

The Mother's International School
Pre Board Examination 2023
Class – XII
Subject – English
Date – 13/12/2023

Time – 3 Hours

Max. Marks – 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 (22 marks)

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. 12 marks

- 1 An emerging discipline called neuroaesthetics is seeking to bring scientific objectivity to the study of art, and has already given us a better understanding of many masterpieces. The blurred imagery of Impressionist paintings seems to stimulate the brain's amygdala, for instance. Since the amygdala plays a crucial role in our feelings, that finding might explain why many people find these pieces so moving.
- 2 Could the same approach also shed light on abstract twentieth-century pieces, from Mondrian's geometrical blocks of colour, to Pollock's seemingly haphazard arrangements of splashed paint on canvas? Sceptics believe that people claim to like such works simply because they are famous. We certainly do have an inclination to follow the crowd. When asked to make simple perceptual decisions such as matching a shape to its rotated image, for example, people often choose a definitively wrong answer if they see others doing the same. It is easy to imagine that this mentality would have even more impact on a fuzzy concept like art appreciation, where there is no right or wrong answer.
- 3 Angelina Hawley-Dolan, of Boston College, Massachusetts, responded to this debate by asking volunteers to view pairs of paintings – either the creations of famous abstract artists or the doodles of infants, chimps and elephants. They then had to judge which they preferred. A third of the paintings were given no captions, while many were labelled incorrectly; volunteers might think they were viewing a chimp's messy brushstrokes when they were actually seeing an acclaimed masterpiece. In each set of trials, volunteers generally preferred the work of renowned artists, even when they believed it was by an animal or a child. It seems that viewer can sense the artist's vision in paintings, even if they can't explain why.
- 4 Robert Pepperell, an artist based at Cardiff university, creates ambiguous works that are neither entirely abstract nor clearly representational. In one study, Pepperell and his collaborators asked volunteers to decide how powerful they considered an artwork to be, and whether they saw anything familiar in the piece. The longer they took to answer these questions, the more highly they rated the pieces under scrutiny, and the greater their neural activity. It would seem that the brain sees these images as puzzles, and the harder it is to decipher the meaning, the more rewarding is the moment of recognition. And what about artists such as Mondrian, whose paintings consist exclusively of horizontal and vertical lines encasing blocks of colour? Mondrian's works are deceptively simple, but eye-tracking studies confirm that they are meticulously composed, and that simply rotating a piece radically changes the way we view it. With the originals, volunteers' eyes tended to stay longer on certain places in the image, but with the altered versions they would flit across a piece more rapidly. As a result, the volunteers considered the altered versions less pleasurable when they later rated the work.

- 5 In another experiment, Alex Forsythe of the University of Liverpool analysed the visual intricacy of different pieces of art, and her results suggest that many artists use a key level of detail to please the brain. Too little and the work is boring, but too much results in a kind of 'perceptual overload', according to Forsythe. What's more, appealing pieces both abstract and representational, show signs of 'fractals' – repeated motifs recurring in different scales. Fractals are common throughout nature, for example, in the shapes of mountain peaks or the branches of trees. It is possible that our visual system, which evolved in the great outdoors, finds it easier to process such patterns.
- 6 It is also intriguing that the brain appears to process movements when we see a handwritten letter, as if we are replaying the writer's moment of creation. This has led some to wonder whether Pollock's works feel so dynamic because the brain reconstructs the energetic actions the artist used as he painted. This may be due to our brains' 'mirror neurons', which are known to mimic others' actions. The hypothesis will need to be thoroughly tested, however. It might even be the case that we could use neuroaesthetic studies to understand the longevity of some pieces of artwork. While the fashions of the time might shape what is currently popular, works that are best adapted to our visual system may be the most likely to linger once the trends of previous generations have been forgotten.
- 7 It is still early days for the field of neuroaesthetics – and these studies are probably only a taste of what is to come. It would, however, be foolish to reduce art appreciation to a set of scientific laws. We should not underestimate the importance of the style of a particular artist, their place in history and the artistic environment of their time.

i. Read the following statements and pick the correct option given below. (1)

Statement a) Many people find these pieces so moving.

Statement b) The amygdala plays a crucial role in our feelings.

- A. Statement a & b are not related.
 B. Statement b is the cause for statement a.
 C. Statement a is the cause for statement b.
 D. Statement a disproves statement b.

ii. Based on your reading of paragraph 2 which of the following sayings express people's mindset? (1)

- A. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.
 B. Beliefs are conclusions reached by men who are lazy to think for themselves.
 C. An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.
 D. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

iii. Complete the given sentence: Angelina Hawley-Dolan's experiment proves that people have an innate sense of _____. (1)

iv. State True and False: (1)

There is no distinction between a chimp's messy brushstrokes and an acclaimed masterpiece. (1)

v. Why do many artists use a key level of detail to please the brain? (1)

vi. Pick out the antonym of the word 'decipher'. (1)

- A. To elucidate
 B. To decide
 C. To obscure
 D. To construe

vii. What did the experiment of Robert Pepperell establish? (2)

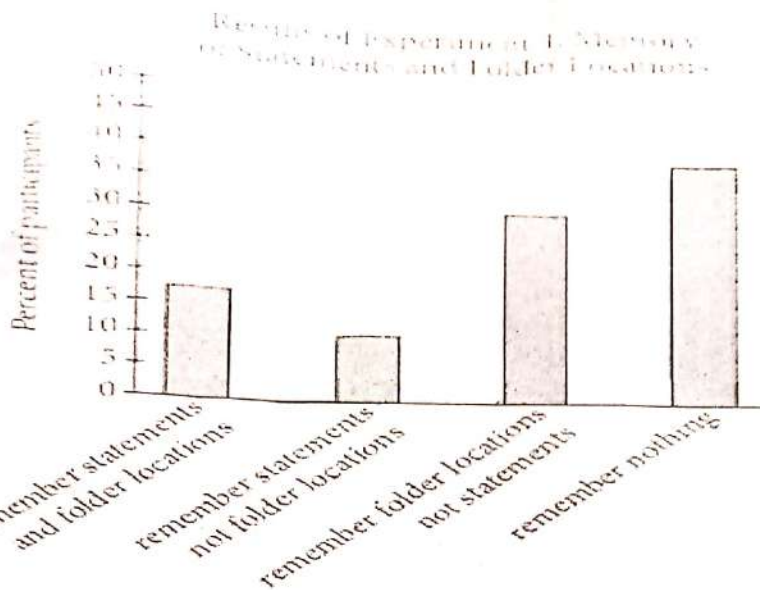
viii. How can the study of neuroaesthetics prove that great art would stand the test of time? (2)

ix. 'Fractals' appeal to human beings because _____ (2)

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

10 marks

- 1 Search engines have changed the way we use the Internet, putting vast sources of information just a few clicks away. But Harvard professor of psychology Daniel Wegner's recent research proves that websites and the Internet are changing much more than technology itself. They are changing the way our memories function.
- 2 Wegner's latest study, "Google Effects on Memory: Cognitive Consequences of Having Information at Our Fingertips," shows that when people have access to search engines, they remember fewer facts and less information because they know they can rely on "search" as a readily available shortcut.
- 3 Wegner, the senior author of the study, believes the new findings show that the Internet has become part of a transactive memory source, a method by which our brains compartmentalize information. First hypothesized by Wegner in 1985, transactive memory exists in many forms, as when a husband relies on his wife to remember a relative's birthday. "It is this whole network of memory where you don't have to remember everything in the world yourself," he says. "You just have to remember who knows it." Now computers and technology as well are becoming virtual extensions of our memory.
- 4 The idea validates habits already formed in our daily lives. Cell phones have become the primary location for phone numbers. GPS devices in cars remove the need to memorize directions. Wegner points out that we never have to stretch our memories too far to remember the name of an obscure movie actor or the capital of Kyrgyzstan—we just type our questions into Google. "We become part of the Internet in a way," he says. "We become part of the system and we end up trusting it."
- 5 Working with researchers Betsy Sparrow of Columbia University and Jenny Liu of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Wegner conducted four experiments to demonstrate the phenomenon, using various forms of memory recall to test reliance on computers. In the first experiment, participants demonstrated that they were more likely to think of computer terms like "Yahoo" or "Google" after being asked a set of difficult trivia questions. In two other experiments, participants were asked to type a collection of readily memorable statements, such as "An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain." Half the subjects were told that their work would be saved to a computer; the other half were informed that the statements would be erased. In subsequent memory testing, participants who were told their work would not be saved were best at recalling the statements. In a fourth experiment, participants typed into a computer statements they were told would be saved in specific folders. Next, they were asked to recall the statements. Finally, they were given cues to the wording and asked to name the folders where the statements were stored. The participants proved better able to recall the folder locations than the statements themselves.
- 6 Wegner concedes that questions remain about whether dependence on computers will affect memories negatively: "Nobody knows now what the effects are of these tools on logical thinking." Students who have trouble remembering distinct facts, for example, may struggle to employ those facts in critical thinking. But he believes that the situation overall is beneficial, likening dependence on computers to dependence on a mechanical hand or other prosthetic device. And even though we may not be taxing our memories to recall distinct facts, we are still using them to consider where the facts are located and how to access them. "We still have to remember things," Wegner explains. "We're just remembering a different range of things." He believes his study will lead to further research into understanding computer dependence, and looks forward to tracing the extent of human interdependence with the computer world—pinpointing the "movable dividing line between us and our computers in cyber networks."



- i. The main purpose of the passage is to _____ (1)
- describe a series of experiments on the way technology interferes with critical thinking.
 - assert that people have become overly dependent on computers for storing information.
 - discuss the idea that humans' capacity for memory is much weaker than it once was.
 - share the findings of a study examining the effect of computer use on memory recall.
- ii. In context, the reference to remembering a relative's birthday mainly serves to _____ (1)
- show that people who are closely related tend to have shared memories.
 - demonstrate how people initially developed external sources of memory.
 - emphasize the effectiveness and accuracy of transactive memory sources.
 - illustrate the concept of a transactive memory source using a familiar situation.
- iii. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following would be considered a transactive memory source? (1)
- A souvenir brought home from a memorable trip.
 - A written list of a user's passwords for different websites.
 - A library database that helps users locate specific books.
 - A website that helps users plan and make travel arrangements.
- iv. As used in Para 3, 'extensions of' most nearly means _____ (1)
- delays in.
 - additions to.
 - lengths of.
 - developments of.
- v. The findings of the first experiment suggests that people are inclined to think of specific information sources in response to being _____ (1)
- required to memorize details that will then be made inaccessible.
 - directed to develop a system for organizing and saving content.
 - asked to provide facts that are not already familiar to them.
 - prompted to identify terms related to dependence on computers.

- As used in Para 6, 'employ' most nearly means _____ (1)
- A. utilise B. enrol C. exert D. assign
- vii. Why does Wegner feel that reliance on computers will not necessarily diminish human memory? (2)
- viii. According to the graph, approximately what percentage of participants remembered both parts of the information given to them during the fourth experiment? (1)
- A. 7% B. 10% C. 17% D. 30%
- ix. Based on the description of Wegner's fourth experiment, what is the most likely explanation for the findings for the largest single group of participants represented in the graph? (1)
- A. Those participants focused on remembering the folder locations.
B. Those participants attempted to remember the statements and the folder locations.
C. Those participants did not attempt to remember any specific pieces of information.
D. There is not enough information to determine the cause of the results for those participants.

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. With the aim of showcasing the cultural diversity of India, the RWA of Panchsheel Colony is organising a Fancy-Dress competition for children. As the President draft a notice, in not more than 50 words, giving all the relevant details. **4 marks**
4. The Dramatics Society of Arya Public School is staging a play on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of their school and wish to invite all parents. Write a formal invitation on their behalf in not more than 50 words. **4 marks**
5. Paul Wignall, a palaeontologist, says 'Alligators, gharials and crocodiles belong to a group dating back to the Triassic age 250 million years ago. Imagine the travesty, when these ancient, extraordinary beings are made the cover of a handbag.'
- Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting your concern regarding human beings' over-exploitation of other species and wildlife for their greed. The destruction of Earth's web of life may also be the end of us. (120-150 words) **5 marks**
6. A summit on education was organised by the Department of Education to bring about radical changes in the education policy to make the students of the country future-ready. Student leaders, educationists and prominent citizens attended the summit in New Delhi. As a reporter from Indian Express, write the report, including all the details, in 120-150 words. **5 marks**

SECTION C : LITERATURE (40 marks)

6x1 = 6 marks

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow.

It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves any more,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

- i. "mercifully gathered in", here suggests that the relocation _____ (1)
1. is a part of the government's welfare scheme.
2. is the government's attempt to increase its vote bank.
3. is the government's ulterior purpose for exploitation.
4. is a part of the government's urbanisation scheme.
A. 1&2 B. 1&4 C. 2&3 D. 3&4
- ii. The country people will be relocated near the store and theatre because _____ (1)
- iii. What does the poet mean by "the ancient way"? (1)
- iv. The figurative devices used in the 5th line are- (1)
A. metaphor, sarcasm, oxymoron
B. oxymoron, sarcasm, alliteration
C. alliteration, metaphor, sarcasm
D. oxymoron, synecdoche, alliteration
- v. **Statement a) The government in power has enforced benefits on the pitiful kin.**
Statement b) Their sleeping patterns have been completely destroyed. (1)
A. Statement a and b exist independent of each other
B. Statement a is the effect of b
C. Statement b is the consequence of a
D. Statement b is false in the context
- vi. Which of the options describes the government in power/regime in question? (1)
A. dog in the manger
B. wolf in a sheep's clothing
C. bull in a China shop
D. snake in the grass

8. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

6x1 = 6 marks

"She thinks money grows on trees, don't she, dad?" said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father's chair.

Their mother sighed.

Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings. The delicate-seeming bow and the crooked back. The evening had

already blacked in the windows and the small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner. Sophie felt a tightening in her throat.

- i. Derek speaks his words in the context of _____ (1)
- A. Sophie's intention of buying a boutique
 - B. His father's wish that Sophie buys them a decent house
 - C. Sophie's disdain for working in the biscuit factory
 - D. Sophie's desire to be sophisticated
- ii. Sophie's mother sighs because _____ (1)
- A. she is tired of the daily chores.
 - B. she is tired of the daily brawls in the house.
 - C. she regrets Sophie being impractical.
 - D. she feels claustrophobic.
- iii. **Statement a) Sophie's mother stooped over the sink and her back was crooked**
Statement b) There was a delicate bow on her apron strings.
Sophie finds this incongruous because _____ (1)
- iv. Identify a word in the passage which can be replaced by the word 'dainty'. (1)
- v. Identify a textual clue that allows you to infer that Sophie had a detestation for the family's economic status and the atmosphere at home. (clue will be a phrase here) (1)
- vi. Why do you think "little Derek" speaks so wisely? (1)

9. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow: 4x1 = 4 marks

"I have killed the hundredth tiger. My vow has been fulfilled," the Maharaja was overcome with elation. Ordering the tiger to be brought to the capital in grand procession, the Maharaja hastened away in his car.

After the Maharaja left, the hunter went to take a closer look at the tiger. The tiger looked back at them rolling its eyes in bafflement. The men realised that the tiger was not dead: the bullet had missed it. It had fainted from the shock of the bullet whizzing past. The hunters wondered what they should do.

- i. The killing of the hundredth tiger was important for the king because _____ (1)
- A. it was a rare feat that very few could achieve.
 - B. he had been challenged by a neighbouring king.
 - C. the royal astrologers predicted that he would be wanting in courage.
 - D. he could disprove the astrologers' prediction.

- ii. The Maharaja was very _____ and _____ now. (1)
- A. nervous and elated.
 - B. euphoric and dismayed
 - C. relieved and dismayed
 - D. euphoric and relieved

- iii. The tiger was baffled because _____ (1)

- iv. The tone of the passage is one of _____ (1)
- A. pathos
 - B. irony
 - C. jubilation
 - D. apology

5x2 = 10 marks

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in 40-50 words:

- i. Gandhi's behaviour around the court house quite baffled the officials. Why?
- ii. Describe how Stephen Spender's visit to the Gemini Studios was an absolute fiasco.
- iii. Garbage scrounging has different overtones for adults and children. Explain.
- iv. What could be the reasons behind Aunt Jennifer's nervous and 'fluttering' existence?
- v. Already I envisage the slow walk home, and Geoff's disappointed face when I tell him, "He didn't come, that Danny."

What do you think Geoff would have told Sophie and why?

- A. I really want to believe what you say but you fail me every time.
 - B. You deserve to be chided by father; you are a compulsive liar.
 - C. I wish I had told Jansie about this imaginary date of yours. That would have served you right.
 - D. I was eagerly waiting to know what transpired between Danny and you. This is really disappointing.
- vi. "I never saw him look so tall". Why is little Franz awed by M Hamel's presence during the last lesson?

2x2 = 4 marks

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 40 to 50 words.

- i. Comment on the appropriateness of title of the play, 'On the Face of It'.
- ii. Bama found the mannerisms and gestures of the elder carrying the "vadai" very amusing. Why did she find them outrageous later?
- iii. Do you think Sam's quest for the third level is more disconcerting for the reader than that of Charley's? Yes/ No? Justify.

12. Robert Frost (A Roadside Stand) and Anees Jung (Lost Spring) meet at a roadside café and engage in a conversation with the understanding that the spectacle of poverty and exploitation cuts across borders. They talk about some specific and some common factors that keep a section of the population in their countries in grinding poverty and misery with little or no scope of improvement. Construct this imaginary conversation adding five more exchanges to the one done for you, in 120-150 words.

5 marks

Anees Jung: Mr. Robert Frost! What a pleasant surprise! I am so fond of your poetry. 'Stopping by the Woods', 'The Road Not Taken', 'A Roadside Stand' and the list is endless.

Robert Frost: Glad to meet you Ms. Anees Jung. The manager here told me that you frequent this place. I too am curious to know more about you and your writings.

13. Awed by the geological history and vast immensity of Antarctica, Geoff Green realises that the continent is a storehouse of half-million year old carbon records which are essential to examine the earth's past, present and future. He also realises how his 'Students on Ice' venture will make meaningful contribution towards environmental awareness.

As Geoff Green, make a diary entry recording your thoughts and optimism in about 120-150 words.

5 marks