



**ST. MARGARET SR. SEC. SCHOOL  
MID TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24  
ENGLISH CORE (301) – CLASS XII  
SAMPLE PAPER**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**M.M: 80**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
3. Do not cross the prescribed word limit

**SECTION-A READING: 22 MARKS**

**Q-1) Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. (12 Marks)**

A.P. J. Abdul Kalam was a multifaceted personality, a statesman and visionary and above all a good human being. He was a brilliant scientist and modern thinker. When I joined him as Press Secretary after ten days of his becoming President, at his very first meeting he gave me his vision of a developed India. He spoke of how he wanted to make Rashtrapati Bhavan a people's place where voice of the millions of downtrodden people of India would be heard and action taken. Indeed during his time Rashtrapati Bhavan became a people's place and he became popular as People's President. He wanted that institution of the President to be totally identified by ordinary people.

President Kalam took his Presidency seriously from day one. He was as comfortable with constitutional and legal issues as he was with school children. He was committed to nation-building and created a vision document to make India a developed nation by 2020. He made a powerpoint presentation to senior ministers and bureaucrats on this.

He used to make powerpoint presentations at conferences and seminars both in India and abroad to discuss that vision. On these, he used to work himself and he was very particular about every word and sentence.

He did it during his visits abroad and while meeting dignitaries such as US President George Bush and Pakistan President Pervez Musharaf. When he presented his vision of India's nuclear energy requirements to Mr. Bush and his vision of a joint fight India and Pakistan could wage against poverty, the respective Presidents commented that they had to become scientists to understand the presentation. You can't think of any other President of a country who would have done that.

His vision for the nation was based on equality, the dignity of the individual and justice, social, economic and political, to every Indian. Only then can India succeed and everybody singing the song of India, he used to say.

I met him last on July 22, five days before his demise. It was an one-on-one meeting that lasted a good 40 minutes. He was full of ideas as always, very active and discussed different

subjects. He used to tell me, "Whatever you do, do differently. Wherever you work, leave a mark and be remembered."

During his presidency he was always comfortable, except on two occasions, when his unease was visible. When he had to give his consent to the Office of Profit Bill, 2006 after it was sent for the second time by the Parliament, and when he had to approve the ordinance on Disqualification of Elected Representatives in 2004 as it was sent to him by the Cabinet for a second time.

He was an icon for the youth. He used to say "Aiming small is a crime. Youth should have the courage to think differently and explore unexplored paths. Difficulties would come but don't be afraid of them—overcome them with your intellect and hard work."

The man who pioneered India's missile programme was always proud of his work at the Indian Space Research Organization and other scientific institutions. He used to believe that a scientific approach could find a solution to every problem.

He was an ardent secularist, and also a religious man. He believed that all religions are like beautiful islands; but there is no connectivity between them. We should strive to achieve this connectivity and transform religion into spirituality. For him religion and morality were the same.

A man of vision, he always worked in mission mode. He had a mission to meet 10 lakh students and interact with them. He completed this when he left Rashtrapati Bhavan. He continued with this till his last breath. His child-like simplicity was an instant hit.

He got the sobriquet of being the People's President because of his humility and accessibility. President Kalam always worked towards building consensus rather than ramming down decisions.

He came from a modest background, but educated himself and worked hard to rise to the top. He was simply the missile man whose books were prime-sellers, whose lectures were always house full. He was adored by children as he would give them easy-to-digest messages.

PART 1: Choose the appropriate option. (1X6)

- A. Which of the following traits explain in a single word the many qualities of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam?
1. brilliant scientist
  2. Visionary
  3. Statesman
  4. multifaceted
- B. What was so special about A.P.J. Abdul Kalam that no other president could do?
1. His vision document
  2. Equally comfortable with legal issues and school children
  3. His skill of power point presentation on nuclear energy
  4. His commitment to nation building
- C. Which of the following qualities made him loved by children?
1. Advised them to start aiming small
  2. Encouraged them to think differently
  3. Advised them with easy to digest messages

4. Exhorted them to overcome difficulties
- D. The bills were not passed by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam initially because
1. they were profit bills
  2. they were not sent by the cabinet
  3. parliament sent for the second time
  4. he was not convinced with them
- E. 'Sobriquet of being People's President' (para 12) is an?
1. Title
  2. nickname
  3. Award
  4. honour
- F. The antonym of 'modest' (para 13) is?
1. Flamboyant
  2. Immodest
  3. Ordinary
  4. poor

PART 2: Answer the following. (1X6)

1. He wanted that the institution of the President to be totally identified by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He made a power point presentation to senior ministers and \_\_\_\_\_ on this.
3. Presidents commented that they had to become \_\_\_\_\_ to understand the presentation.
4. He was an \_\_\_\_\_ for the youth.
5. Pick out the word from the passage which is similar in meaning to 'person of high position'.
6. Pick out the word from the passage which is similar in meaning to 'written material with evidentiary value'.

**Q-2) Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. (10 Marks)**

Life cannot be imagined without water, but clean and adequate water is still not accessible to most of the people in India. India receives 90 percent of the water from major or medium rivers. It has 14 major rivers each having catchment area of 20,000 sq. km and above; while there are 44 medium rivers with a coastline between 2000-20,000 sq. kms. Then there are 53 small rivers each with catchment area of 2000 sq. kms.

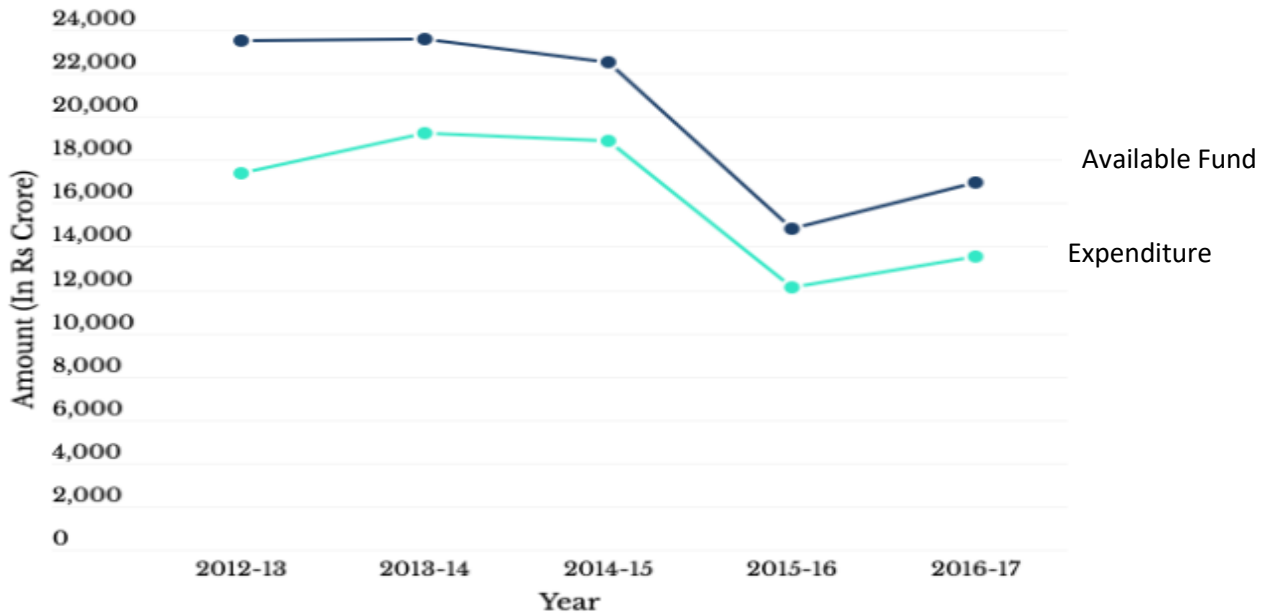
According to the 2011 census, annual per capita water availability in the country decreased to 1545 cubic meters from 1816 cubic meters as per the 2001 census. At present, this situation is even more worrisome. Scientists believe that by 2050 there will be a 30 percent decrease in the availability of water per person. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the availability of 200 litres of water per person per day in urban areas. On the contrary, 140 litres of water is supplied per person per day in the country.

Water resources in India are predominantly dependent on the monsoon. India receives an average rainfall of 4000 BCM (Billion Cubic Meter) every year from the rain, but most of it is vapourized and goes down the drains. Statistics show that a dearth of storage procedure, lack of adequate infrastructure, inappropriate water management have created a situation where only 18-20% of the water is actually used. The remainder just gets wasted, aggravating the problem of ground water depletion.

Our country's economy primarily rests on agriculture. Agriculture contributes 40 percent to the GDP of the country, and accounts for 60 percent of the total export revenues. Also, 60 percent of the related work. One of the major reasons for water crisis in the country is that as the area of irrigated land has increased, the level of groundwater has declined.

Currently, India has a gross irrigated crop area of 82.6 million hectares (215.6 million acres), which is the largest in the world. As the population increases, the water storage capacity of ponds decreases. In fact, wells and ponds go dry after the water decreases at the ground level.

### Available Funds & Expenditure Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, 2012-2017



1. From which category of river does India get 10 percent of the water it uses?
2. According to 2001 census, the annual per capita water availability was \_\_\_\_\_ cubic meters.
3. A person in the urban area should be supplied 60 more litres of water than what he or she uses now. (True/False)
4. What was the difference between the available fund and the expenditure in 2015-16?
5. Find the word from the passage which means 'sufficient'.
6. Describe the status of the available funds in 2012-13.
7. What aggravates the problem of ground water depletion?
  - a. wastage of rain water
  - b. increase in population
  - c. both (1) and (2)
  - d. inappropriate water management
8. As a sector, agriculture contributes to the country's economy by
  - a. contributing 40 percent to the GDP of the country.
  - b. contributing 60 percent of the total export revenues.
  - c. employing 60 percent of the country's population.
  - d. all of the above
9. The problem of ground water depletion cannot be resolved to a large extent unless
  - a. rain water storage procedure is not improved and enhanced.
  - b. people use less water.
  - c. digging of wells stops.
  - d. land under irrigation is not decreased.

10. Which of the following about availability and use of water in India is correct?
- India doesn't depend on monsoon for water.
  - Less water will be available to the people of India by 2050.
  - Population increase is not a reason for ground water depletion.
  - Most of the rainwater is not available for use as it is either vaporised or goes into the drains.

**SECTION-B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS: 18 MARKS**

Q-3) As the President of Worldlife Apartments, draft a notice to inform the residents about the upcoming donation week. (4) 50 words.

Q-4) Draft a notice in 50 words to inform the students of your school about the upcoming seminar on 'Good Mental Health'. You are Rahul/Reema, Head Boy/Girl of MK Public School. (4)

Q-5) Despite a lot of awareness, many people still use the imported products in India because of which the local vendors suffer a huge loss. Write an article on "Vocal for Local" to be published in your school magazine in 180-200 words. (5)

Q-6) Write an article to spread the awareness about the importance of yoga in 200 words. (5)

**SECTION-C**

**LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT: 40 MARKS**

**Q-7) Read the given extracts and answer the questions of any one. (1x6)**

*A. I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,*

- Who is 'I'?
- Identify and explain the poetic device used in the second line.
- What was the childhood fear of the speaker?
- Give meaning of the word 'wan'.
- Who is 'her'?
- What does the speaker do next?

**OR**

*B. I want no truck with death. If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death*

- Name the poem and the poet.
- What does the poet mean when he says that he wants no truck with death?
- What do you understand by 'single minded'?
- How do people threaten themselves?
- Find the synonym of 'stop or cause obstacle'.
- What would interrupt sadness?

**Q-8) Read the given extracts and answer the questions of any one. (1x4)**

**A.** *There were brass spittoons on the floor, and across the station a glint of light caught my eye; a man was pulling a gold watch from his vest pocket. He snapped open the cover, glanced at his watch and frowned.*

- (a) Which floor is referred to?
- (b) What was so unique about the watch?
- (c) What else was noticed by the speaker?
- (d) What is the meaning of 'glint'?

**OR**

**B.** *The British officer's secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the dewan that the durai himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the durai was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger's carcass.*

- (a) What is the primary desire of the British Officer?
- (b) What is the meaning of 'carcass'?
- (c) What was the response given by the Maharaja?
- (d) What does the extract show about the British Officer?

**Q-9) Read the given extracts and answer the questions of any one. (1x6)**

**A.** *Why not organize yourselves into a cooperative?" I ask a group of young men who have fallen into the vicious circle of middlemen who trapped their fathers and forefathers. "Even if we get organized, we are the ones who will be hauled up by the police, beaten and dragged to jail for doing something illegal.*

- (a) Who are these young men?
- (b) Where do they live?
- (c) Why can't they organize themselves into cooperatives?
- (d) Who are responsible for the poor condition of these men?
- (e) Find the synonym of 'pulled forcefully'.
- (f) Who is the speaker? Name the lesson.

**OR**

**B.** *My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn anymore! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar!*

- (a) Who is the speaker?
- (b) What is the tone of the speaker? Why?
- (c) Why was the speaker sorry?
- (d) What is 'Saar'?
- (e) How did the speaker waste his time?
- (f) Who gave the news to the speaker?

**Q-10) Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. (5X2)**

- (a) What made Douglas 100% sure about his ability to swim?
- (b) Why is Firozabad famous? Elaborate.
- (c) Why Saheb and his friends are called 'morning birds'?
- (d) Why did the villagers occupy the last benches?
- (e) What does the author mean when he says 'clean clothes'?
- (f) What do the parting words of Kamala Das suggest?

**Q-11) Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2X2)**

- (a) Describe the continental split of Earth as mentioned in the lesson.
- (b) What information was revealed by Sam in his letter to Charley?
- (c) How was the Tiger King raised?

**Q-12) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (5)**

- (a) What is the theme of 'The Last Lesson'?
- (b) Imagine yourself to be Edla. Write a letter to your brother living in Paris. Describe how you made Christmas special for a poor man and how he chose the path of right conduct after that. Use the format given below.

56, Cant Street  
Sweden 110022

Dear Jack

I hope my letter finds you in best of health. Wishing you and your family the best vibes of Christmas. I would like to share a recent experience which gave a lot of happiness to me and father during the Christmas celebration.....

Yours lovingly  
Edla

**Q-13) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (5)**

- (a) Despite moving ahead in life, Charley again started to look for the Third Level. Why?
- (b) What was the purpose of the programme 'Students on Ice'? Why Antarctica was chosen for the same?

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