FIRST TERM EXAMINATION, 2011–2012
ENGLISH (CORE)

This paper consists of three Sections:

Section A : Reading 20 marks
Section B : Writing 35 marks
Section C : Literature 45 marks

General Instructions:
(i) Attempt all questions.
(ii) Do not write anything on the question paper.
(iii) All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper.
(iv) Attempt all questions in each section before going on to the next section.
(v) Strictly adhere to the word limit given. Marks shall be deducted for exceeding the word limit.

SECTION A : READING (20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12)
   1. Today it is out of vogue to speak in terms of character. But there is no more essential aspect of any person.
   2. Character is made up of those principles and values that give your life direction, meaning and depth. These constitute your inner sense. What's right and wrong is based not on laws of conduct, but on who you are. They include such traits as integrity, honesty, courage, fairness and generosity—which arise from the hard choices we have to make in life.
   3. Many have come to believe that the things we need for success are talent, energy and personality. But history has taught us over the long haul, who we are is more important than who we appear to be.
   4. Until about 150 years ago, almost everything in literature of success and self help focused on what could be called the character ethic. Such eminent figures as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson made clear their belief that we can only experience true success and happiness by making character the bedrock of our lives.
   5. But since the late 19th century and after the world War I, the basic view of success shifted to what we could call the personality ethic. Success became more a function of charm, skills and techniques that, at least on the surface, lubricate the process of human interaction. Rather than struggle with thorny issues of right and wrong, we turned to making things run smoothly.

P.T.O.
6. With a value system based solely on skill and personality, we find heroes in athletes, musicians and in powerful business executives. But despite the admiration we feel for these achievers, we shouldn't necessarily look upon them as role models. While skill is certainly needed for success it can never guarantee happiness and fulfillment. These come from developing character.

7. You can begin to build character at any age. The key is learning how to look within to work inside out within the inside out approach. These private victories precede public victories. These private victories are simply promises you make to yourself and others and then keep. They don't have to be profound or life altering, like a career change. They can be as mundane as commitment to exercise everyday.

8. A promise like this may sound inconsequential, but it represents the hard choices we face in everyday life. The first step towards building character is to tackle a hard choice, commit to change and stay with it.

9. Day by day, as you make and keep increasingly challenging promises, you will be making deposits in your character account. What begins as a great effort will eventually become a habit? And as you get into the habit, building character in the important spheres will grow.

10. Private victories therefore lead to our larger public victories. For instance, to gain more latitude in your job, you must first be a more responsible employee. To create a happy marriage, first be the kind of person who generates love, generosity, dependability and trust.

11. There's no more essential ingredient for character growth than trust, whether its trust we earn from colleagues or a friend it is built slowly overtime in an infinite variety of circumstances.

12. One of the most commonly overlooked ways to build trust is to be loyal to those who are not present. Another way to build character is to admit your mistake. Character is revealed in how we handle things that go wrong.

13. The best opportunities to build character, however, are within our families, where we are constantly tested and most vulnerable to make lapses. True character begins at home.

14. Often we sense that we can get away with things around those who know us best, who will love us regardless of our conduct. This can end up subverting our character and our relationships. How often have we heard of someone who is a gem of an employee, but treats his or her family like a piece of wood work?

15. All our relationships follow the contours of life; they have ups and downs. This is why our families provide a critical measure of our character.

1.1 Answer the following questions briefly:
(a) What constitutes character?
(b) Name the traits essential for character formation. (1)
(c) What qualities are essential for happiness and fulfillment? (1)
(d) Contrast the views about success in the last 200 years. (2)
(e) What are the ways to build character? (2)
(f) How far is family responsible for character formation? Give two instances. (2)

1.2. Find words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following:
(1) freedom (para 10)
(2) exposed to danger or attack (para 13)
(3) destroy/Corrupt (para 14)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8)

1. The nine-letter word "interview" can perspire the most knowledgeable and strong people in the world. That may be one reason political leaders and corporate giants normally do not agree for an interview. But the popular ones, or those who want to make an impact, willingly give interviews. In modern times, whether or not you like an interview, your prospects depend on its success. So you must know what an interviewer expects from you.

2. First an academic question: What is an interview? It is a discussion in which an interviewer faces a candidate for a short while and asks questions to probe his knowledge and awareness of the subject. These are done to assess the personality of the interviewee. It is a very formal means of interaction with one person facing a group of persons, each of whom is a specialist in his or her field. Though it is expected that questions would be asked only on areas known to the interviewee, the interviewers do ask on any subject they like.

3. For a successful interview, you have to understand that knowledge is an important component of success. Knowledge has two aspects: range and depth. The former implies that you should know a lot beyond your own specialisation and the latter means an awareness of the various aspects of the topic under discussion. An in-depth knowledge is gained through reading and listening. Be a serious, voracious and avid reader and do not justify your ignorance by saying that the subject does not interest you. Listening may be more important than reading. Be a keen listener, store major facts in your mind and use them at the appropriate time.

4. Next comes appearance, which means your dress for the interview. You must be elegantly attired for the occasion. Going for an interview is different than attending an evening party. Wear a simple outfit that suits your physique and features. If the weather demands, wear a jacket with a tie. The jacket should be formal, and the tie plain or striped. Women should wear sarees or any other
sober dress. Casuals like kurta pyjamas, jeans, T-shirt or Kolhapur is should not feature in your selection of dresses.

5. Conducting yourself in the apt way is equally significant. The way you move yourself, sit on the chair, place your hands and your briefcase and talk to the members reflect your behaviour. Walking sloppily, talking loudly or inaudibly, getting irritated easily, and showing documents insistently are symptoms of bad behaviour. A better way is to enter the room smartly, move forward with dignity, greet the board, sit when asked to, and thank at the end before you leave. Place your briefcase close to the chair, sit cross-legged with hands on your lap and talk to the members in a natural tone.

6. Expression is the most important aspect of the interview. During the time you spend with the board your expression conveys your views and opinions. For good expressions, what you need is clarity of mind and speech. Show your balanced thinking to convey your views clearly. Choose your words carefully. Use right words of normal usage, and abstain from verbosity. Avoid making ambiguous statements.

7. Convey your point of view effectively. In an interview, you may be asked questions where you have to either agree or disagree. Whatever your approach, convince the board that it is unbiased. The board may not agree with your view. Even if you disagree, let not your face show it. Create an impact through your expressions. Give the impression of being a leader. Show that you can cooperate and get it; that you can share views and get people to accept your authority to reach decisions and implement them.

8. Finally, never consider yourself to be a perfect person. Being a human being makes you susceptible to flaws. However, try to conform to the highest standards and reach as close to perfection as possible.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using abbreviations wherever necessary.  

(b) Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words using the notes made.

SECTION B : WRITING

3. You are Charu/Suresh. You are an employee with an NGO. You have been asked to launch a campaign in schools appealing to students, teachers and schools to donate used textbooks, story books, school bags and stationary. These are to be provided to underprivileged students in Delhi and the neighbouring regions. Design a suitable poster giving all necessary details in about 150 words.

Or

You are Sharvan/Smita, Secretary, Sports, an NGO working to provide good health care facilities to the needy. Draft an invitation to be sent to Dr. Randhawa, a
renowned Child Specialist, requesting him to preside over the inauguration of the charitable hospital that you are setting up for the children. (5 marks)

4. You went to see a handicraft exhibition at Delhi Haat. You were impressed by the talented artists and artisans from different states displaying their local arts made of paper, bamboo, embroidery etc. Write a report on the exhibition in about 80 words to be published in a newspaper. You are Rohan/Ragini. (10 marks)

Or

Write a factual description of a monument that you visited. Use the inputs given. (100 words)

5. You are Tarun/Tanushree. You have been asked to deliver a speech in the school assembly on “The power of one” i.e. the potential of each one of us as individuals to bring about a change vis a vis the environment or any other contemporary issue. Write the speech in about 200 words. (10 marks)

6. You are a class XII student. You are aware that there are several foreign universities that are approaching Indian students. Write a letter to the editor expressing your views on the need for students to discern facts about the institutes before investing money and falling an easy prey to glossy brochures advertising lush campuses. (10 marks)

SECTION C : LITERATURE (45 marks)

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)

Far far from gusty waves these children's faces. Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor: The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper seeming boy, with rat's eyes. The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones, reciting a father's guarded disease. His lesson, from his desk. At back of the dim class one unnoted, sweet and young.

(a) What are the gusty waves compared to and why? (1)

(b) Name the literary devices used in the first and second line. Explain the devices well. (2)

(c) Describe the three deprived children mentioned in the poem. (1)

Or

This map becomes their window and these windows
The shut upon their lives like catacombs,
Break O break open till they break the town
And show the children to green fields and make their world.

(5)
(a) Explain what the poet means by “this map” becoming “their window”. (1)
(b) What figure of speech has been used in the third line? Briefly explain its significance. (2)
(c) What does the repetition of the word ‘break’ tell you about the poet’s state of mind? (1)

8. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each: (2 × 3 = 6 marks)
   (i) Name the things that cause suffering and pain to human beings on Earth. (A thing of beauty) (ii) What do the activities of the fishermen and men gathering salt convey? (Keeping quiet) (iii) What poetic devices have been used by Kamala Das in her poem ‘My mother at Sixty Six’?

9. Answer the following in 30-40 words only: (2 × 5 = 10 marks)
   (i) What were the dreams of Saheb and Mukesh? Explain who among the two is likely in your opinion to realise it.
   (ii) How does M. Hamel pay tribute to the French Language?
   (iii) How does the incident at the Y.M.C.A. pool affect William Douglas later in his life?
   (iv) Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von Stahle?
   (v) How did the Champaran episode change the life of the peasants there?

10. Answer in 125-150 words:
    On the basis of your reading of the lesson ‘Indigo’, write a brief character sketch of Gandhiji focusing on his special qualities as a leader. (10 marks)
    Or
    What does the title “The Rattrap” symbolize? (10 marks)

11. Analyse how the story “The Enemy” suggests that human beings can rise above narrow prejudices even in the most trying circumstances. (7 marks)

12. Answer the following in 30-40 words each: (2 × 4 = 8 marks)
    (i) Why did Charley think that Sam had escaped to Galesburg?
    (ii) What is ironical about the tiger’s fate? Give two points.
    (iii) What interesting twist at the end gives Dr. Sadao an upper hand in the story. Elaborate.