

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR**  
**Half Yearly Examination - (2023 – 2024)**

**Class: XI**  
**Subject: English Core (Code 301)**

**MM: 80**  
**Time: 03 Hrs.**

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**(Fifteen Minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
  2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.
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**Section A – READING SKILLS**

**Q. 1 – Read the passage given below:**

1. In life we sometimes have disagreements with people. It could be with your partner, with your boss, with your parents, or with a friend. When this happens, the important thing is to try not to let a calm discussion turn into a heated argument. But of course this is easier said than done.
2. The first thing I would say is that the way you begin the conversation is very important.  
Imagine you are a student and you share a flat with another student who you think isn't doing her share of the housework. If you say, 'Look, you never do your share of the housework. What are we going to do about it?', the discussion will very soon turn into an argument. It's much more constructive to say something like, 'I think we'd better have another look about how we divide up the housework. Maybe there's a better way of doing it.'
3. My second piece of advice is simple. If you're the person who is in the wrong, just admit it! This is the easiest and best way to avoid an argument. Just apologize to your flatmate, your parents, or your husband, and move on. The other person will have more respect for you in the future if you do that.
4. The next tip is don't exaggerate. Try not to say things like 'You always come home late when my mother comes to dinner' when perhaps this has only happened twice, or 'You never remember to buy the toothpaste.' This will just make the other person think you're being unreasonable, and will probably make him or her stop listening to your arguments.
5. Sometimes we just can't avoid a discussion turning into an argument. But if you do start arguing with someone, it is important to keep things under control and there are ways to do this.
6. The most important thing is don't raise your voice. Raising your voice will just make the other person lose their temper too. If you find yourself raising your voice, stop for a moment and take a deep breath. Say 'I'm sorry I shouted, but this is very important to me', and continue calmly. If you can talk calmly and quietly, you'll find your partner will be more ready to think about what you are saying.

7. It is also very important to stick to the point. Try to keep to the topic you are talking about. Don't bring up old arguments, or try to bring in other' issues. Just concentrate on solving the one problem you are having, and leave the other things for another time. So, for example, if you're arguing about the housework, don't start talking about mobile phone bills as well.
8. And my final tip is that if necessary call 'Time out', like in a sports match. If you think that an argument is getting out of control, then you can say-to the other person, 'Listen, I'd rather talk about this tomorrow when we've both calmed down'. You can then continue the discussion the next day when perhaps both of you are feeling less tense and angry. That way there is much more chance that you will be able to reach an agreement. You'll also probably find that the problem is much easier to solve when you've both had a good night's sleep. Well, those are my tips.
10. But I want to say one last important thing. Some people think that arguing is always bad. This is not true. Conflict is a normal part of life, and dealing with conflict is an important part of any relationship, whether it's three people sharing a flat, a married couple, or just two good friends. If you don't learn to argue properly, then when a real problem comes along, you won't be prepared to face it together. Think of the smaller arguments as training sessions. Learn how to argue cleanly and fairly. It will help your relationship become stronger and last longer.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(1x10 = 10)

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ is easy to suggest but quite difficult to do.
  - (i) To have disagreements with people.
  - (ii) Not to let a peaceful discussion change into a heated argument.
  - (iii) "Never raise you voice"
  - (iv) To have heated argument wiht friends.
- (b) In case we are wrong we should \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid argument.
  - (i) flatmate (ii) exaggerate (iii) respect (iv) apologise
- (c) The second paragraph suggests when we \_\_\_\_\_ others, it leads to argument.
  - (i) share the work with (ii) accuse (iii) divide the work anew with (iv) only (i) and (ii)
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_ can help strengthen relationships.
  - (i) Learning to argue clearly, (ii) Learning to avoid arguments, (iii) Learning to agrue fairly, (iv) Only (i) and (iii)

Answer the following questions briefly:

- (e) What happens if a complaint is exaggerated?
- (f) Name two activities that to help to keep arguments under control.
- (g) Raising our voice in an argument is not good. Why?
- (h) What happens if we don't learn to argue properly?
- (i) How does 'Time Out' help in argument?
- (j) Find a word/phrase from the passage which means the OPPOSITE to the following:  
Surely (Para-4)

**Q. 2** - Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. It is common knowledge that school children are under great pressure to perform well in all fields, study ten subjects, play games and develop an impressive image. How do they manage? The skills, techniques and principles which they pick up while still young help them cope.
2. Two of twentieth century's finest minds have lamented that schools are not teaching the basics of personal excellence or the science of success. Edward De Bono: "Almost all of what a child learns at school after the age often is totally irrelevant to his need in later life. Most schools do not teach thinking at all." The serious thesis of this article is that management must be taught as a school subject. The weightiest argument is that children are managers.
3. Many of children are called upon to play directly three of the interpersonal roles: "Figurehead", "Leader" and "Liaison Officer". They do this while assisting teachers as monitors or class representatives or group leaders during educational tours and field work; while captaining teams on playgrounds; and while leading teams in quiz, debating and other competitions. Many more play these roles as surrogates.
4. The decision role of "Entrepreneur" and "Resource Allocator" may only occasionally be assigned to children. However, it is worth noting that, according to a recent survey in Delhi, a monthly allocation of up to Rs. 1000 is available as pocket money to school children. Therefore, school children too need to have control over money and to develop a sense of budget. If we add to these financial resources, the resources of time, information and intellect available to children, the first two decision roles are not irrelevant to them.
5. Children play the other two decision roles: "Disturbance Handler" and "Negotiator" more often. True, the international roles of "monitor", "disseminator" and "spokesman" are not so frequently and formally engaged in by children as by CEOs, MDs, Vice Presidents and other adult managers.
6. If you cannot see children as managers, they are managers in the making: Many of the management habits (e.g., using a to-do list), management skills (e.g. Sensitive listening), management attitudes and values are formed early in life. Personality theorists believe that it is extremely difficult to change personality traits, styles of thinking and habits of behavior once they are formed.
7. As in language learning, where basic aspects of language like pronunciation and rhythm are extremely resistant to learning after puberty, good management habits, attitudes and values are difficult to acquire in adulthood. In the fifties, even in the educationally advanced countries such as the U.S, Algebra was thought to be too abstract to be taught even in senior schools. Now it is taught from upper primary classes onwards in both educationally progressive and developing countries. Computer skills, lateral thinking and swimming, often felt to be forbidden by adults are easily learnt by children. In fact, both research evidence and specialists' beliefs strongly support the view that children's ability to learn skills like swimming and creative thinking is much more developed than adults. Equally important, complex organisms (a) learn what is necessary or pleasurable and (b) adapt themselves in ways that will serve their needs and interests with amazing enthusiasm, ease and effectiveness.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

**(1x8 = 8)**

- (a) The reason of pressure on children is:
- (i) Common knowledge
  - (ii) Absence of skills
  - (iii) Choice between studies and games

(iv) Performance demand in all fields

(b) What according to few educationists, is lacking in school teaching?

- (i) Basics of personal excellence
- (ii) Science of success
- (iii) Thinking
- (iv) All of the above

(c) The sense of budget among children is an indication towards their capability of performing:

- (i) Interpersonal role
- (ii) Decision role
- (iii) Leading role
- (iv) Informational role

(d) The article advocates teaching \_\_\_\_\_ as a subject in school.

- (i) Management (ii) Creative Thinking (iii) Computer skills (iv) Swimming

(e) Which word in Para 7 is opposite in meaning of "concrete"?

- (i) Algebra (ii) Acquire (iii) Resistant (iv) Abstract

(f) The terms used for a detailed critical inspection/study in Para 4 is:

- (i) Intellect (ii) Resource Allocator (iii) Survey (iv) Budget

**Answer the following questions briefly:**

(g) How the interpersonal roles are performed by students? (Any One)

(h) What are the attributes of good management?

**Q. 3 - Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

1. The tests of life are its plus factors. Overcoming illness and suffering is a plus factor for it moulds character. Steel is iron plus fire, soil is rock plus heat. So let's include the plus factor in our lives.

2. Sometimes the plus factor is more readily seen by the simple hearted. Myers tells the story of a mother who brought into her home - as a companion to her own son - a little boy who happened to have a hunch back. She had warned her son to be careful, not to refer to his disability. The boys were playing and after a few minutes she overheard her son say to his companion " Do you know what you have got on your back ?" The little boy was embarrassed, but before he could reply, his playmate continued " It is the box in which your wings are, and some day God is going to cut it open and then you will fly away and be an angel."

3. Often it takes a third eye or a change in focus, to see the plus factor. Walking along the corridors of a hospital recently where patients were struggling with fear of pain and tests, I was perturbed. What gave me a fresh perspective were the sayings put up everywhere, intended to uplift. One saying made me conscious of the beauty of the universe in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle. The other saying assured me that God was with me when one was in deep water and that no troubles would overwhelm me.

4. The import of those sayings also made me aware of the nectar springs that flow into people's lives when they touch rock bottom or are lonely or guilt ridden. The nectar springs make recovery possible, and they bring peace and patience in the midst of negative forces.

5. The forces of death and destruction are not so much physical as they are psychic and psychological. When malice, hatred and hard heartedness prevail, they get channeled as forces of destruction. Where openness, peace and good heartedness prevail, the forces of life gush forth to regenerate hope and joy. The life force is triumphant when love overcomes fear. Both fear and love are deep mysteries, but the effect of love is to build, whereas fear tends to destroy. Love is generally the plus factor that helps build character. It creates bonds and its reach is infinite.

6. It is true there is no shortage of destructive elements - forces and people who seek to destroy others and in the process destroy themselves -- but at the same time there are signs of love and life everywhere that are constantly enabling us to overcome setbacks. So let's not look at gloom and doom - let us seek positivity and happiness. For it is when you seek that you will find what is waiting to be discovered.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make suitable notes on it, using abbreviations (minimum 04), wherever necessary. Also suggest a suitable title to the passage. (5 Marks)

(b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words, using the notes you have made. (3 Marks)

### Section B – GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS

Q. 4 - Complete the following sentences by filling in the correct form of the verb. (1x4 = 4)

In the last hundred years, travelling (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) two or three days to cross North America by a covered wagon. The trip (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very rough and often dangerous. Things (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (change) a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.

Q. 5 - Rearrange the following jumbled words to make meaningful sentences. (Any 3) (1x3 = 3)

(a) Below/ not/ must/age/ of/ eighteen/ years/ drive/ the/ children.

(b) Their/room/boys/the/are/ revising/the/ lesson /in

(c) USA/ tomorrow / along/ will/leave/ musicians/director/ the/ with/their/the/for

(d) The / complaint/from/ principal/ one/school/ a/ received/ of/ our/ parents/ today/ the /of.

Q. 6 – Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in about 50 words. (3)

[A] Ajay Arora wishes to let out a portion of his newly built house. Draft an advertisement for publication in "To Let" column of HT, giving all the necessary details.

[B] You are the Administrator at Delhi Public School, Korba. Your Principal has asked you to draft an advertisement for the vacant post of PGT Physics. Draft an advertisement for a national daily under the classified columns.

Q. 7 - Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in about 50 words. (3)

[A] Your school is going to organise a Diwali Mela. Design a poster to inform the students about it.

[B] You are the Secretary of the local legal help unit of 'Chetna' an NGO. Prepare a poster to be put up outside the office, creating awareness and inviting residents to the legal awareness camp being organised at the unit. Invent all the necessary details.

**Q. 8** – Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in 120-150 words.

(5)

[A] Nowadays just about everyone owns a mobile phone but most of the users do not follow even the basic rules of mobile phone conduct. They are seen speaking loudly, taking a phone call while in a meeting, making/receiving calls while driving, or even at a funeral, etc. Write a speech to be delivered in a public meeting to appraise the audience of mobile phone etiquette.

[B] Media has a stronghold on society. Write a speech on how ‘media influences public opinion’ to be delivered in the school assembly.

**Q. 9** – Attempt ANY ONE of Two, in 120-150 words.

(5)

[A] Write a debate either for or against the motion: Laziness and not bad luck is the only obstacle in one’s success in life’.

[B] Write a debate in favour or against the topic ‘Participation in sports is a mere wastage of time’.

### Section C – LITERATURE

**Q. 10** – Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. (*Attempt Any One Extract*) (1x3)

[A] *And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,*

*And make pure and beautify it;*

(a) ‘I’ stands for. . . . .?

(b) What does ‘origin’ refer to ?

(c) What do you mean by ‘beautify it’?

[B] *The sea holiday*

*Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry*

*With the laboured ease of loss.*

(a) Which sea holiday is referred to here?

(b) What was poetess past?

(c) Why is the poetess nostalgic about her mother’s laughter?

**Q. 11** - Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow (*Attempt Any One Extract*) (1x3)

[A] *Opening the first, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals, and cornflowers, the faded evidence of a burial in March or April. When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. “No amount of legitimate force could move them”, Carter wrote later. “What was to be done?”*

(a) When was King Tut’s mummy is expected to be buried?

(i) March or April (ii) June or July (iii) October or November (iv) None of these

(b) Find out the synonym of ‘Legitimate’ from the following:

(i) Illegal (ii) Legal (iii) Perfect (iv) None of these

(c) Which literary device has been used in 'Ritual resins'?

- (i) Simile (ii) Metaphor (iii) Personification (iv) Alliteration

[B] *At dawn on January 2, the waves were gigantic. We were sailing with only a small storm jib and were still making eight knots. As the ship rose to the top of each wave we could see endless enormous seas rolling towards us, and the screaming of the wind and spray was painful to the ears.*

(a) Which figure of speech has been used in this line 'the waves were gigantic'?

- (i) simile (ii) oxymoron (iii) irony (iv) Hyperbole

(b) Which kind of fears was evident in the mind of author during the incident given in the extract?

- (i) fear of death (ii) fear of losing his family soon (iii) fear of shipwreck (iv) fear of losing his job

(c) 'Screaming of winds' here means-----

- (i) sound of wind (ii) speed of wind (iii) direction of wind (iv) intensity of wind

**Q. 12** - Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow (*Attempt Any One Extract*) **(1x4)**

[A] *"It wasn't morning yet, but it was summer and with day break not many minutes around the corner of the world it was light enough for me to know I wasn't dreaming. My cousin Mourad was sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It's a horse. You are not dreaming. Make it quick if you want to ride."*

(a) Who is the narrator of the story "The Summer of a Beautiful White Horse"?

- (i) William Saroyan (ii) Aram (iii) John Byro (iv) Mourad

(b) Why couldn't Aram believe when he saw Mourad with the horse?

- (i) Because Mourad was crazy and did crazy things  
(ii) Because they were too poor to afford a horse  
(iii) Because he was sleepy and would not see well in the faint light  
(iv) Because he was dreaming and was rudely woken up

(c) 'Make it quick' here means .....

- (i) to be sad (ii) to hurry up (iii) to hide (iv) to be content

(d) Why did Mourad wake his cousin up?

[B] *My fingers grew warm from rubbing. I followed the lines of the pattern. Somewhere on the edge there could be a burn mark that had never been repaired.*

*'My mother'll be back soon.' Said the girl. 'I've already made tea for her. Will you have a cup?' 'Thank you.'*

*I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back. Just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had a gold border on the lid. I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out.*

(a) How did the narrator know there was a burn mark on the table cloth?

- (i) For she was a laundry woman (ii) For she knew about that burn mark beforehand  
(iii) For she was specialist in them (iv) None of these

(b) Which literary device has been used in 'Just like her mother'?

- (i) Simile (ii) Metaphor (iii) Personification (iv) Alliteration

- (c) How was daughter of Mrs. Dorling different from her?  
(i) She was more beautiful                      (ii) She was more dominating  
(iii) She was more hospitable                      (iv) She was more cruel

(d) Who is the author of the story 'The Address'?

**Q. 13** – Answer ANY TWO (out of the four questions given) in 40-50 words each: **(3x2)**

- (a) How did Suzanne remain a strong girl in the disastrous situation?  
(b) Why did Carter have to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king's remains?  
(c) How did the goldfinch bring back life to the Laburnum tree?  
(d) Explain "Terribly transient feet" from the poem 'A Photograph'.

**Q. 14** - Answer ANY ONE (out of two questions given) in 40-50 words: **(3)**

- (a) How did Aram know that the horse belonged to John Byro?  
(b) How did the girl enter Mrs Dorling's house?

**Q. 15** - Answer ANY ONE (out of the two questions given) in 120-150 words: **(6)**

- (a) The lesson 'We're not afraid to die...if we can all be together' depicts a grand lesson 'United we stand, divided we fall'. Explain the idea.  
(b) Describe the changing relationship between the author and his grandmother. Did their feelings for each other change? (*Portrait of a Lady*)

**Q. 16** - Answer ANY ONE (out of the two questions given) in 120-150 words: **(6)**

- (a) Compare and Contrast the characters of Mourad and Aram.  
(b) 'The Address' is a story of the human predicament that follows war. Comment.

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