

**TERM II**  
**PRE BOARD PAPER (2021-22)**  
**ENGLISH – CORE**  
**CLASS-XII**

**Time allowed: 2 Hours.**

**Maximum Marks: 40**

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 (14marks)**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

1. Once upon a time there was a royal elephant which used to reside in the premises of the king's palace. The elephant was very dear to the king, so he was well-fed and well-treated. There was also a dog who lived near the elephant's shed. He was very weak and skinny. He was always fascinated by the smell of rich sweet rice being fed to the royal elephant.

2. One day, the dog could no longer resist the aroma of the rice and somehow managed to sneak into the elephant's mouth. He liked the rice so much, that he started going there daily to eat the rice. For days, the huge elephant did not notice the small dog as he was busy enjoying the delicious food. Gradually, the dog grew bigger and stronger eating such rich food. Finally the elephant noticed him and allowed him access to the food.

3. The elephant enjoyed the company of the dog and started sharing his food with him. They also started spending time with each other and soon became good friends. They ate together, slept together and played together. While playing, the elephant would hold the dog in his trunk and swing him back and forth. Soon neither of them was happy without the other. They became great friends and didn't want to be separated from each other.

4. Then one day, a man saw the dog and asked the elephant-keeper, "I want to buy this dog. What price do you want for it?" The elephant-keeper did not own the dog but sold it and extracted a sum of money from this deal. The man took the dog to his home village, which was far away. The king's elephant became very sad after this incident. He missed his friend a lot and started neglecting everything. He did not want to do anything without his dear friend, so he stopped eating, drinking and even bathing.

5. Finally, the elephant-keeper reported this to the king; however he did not mention anything about the dog. The king had a wise minister, who was known for his keen understanding of animals. The king ordered the minister, "Go to the elephant's shed and find out the reason for the elephant's condition". The intelligent minister went to the elephant's shed and found the elephant very sad. He examined the elephant and asked the elephant-keeper, "there is nothing wrong with this elephant's body, then why does he look so sad? I think this elephant is grief stricken, possibly due to the loss of a dear friend. Do you know if this elephant shared a close friendship with anyone?"

6. The elephant-keeper said, "There was a dog who used to eat, sleep and play with the elephant. He was taken by a stranger three days ago". The minister went back to the king and said, "Your majesty, in my opinion, the royal elephant is not sick, but he is lonesome without his dear friend, the dog". The king said, "You are right, friendship is one of the most wonderful things of life. Do you know where that dog is?"

7. The Minister replied, "elephant-keeper has informed me that a stranger took him away and he does not know his whereabouts". The king asked, "How can we bring back my elephant's friend and make him happy again?" The minister suggested, "Your Majesty, make a declaration, that whoever has the dog that used to live at the royal elephant's shed will be penalized". The king did the same and the man who had taken the dog, instantly turned him loose when he heard the proclamation.

8. As soon as he was freed, the dog ran back as fast as he could to the elephant's shed. The elephant was so delighted to see the dog that he picked his friend up with his trunk and swung him back and forth. The dog wagged his tail, while the elephant sparkled with happiness. The king was content to see the elephant happy once again and rewarded the minister for his wise judgment.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT questions from the nine given below. (1X8=8)**

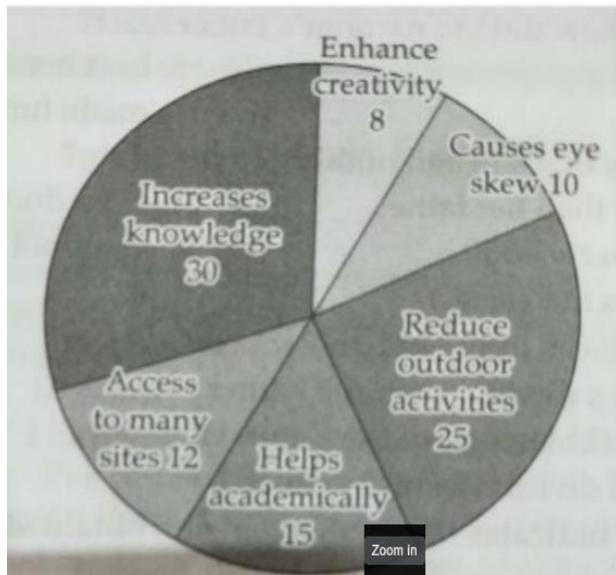
- i.** Why according to you was the elephant treated so well? (1)
- ii.** What does the use of the phrase 'resist the aroma' suggest in the context of the writer's viewpoint about the dog? (1)
- iii.** How do you know that the elephant enjoyed the company of the dog? (1)
- iv.** Cite a point in evidence, from the text, to suggest that the elephant had become very sad. (1)
- v.** State any one trait of the elephant keeper that is evident from paragraph 5, lines 1-2 and provide a reason for your choice. (1)
- vi.** What was the minister's diagnosis of the elephant's condition? (1)
- vii.** Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined word with another one, from paragraph no.7.  
*The location of the treasure can be found on the secret map of the island.* (1)
- viii.** Select a suitable phrase from paragraph 8 to complete the following sentence appropriately. *Gazing out at the softly falling snowflakes, another of the ceaseless wonders of mother nature, her eyes \_\_\_\_\_.* (1)
- ix.** Analyse why the elephant was happy again in the context of "friendship is one of the most wonderful things of life." (1)

## **2. Read the passage given below**

1. Technology has advanced tremendously and has taken control of our daily lives. Every household has at least one television set, laptop or desktop. It is not an

uncommon sight to see kids playing with smart phones or tablets nowadays. We cannot deny how much technology has helped us, but are we exposing ourselves and our children to too much of it?

2. There has been much research, surveys and plenty of debate among educators, policymakers, paediatricians and parents on the benefits and advantages of technology over the years. The kids are able to talk to friends and family who are far away. They enhance your child's curiosity and encourage him to explore from the safety of your home. Pushing keys and using the mouse help in fine-tuning your child's fine motor skill which enhances their eye-hand coordination. Studies carried out by independent researchers have found that the use of technologies could support home learning.



3. However, technological interactivity can never replace human interaction as current technology cannot replace the human element of interaction between parent and child. The technology may affect the pre-scholars' developing cognitive and social skills. The extensive use of tablet computers does not encourage innovative learning. It also increases aggressive responses from playing violent video games. As mentally stimulating as they are, technological devices do not promote physical stimulation as much as physical activity. The responses received from parents and teachers during the survey conducted

have been depicted in the form of a pie diagram.

**2. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY SIX out of the seven questions given below. (1X6=6)**

- i.** What does the writer mean by 'taken control of our daily lives'? (1)
- ii.** What do kids play with nowadays? (1)
- iii.** Technology has helped us, but are we exposing ourselves and our children to too much of it? Comment. (1)
- iv.** State two negative fallouts of the extensive use of technology. (1)
- v.** Technological interactivity can never replace human interaction according to the survey. Comment. (1)
- vi.** Pushing keys and using the mouse are very beneficial to children. Substantiate. (1)
- vii.** With reference to the pie diagram, write any two positive conclusions about the benefits and advantages of technology. (1)

## SECTION B - WRITING (8 marks)

3. You are the Principal of K.M. School, Bhiwani. Your school is organising its Annual Sports Day. Draft an invitation to be sent to the parents. (3)

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)

A. You are Namrata, residing at House No. B-94, Balimela Road, Malkangiri, Delhi 110059. You came across the following classified advertisement in The Hindustan Times. Write a letter, in about 120-150 words, applying for the position of Accountant in Star International School.

### SITUATION VACANT

**WANTED** Accountant, aged 30-35 years. Candidate should possess good accounting skills along with an outgoing personality and effective communication skills. Apply within five days of the advertisement to The Principal, Star International School, 42 R.G. Complex Road, Borivali, Mumbai 67

**OR**

B. A Blood Donation camp had been organised by an NGO, “Health for You” at Sunshine Colony, Delhi. You are Purna. Your newspaper had deputed you to cover this event. As a newspaper reporter of The Times of India, use the given cues along with your own ideas to write a report about the same in 120-150 words.

- Inauguration
- Large crowd
- Volunteers
- Banners
- Registration
- Blood donation
- Closing

## SECTION C - LITERATURE (18 marks)

5. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below within 40 words each. (2X5=10)

i. “When, at about ten o’clock, they drove back from the church, the young girl sat and hung her head even more dejectedly than usual.” Which two reasons forced her to behave in this manner? (2)

ii. “The battle of Champaran is won” What led Gandhiji to make this remark? (2)

iii. How does Keats explain that the beauty that we see is not short lived? (2)

**iv.** In the poem ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers,’ what is the contrast between the reality of Aunt’s life and her imagination? (2)

**v.** What benefits did Derry reap from his association with Mr. Lamb? (2)

**vi.** Having got rid of his stink, what problem did Roger Skunk face? (2)

**6.** Answer **ANY TWO** of the following in 120-150 words each. (2X4=8)

**i.** What images does Keats use in ‘A Thing of Beauty’ to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth? What is their impact on us? (4)

**ii.** How did the negligence of the prison officers prove to be helpful for Evans. Validate. (4)

**iii.** Gandhiji considered freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran. Why? (4)

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