

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Code : 11201718EC-A

Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions and **12** printed pages.

**CLASS–XI**  
**SUBJECT–ENGLISH CORE**

**Time allowed : 3 Hrs.**

**M.Marks : 80**

***General Instructions :***

1. *This paper consists of 3 sections-A, B and C.*
2. *Attempt all questions.*
3. *Do not write anything on the question paper.*
4. *All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided.*
5. *Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.*
6. *Read each section carefully and follow the instructions.*
7. *Strictly adhere to the word limit given with each question.*

**Section–A (Reading)**

**(20)**

1. Read the following passage carefully. (8)

How did English begin to grow as a language of international discourse in Asia? It came to this part of the world as a language of British colonizers and became the language of administration, trade, commerce and modern education in South Asia, Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia and later on spread to the Philippines. The victory of the allied forces in the Second World War and the dominance of the USA in the East and South East Asia spread it to Japan, Korea and later on to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is to be noted that the decolonization of

Vietnam led to the replacement of French by English and the freedom of Indonesia, to the removal of Dutch and introduction of English. The rapid spread of English in the People's Republic of China and the strong efforts of countries like Turkistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan which used Russian as their second language till a few years after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, to strengthen the teaching of English as a foreign language contradicts partially the argument of Huntington, that the Western civilization, of which English is a vital and integral part spread “not by the superiority of ideas, values or religion.... but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence.” Had it been so, the central Asian countries would have chosen Arabic rather than English as this important foreign language and People's Republic of China would not have given so much importance to English. The collapse of the Soviet Union has increased the domain of English as the second language to East European countries as well.

The rapid strengthening of the process of globalization and the growth of what Huntington calls the Devos Culture “has led people like V.S. Naipaul to claim that the world is moving towards a “universal culture”, though it is a fact that Devos Culture is not a “universal culture”, yet. The CNN International in English claims to have an audience of at least 55 million, which is approximately one percent of the world population. The explosive growth of the internet has revolutionized the world. Its convergence with telecom media and traditional information technology system has far-reaching impact on business and personal lifestyles; it has accelerated the pace of globalization further. It has led scholars like Crystal and Graddol to forecast the popularity of the English language in the 21st century in glorious terms. Based on the composite response to the British Council's English 2000 Global Consultation Questionnaire,

Graddol claims that in a decade the number of people who speak English as a second language will exceed the number of (its) native speakers. “I have no up-to-date data to support or refute this claim but I agree with him that, if it so happens, their literature and television may no longer provide the focal point of a global English language culture; their teachers no longer form the unchallenged authoritative model for learners.” As Crystal has commented, “There has never been a language so widely spread or spoken by so many people as English. There is therefore no precedence to help us see what happens to a language when it achieves a genuine world status.”

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (5)
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made by you. (3)

2. Read the following passage carefully : (12)

“Rabindranath Tagore taught us to sing, as a natural form of self-expression, as effortlessly as birds.”

Bhola Nath, a bright fourteen year old lad at my Ranchi school, gave me that explanation after I had complimented him one morning on his melodious outbursts. With or without provocation, the boy poured forth a tuneful stream. He had previously attended the famous Tagore school, Santiniketan (Haven of Peace), in Bolpur.

“The songs of Rabindranath have been on my lips since early youth,” I told my companion. “All Bengalis, even the unlettered peasants, delight in his lofty verse.”

Bhola and I sang together a few refrains from Tagore who set to music thousands of Indian poems: some of his own composition and others of ancient origin.

I met Rabindranath soon after he had received the Nobel Prize for literature. I remarked after our vocalizing. "I was drawn to visit him because I admired his undiplomatic courage in disposing of his literary critics". I chuckled.

Bhola, the curious, inquired about the story.

"The scholars severely flayed Tagore for introducing a new style into Bengali poetry", I began. "He mixed colloquial and classical expressions, ignoring all the prescribed limitations dear to the pundits' hearts. His songs embody deep philosophic truth in emotionally appealing terms, with little regard for the accepted literary forms."

"An influential critic spitefully referred to Rabindranath as a 'pigeon-poet who sold his cooings in print for a rupee". But Tagore's revenge was at hand; the whole Western literary world would pay homage at his feet soon after he himself had translated into English his Gitanjali ("Song Offerings"). A trainload of pundits, including his one-time critics, went to Santiniketan to offer their congratulations.

"Rabindranath received his guests only after an intentionally long delay, and then heard their praise in stoic silence". Finally he turned against them with their own habitual weapons of criticism.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the fragrant honours you here bestow are incongruously mingled with the putrid odours of your past contempt. Is there possibly any connection between my award of the Nobel Prize, and your suddenly acute powers of appreciation? I am still the same poet

who displeased you when I first offered my humble flowers at the shrine of Bengal.”

“The newspapers published an account of the bold chastisement given by Tagore. I admired the outspoken words of a man un hypnotized by flattery.” I went on. “I was introduced to Rabindranath in Calcutta by his secretary, Mr. C.F. Andrews, who was simply attired in a Bengali *dhoti*.” He referred lovingly to Tagore as ‘Gurudeva’.

A. On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options : (1×6=6)

(a) The narrator had complimented Bhola on account of his

- (i) oratory skills
- (ii) sporting skills
- (iii) musical skills
- (iv) dancing ability

(b) The main reason for the narrator visiting Rabindranath was because of –

- (i) Tagore's contribution to literature
- (ii) Tagore had won the Nobel Prize
- (iii) The narrator had always wanted to visit him
- (iv) Tagore's courage in answering his literary critics

(c) Tagore was criticised by scholars because

- (i) he preferred Bengali poetry over English poetry
- (ii) he ignored all classical norms of poetry writing
- (iii) he was very snobbish by nature
- (iv) he wrote only on nature

- (d) Tagore paid the critics in their own coin by
- (i) translating his Gitanjali to English on his own
  - (ii) adhering to his own principles of poetry
  - (iii) remaining silent
  - (iv) reminding the critics of their mistakes
- (e) Choose the correct option of the figurative meaning of the word 'flayed'
- (i) welcomed
  - (ii) severely criticised
  - (iii) adore
  - (iv) published
- (f) Find the antonym of the word 'contempt' from the option given below
- (i) hatred
  - (ii) anger
  - (iii) regard
  - (iv) loathing

B. Answer the following questions briefly. (1×6=6)

- (a) How does the narrator convey the fact that all Bengalis treasure Tagore and his songs?
- (b) Rabindranath was once referred to as a 'pigeon-poet'. Why was it so?
- (c) Explain the reason for Tagore receiving his guests only after an intentional long delay.

- (d) What was the question that Tagore put before the people who had come to welcome the Nobel laureate ?
- (e) 'Tagore was an unconventional poet.' Explain.
- (f) Who was the first person to call Rabindranath Tagore 'Gurudev'?

**Section-B (Writing Skills and Grammar)**

**(30)**

3. You are Amit/Amita. As the President of the Science Club of your school, Sunshine Public School, you have organized an excursion to the Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru for students of class XI during the autumn break. Write a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the same. (4)

**OR**

You lost your briefcase while travelling in Delhi Metro. Prepare an advertisement to be published in the 'Lost And Found' column of a local newspaper. You are Smith/Smita of 15/B Model Town, Delhi.

4. You are Mohan Kumar, the Administrative Incharge of Apex International School, Dwarka, Delhi. Recently, your school purchased some furniture items from Royal Furniture Depot, Harinagar, Delhi. Write a letter to the manager of this showroom informing him that some of the furniture is defective and not of the same quality that had been ordered. (6)

**OR**

You are Ramesh/Rashmi of House No 12, Bistupur, Jamshedpur. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Telegraph' Jamshedpur highlighting the nuisance of rash driving by minors and steps to curb it.

5. With the visual media gaining popularity in the last few years, print media has taken a back seat. This has seriously affected the reading habits of people. Write an article on 'The Joys of Reading' in 150-200 words. (10)

**OR**

You are Rishi/Ridhi, the Sports Captain of Jawahar Vidya Mandir School, Ranchi. Prepare a report on the visit of Cricketer M.S. Dhoni to your school on the occasion of the 'Sports Day'.

6. In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with words that come before and after it. ( $\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4$ )

	Before	Missing word	After
It is surprising sometimes we	(a) _____	_____	_____
don't listen what people say to us.	(b) _____	_____	_____
We hear them, we don't listen to them	(c) _____	_____	_____
I was curious to know hearing is different	(d) _____	_____	_____
from listening. I had thought both synonyms	(e) _____	_____	_____
but gradually I realised there is big	(f) _____	_____	_____
difference between two words. Listening	(g) _____	_____	_____
is not only hearing attention, but	(h) _____	_____	_____
much more than that.			

7. Read the passage given below carefully. Each line contains an error. Locate the error and write the correct word in your answer sheet. ( $\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4$ )

	Incorrect	Correct
Listening is hear with full attention	(a) _____	_____
and applying our mind. Much of	(b) _____	_____
the time, we listen for someone,	(c) _____	_____
but our minds is full of needless	(d) _____	_____
chatter and there don't seem to	(e) _____	_____
be enough space in accomodate	(f) _____	_____
what is been spoken about or	(g) _____	_____
refer to in the context.	(h) _____	_____

8. Transform the sentences as directed. ( $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$ )

- (a) The student was asked by the principal to bring his complaint in writing. (Change the voice)
- (b) Mohan hasn't reached home yet. He left school at 2:30 pm. (*Combine the two sentences into one*)
- (c) No boy is as intelligent as Raman in the class. (*Convert it into superlative degree*)
- (d) Who permitted you to enter the class without my permission? (*Change the voice*)

**Section-C (Literature and Long Reading Text) (30)**

9. Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow. (3)

*Some twenty-thirty years later*

*She'd laugh at the snapshot*

*"See Betty and Dolly", she'd say, "and how they,  
dressed us for the beach. "The sea holiday  
was her past, mine is her laughter*

- (i) Who were Betty and Dolly? (1)
- (ii) Who would laugh seeing the snapshot? (1)
- (iii) What is the sea holiday symbolic of? (1)

**OR**

*Where did my childhood go?*

*It went to some forgotten place,*

*That's hidden in an infant's face*

*That's all I know*

- (i) What is the significant change in these lines as compared to the previous stanzas? (1)
- (ii) Explain "hidden in an infant's face....." (1)
- (ii) Bring out the sense of relief in the poet's mind that is depicted in these lines. (1)

10. Answer any three of the questions in 30-40 words. (3×3=9)

- (a) Mention the ways in which the sparrows expressed their sorrow when the grandmother died. (The Portrait of a Lady)
- (b) Carter had to take an important decision regarding the mummy. What was it? (Discovering Tut : the Saga Continues)
- (c) Ranga's views on marriage were far beyond his time. Explain with reference to 'Ranga's Marriage'.
- (d) The people in the Melon City were very happy with their melon King. Why was it so? (The Tale of Melon City)

11 Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words. (6)

*"She could never have been pretty; but she was always beautiful"....*

How does the narrator portray this? (The Portrait of a Lady). What are the values that we learn from the Grandmother's character ?

**OR**

A doctor's place in society is next to God. What are the values displayed by Dr. Andrew to indicate that he was a doctor to the core ? ('The Birth')

12. Answer the following question in about 120-150 words. (6)

'The Canterville Ghost' is a beautiful depiction of two contrasting cultures. Elucidate.

**OR**

According to Booker T. Washington, the unjust system of slavery harmed the whites as much as it did the blacks. Why does he say so?

13. Answer the following question in about 120-150 words. (6)

Virginia is very different from her other siblings. What is that which differentiates Virginia from others? (Canterville Ghost)

**OR**

What impression do you form of Booker T. Washington after reading his autobiography 'Up from Slavery'?

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