Dear Students

Since it is the most significant year of your life, you need to brush up with your concepts, reinforce them and proceed further with your curriculum so that when you return back in July, you feel more confident. In order to be on the right academic track and devote required time to all the subjects a meticulous planning is required. We have planned a proper homework schedule which will assist you in your learning and help you to accomplish your goals.

Please adhere to the following schedule and undertake the given tasks with dedication and sincerity:

1. Though being lazy during summer vacation is not a sin, yet make it a habit to get up early latest by 7:30 in the morning. Meditate, read the newspaper, browse the news, have a healthy breakfast and start following your schedule. Be strict with yourself. Newspaper reading will enhance your general awareness as well as vocabulary, which is imperative for good writing skills.

2. Take ‘Vistas’ and read the lesson ‘The Enemy’. ‘The Enemy’ is a tale of a Japanese doctor saving his enemy, an American prisoner of war. Keep yourself in Dr. Sadao’s place and answer the following questions. Do write the answers in your note-book. Word limit is 100 to 120 words
   (a) Have you felt pride in saving your enemy from death? Describe your emotions when you took this decision?
   (b) Is patriotism about killing enemies to safeguard one’s motherland? If yes, then would you label yourself as a traitor who let go of his enemy? Explain yourself.
   (c) General Takima was cruel and selfish. Throw light on this statement and tell us the truth behind the statement.
   (d) Hana remained your true support and stood by your decisions. What motivated her to do so?
   (e) What message would you like to convey to the readers through your act of saving the enemy?

3. Now it is Flamingo’s turn. Read Pablo Neruda’s poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ and appreciate the beauty of silence. Write your own interpretation of the poem and answer the textual questions given in your note-books.

4. ‘The Invisible Man’ by H.G.Wells is a science fiction. It is a story of a highly ambitious scientist named Griffin, who can go to any extent to accomplish his goals. Read the chapters 9 to 20. Make a rough draft of the chapter wise summary (in points) to be discussed later in the class.

5. There are two sample papers overleaf. The maximum marks are 50 and time duration is 2 hours. Please adhere strictly to the time limit and solve them in plain white A-4 sized sheets. Your handwriting should be legible and presentation should be neat.
   - Remember this is the time to strengthen your concepts. The more you devote time towards your academics, the better you will score in your examinations.
   - Enjoy with your friends and family and imbibe good skills. Don’t waste your time by wandering unnecessarily which will hamper your academic schedule.
   - Write an article on the topic ‘What I take away from my school’ for the school magazine.’Gokul Days’. You can also contribute any article/poem/story/experience (A-4 sized sheet)

6. Solve the given two sample papers.
The Art of Living

1. The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, may be unique life styles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.

2. A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain’s family knew better than to breach his study door – they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Green went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all, everyone of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally we need our private space too!

3. A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two – hour jaunt but wouldn’t return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck. Nineteenth century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under street lamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it’s rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir’s close friends puts it this way. “There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work.” To Pablo the idea of Sunday was an “at home day”.

4. The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I’ll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer.
Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive—and no doubt easier on his liver.

5. Being forced to follow someone else’s routine may irritate, but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what’s most important is that we keep walking.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete each of the statements given below with the help of options that follow: 1x4=4marks
(a) The passage is about: (i) how to practise walking. (ii) walking everyday. (iii) the life of a genius. (iv) what we can learn from the routines of geniuses.
(b) The writers in the past: (i) followed a perfect daily routine. (ii) enjoyed the difficulties of life. (iii) can teach us a lot. (iv) wrote a lot in books.
(c) In their daily routines: (i) they had unique life styles. (ii) they read books and enjoyed them. (iii) they did not get any privacy. (iv) they did not mind visitors.
(d) Some artists resorted to walking as it was: (i) an exercise (ii) a creative inspiration (iii) essential for improving their health (iv) helpful in interaction with others

1.2 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any 4 of the following: 1x4=4marks
(e) What did Jane Austen like?
(f) Why do you think Graham Green hired a secret office?
(g) What was the rumour about Erik Satie’s productivity?
(h) How did her limited social life affect Simone de Beauvoir?
(i) In what way did T.S. Eliot’s day job help him to write?
(j) What makes it easier for one to stay on the path?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: 1x2=2marks
(k) glance/look (para 1) (l) noisy (para 2)

SECTION B ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS 14 MARKS
Q2. You are Ram/Rajani, Secretary, Social Service Club, Sun Public School, Nagpur. Your club is organizing a book fair for your school students. Draft a notice for your school notice board giving all relevant information about the event, in not more than 50 words. 4 marks

Q3. You are Ashish/Aarti of Hyderabad. You want to let out a house. Write out an advertisement to be published in the classified columns of a newspaper in about 50 words. 4 marks

Q4. You are Navneet Kumar of 56, PalamVihar Road, New Delhi. Recently you bought a mobile phone from “The Mobile Spot”, 76, Harish Avenue, New Delhi. The phone set developed a problem within a month of purchase. Write a letter to the dealer complaining, giving details of the problem and asking him to rectify the defect or replace the set.

OR
You are Rachna Tiwari, the librarian of T.H.H.S School, Coimbatore. Write a letter to Messrs Vikas Publishers, Chennai placing an order for some books for your school library. Mention the details of the books and ask for the discount available on the purchase.

SECTION C TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & LONG READING TEXT 26 MARKS
Q5. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow it: 1x4=4marks
“-------but after the airport’s security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan pale
as a late winter’s moon and felt
that old
familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,
but all I said was, see you soon Amma”

a. What did the poet do after the security check? (1)
b. Pick out a literary device from the above extract and explain it. (2)
c. What does the poet’s “childhood fear” refer to? (1)

Q6. Answer any 3 of the following questions in brief: 2x3=6 marks
a. What explanations does the author offer for the children not wearing footwear?
b. How did Franz’s feelings about Mr. Hamel and school change?
c. What does the poet mean by saying, ‘Let their tongue run naked into books’?
d. Why has the mother been compared to the late winter’s moon?

Q7. Answer the following question in detail: 6 marks
‘Lost Spring’ explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Elucidate.

OR
What is ‘linguistic chauvinism’? Is it possible to carry pride in one’s language too far? Discuss with suitable instances from the story ‘The Last Lesson’.

Q8. Long Reading Text - The Invisible Man
Answer the following questions in brief: 10 marks
a. Which village and inn is the story set up? (2)
b. Who was Mrs Hall? How did she react to the stranger’s arrival at the inn? (3)
   OR
   Describe the stranger’s appearance. (3)
c. What was the name of the clock jobber? How did the stranger behave with him? (2)
   OR
   Who was the vicar? What happened at the vicarage? (2)
d. What comprised the stranger’s luggage? What significant occurred during this time? (3)
   OR
   Describe Dr. Cuss’ encounter with the invisible man. (3)
Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

**LIFE AND TIMES OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER**

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, are cruel in these parts, at other times, its excess water is 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 forever venerable 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, and looked after as if they were his own offspring, 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.

4. 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.

5. Born in 1962 in a poor Harijan family in Aliha village, Nirakar inherited a feel for the soil and a green thumb of his father. A good student, he has 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 three sons and a daughter.

6. 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 waters supplied through lift irrigation, he is nothing short of a hero.

7. Antihero 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.

8. 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.

9. 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) Answer any 4 of the following questions briefly: 2x4=8marks

(i) How has Nirakar and his family helped in the greening mission? 2
(ii) Why did Nirakar quit his studies in childhood? 2
(iii) Why did the Harijans of Aliha village never plant coconut tree? 2
(iv) What is Nirakar’s only regret? 2
(v) How did Nirakar win over the heart of the villagers? 2

(1.2) Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: (any 2) 2x1=2 marks
Q2. Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the same. You are Rakhsita Mohan of MVN Public School, Saket, New Delhi. 4 marks

Q3. You are Anoop Mehta of class XII of Bal Bharti Public School, Vasantkunj, New Delhi. Yesterday you lost your watch while attending a workshop in the school auditorium. Write a notice informing the same in about 50 words. Invent necessary details too. 4 marks

Q4. You are Navneet Kumar of 56, Palam Vihar Road, New Delhi. Recently you bought a mobile phone from “The Mobile Spot”, 76, Harish Avenue, New Delhi. The phone set developed a problem within a month of purchase. Write a letter to the dealer complaining, giving details of the problem and asking him to rectify the defect or replace the set.

OR

You are Rachna Tiwari, the librarian of T.H.H.S School, Coimbatore. Write a letter to Messrs Vikas Publishers, Chennai placing an order for some books for your school library. Mention the details of the books and ask for the discount available on the purchase.

SECTION C TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & LONG READING TEXT 26 MARKS

Q5. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow it: 1x3=3 marks

“--------but after the airport’s
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her,
wat pale
as a late winter’s moon and felt
that old
familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,

but all I said was, see you soon Amma”

a. What did the poet do after the security check?

b. Pick out a literary device from the above extract and explain it.

c. What does the poet’s “childhood fear” refer to?

Q6. Answer any 6 of the following questions in brief: 2x6=12 marks

a. What explanations does the author offer for the children not wearing footwear?

b. How did Franz’s feelings about Mr. Hamel and school change?

c. What does the poet mean by saying, ‘Let their tongue run naked into books’?

d. What are the things displayed on the walls of the school wall?

e. “Viva le France” Who said these words? Briefly describe the context these words were said?

f. How, in your opinion, can Mukesh realise his dream?

g. Why has the mother been compared to the late winter’s moon?

Q7. Answer the following question in detail: 5marks

‘Lost Spring’ by Anees Jung brings out the condition of children in India. Even after sixty five years of independence we have children who do not go to school, work in inhuman conditions and live in slums. As a nation we have somewhere failed in our duty. What values do we need to inculcate among the people of this nation in order to bring back the ‘spring’ in the lives of these children.

Q8. Long Reading Text-The Invisible Man

Answer any 3 questions in brief: 2x3=6 marks

a. Which village and inn is the story set up?

b. Who was Mrs Hall? Why was she happy to welcome the stranger?

c. What was the name of the clock jobber? How did the stranger behave with him?

d. What was significant about the stranger’s luggage? Who bought his luggage from Bramblehurst station?
The Question paper is divided into three sections:

Section A  Reading  10 marks
Section B  Writing Skill  14 marks
Section C  Textual Questions/Long Reading Text  26 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  10 MARKS
Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling tasks efficiently with a desire to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of men held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasised that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasised the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

2. The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities—political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

3. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity; it is good economics and if developing is to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investments in education for the girls are substantial and probably greater than those for boys. As the female population forms half of the national population, the poor performance on the front of female literacy considerably affects the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

4. It is a paradox and although women constitute half of the Indian population and supposedly enjoy a high position in the family as also in society, not much attention has been paid to give them the benefit of education. Women's education has not received due care and attention from planners and policy makers. The National Commission for Women had rightly pointed out that even after so many years of Independence; women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are in the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress, committees and commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 per cent in 1991 but still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. According to 1991 census the number of illiterate women in the country from seven years and above is 202.14 million—60.6 per cent of the total illiterate population in the country. There are 70 districts in the country having female literacy of 20 per cent. The female literacy Index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight states which fall the national average. The most populous states of the country (UP,
MP, Bihar and Rajasthan) the category of most backward states as far as female literacy is concerned.

5. The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of the girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on mobility especially after puberty, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affects the girls’ participation in education. Today nobody can deny the need for women's education but still some feel that providing education for girls is a luxury which only the rich can afford. The gender bias existing in society has a direct bearing on many aspects of the education system. To overcome discriminatory attitude towards women and to improve their status in society, grassroot awakening is needed.

6. Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993, which gave them 30 percent reservation in village panchayats, block samities and Zila parishads throughout the country. A National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women's issues. At the Global Interparliamentary Conference in New Delhi, the then Prime Minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, declared that the government was formulating a national policy on empowerment of women to make gender equality a reality. He termed the bill to reserve 33 per cent seats in legislatures for women as a revolutionary step. But he also said laws alone could not lead to social transformation. Several delegates demanded that the women should be associated with all decision-making bodies starting from the grassroots to the national levels, educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality that are built in the minds of people through the socialisation process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionise the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality. Deep foundations of equality should be built in the minds of people.

1.1 Answer any 4 of the following questions briefly: 2x4=8 marks

(a) What are the two attributes of a modern woman? 2
(b) Why is women's participation and empowerment considered necessary? 2
(c) What are the two benefits ensuing from education of girls? 2
(d) What factors have affected the education of girls? 2
(e) How can the women empowerment help the community? 2

1.2 Find words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following: (any two) 2x1=2 marks

(a) field of activity (para 1)
(b) thing that is expensive and enjoyable, but not essential (para 5)
(c) ironical and contradictory (para 4)
Q2. You are Sonali Singh, a member of RED CROSS Blood Bank Society, Bangalore. You have been asked by the President of the society, Mr. Manish Nair to organize a Blood Donation Camp. Write a notice in 50 words urging the people to come in large numbers for this noble cause. 4 marks

Q3. Your school Amar Vidyalaya, Bengaluru is organizing a cultural evening to collect funds for the slum children. The Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru University has consented to be the Chief Guest on the occasion. Draft a notice in this connection to be displayed on your school notice board. Sign off as Shreyas Srinivasan 4 marks

Q4. You are Satish Patel, the Physical Education Head of Vidya Bharti School, Ahmedabad. Write a letter to the Manager Messrs Pacific Sports, Surat placing an order for sports equipment. Invent the necessary details. 6 marks

OR

You are Shefali Sareen/ Deepak Saraf of Class XII. You are interested in pursuing a course in visual communication. You have seen an advertisement issued by National Institute of Communication, Pune, offering courses in Media and Communication. Write a letter to the Director seeking information about their courses, fee structure, placement opportunities etc. 6 marks

SECTION C TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & LONG READING TEXT    26 MARKS

Q5. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow it: 1x3=3 marks

“The stunted, unlucky heir
Of twisted bones, reciting a father’s gnarled disease
His lesson from his desk. At the back of the dim class
One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream
Of squirrels game, in tree room, other than this.”

a) Who is being referred to in the first two lines?

b) Explain ‘father’s gnarled disease’.

c) Who sit at the back of the class? How is he different from others?
Q6. Answer any 6 of the following questions in brief: 2x6=12 marks

a. What was the news which was put up on the bulletin board in the story “The Last Lesson”?
b. Why is Shakespeare said to as ‘wicked’?
c. What was so unusual for Franz about the school on that day?
d. Why does the poet draw the image of sprinting trees and merry children?
e. What does garbage symbolize for the adults and children?
f. What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? Where is he and where has he come from?
g. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

Q7. Answer the following question in detail: 5marks

M. Hamel went to talk of the French-Language saying it was the most beautiful language in the world – the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it.

Do you think modern Indian youth in their craze to ape the western culture are ignoring Indian languages/culture? How can we protect our regional languages from being forgotten?

Q8. Long Reading Text-The Invisible Man

Answer any 3 questions in brief: 2x3=6 marks

a. What unusual incident happened on a wintry morning in Iping?
b. What was strange about the stranger?
c. Who was Fearenside? What is his role in the novel?
d. Who was Dr. Cuss? What happened during his meeting with the stranger?