SECOND TERM EXAMINATION, 2011–2012

ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hrs.

CLASS–XII

General Instructions :

1. The paper is divided into three Sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.

2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.

3. Abide by the prescribed word limit.

SECTION A : READING SKILL (20 marks)

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

High-altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task inspite of the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipments which modern climbers take with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber which ultimately determines the success of his attempt. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with the utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why all expeditionists invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. Moreover, a huge amount of capital is needed for financing these expeditions, and this is generally provided by governments or rich private organisations.

The primary object of a mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which, in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure, if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or the sudden death of a very important member of the party. Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in botany, biology, geology and various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain, and different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers and expeditionists utilise the fruits of their observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to success of later expeditions. The British Expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had

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not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the vicinity of the summit.

To ordinary people, mountaineering need not be a fearful journey in the land of snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face to face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes on the distant landscape. In the company of friends they can enjoy an outing near a waterfall or cross into the next valley with haversacks full of provisions dangling from their shoulders. All those who can afford to go to a hill station should seek this innocent pleasure, for it can be had without any risk to life or limb.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions briefly:

(i) What are the factors that determine the success of the climbers? (Mention any four) (2)

(ii) What precautions should the climbers take during the journey? (Mention any 2) (2)

(iii) In what ways does a mountaineering expedition contribute to the wealth of knowledge? (2)

(iv) How is the experience of an ordinary mountaineer different from that of a regular person who undertakes expeditions? (2)

(v) How does a local guide help in an expedition? (1)

(b) Find one word from the passage which means the same as the following: (3)

(i) obligatory (para 1)

(ii) takes for granted (para 2)

(iii) trail (para 3)

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

There is within each individual a spark of the divine, call it the atman, the soul, the Bothichitta or by whatever name. It is this spark that energizes human consciousness......Every individual has a unique value, because he represents a special correlation of forces revolving around a spiritual core of which he may or may not be conscious. Yoga helps us join this inner spiritual core with the all pervading divine.

Four main paths of yoga are identifiable; the yoga of wisdom or jnana yoga, of love or bhakti, of work or karma and of psycho-spiritual disciplines or raja yoga. Jnana yoga involves intellectual discrimination between the real and the unreal, to access reality that lies behind the manifested universe. It is somewhat like the concept of Plato who said that all we see are shadows of reality thrown on the wall of the cave, while remaining unaware both of the actual figures and the light that shines on them from behind. This yoga is a movement into a new dimension
of awareness in which we see the unity behind the diversity of the world around us. This vision of oneness—which the Upanishads call ‘Ekatvam’—transforms the ordinary human being into a seer, one who sees the integral unity behind the multifarious and bewildering multiplicity of our daily existence. Sri Ramana Maharishi was a jnana yogi.

If Jnana yoga is the way of the refined intellect, bhakti yoga is the way of the heart lit by love and adoration of a personalised aspect of the divine..... The opening of the heart centre is one of the most powerful methodologies for achieving direct contact with the divine......

Karma yoga’s aspects have been expounded in the ‘Gita’. Act we must, whether it is the subconscious activities within our bodies, or the conscious acts that we perform in our daily lives. Without such action human civilisation itself would never have developed. But the major question is as to how these actions can be reconciled with the spiritual quest. Karma yoga addresses this concept. Every action that we undertake, big or small, must be dedicated to one’s chosen divinity. Every act becomes worship. Rather than being obsessed with the results we must act from what we consider to be highest level of our consciousness, inwardly dedicate that act of the divine and leave the results to unfold as they may.

Actions flowing from hatred and fanaticism, cruelty and exploitation, can never be considered karma yoga because by definition they are incapable of being offered to the divine. Again good deeds by themselves, while preferable, do not constitute karma yoga unless there is a clear and unequivocal dedication to one’s chosen deity. Swami Vivekananda and Mother Teresa were Karma yogis.

Raja yoga is the royal path which involves psycho-spiritual practices including physical and breathing exercises that are known as yoga around the world. But only if they are directed ultimately beyond these to the quickening of spiritual consciousness. The basic theory revolves around the existence of a self-conscious spiritual power that is located at the base of the spine. With discipline and practice, this power can start to move up the spine, energising, as it rises, seven chakras or plexuses, which bring about incremental transmutation of consciousness, until finally the blazing light of this power—the Kundalini, the serpent power—pours into the cortex thus completing the process of spiritual transmutation. These four yogas are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

—Excerpted from the writer’s ‘I Believe’.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (min. 4) wherever necessary. (5)

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)
SECTION B : ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS (35 marks)

3. You are setting up a showroom for garments for teenagers. You require smart and trained staff to run the showroom. Draft a suitable advertisement to be printed in a national daily for a walk-in-interview for various posts. (5 marks)

   Or

   You are Rohan Verma, Co-scholastic Activities Incharge of Doon Public School, Dehradun. Your school has decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee function of the school in the form of its Annual Sports Day. Draft an invitation to be sent to the parents of all students and other guests and dignitaries. (5 marks)

4. Ryans International School recently organised a three day Personality Development Leadership training camp for its students. Write a report about the same in 125-150 words for the school news bulletin. (10 marks)

   Or

   You are Yatin/Yamini. You were in a busy market place when a series of bomb blasts suddenly took place. Write a description of the horrifying incident. (10 marks)

5. You had to appear for your Maths Tutorial and were travelling by one of the Local buses. You were caught in a traffic jam. Write an article for a newspaper briefly stating your experience and expressing your concern over the growing vehicular traffic on the roads. (10 marks)

   Or

   You are concerned about the politicisation of educational institutions and the disturbance caused by the frequent elections in the democratic set up. Prepare a speech to be presented in the meeting of the “Youth Forum” on the topic “The Involvement of Students in Politics”. (10 marks)

6. You are Sonum/Suresh. You come 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.

   Applications are invited for the post of a Physics teacher in a reputed school in Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years experience of teaching Physics to secondary students. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/She should be fluent in English and possess good communication skills. Salary as per government grades. Interested candidates should apply to the Principal, Bhatnagar International. (10 Marks)

   Or

   ‘Old couple murdered’, ‘Two year old kidnapped’ ‘Teenager molested’ The news channels and newspapers are full of horrifying details of such incidents. The police force too has failed to provide the much needed security to the common man. (4 marks)
Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern and suggesting some measures which people could adopt for their security. Sign as Nikita/Nitin Mahajan.

SECTION C : LITERATURE

7. (a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :
   A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky
   Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words
   (i) Name the poem and the poet. (1 mark)
   (ii) Explain the figures of speech and in lines 1 and 2 above. (2 marks)
   (iii) What does the phrase “stars of words” imply ? (1 mark)
   Or
   Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
   The thought of so much childish longing in vain.
   (i) What is the childish Longing that the poet refers to ? (1 mark)
   (ii) Why does the poet find the thought of “childish Longing in vain” unbearable? (2 marks)
   (iii) What suggestions does the poet make to overcome the grief ? (1 mark)

(b) Answer any three of the following questions in about 30-40 words. (2 x 3 = 6 marks)

(i) Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us ? Elaborate.
(ii) In Pablo Neruda’s poem, what kind of wars does man wage and what is their outcome ? What does the poet want instead ?
(iii) The poem “My mother at sixty-siz delves into the irony of human relationships.” Explain.
(iv) What is the role played by the tigers in the poem to highlight the character of Aunt Jennifer ?

8. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words : (2 x 5 = 10 marks)

(i) Explain the implication of Roosevelt’s remark, “all we have to fear is fear itself.” How does Douglas prove it to be true ?
(ii) What kind of a person was the owner of Ramesjo Mills ?
(iii) The extract ‘Poets and Pancakes’ gives a picture of the working of Gemini Studio—Elaborate.
(iv) How did Gandhiji feel about the lawyers at Champaran ?
(v) What is the baggage that Anees Jung refers to ? What is the baggage that Mukesh carries.

( 5 )
9. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words: (10 marks)
   The story 'Going Places' aptly demonstrates that fantacising and hero worship are an integral part of the life of a teenager. Comment.
   
   Or
   Christopher Silverster says that the interview holds a position of unprecedented power and influence. How is this proved by the interview with Umberto Eco?

10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words: (7 marks)
    Why did Zitkala-Sa feel that she was like 'one of many little animals driven by a herder'?
    
    Or
    Wallowing in self-pity and self-hatred had become an integral part of Derek's life and it took much patience and perseverance on the part of Mr. Lamb to shake him out of it. Discuss.

11. Answer the following briefly (30-40 words): (2 x 4 = 8 marks)
   (i) Justify the title of the story 'The Enemy'.
   (ii) Why is the Antarctica and its understanding so crucial to the survival of the world and to that of humankind?
   (iii) Why is the fact that Sam had moved to the third level ironical?
   (iv) The story "Should wizard hit mommy?" suggests that Jo was fast blossoming into a young person with a mind of her own. How does her father react to this startling development?

(6)