

**DWARKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SECTOR-12, DWARKA, NEW DELHI
HALF YEARLY PAPER SET 2
ENGLISH CORE CLASS XI 2017-18**

**Time: 3hrs
M.M. 80**

The Question paper is divided into 4 sections:

Section A	Reading Comprehension	20 Marks
Section B	Writing	20 Marks
Section C	Grammar	10 Marks
Section C	Literature	30 Marks

General Instructions

1. All questions are compulsory
2. You may attempt any section at a time
3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A- READING 20 MARKS

Q1. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

12Marks

1. Life is an institution. We have a principal, God, who looks over the entire working of our life. He allots teacher, namely our parents, to guide us through this path. We learn lessons and it is up to us whether we want to pass or fail. Every morning we wake up and give a tick mark to the attendance file of our lives. The only difference in this school of life is you cannot play truant even for a day! Though from time to time one may doze off and not pay heed to the message that is being given to us.

2. From the start my parents taught me and my sister to be good human beings first. Life has been kind, sometimes harsh but mostly fair. We make many mistakes, some of which we admit and others, we conceal. But now that I'm 22 years old, I can review every step taken by me. Think positive. Yes, it's that simple. Thoughts are actions. Imagine if there are a billion good thoughts, the universe will throw back a billion good actions.

Something within tells me: 'Forget the world and listen to your heart'. If we all just start listening to our inner soul maybe we won't be scratching our heads while taking the final exam. I am not at all close to being perfect but I know I want to get near it..... not by mastering the business world, not by being perfect self according to me, but being kind, compassionate, and empathetic, one who sees the good in people and shares the good within themselves.

3. The true test is for us to examine, and to be honest to ourselves before we give a tick mark to our answer sheets. I had a lot of questions ready, my doubt all written, point by point since I could not get the answer from my teachers I made an appointment with God. I had doubts about life, love, death, fear, sorrow. I was angry. Why can't He guide us?

God was there by my side, every minute, every step. Even though I haven't got all the answers I know I will get there.... He will take me there, in my own time, the same way He has got me here, where I am now.

4. Some say one should never pity nor envy anyone else..... and I am happy to be me. The first important teaching to learn, count your blessings. We all stand to be a little more aware about what life is really trying to teach us.... and for some be aware that life is trying to teach us something.

5. Money is like our grades in school... it helps us move to the next steps but after that, who remembers what we scored in maths in the third standard? People forget that when we

die..... money does not come along with us. It becomes like our grades, we don't remember how much we earned or how much we lost. Families fight, friendships are ruined; parent child bonds are broken. Isn't that a waste.....why would anyone choose paper over love?

6. Here's plea for whoever is reading this..... let us all try and be the best pupils in this school called life. Be true.... love not only others but also yourself. Love God wholeheartedly because that's all he wants, and you know what they say "Be in his good books and you will go to the head of the class."

1) Answer the following questions: -

1x6=6marks

(a) **All our questions can be answered by**

- (i) Parent
- (ii) Friends
- (iii) God
- (iv) Ourselves

(b) **We can be good pupils by:-**

- (i) Loving ourselves
- (ii) Loving others
- (iii) Both (i) and (ii)
- (iv) none of the above

(c) **How do we give the attendance of our lives?**

- (i) By being positive
- (ii) By waking up in the morning
- (iii) By learning our lessons
- (iv) By helping others

(d) **The word in the passage which is opposite in meaning to 'atrocious' is _____.**

- (i) envy
- (ii) fair
- (iii) doze
- (iv) empathetic

(e) **"Be in his good books and you will go to the head of the class." Who does 'his' refer to here?**

- (i) our teachers
- (ii) the narrator's parents
- (iii) God
- (iv) our parents

(f) **The word which is similar in meaning to 'request' is _____.**

- (i) plea
- (ii) tick
- (iii) conceal
- (iv) review

2) Answer the following questions in brief:

1x6=6marks

- (a) How is God equal to a principal?
- (b) What is the difference between life at school and school of life?
- (c) Explain 'Forget the world and listen to your heart'.
- (d) Why did the narrator make an appointment with God?
- (e) What is the true test for us?
- (f) 'Money is like our grades in school.' 'Explain'?

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answers the questions that follow:

1. Here are some questions to ponder. Do you know why a certain film star received an arsenal of weapons from a gangster terrorist? Do you know why witnesses who turn hostile do not get prosecuted for either perjury or wasting police time, or both? Do you know why it takes a d

ecade or longer to try a criminal case in India? Have you ever thought of any solutions to these problems? If you haven't it might be because of the Type of education you received!

2. Most of us reluctantly accept the way things are because we have been educated to be accepting. We are not educated to be openly critical. We are not educated to argue, protest or confront. The Brits made no bones about it – in their schools we were educated to accept given values and ways of doing things. We were trained to be loyal servants to the status quo. Most of us oldies were subjected to the traditional approach to learning that focused on mastery of content, with little emphasis on the development of analytical skills and the nurturing of inquiring attitudes. We were the receivers of information, and the teacher was the dispenser. The passivity encouraged by teachers was typified by one of my principals who implored all the girls to be like 'limpid water in a crystal vase'.

3. These days I am kept very busy by schools that are running teacher-training courses to introduce the 'inquiry approach' to learning. Unlike traditional learning, this approach is focused on using and learning content as a means to develop information-processing and problem-solving skills. This system is more student-centered, with the teacher as a facilitator of learning. There is more emphasis on "how we come to know" and less on "what we know". Students are more involved in the construction of knowledge through active analysis and investigation. They are encouraged to ask questions, and give opinions and share what they know. They are encouraged to criticise and argue, and confront the conventional wisdom.

4. At the moment this new approach is restricted to a few schools. However this year the ability to critically analyse has been introduced as part of the CBSE school syllabus. It is a small start but it is a move towards introducing thinking skills into all of our schools. It is the start of a big change. Our government and bureaucracy are full of old, well-educated people of a traditionalist background, who also see, read and hear the news reports about hostile witnesses, gangsters and film stars, and murders by politician's sons. Like us they find them outrageous, but they don't know how to change things. Critical analysis, change management and innovation were not part of their schooling, and in adult life they have not become freely critical, outspoken analysts capable of applying the fruits of their analysis to increasingly complex problems.

5. We often come across the shortcomings of our government, judiciary and media. With very little effort these shortcomings can be overcome but this has not happened as yet. Not because our 'leaders' and 'societal managers' are unfeeling, immoral, self-seekers but because they were educated and excelled in consulting a textbook, and regurgitating someone else's opinion and knowledge.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. (4 Marks)

(b) Write a summary of the passage. (4 marks)

SECTION B – WRITING & GRAMMAR 30 MARKS

Q3. You are the Manager, Super Software Solution Ltd. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for your company for the post of Chief Programmer (Solutions) giving details as per your requirement.

OR

Write a notice in about 50 words for your school notice Board about the 'Literary Fest' to be held in your school. You are Adarsh Sharma of The India School, Mumbai. Invent necessary details

Q4. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper against the use of unfair means by students in examinations. Your name is Pankaj Walia and you live at 17, Model Town, Nawanshahar.

Q5. You are Pratibha/Pramod of Mont Fort School, Ashok Vihar. You are interested in doing a short term course in computer programming during summer vacations. Write a letter to the Director of the institution enquiring about the duration of such a course and the terms and conditions for admission.

Q6. In spite of Scientific and Technological advancement, man is still superstitious. He has landed on the moon and thinking of settling down there. But still he consults Pandits and Astrologers whether a particular day is auspicious to send the satellite into the space. Write an article in about 150-200 words on some of the interesting superstitions.

OR

Raj/Rajni is perturbed after reading a report about the miserable condition child labourers in India in the newspaper. She wants to express her strong feelings against the exploitation of children through an article to be published in his/her school magazine. (Word Limit: 150-200)

Q6. In the unedited passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after in your answer sheet. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined.

1/2X6=3marks

Parmesh and his friends planning a trip during the summer vacations. While all of them were keen to get from the heat, none them were able to suggest place to visit. It only draw of lots which could finally decide the matter.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

Q8. Rearrange the words and phrases given below to form meaningful sentences. Write the connect sentences in your answer sheet against the correct blank numbers.

1x3=3marks

- (a) highlights/ a/ of/number/ instances /the /of /injustice/report
- (b) the /on/ today's /flights /the /displayed /are /of/ monitor/details
- (c) are/looking/the/seriously/they/into/matter

SECTION D-LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXT 30 MARKS

Q9. Read the stanza and answer the questions with reference to the context:1x2=2marks

A sweet face.

My mother's that was before I was born.

And the sea, which appears to have changed less,

Washed their terribly transient feet.

- (a) Whose 'sweet face' has been referred to in the context?
- (b) What has stood the onslaught of time and what has not?

Q10. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words: 2x5= 10marks

- (a) How did Sue and Jonathan behave during the crisis hours?
- (b) Who was Tut? Why was his demise a big event?
- (c) Why was the grandmother distressed with education in city school?
- (d) Do you agree with Aram's remark that Mourad was considered the natural descendant of Uncle Khosrove? Explain.
- (e) In what respect was the narrator's second visit different from her first visit to Mrs. Dorling?
- (f) Why does rain call itself 'the poem of Earth'?

Q11. Answer any one of the following questions in detail: 6 marks

‘All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. ----
----- The sparrows took no notice of the bread. When we carried my grandmother’s corpse off, they flew away quietly.’

The sparrows loved and valued the grandmother’s love for them. Describe a brief account of the grandmother’s character with respect to this statement.

OR

The past can be a source of inspiration as well as regret. Comment with reference to the poem by Shirley Toulson.

Q12. Answer any one of the following questions in detail: 6 marks

‘I knew my cousin Mourad enjoyed being alive more than anyone else who had ever fallen into the world by mistake.’ Explain the statement with help of the instances from the story.

OR

‘The Address is a story about human predicament that follows war. Elucidate.

Q13. Answer any one of the following questions in detail: 6 marks

In the last two lines the poet has compared the rain to a song, which tells its beginning which is from the earth, through the whole water cycle after which it falls back on the earth. Explain the similarity between rain and music according to Whitman.

OR

Sum up the events of ‘We’re not afraid to die if we can all be together’. How did the family avert the disaster?