



ST. MARGARET SR. SEC. SCHOOL  
MID TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24  
ENGLISH CORE (301)  
CLASS XI

Time: 3Hrs

SAMPLE PAPER

M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- i. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, WRITING & GRAMMAR and LITERATURE.
- ii. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- iii. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.

SECTION A: READING (26 MARKS)

Q.1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. (10 Marks)

The newspaper is one of the significant signs of modern civilization. It is the most popular form of reading in the present times because it interests all sorts of people. It is full of political, news, sports and commercial news, as well as articles by well-known writers. A newspaper keeps us both entertained and informed.

In these days of democracy, public opinion rules everywhere. No government can long withstand the pressure of a strong public opinion. It is, therefore, quite clear that the press controls public opinion, and public opinion in turn controls the government, ultimately the press controls the government. It acts as an interpreter between the government and the people and brings the rulers and the ruled together.

The press also acts as a public court. All evils, corruptions, vices, scandals, etc. are given publicity and brought forth to the public through the medium of newspapers. The pressure of public opinion can be brought to bear upon the doers of evil and injustice. The oppressed and the downtrodden may easily demand justice at the bar of public opinion.

Again, to build a nation, it becomes necessary to spread ideas of liberty and independence among the masses. The real freedom of a country is never possible without the upliftment of the people. Politicians as well as economists, can circulate their ideas through newspapers, as they reach the most distant corners in the shortest possible time. Newspapers also tell people what their rights are and teach them how they can protect and exercise their rights. By placing before the readers new view-points every day, they stimulate thought and increase the power of independent thinking. Thus, newspapers contribute to the development of knowledge and their educative influence is indeed immense.

The advantages of having a strong, independent and honest press far outweighs the evils practised by a few cheap, irresponsible newspapers. The newspaper is one of the greatest blessings of civilization and journalism and therefore, it should be allowed to have the maximum amount of freedom possible.

Restrictions on newspaper should be as few as possible in order to ensure the healthy growth of a nation.

In the present stage of developing civilization, newspapers are an absolute necessity and given freedom of expression, they are capable of doing immense good to society, the country and the world. Thus, the freedom of Press, is the requisite for freedom of the people.

A. Answer any FIVE of the following: (1x=5)

1. Give three reasons to show the importance of the newspaper.
2. How does public opinion rule everywhere in case of democracy?
3. Why is the freedom of the press essential?
4. When can real freedom come to existence?
5. List some of the essential things necessary to build a strong nation?
6. Restrictions on newspaper should be as few as possible so as to \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Choose the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

7. Which word in the passage means 'crushed'?  
a) Spoiled    b) trodden    c) rotten    d) untidy
8. Find out the antonym of 'discourage' from the passage:  
a) Encourage    b) secure    c) stimulate    d) inspire
9. Find the synonym of 'colossal' from the passage:  
a) Immense    b) small    c) beautiful    d) big
10. Find out the antonym of 'restriction' from the passage:  
a) Slavery    b) courage    c) influence    d) freedom
11. Which word in the passage means 'spectrum'?  
a) Line    b) sequence    c) block    d) range

Q.2. Read the passage and answer any eight questions given below (1x8=8).

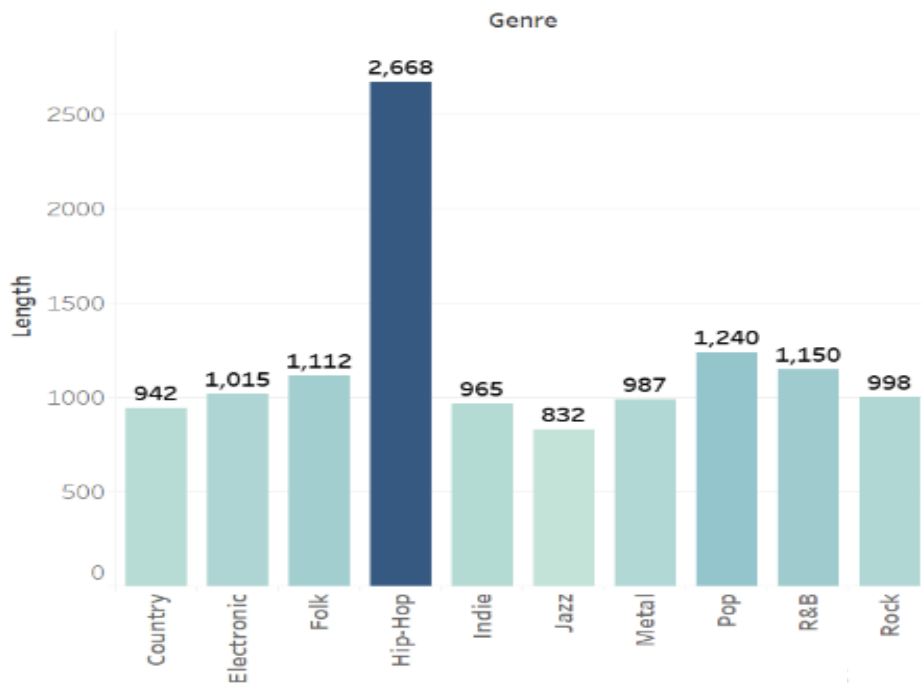
Music is perhaps the most popular and widely practised form of fine arts, transcending all kinds of cultural and linguistic barriers. Any form of fine art is difficult to master and almost impossible to perfect and music is no exception.

Nature, it is learnt, has blessed almost two-thirds of the human race with musical ability of some sort. Music has the power to bring out the deepest emotions. In fact, it is a magic medicine and many seek refuge in it when they are depressed or stressed. It is this intimacy that makes us listen to music or even hum or sing sometimes. This singing, or realistically speaking, expressing one's emotion musically sometimes takes a serious turn.

The desire to sing before an audience is innocent and beautiful and indeed it is perfectly alright to have such a genuine desire. But it is also important to understand that singing is an intricate art — a highly refined one at that, which requires systematic, prolonged and strict training, to be acceptable. This is an aspect we forget in our keen desire to reach the stage and perform. It is almost like preparing a formal meal for some specially invited guests, without even having learnt and trained in the basics of cooking.

These days almost everyone sings and it does not stop here. Most of us want to become professional singers. Result: a complete disregard for and ignorance of the training part, as the need is never felt to go through one and the urge to get to the stage and perform overcomes even a little desire to learn, if any. If at all, somewhere along the way one feels the need to gain some knowledge and training, it leads to hurried shortcuts and halfhearted attempts, best described as 'Crash Courses'.

It is observed that those who have attained the so called partial success, suddenly feel that they lack the required knowledge and are not learned enough. But it is too late by then. It should be understood here that the stage or a performance brings in a different mind-set within the artist. It is always recommended and rightly said that while on stage, cover the mistakes and weaknesses if any, and get along. But the contrary is true when it comes to acquiring knowledge and during the learning process. While under training, the student is expected to make mistakes but then rectify those mistakes under the supervision and guidance of the teacher. Therefore, it is good to make mistakes and then be corrected during the process of learning as this subsequently makes one flawless and educated. This is a different mind-set. And these two mind-set discussed above, (those of a performer and that of a student) cannot coexist.



1. Music is perhaps the most popular and widely practised form of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) performing arts
  - b) modern arts
  - c) linguistic arts
  - d) fine arts
  
2. Nature has blessed almost two-thirds of the human race with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) singing ability
  - b) musical ability
  - c) dancing ability
  - d) all of these

3. \_\_\_\_\_ are brought out by the power of music.
  - a) Hidden talents
  - b) Feelings of joy and contentment
  - c) Deepest emotions
  - d) Hidden desires
4. How can we say that music is a magic medicine?
5. What is best described as 'Crash Courses'?
6. The word \_\_\_\_\_ in para 5 is the same as 'incomplete'.
7. How many people love electronic music?
8. Which form of music has 1240 fans?

Q.3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (8 marks)

Modernism is both a philosophical and arts movement that arose from broad transformations in Western society during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The movement reflected a desire for the creation of new forms of art, philosophy, and social organization which reflected the newly emerging industrial world, including features such as urbanization, architecture, new technologies, and war. Artists attempted to depart from traditional forms of art, which they considered outdated or obsolete. The poet Ezra Pound's 1934 injunction to "Make it New" was the touchstone of the movement's approach.

Modernist innovations included abstract art, the stream-of-consciousness novel, montage cinema, atonal and twelve-tone music, and divisionist painting. Modernism explicitly rejected the ideology of realism and made use of the works of the past by the employment of reprise, incorporation, rewriting, recapitulation, revision and parody. Modernism also rejected the certainty of Enlightenment thinking, and many modernists also rejected religious belief. A notable characteristic of modernism is self-consciousness concerning artistic and social traditions, which often led to experimentation with form, along with the use of techniques that drew attention to the processes and materials used in creating works of art.

While some scholars see modernism continuing into the 21st century, others see it evolving into late modernism or high modernism. Postmodernism is a departure from modernism and rejects its basic assumptions.

Historians, and writers in different disciplines, have suggested various dates as starting points for modernism. Historian William Everdell, for example, has argued that modernism began in the 1870s, when metaphorical (or ontological) continuity began to yield to the discrete with mathematician Richard Dedekind's (1831–1916) Dedekind cut, and Ludwig Boltzmann's (1844–1906) statistical thermodynamics. Everdell also thinks modernism in painting began in 1885–1886 with Seurat's Divisionism, the "dots" used to paint *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. On the other hand, visual art critic Clement Greenberg called Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) "the first real Modernist", though he also wrote, "What can be safely called Modernism emerged in the middle of the last century—and rather locally, in France, with Baudelaire in literature and Manet in painting, and perhaps with Flaubert, too, in prose fiction.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using heading and subheadings Use recognizable abbreviations and a format you consider suitable. Also supply a title to it. (5)

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

SECTION B  
GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS (23 MARKS)

Q.4. Prepare a poster in not more than 50 words, on behalf of Care NGO to promote the donation of clothes for poor. (3 marks)

OR

RMK Public School will be organizing 'Red Day' to spread the awareness about Cancer. Draft a poster for the event.

Q.5. Write a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on the topic 'Importance of Adult Education'. You are Rahul/Reena. (5 marks)

Q.6. Children usually come to school without taking breakfast in the morning and eat junk food from the school canteen. This habit adversely affects the performance of students in academics and sports. Write a speech in 120-150 words to be given in your school assembly about 'How Health is Affected by Lifestyle.' (5 marks)

Q.7. Do the following as directed:

(A) Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks with appropriate form of verbs given in brackets (1/2 x 6 = 3 marks).

I (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) my best friend last Friday who (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me about her new job. I (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (happy) to know about the same. Right now (d)\_\_\_\_\_ (think) if I should change my job. I (e)\_\_\_\_\_ (see) an ad two days ago about a vacancy in HCL. It (f)\_\_\_\_\_ (seem) great at that time.

(B) The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line against which a numeral is given. Write the incorrect word and the correction. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied. (1/2x 6=3)

	Incorrect	Correct
Stick with regular meal timings.	With	to
Else your body is thrown of balance	(a) -----	-----
attempting to compensate. However, eat a	(b) -----	-----
good breakfast followed by a moderated lunch	(c) -----	-----
and light dinner. Highly fat meals are	(d) -----	-----
particularly to be avoided at dinner as there are	(e) -----	-----
little physical activity after consumption so excess	(f) -----	-----
calories are converted into fat.		

(C) Rearrange the following words or phrases to form meaningful sentences (1x4=4 marks).

- i. confident/to/ it's /and /in/feel/life /important/ happy
- ii. optimistic/ makes/ lively/ this/ very/ an/ and/ individual
- iii. providence/Vivekananda/in/of/believed/the/God
- iv. world/country/finest/is/the/in/the//India/our

SECTION C: LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

Q.8. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. (1x3= 3 marks):

She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty  
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they  
Dressed us for the beach."

- i. Who is 'she'?  
(a) poet's friend      (b) poet      (c) poet's mother      (d) her cousin
- ii. Why did she laugh?  
(a) felt shy                      (b) because of their funny dress  
(c) she was dreaming      (d) she cracked a joke
- iii. Who are 'they'?  
(a) poet's mother and her cousins      (b) poet's neighbours  
(c) poet and her cousins                      (d) school children

OR

I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of  
the globe, And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;

- i. 'I' here refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) rain      (b) cloud      (c) thunder      (d) waterman
- ii. Name the poem.  
(a) The Voice of the Rain      (b) Childhood  
(c) A Photograph                      (d) The Laburnum Top
- iii. What is the meaning of 'latent'?  
(a) surprise      (b) hidden      (c) magic      (d) powerful

Q.9. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3)

*In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging drum.*

(A) Who is 'she'?

(a) author (b) his aunt (c) grandmother (d) his mother

(B) What change came over her?

(a) she did not pray (b) became sad (c) became excited (d) got annoyed

(C) What was the result of the action performed?

(a) fell ill (b) stopped singing (c) became silent (d) left the house.

OR

"Take the wheel", I shouted as I scrambled for the hatch.

Larry and Herb were pumping like madmen. Broken timbers hung at crazy angles, the whole starboard side bulged inwards; clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys sloshed about in deep water.

(a) "Take the wheel" means.....

(b) What is statement "Larry and Herb were pumping like madmen" an example of?

(c) The meaning of the expression 'sloshed about' here is.....

(i) thrown around (ii) floated around

(iii) spilled around (iv) strewn around

Q.10. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow (1x4=4)

I knew my cousin Mourad enjoyed being alive more than anybody else who had ever fallen into the world by mistake, but this was more than even I could believe.

In the first place, my earliest memories had been memories of horses and my first longings had been longings to ride.

(a) The phrase 'being alive' refers to.....

(i) he was a living being (ii) he was adventurous

(iii) he had a flourishing life (iv) being courageous

(b) The words "fallen into the world by mistake" match with.....

(i) suddenly appear (ii) born in this world

(iii) stumble into this world (iv) took birth by mistake

(c) What is the meaning of the word 'longing'?

(d) Complete using a word or a phrase.

"This was more than even I could believe' refers to Mourad.....and offering Aram a ride.

OR

'Well, you knew my mother?' I asked.

Have you come back?' said the woman. I thought that no one had come back.

'Only me."

A door opened and closed in the passage behind her. A musty smell emerged.

(a) What does Mrs. Dorling mean by this when she says: "I thought that no one had come back"?

(i) She thought that everyone in Mrs S's family was dead.

(ii) She thought that Mrs S had left her homeland for good.

(iii) She thought that Mrs S 's family had abandoned all hopes to retrieve their things.

(iv) She was happy to see Mrs S's daughter.

(b) Why does the author say "Only me"?

(i) She had travelled alone to see Mrs Dorling. (ii) Probably, her family had become immigrants.

(iii) Only the author had returned to her motherland. (iv) Only the author had survived the war in her family.

(c) The word 'musty' can be perfectly replaced with.....

(d) What was the probable reason for the musty smell that lingered in the house?

Q.11. Answer one of the following in 40-50 words. (3 marks):

(a) How did the narrator's children Jonathan and Suzanne show courage in the hour of great storm?

OR

(b) What problem did Carter face when he reached the mummy of King Tut? How did he find a way out?

Q.12. Answer ONE of the following in 40-50 words. (3 marks):

(a) What is the engine of the machine? What is its fuel? (The Laburnum Top)

OR

(b) What do you understand by the *laboured ease of loss*?

Q.13. Answer one of the following in 40-50 words (3 marks):



(a) Why do you think Mrs. Dorling, knowingly refused to recognize the narrator when she went to meet after years?

OR

(b) Who was John Byro? Why was he upset?

Q.14. (a) The grandmother herself was not formally educated but was serious about the author's education. How does the text support this? (120-150 words) (6 marks)

OR

(b) How did the presence and behaviour of his children during the crisis affect the narrator?

Q.15. (a) Aram and Mourad define a perfect example of following their conscience. Elaborate. (120-150 words) (6 marks)

OR

(b) Justify the title of the story 'The Address.'

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