hockey player, to give away the prizes to budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

5. Answer ANY ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words.

(5)

5A. Write a letter, with the help of the given cues, to the Editor of a national daily regarding Eve-teasing especially in the vicinity of girls school and college. Suggest the steps that can be taken to stop this nuisance. You are Amit/Amita, living in Moti Bagh in South Delhi

Eve-teasing-an evil, sexual harassment, molestation,
need for effective law enforcement, respect for women
to be taught, security personnel to be deployed...

5.B Read the advertisement given below and apply for the post advertised, in 120-150 words. Write a letter with your bio-data to Verdant Innovators applying for the post advertised by them. You are Saheb/Sakshi, Patel Nagar, Delhi.

NOW HIRING
VERDANT INNOVATORS

VERDANT INNOVATORS is a start-up working closely with brands helping them to market through social media, creating Blogs and articles. We require journalists, copywriters and content writers for our company. For details regarding eligibility, remuneration etc. log on to our website Verdant.excel@yahoo.com

6. Answer ANY ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words.

(5)

6.A You are Amir/Amira and you love comics. Write an article in 120-150 words on children's love for comics, and the role that comics play in their life.

OR

6.B A one-day cricket match was played between ACE Public School and DFG Public School, Rampur. Your team won the match by 10 runs. Write a report in 120-150 on the same for your school magazine.

SECTION -C LITERATURE

7. Answer ANY ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

(6*1=6)

7. 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,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.*

i. Where was the new shed put out?

- a. In front of a shed on the edge of the road. b. In front of an office on the edge of the road.
c. In front of a lake on the edge of a road. d. In front of a house on the edge of the road.

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately with reference to the context.

The new shed was put up by

iii. What does the roadside stand plea pathetically for?

- a. It pled for gold in exchange of a farmer's produce.
- b. It pleaded for silver in exchange for farmer's produce.
- c. It pleaded for money in exchange for farmer's produce.
- d. It pleaded for crops in exchange for farmer's produce.

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

It was unfair to say that he pled for charities.

v. What does the expression 'the flower of cities' refer to?

- a. Children of the street.
- b. Old people of the town
- c. The delicate city dwellers.
- d. The rich people

vi. Identify the correct combination.

- a. A Roadside Stand, Robert Downy. Jr
- b. A Roadside Stand, Robert Frost
- c. A Roadside Edge, Robert Malone
- d. The Roadside Stand, Robert Maxwell

OR

7.B.

Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We have imagined for the mighty dead;

All lovely tales that we have heard or read;

An endless fountain of immortal drink, Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink

i. Pick the quote that matches best with -

'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead.'

- a. In the night of death, hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
- b. When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, relies on the paths of men.
- c. Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.
- d. Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste death but once.

ii. What does '*an endless fountain of immortal drink*' suggest?

- a. Inspirational deeds of great men
- b. A ceaseless series of dreams
- c. An infinite source of strength
- d. An elixir of life for upliftment of the soul
- e. An eternal source of delight
- f. A boundless gift of love

- A. a,d,e
- B. b,c,e
- C. a,b,f
- D. b,d,f

iii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

'Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instill inspiration in us'.

iv. Which other phrase in the extract uses the same literary device as -'deafening silence'.

v. 'Musk rose' here refers to?

vi. The phrase '**Bittersweet Life**' takes up a literary device that is similar to which phrase given in the stanza?

8. Answer ANY ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (4*1=4)

8.A 'MR LAMB: So you believe everything you hear, then?

DERRY: It was cruel.

MR LAMB: Maybe not meant as such. Just something said between them.

DERRY: Only I heard it. I heard.'

i. From which chapter these lines have been taken?

- a. On The Face Of That b. On The Face Of This
c. On The Face Of Them d. On The Face Of It

ii. About which incident the listener is talking about he had heard?

- a. Two women talking about his face b. Two men talking about his leg
c. Two children making fun of him d. Everyone around him

iii. How did Derry feel about it?

- a. They were cruel b. They were sympathetic
c. They were happy d. They were indifferent

iv. What is Mr. Lamb's perspective regarding this? Write in your own words.

OR

8.B 'The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. "The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands. "Yes, undoubtedly that would be best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man. "If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said. "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with a curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

i. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'stupor'?

- a. She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken from a slumber.
b. The manager complained about the employee's sluggishness.
c. He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
d. Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.

ii. Which character traits of Sadao and Hana are described in the passage.

- a. practical and apprehensive at the same time b. sad and scared simultaneously
c. nervous and jubilated d. Lethargic and adamant

iii. What is the correct explanation of the phrase- 'But neither of them moved'?

- a. Both were sure of what they were going to do and hence they decided to go ahead.
b. Both took a risk to shelter the enemy and they feared the consequences.
c. Both were in a dilemma and could not decide what to do, and feared the consequences.
d. Both were unsure so they left him on the beach and left.

iv. Which word is NOT the synonym of the word 'inert'?

- a. dormant b. listless c. static d. active

9. Answer ANY ONE from the two extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (6 * 1 = 6)

9.A 'Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply. "Even if she did he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Traveling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not a lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation.'

i. What is the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as opposed to only a writer's commentary?

- a. to give an expression to their voices, dreams and struggles.
- b. to allow the kids to feel happy once.
- c. to set an example for other journalists, to let the subaltern speak.
- d. to exaggerate the importance of free will.

ii. The line- 'It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot' can be best classified as:

- a. An opinion
- b. A theme
- c. A fact
- d. A Plot point

iii. Complete the sentence with ONE word.

The phrase "*He answers simply*", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about why he wasn't wearing chappals was _____.

iv. Explain any one inference you can draw from the statement - "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon".

v. Who is unaware of his own name's explanation?

- a. Mukesh
- b. Saheb -e-Alam
- c. The street children
- d. a & b both

vi. State TRUE or FALSE

The association of the narrator with these street children is a recent one.

OR

9.B "Or an actress. Now there's real money in that. Yes, and I could maybe have the boutique on the side. Actresses don't work full time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer, you know — something a bit sophisticated". And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. "If ever I come into money, I'll buy a boutique." "Huh - if you ever come into money... if you ever come into money, you'll buy us a blessed decent house to live in, thank you very much." Sophie's father was scooping shepherd's pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat — marked from the day. "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she, Dad?" said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father's chair.'

i. Sophie wants to become an actress to:

- a. become famous
- b. to earn money
- c. to support her father
- d. to compete with Jansie

- ii. Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on:
- a. her marriage
 - b. her career
 - c. to open a boutique
 - d. buying a house

iii. Complete the sentence based on your understanding.
Sophie is daydreaming about -----.

iv. State TRUE or FALSE

The phrase 'money grows on trees' indicates that Sophie really valued money.

v. Sophie's mother's sigh is one of:

- a. regret
- b. delight
- c. relief
- d. helplessness

vi. From the extract, we can conclude that Jansie is a person.

- a. practical
- b. dominating
- c. immature
- d. Startstuck

10. Answer ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below in 40-50 words.

(5*2=10)

- a. How are Saheb and Mukesh different from each other?
- b. Paraphrase in your words the contents of the rattrap seller's letter to Edla.
- c. What does the poet's smile in the poem 'My Mother at 66' show?
- d. 'Beauty is best left undefined'. Support your position on this statement with your rationale, coupled with ideas in the poem.
- e. Despite his philosophical insights, the peddler couldn't resist temptation. Comment.
- f. Comment on the significance of the villagers sitting at the back in M.Hamel's classroom.

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the following three questions in 40-50 words each.

(2*2=4)

- a. How would you evaluate Sam's character? Elucidate any two qualities, and substantiate with evidence from the text.
- b. Do you agree with the Tiger King's statement, 'you may kill a cow in self-defense'?
- c. Untouchability is not only a crime; it is inhuman too. Why and how did Bama decide to fight against it?

12. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words each.

(1*5=5)

- a. Do you think Sophie is overambitious and Jansie is more practical? Discuss.

OR

- b. A Roadside Stand is a social satire depicting the two contrasting worlds existing in society. Justify this statement with reference to the poem.

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following two questions in 120-150 words each.

(1*5=5)

- a. How is man blamed for despoiling the earth and climate changes? How can you see the effect of these changes in Antarctica?

OR

- b. Mr. Lamb stands as a symbol of optimism and hope. Support your answer with examples from the text.