

Class XII
ENGLISH
Code No. 101
English Elective CBSE
Sample Question Paper
2014-15

Max. 100

Time 3 hrs.

The Question paper is divided into three sections:

Section A:	Reading	20 Marks
Section B:	Writing & Grammar	40 Marks
Section C:	Literature	40 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	20 Marks
Q1	<p>Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself. The ancient Egyptians esteemed gold, which had religious significance to them, and King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid – gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that everything he touched be turned into gold. 2. Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light passes through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver, and it is particularly important in the modern electronics industry. 3. People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in the human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of Indians in their ruthless search for gold. Often the only rule in young California during the days of the gold rush was exercised by the mob with a rope. Even today, the economic running of South Africa's gold mines depends largely on the employment of black labourers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus room and board, and who must work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners are killed in mine accidents in South Africa each year, or one for every two tons of gold produced. 4. Much of gold's value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it could be stored in a 	

	<p>vault 60 feet square, or a supertanker.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Isaac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. But until the big discoveries of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century – starting in California in 1848 and later in Australia and South Africa – there simply wasn't enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal. 6. An out – of – work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa into the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal on a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given a 12 Pounds reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and reportedly was eaten by a lion. 7. One of the big gold – mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex – prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex – guards. 8. Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 per cent of the metal goes into jewellery. Italy is the biggest user of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewelers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold. 9. Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently: “You have to choose between trusting the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government,” he said ‘and with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise you to vote for gold.’ <p style="text-align: right;">(From an article in Newsweek)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Use a format you considersuitable. Supply a suitable title. 	<p>6</p> <p>4</p>
<p>Q 2</p>	<p>Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning from experience, can be complicated. It can be much more difficult to learn from success than from failure. If we fail, we think carefully about the precise cause. Success can indiscriminately reinforce all our prior actions. 2. A second theme concerns the power of chance events. As I think across a wide variety of settings in my life, I am struck by the incredible role played by the interplay of chance events with intentional choices. While the turning points themselves are indeed often fortuitous, how we respond to them is anything but so. It is this very quality of how we respond systematically to chance events that is crucial. 3. Of course, the mindset one works with is also quite critical. It matters greatly whether one believes that ability is inherent or that it can be developed. The former view, a fixed mindset, creates a tendency to avoid challenges, to ignore useful negative feedback and leads people to plateau early and not achieve their full potential. The latter view, a growth mindset, leads to a tendency to embrace challenges, to learn from criticism and 	

	<p>enables people to reach higher levels of achievement.</p> <p>4.The fourth theme is cornerstone of the Indian spiritual tradition: self-knowledge. Indeed, the highest form of knowledge, it is said, is self-knowledge. I believe this greater awareness and knowledge of oneself is what ultimately helps develop a more grounded belief in oneself, courage, determination and, above all, humility – all qualities which enables one to wear one’s success with dignity and grace.</p> <p>5.I would like to end with some words of advice. Do you believe that your future is preordained, and is already set? Or, do you believe that your future is yet to be written and that it will depend upon sometimes fortuitous events? Do you believe that these events can provide turning points to which you will respond with energy and enthusiasm? Do you believe that you will learn from these events and that you will reflect on your setbacks? Do you believe that you will examine your successes with even greater care? I hope you believe that the future will be shaped by several turning points with great learning opportunities. In fact, this is the path I have walked to much advantage.</p> <p>6. A final word: When, one day, you have made your mark on the world, remember that, in the ultimate analysis, we are all mere temporary custodians of the wealth we generate, whether it be financial, intellectual or emotional. The best use of all your wealth is to share it with those less fortunate.</p> <p>2.1.On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following in your own words :</p> <p>i)How do people with a positive mindset benefit from experience? 1</p> <p>ii)How can experience help a person or an enterprise to grow? 1</p> <p>iii)Why does the writer feel it is easier to learn from failure than from success? 1</p> <p>iv) What is author’s word of caution when one is finally successful in the world? 1</p> <p>v) How does self-knowledge help an individual? 1</p> <p>2.2 Find out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following :</p> <p>a) Incredible 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Selfish</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Unbelievable</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii. Mysterious</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iv. Precise</p> <p>b) Fortituous 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Accidental</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Fortunate</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii. Futuristic</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iv. Protector</p> <p>c) Cornerstone 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Foundation</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Difficulty iii. Beginning iv. Development <p>d) Preordained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Destined ii. Predicted iii. Permanent iv. Exciting <p>e) Custodian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Caretaker ii. Compensate iii. Energetic iv. Empathetic 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>
	SECTION – B WRITING AND GRAMMAR	40 marks
Q 3	<p>Your company is launching a new range of apparels, shoes, school bags for children next month. Prepare an attractive poster which can be displayed in all the market areas of the city to promote the company's products in about 50-60 words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You are the secretary of the literary club of your school. (J.A.V School, Ghandhinagar, Baroda). Your school is organizing a declamation contest on the topic 'How to stay healthy?'. Draft a notice inviting the students to participate in the competition in about 50-60 words. Sign yourself as Jeet/Jyothi.</p>	4
Q4	<p>You want to surprise your family by taking them abroad during holidays. Write a letter to the Manager of 'Tour the World' 112 Majestic Complex, Mount Road, Chennai – 600 002 asking details of places, hotels, cost, food, places of visit etc. You are Vivek/Viveka living in 3H, West Wind Apartments, Usman Road, Tnagar, Chennai – 600 017. Write the letter in about 120-150 words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Auto rickshaws and vans overcrowded with precariously seated children, is not an uncommon sight in cities today. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper highlighting this dangerous practice and requesting him to publicise the issue and urging the authorities to take steps to curb it, else it may cost the lives of innocent children. Write the letter in about 120-150 words, as Sushant/Sunanda.</p>	6
Q5	<p>Write a report for your school magazine in about 150-200 words on the cultural festival that your school conducted recently. You are Arnav / Arushi, Secretary, Culture Club, XYZ School. Include details of the activities undertaken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Nothing is perfect in this world. We all agree. Yet when it comes to the physically challenged we forget this and treat them differently. Many such persons are far better than able bodied people in many respects. Write a speech in about 150-200 words, expressing your concern on the same urging people to treat with everyone with the respect. Give examples of individuals who have excelled despite their disabilities. You are Rashika / Rishabh.</p>	10
Q6	<p>As a responsible citizen of the country, you feel that nowadays children are drawn towards play stations, computer games, and social media and have forgotten simpler games that provide tremendous fun to generations of</p>	10

	<p>children. Write an article for the magazine Youth Today in about 150 to 200 words. You are Rakesh/Renu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Since birth, the girl child who constitutes almost 50 percent of the child population is discriminated against in India. Write an article in 150 – 200 words on the topic, ‘Emancipation of Women begins with a fair treatment and respect for the Girl Child’ to be published in a magazine, ‘Youth Panorama’. You are Sumit/Sumana.</p>	
Q7 (A)	<p>The following passage has errors, one in each line. Identify the errors and write them along with the corrections as shown in the example</p> <p>To be <u>the</u> champion we need to have a (eg.)<u>a</u></p> <p>that stronger urge to be at the top. (a)-----</p> <p>A long list of icons has made our country pride in the past and will(b)-----</p> <p>continue to do so. Sports is the integral (c)-----</p> <p>part of our lives or we need to understand (d)-----</p> <p>that a game is not justify a hobby (e)-----</p> <p>or leisure activity, instead it can be a means of living life. It is the</p> <p>platform to checking and better (f)-----</p> <p>one’s capability and competent. (g)-----</p> <p>India is not at the top of the medal tally, but eagerly waiting</p> <p>opportunities to blossom and shine (h)-----</p>	4
Q7 (B)	<p>As Gaurav/Gauriwho has just appeared for the class 10thboard exam,you are confused about the subject stream you would like to opt for and wish to discuss the issue with the school counsellor. Using the input given below construct a dialogue between the two of you. Make 5 sets of exchanges. The first one has been done for you.</p>	3
Q7(C)	<p>Rearrange the following sentences to make meaningful sentences.</p> <p>the first one has been done as an example</p> <p>brains/have/dolphins/large/fairly</p> <p>e.g. Dolphins have fairly large brains.</p> <p>a. rats/is/more/truth/that/dolphins/are/the/intelligent/no/than</p> <p>b. sailors/there/about/drowning/many/dolphins/saving/stories/are</p> <p>c. save/size/which/anything/the/they/is/about/same</p> <p>d. tricks/they/do/to/clever/are/learn/to</p>	3
	SECTION – C LITERATURE	40 marks
Q 8.	<p>Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>8.1 <i>‘And Winter’s dregs made desolate The weakening eye of day. The tangled bine-stems scored the sky Like strings of broken lyres. And all mankind that haunted nigh Had sought their household fires.....’</i></p> <p>a) Name the poem and the poet.</p> <p>b) Pick out two words from the extract that reflect the poets’ mood.</p> <p>c) Explain: <i>‘The weakening eye of day’</i>.</p>	1 1 1 1

	<p>d) Explain the figure of speech in the lines '<i>The tangled bines.....broken lyres</i>'.</p> <p>e) Where do most people seek comfort at this hour?</p> <p>8.2 '<i>There is no touch now. The wave has broken That for a moment charged the desolate sea There is a word or two left to be spoken Yet who would hear it? When so swiftly distance Out measures time, engulfs identity?</i>'</p> <p>a) What is referred to as 'the wave'?</p> <p>b) Why is the sea desolate?</p> <p>c) What poetic device is used in the first two lines?</p> <p>d) Why could they not hear each other?</p> <p>e) How has their identities changed?</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
Q 9.	<p>Answer anyone of the following in 50-60 words:-</p> <p>a. Describe how Lord Weston lands himself in trouble by "paying attention to detail".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. What did the fakir want to prove to the people in "The Monkey's Paw"? What did he do prove this?</p>	4
Q 10(A)	<p>Answer the following in about 80-100 words:- Any two</p> <p>a) What is the beggar's advice to the boy for realising and sustaining his dream in 'What's Your Dream'?</p> <p>b) Rakesh is the object of envy of his neighbours and pride to his parents. Bring out Rakesh's character.</p> <p>c) Quinquart developed a hump as big as the Pantheon. Describe the his state of mind here.</p>	5+5
10(B)	<p>The story 'I Can Play Schools' ends with Freda and Marian playing together. What message does this ending of the story give the readers?(120 – 150 words)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>In the current scenario, education aims at instilling in the student only specific goals like success for himself and gaining specialized knowledge. What is Einstein's advice in 'On Education' which make our education an integrated and holistic one?(120 – 150 words)</p>	6
Q 11	<p>Answer any one of the following in (150 - 200 words):</p> <p>a) How did the invisible man misuse science to create havoc in society?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>Science has proceeded without any regard for the sanctity of life. How is this observation justified with regard to the central character and theme of the novel 'The Invisible Man'?</p> <p>b) What change did Eppie bring to the life of Silas Marner?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>How does the meeting of the main two narratives in the novel, show a progression in Silas Marner's social and emotional status?</p>	10