

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL JAMMU
ASSIGNMENT FOR HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
SESSION : 2019-20

CLASS : XII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

SECTION A : READING (30 MARKS)

Q.1 Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. The play of names has almost a touch of fable here-Nirakar, the formless one, regenerating the primal form of a forest that had passed into the mist. For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick, a small farmer in Orissa's Kendra Para district, has been greening a coastal landscape that had of late been experiencing more of brown. Droughts, as they are wont to be, are cruel in these parts. At other times, it's excess water that's the bane. Nirakar's latest sally-the rebirthing of a forest on a two hectare stretch circling the river Brahmani near his village- came after the green patch was denuded in the 1999 super cyclone.
2. The tidal waves that had swamped Orissa's coasts had led to heavy soil erosion, rendering these villages for ever vulnerable to floods. But now thanks to Nirakar, over five thousand trees of sundry varieties cover the area. This has not only helped restore the local ecosystem but also provided a potential source of income to the community. People, however, were skeptical in the beginning. They were losing out on grazing ground for cattle. Some were also suspicious of Nirakar's motive, fearing he was out to grab government land. But once the trees began shooting up and the entire village looked rejuvenated, everybody was won over. Nirakar, for one, never made any bid to corner the fruits of his labour.
3. So now there are fruit bearing trees in the forest-jackfruit, mango, guava, coconut-as well as timber rich ones like teak, casuarinas, eucalyptus. Not all of the seven thousand seedlings he'd planted, survived the elements. That didn't deter him, and Nirakar proudly says that as long as he is alive, no one from the area would ever harm a tree. Over the years, Nirakar has spent a small fortune out of his own hard earned savings in greening mission. As a driver in Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC), he'd get about Rs 3000 a month. From this, he would put aside Rs 500 for planting trees. For the last two years he has not been receiving his salary from the defunct OLIC. He manages to make both ends meet by working his share of the one acre farmland inherited from his father.
4. Born in 1962 in a poor Harijan family in Aliha village, Nirakar inherited a feel for the soil and the green thumb of his father. A good student, he had to quit the studies after class 9th to take up a job. He joined the OLIC in 1982 and got married the same year. Today he is father of trees, two sons and a daughter.
5. Though officially a driver , Nirakar is a jack of all trades, doubling up as mechanic, fitter, electrician and operator at Aliha's lift irrigation project. For the area's small farmers who depend on the water supplied through lift irrigation, he is nothing short of a hero.
6. Anti hero too, for some, at a point of time. Traditionally, the Harijans of Aliha never planted coconuts. The Brahmins had told them that if they dared to plant the forbidden fruit, there would be death in the community. Nirakar broke this "divine" taboo. He got about agricultural farm and distributed it among his people. Today almost every courtyard in Aliha village has half a dozen fruit bearing coconut trees and no one died. Nirakar's wife is an enthusiastic partner in his green ventures. His children also help. He has now taken a plantation of 20,000 seedlings along the tree kilometers stretch from Manipatna to Singri in his block. Nirakar aims to plant at least one lakh trees before he dies.
7. Recognition has evaded him so far and Nirakar is least bothered. His only regret is that the government has not taken over maintenance of the forest from him so that it can be preserved for posterity. He hopes his good work is not lost after he is gone. He is, as you must have realized by now, crazy about his trees. "The trees speak to me," he says, "God has paid me back richly in many ways. I need nothing more".

1.1 Choose the most appropriate option:

- a) For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick has been
i) planting trees
ii) painting green coastal landscapes
iii) has been living in Orissa's Kendra para district
iv) both i and ii
- b) Orissa's Para district is prone to
i) Floods
ii) Droughts
iii) both i and ii
iv) industrial deforestation
- c) The seven thousand seedlings planted by Nirakar
i) all died
ii) Some died
iii) all survived
iv) none of the above
- d) For the last two years, Nirakar has been running his household with the help of money
i) from his farmland
ii) from salary received from OLIC
iii) both I and ii
iv) none of the above
- e) Nirakar was "a Jack of all trades" means
i) he was a good driver
ii) he was a good mechanic, fitter, electrician and operator
iii) He worked as a driver but was actually a mechanic, fitter, electrician and operator
iv) He could do many different types of work

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

- a) Give an appropriate title to the passage.
b) Why did Nirakar quit his studies in childhood?
c) How did Nirakar break the 'divine taboo'?
d) Why was Nirakar called 'jack of all trades'?
e) How did Nariker spend a part of income?

1.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:

- a) a cause of great distress or annoyance (para 1)
d) discourage/prevent (para 3)

Q.2 Read the passage given below and do the questions that follow.

- 1 The Indian students' need to go abroad stems from the fact that they feel that the western markets offer better job opportunities with high pay packets, they are safe from the point of law and they offer a good quality of life. What is attractive to an Indian is the global recognition for a foreign degree. Until now, a UK or a US degree was more acceptable worldwide and for entry into a multinational company. The Indian Institutes of Technology have reached position of eminence in the United States.
- 2 Traditionally, the West has been a magnet for people from other parts of the world. However, as a person has to pass multiple exams to get through their system, especially in professional areas such as medicine and engineering, students from India need to be focused on their options to study and work there. However, most European countries have made the entry of skilled Indian workers easier by easing up visa regulations. The UK which has traditionally seen many skilled and unskilled workers migrate, has eased up visa regulations for Indians who wish to seek jobs in the skilled sectors such as IT whereas Scotland which has a separate Parliament within the UK, and a new entrant to the Indian education market, has taken several steps to woo Indian and other foreigners.
- 3 In the US, the largest number of foreign students come from India followed by China. The number from both the countries is 79,736 in the academic year 2003-2004 according to the Institute for International Education, an internationally recognized non-government organization. For the third consecutive year, India is the leading country of origin for international students in the US. The

assistant secretary of state, consular affairs, US department of state, Maurs Harty, stated recently, "The education industry in the US is the \$12 bn industry....students and business travelers became our number one priority so that we could regain the competitive advantage of attracting students to the US. It was our responsibility to make the visa process as efficient a process as we could because the hard earned salaries of the Indian parents are best applied in American varsities. Indian students bring a great diversity to our camps, great experience, great wisdom and they are good students."

Australia has eased up study and tourist visas for Indians. After study, a person from India does not have to come back to the country to apply for work visa. Individual regions in Australia compete with each other for attracting students. IDP Australia boasts of being the major export development and marketing company for Australian education as it is a conglomerate of all Australian universities and operates in 34 countries, India being one of them. There is expected to be a 15 percent to 25 percent increase in the number of Indians going to Australia for higher education.

Moving over to Canada, Popular with Punjabi migrants, it has traditionally attracted non skilled and skilled workers in equal measure from India. That country has now opened its doors to International students including India, making use of the decline in the student population post 9/11 US terror blasts, when the US tightened its security and visa measures. The country has an excellent public education system and education is more or less free. However, foreigners are charged market rates. The decrease in young population has necessitated Canada to open up its education system for foreign students.

- 2.1 On the basis of the reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Also supply an appropriate title to it.
- 2.2 Write a summary of the above passage in 100 words.

SECTION B : WRITING (30 MARKS)

- Q.3 You are Varsha/Varun, Secretary, Inlingua Institute. The institute is going to start fresh batches in foreign languages shortly. Write a classified advertisement for a local daily announcing the courses in not more than 50 words. Give relevant details.

OR

Your father, Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta , residing at K-18 ,13th Cross Malleswaram, Bangalore wants to celebrate the success of your brother Rohith's clearing the IIT-JEE Entrance Examination and securing admission in IIT Powai ,Mumbai. He wants you to draft a formal invitation for him on his behalf. Draft the invitation for him in not more than 50 words.

- Q.4 As Mr. R. Singh, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Cambridge High School, Pune, you had placed an order with Messrs. Scientific Equipments, Dadar, Mumbai for test tubes and jars for the lab. When the parcel was received you observed that markings on the test tubes were not clear and some of the jars were damaged. Write a letter of complaint seeking immediate replacement.

OR

There is a flood of advertisements on television channels these days promoting superstitious beliefs through exaggerated presentations. Write a letter to the editor of The Times of India about the negative influence such presentations have on the minds of the people. You are Vaibhav/Veshali of M-12, Mayur Vihar, Delhi. (word limit : 150)

- Q.5 A series of recent news about wasteful marriage preparations shocked you. Write an article on this issue giving suggestions to eradicate the culture of expensive marriages. **10**

OR

Every activity that man indulges in, is creating some kind of waste. In fact the need of the hour is to reuse, reduce, recycle. As the member of the 'Green Peace Campaign' write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered in the school morning assembly. You are Akash/Akanksha.

Q.6 You are Naman/Neha of Merigold Public School, Delhi. You recently attended a seminar on 'Road Safety' Write a report in about 200 words on the workshop for your school magazine.

OR

You are Sunil/Sneha. You are going to participate in a debate competition on the topic 'Gender Equality is Impossible'. Write this debate in 150-200 words for or against the motion. You are Abhi/Amita.

SECTION C : TEXT BOOKS (30 MARKS)

Q.8 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

**Far far from from gusty waves these children's faces
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor:
The tall girl with her weight down head. The paper-
seeming boy. With rat's eyes.**

- a) Where are these children sitting?
- b) How do the faces and hair of these children looking?
- c) Why is the head of the tall girl weighed-down?
- d) What do you understand by 'Paper-seeming boy with rat's eyes'?

Q.9 'Several hours later, I walked home. I was weak and trembling. I shook and cried when I lay on my bed.'

- a) Name the chapter and the author of the above lines.
- b) What had happened that made the speaker feel so?
- c) Who was responsible for speaker's this condition?

Q.10 Answer any five of the following questions in about 40 words.

- a) What made M. Hamel cry towards the end of his last lesson?
- b) Why did William Douglas prefer to go to YMCA pool and not Yakima river to learn swimming?
- c) What is the underlying message in 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'? How does it contrast with the slum children?
- d) Why did the Maharaja ban tiger killing in his state?
- e) "The rattrap is a present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to a captain". Explain how this circumstance came to pass with reference to the story.
- f) What was Charley's vision about Galesburg town?
- g) What do you think of the students on Ice expedition programme?

Q.11 'Lost Spring', is a sad commentary on the political system of our country that condemns thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Comment.

Q.12 The title of the Maharaja reflected grandeur but his death was an anticlimax. Justify.