

English Set B

2012 March

Arts, Commerce, Science 12th

HSC

Board Exam

Maharashtra State Board

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Question Paper Set

B

2012 II 21

1100

J - 401/B

(E)

ENGLISH - (01)

Time : 3 Hrs.

(12 Pages)

Max. Marks : 80

SECTION - A

(Reading Skill, Grammar, Vocabulary, Note-making and Summary)

- Q. 1. (A) Read the following extract and answer the questions [15]**
given below : (11)

My home is a haven for not just me and my wife, but for a horde of cockroaches as well. Most mornings my wife enters the kitchen to find them scurrying away after a night of feasting – a sight that certainly doesn't improve her disposition, already soured by having to rise early.

Grabbing a fly-swatter, she clobbers the fugitives to pulp. The stink would floor anybody, but frequent exposure has hardened her. To the accompaniment of some unladylike swearing, she resolutely cleans up the mess and tackles the housework.

This pre-dawn massacre is a regular feature. Yet the cockroach population has not decreased. On the contrary, much to our dismay, we notice fresh 'reinforcements'. Prolific breeders, the vermin are as determined to survive as we are to exterminate them.

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P.T.O.

Indeed, our 'chemical warfare' against the pests would have raised Hans Blix's hackles. In the process we have built up a small arsenal of spray guns and supposedly toxic pesticides, to which they appear to be largely immune. In fact, it's not unusual to find them curiously nosing around the pesticides – our WMD or "Weapons of Minimal Damage," as my better half scornfully terms them. No wonder it's said that cockroaches will survive even a nuclear attack.

Questions :

- (1) . Who dwells with the writer in his home? (1)
- (2) What does the writer's wife do with a fly-swatter? (1)
- (3) What is the effect of toxic pesticides on cockroaches? (1)
- (4) Pick out the words used besides the word 'cockroach' in the extract. (2)
- (5) Which steps will you take to minimise cockroaches in your house? (2)
- (6) Rewrite the following sentences in the ways instructed :
 - (i) It's not unusual to find them curiously nosing around the pesticides.
(Make it an affirmative sentence.) (1)
 - (ii) My wife enters the kitchen to find them scurrying away after a night of feasting.
(Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'As soon as.....'.) (1)
 - (iii) This pre-dawn massacre is a regular feature. Yet the cockroach population has not decreased.
(Combine the sentences beginning with "Although.....".) (1)

- (7) Find out the words from the extract which mean :
- (i) temperament. (½)
- (ii) cruel killing of a lot of people, animals (½)

(B) Grammar : (4)

Do as directed ;

(i) I found myself in _____ maidan and sat down on _____ bench.
(Fill in the blanks with suitable articles.) (1)

(ii) A massive non-co-operation movement was _____ full swing all _____ the country.
(Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.) (1)

(iii) "Would you like to come with us to a service in the Maori Church?" asked my hostess.
"Indeed, I would," I replied.
(Change it into indirect narration.) (2)

Q. 2. (A) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below : [15] (11)

Readers might think that my family was born and bred in a jet plane. The truth is more prosaic. Our ancestral home is Kargudi, a humble, obscure village in Tanjore district, Tamil Nadu. My earliest memories of it are as a house with no toilets, running water, or *pukka* road.

When we visited, we disembarked from the train at Tanjore, and then travelled 45 minutes by bullock cart to reach the ancestral home. My father was one of the six children, all of whom produced many children (I myself

had three siblings). So two generations later, the size of the Kargudi extended family (including spouses) is over 200. Of these, only three still live in the village. The rest have moved across India and across the whole world from China to Arabia to Europe to America.

This one Kargudi house has already produced 50 American citizens. So, dismiss the mutterings of those who claim that globalisation means westernisation. It looks more like Aiyarisation, viewed from Kargudi.

What does this imply for our sense of identity? I cannot speak for the whole Kargudi clan, which ranges from rigid Tamil Brahmins to beef-eating, pizza-guzzling, hip-hop dancers. But for me the Aiyarisation of the world does not mean Aiyar domination. Nor does it mean Aiyar submergence in a global sea. It means acquiring multiple identities, and moving closer to the ideal of a brotherhood of all humanity. I remain quite at home sitting on the floor of the Kargudi house on a mat of reeds, eating from a banana leaf with my hands. I feel just as much at home eating noodles in China, steak in Spain, teriyaki in Japan and cous-cous in Morocco. I am a Kargudi villager, a Tamilian, a Delhiwallah, an Indian, a Washington Redskins fan, and a citizen of the world, all at the same time and with no sense of tension or contradiction.

Questions :

- (1) What are the writer's earliest memories of his house in Kargudi? (1)
- (2) How many extended families of Aiyar family do still live at their ancestral home? (1)

- (3) What does the writer want to dismiss? (1)
- (4) What does the writer really mean by globalisation? (2)
- (5) Would you like to live in a globalised world?
Justify your answer. (2)
- (6) Rewrite the following sentences in the ways instructed :
- (i) It looks like Aiyarisation.
(Add a question tag.) (1)
- (ii) I cannot speak for the whole Kargudi clan which ranges from rigid Tamil Brahmins to beef-eating, pizza-guzzling, hip-hop dancers.
(Rewrite using 'ing' form of the underlined word.) (1)
- (iii) I am a Kargudi villager. I am an Indian.
(Combine the sentences using 'not only – but also'.) (1)
- (7) Find out the words from the extract which mean :
- (i) not well-known (½)
- (ii) complaints expressed in a low voice (½)

(B) Note-making : (4)

Read the following extract and make a note that contains the main points and their supporting details about "Groups of Cancer."

The term 'Cancer' derived from the Latin term 'Cancrum', means crab. Cancer is lawless growth without control. This disorder threatens a person's life. There are four groups of cancer. They are Carcinomas, Sarcomas, Lymphomas and Leukemias. About 85% of cancers are Carcinomas which include cervical, breast, tongue, stomach, skin and brain cancers. Sarcomas constitute only about

3% of human cancers, which are in the form of solid tumors growing from connective tissue, cartilage, bone and muscle. Lymphomas are the cancers in which there is excessive production of lymphomas by the lymph nodes and spleen. They constitute 5% of human cancers. Leukemias include cancerous growth of leucocytes and are characterised by excessive production of cells. They constitute 7% of human cancers.

Q. 3. (A) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below : **[15]**
(11)

I have mentioned the names of some of the great ones of those times. One of the greatest of these, I have not yet mentioned. His name was Socrates. He was a philosopher, always searching for truth. To him the only thing worth having was truth and often discussed difficult questions with his friends and acquaintances, so that out of the discussions truth might emerge. He had many disciples or *chelas*, and the greatest of these was Plato. Plato wrote many books which have come down to us, and it is from these books that we know a great deal of his master, Socrates. Evidently governments do not like people who are always trying to find out things : they don't like the search for truth. The Athenian Government – this was just after the time of Pericles – did not like the methods of Socrates, and they held a trial and condemned him to death. They told him that if he promised to give up his discussions with people and changed his ways they would let him off. But he refused to do so and preferred the cup of poison, which brought him death, to giving up what he considered his duty.

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Questions :

- (1) Who was Socrates? (1)
- (2) What is the source of our knowledge of Socrates? (2)
- (3) What qualities of Socrates does the extract reveal? (2)
- (4) How would you have reacted to the death of Socrates, if you had been one of his *chelas*? (2)
- (5) Rewrite the following sentences in the ways instructed :
 - (i) They held a trial. They condemned him to death.
(Rewrite using 'which'.) (1)
 - (ii) But he refused to do so...
(Rewrite using a gerund.) (1)
 - (iii) Plato wrote many books.
(Rewrite using the past perfect tense.) (1)
- (6) Choose the alternative that gives the correct meaning :
 - (i) A philosopher is a person – (½)
 - (a) who is interested in studies.
 - (b) who is a lover of wisdom.
 - (c) who is philanthropic by nature.
 - (ii) The word 'emerge' means – (½)
 - (a) come out
 - (b) become clear
 - (c) become easy

(B) Summary :

(4)

Write a brief summary of the above extract and suggest a suitable title.

SECTION - B

(Poetry)

Q. 4. Read the following poem and answer the questions given below :

(8)

O moon,
give me moonlight,
basketful or two baskets full,
with seeds of moonlight.

From the city to my village,
on the sides of the path

I want to sow many,
small, small moons of light.

The whole village goes to the city
daily to work.

It becomes dark on its way back
as my village is quite far.

The route is tough and full of snakes and scorpions.

Neither bus nor cart plies.

When my father returns home

I am asleep.

And he goes back early in the morning
while I am sleeping.

O moon
give me a basketful of moonlight
on loan.

I want to light the dark route
so that my father returns early.

I too want to hear fairy tales
and stories from him.

O moon give me a basketful
of moonlight.

I want to sow seeds of moon on the sides of the path.

Questions :

- (1) How does the poet describe the village route? (1)
- (2) Why does the child want a basketful of moonlight? (2)
- (3) What, according to you, are the problems of villagers? Suggest any two. (2)
- (4) Pick out an example of repetition from the poem. (1)
- (5) How do you compare village life with city life? (2)

SECTION - C

(Rapid Reading and Composition)

- Q. 5. (A) Read the following extract and answer the questions given below :** [8]
(4)

As they went in someone observed, 'Why, today's Saturday! Always like Saturday, because the next day is Sunday. Don't you?' He answered, 'Yes!'. He thought, Saturday; no day like it. Even class on Saturday was not as bad as on other days, and everyone, including the teacher, seemed happier with the prospect of the evening and the morrow.

For him, it was mainly the evening and fun at home with his mother – he had lost his father. On other days there was always homework to do and dinner to prepare. But on Saturday they both were free; he did only a little of the homework; and his mother finished cooking early. Saturday evening meant a lot to him. And then there was, of course, the matinee on Sunday, about the only excitement of a rather quiet day.

They passed the dining room. The boarders were still at breakfast and they could hear the boys talking and the clatter of plates and knives, forks, spoons, cups and saucers. There was such a noise. 'They're having plantains this morning,' Peter said, creeping up to one of the entrances. 'Hey, Whisky! Let's have a plantain,' he called out to the boy sitting at the table nearest to him. 'Whisky' scowled, but on second thought threw him a skin. It looked so funny that all laughed.

Questions :

- (1) Why was Saturday special for the school children? (1)
- (2) What were the boarders doing in the dining room? (1)
- (3) How did the boy and his mother spend Saturday afternoons? (2)

(B) Composition : (4)

Rewrite the above story extract imagining yourself as the boy. You may begin –

As we walked in, somebody asked me if I liked Saturday.....

SECTION - D

(Writing Skills)

Q. 6. (A) Letter Writing :

[12]

Write any ONE of the following letters :

(4)

Write a letter to the Health Officer of your district regarding improper drainage system. Consequently people are facing health problems. Suggest necessary steps.

OR

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Your friend's mother is dead. You have received the information rather late. Write a letter of condolence.

(B) Write on any ONE of the following items : (4)

Prepare an Appeal seeking help for the flood-affected people with the help of the following points :

- Prepare an effective slogan.
- Use a logo / picture chart.
- Consequences of flood.
- Make a persuasive appeal.

OR

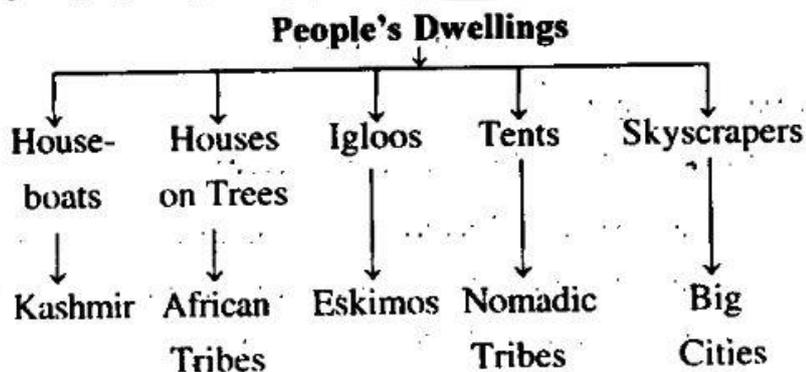
Read the following headlines of news items. Choose any ONE of them and write the date-line, intro and short continuing paragraph :

(i) SIX MORE FARMERS COMMIT SUICIDE IN VIDARBHA.

(ii) ANNUAL SOCIAL GATHERING CELEBRATED.

(C) Answer any ONE of the following : (4)

Read the following tree-diagram and prepare a short paragraph regarding 'People's Dwellings' :



OR

Prepare a paragraph to be used for the counter view-section of the following topic :

'Junior college students should be allowed to carry their mobile hand-sets to college.'

You can take help of the following points in the view-section.

View-Section

Mobile Hand-sets are Essential Today

- Technology has become part and parcel of life.
- Parents can trace whereabouts of their children.
- Helpful to find out portion covered during their absence.
- Helpful to communicate during crises.

Q. 7. Essay Writing :

[7]

Write an essay on any **ONE** of the following topics in about 250 words :

- (1) A Memorable Incident in My Life.
- (2) Health and Happiness.
- (3) Wonders of Science.