

DWARKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SECTOR-12, DWARKA, NEW DELHI
SAMPLE PAPER
CLASS XII 2019-20
ENGLISH CORE

Time: 3hrs.
M.M. 80

General Instructions

- (i) This paper is divided into three **Sections: A, B and C**. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A — (Reading) 30

Q1. Read the passage given below: 12

No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive' tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and I', 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I'. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So the question which has baffled many linguists is - who created grammar?

2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed; the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.

3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each other's languages, they developed a makeshift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles, and they are invented by children.

4. Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government

introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, in the playgrounds they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way. A new creole was born.

5. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first. The English past tense –ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do'. 'It ended' may once have been 'It end-did'. Therefore, it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy. (711 words)

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: 1X4=4

(a) In paragraph 1, why does the writer include information about the Cherokee language?

- i. To show how simple, traditional cultures can have complicated grammar structures.
- ii. To show how English grammar differs from Cherokee grammar.
- iii. To prove that complex grammar structures were invented by the Cherokees.
- iv. To demonstrate how difficult it is to learn the Cherokee language.

(b) What can be inferred about the slaves' pidgin language?

- i. It contained complex grammar.
- ii. It was based on many different languages.
- iii. It was difficult to understand, even among slaves.
- iv. It was created by the land-owners.

(c) All the following sentences about Nicaraguan sign language are true EXCEPT:

- i. The language has been created since 1979.
- ii. The language is based on speech and lip reading.
- iii. The language incorporates signs which children used at home.
- iv. The language was perfected by younger children.

(d) Which idea is presented in the final paragraph?

- i. English was probably once a creole.
- ii. The English past tense system is inaccurate.
- iii. Linguists have proven that English was created by children.
- iv. Children say English past tenses differently from adults.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: 1x6=6

- (a) What is common to all languages?
- (b) How can we find out who created grammar?
- (c) According to the passage what can be attributed as a consequence of the Atlantic slave trade?
- (d) What is pidgin?
- (e) What are creoles?
- (f) Why does the author say that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children?

1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: 1X2=2

i) simple and temporary (Para 3)

ii) uniform (Para 4)

Q2. Read the passage carefully 8 marks

1. It seems that there is never enough time in the day. But, since we all get the same 24 hours, why is it that some people achieve so much more with their time than others? The answer lies in good time management. “Time management” refers to the way that you organize and plan how long you spend on specific activities. Good time management requires an important shift in focus from activities to results: being busy isn’t the same as being effective. (Ironically, the opposite is often closer to the truth.) Spending your day in a frenzy of activity often achieves less, because you’re dividing your attention between so many different tasks. Good time management lets you work smarter – not harder – so you get more done in less time.

2. It may seem counter-intuitive to dedicate precious time to learning about time management, instead of using it to get on with your work, but the benefits are enormous. It improves productivity and efficiency. Your reputation as a professional grows. The stress levels dip and the world of opportunities opens up for you. Your career advances and important goals are reached.

3. Failing to manage your time effectively can have some very undesirable consequences. Deadlines are missed and the work flow is not only inefficient but of poor quality. It dents your reputation as a professional and your career is in danger of being stalled. As a result your stress level shoots up.

4. Everyday interruptions at work can be a key barrier to managing your time effectively and, ultimately, can be a barrier to your success. Think back to your last workday, and consider for a minute the many interruptions that occurred. There may have been phone calls, emails, half way conversations, colleagues stopping by your office, or anything else that unexpectedly demanded your attention and, in doing so, distracted you from the task at-hand. Because your day only has so many hours in it, a handful of small interruptions can rob you of the time you need to achieve your goals and be successful in your work and life. More than this, they can break your focus, meaning that you have to spend time re-engaging with the thought processes needed to successfully complete complex work. The key to controlling interruptions is to know what they are and whether they are necessary, and to plan for them in your daily schedule. (403 words)

a. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (4)

b. Write a summary of the above in 80 words using the notes. (4)

SECTION B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS 30

Q3. You are Vikram Juneja, an Hon’s graduate from in History with specialization in Medieval India. You are well acquainted with places of historical interest in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. You are looking for the job of tourist guide. Draft an **advertisement** in about 50 words for the **SITUATION WANTED** column of a local newspaper. **4 marks**

OR

You are Anoop/Arya, the cultural secretary of your school. As part of national heritage programme the school has decided to put up a show on ancient art forms. Write a **notice** to be put up on the school notice board inviting students to watch the show and encourage the artists. Write the notice in not more than 50 words. **4 marks**

Q4. You are Arman/Arpita of 14, MG Road, Pune. You had bought the text book, ‘Vistas’ for Class XII from a neighbourhood bookstore. After browsing through the book, you realized that a few pages were missing and the print overlapped on a few pages. Write a complaint letter in 125 – 150 words to the Manager, Dawn Books, Lawrence Road, Chennai requesting him for a replacement or refund. **6 marks**

OR

In our society we do not give to our women the respect and status they deserve. Women are stared at, stalked and even molested. We need to change the male mindset about women. Write a letter in about 100 to 120 words to the editor of The Times of India giving your views on the problem. You are Om Saini of A-114 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. **6 marks**

Q5. Crime is on the rise and specifically the youth of the country has become violent and brutal. Every day, it is crime that hits the headlines and creates sensation among the countrymen. It not only sends chills down our spine but also reflects the moral degradation of the society. Have you ever pondered over the reasons? Have you ever thought with the increasing crime rate it will be impossible for us to survive? Write an article on “Growing Crime Rate of India”. Discuss the reasons and give your suggestions to curb it. **You are Bharti Yadav. 10 marks**

OR

You recently attended a workshop on creative writing that was conducted by Scholastic India Ltd. Write a report in about 150-200 words for your school magazine giving details. You are Akshay/ Akshita. of Graham Public School, Indore. **10 marks**

Q6. Although students have been using cell phones consistently in their daily lives for almost a decade, schools continue to resist allowing the devices into the classroom. Schools generally grapple with new technologies, but cell phones’ reputation as a nuisance and a distraction has been hard to dislodge. Using information given below prepare a speech in about 150-200 words in favour of or against the cell phone being allowed in schools. **10 marks**

- encourage the non-educational use of devices in school
- they will be a significant distraction for teachers and students
- a potential tool for cheating
- could encourage cyber bullying
- other hand BYOD-Bring Your Own Device is gaining momentum as a learning tool.
- can be cost effective.
- banning any type of technology may foster inequity
- develop rules for how students physically handle the device in the class.

OR

“Our large population is not a cause of poverty but an asset, a resource.”

Write a debate in 150 – 200 words either in favour or against the motion. **10 marks**

SECTION: C (LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS and LONG READING TEXT) 40

Q7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1X4=4 marks

On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare’s head,

Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.

Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley.

Open-handed map

Awarding the world its world.

- a) What is the condition of the classroom wall?
- b) What aspects show a civilized race?
- c) What is the specialty of the Tyrolese valley?
- d) Explain: 'Awarding the world its world'.

Q8. At last I felt released — free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear.

- a) Who refers to ‘I in this extract?
- b) Why did ‘I’ feel released?
- c) Explain the sentence.
- d) Give a synonym of the word ‘trail’.

Q9. Answer any five of the following questions in about 30 -40 words each: 2X5=10 marks

- (a) What is exotic in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda.
- (b) In the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, what is the contrast between the reality of Aunt's life and her imagination?
- (c) 'From that day onwards it was celebration time for all tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram' . Bring out the irony in this statement
- (d) Why did Jack begun to find the story telling ritual a chore?
- (e) Who was Hana and where did Sadao meet her? How were they married?
- (f) Discuss the irony in Saheb-e-Alam's name.

Q10 Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words: 6 marks

Do the poor have the right to dream? Why then does the author call Mukesh's dream 'a mirage'?

OR

Edla is able to bring about a change of heart in the Pedlar. Justify this with reference to the story, 'The Rattrap'. What qualities helped her bring about this transformation?

Q12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words: 6 marks

The Tiger King's quest for tigers was full of hurdles and challenges. Justify the statement.

OR

Describe Narrator's visit to the third level as given in 'The Third Level'