

Roll No. 266136

Total Printed Pages : 8

Total Questions : 15

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

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हायर सेकेण्डरी परीक्षा / Higher Secondary Examination
(मुख्य / Main) वर्ष / Year - 2026



263697

A

अंग्रेजी
ENGLISH

SET / सेट

- Instructions :**
- (1) Attempt all questions.
 - (2) Read the instructions carefully.
 - (3) Marks allotted to each question are indicated against it.
 - (4) Don't mention your personal information in Answer book.
 - (5) Don't tick or write anything in the question paper.

SECTION - A (Reading Skills)

1 Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it : 10

Books are our best companions. They enrich our minds with knowledge and open the doors of imagination. Reading good books helps in developing our personality, improving our language, and broadening our outlook. Unlike friends, books never demand anything from us. They are always ready to share their wisdom and experience.

In this modern age of technology, many people have turned away from books to television and mobile phones. Although, these gadgets provide entertainment and information, they cannot replace the joy and depth of reading. Books have the power to transport us to different worlds, teach us valuable lessons and inspire us to achieve greatness.

Every student should cultivate the habit of reading daily. Even a few pages a day can make a big difference in one's thoughts and behaviour. Reading good literature shapes our character and helps us understand life better.

Questions :

- (i) According to the passage, books are our _____.
- (A) best companions (B) enemies
(C) teachers (D) relatives
- (ii) Reading good books helps in _____.
- (A) wasting time (B) narrowing our outlook
(C) broadening our outlook (D) increasing laziness
- (iii) Books differ from friends because they _____.
- (A) argue with us (B) demand nothing
(C) demand attention (D) get angry
- (iv) What has replaced books for many people in modern times ?
- (A) Nature (B) Magazines
(C) Television and mobile phones (D) Newspapers
- (v) According to the passage, gadgets _____.
- (A) are better than books
(B) give joy and depth of reading
(C) cannot replace the joy of reading
(D) teach better lessons than books
- (vi) The passage suggests that reading books _____.
- (A) wastes time (B) makes people dull
(C) reduces imagination (D) inspires and educates
- (vii) How can reading affect our behaviour?
- (A) negatively
(B) it can improve thoughts and behaviour
(C) It has no effect
(D) It can make us rude
- (viii) The word 'Cultivate' in the passage means _____.
- (A) To grow or develop a habit (B) To destroy
(C) To forget (D) To criticize

- (ix) What type of literature should one read?
- (A) Poor (B) Boring
(C) Good (D) Cheap
- (x) The overall message of the passage is _____.
- (A) to avoid books and use technology
(B) to read good books regularly
(C) to watch television for knowledge
(D) to depend on mobile phones

2 Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it :

The ultimate challenge is to make your mind calm and the ultimate solution is meditation. In today's age every second person recommends meditation to the first! And for a student, there cannot be a more powerful technique to improve long term performance in studies and other activities.

Calm mind, better retention, better health, focus and concentration are the obvious benefits. You will realise the benefits, as your practice includes a general sense of well being and happiness and spiritual growth. The 'mood' problem can be taken care of by this way - 'meditation'.

There are many types of meditation. The simplest is of course, focussing on breathing. Since your breath is always with you, it can be done anytime, any place. But the best is to settle down in a cool place that has dim light and is relatively quiet. You must focus all your attention on your breathing. Observe your breath as it comes in and goes out. You will see that your mind will tend to wander a lot, but soon you will be able to bring it back on breathing.

Don't obstruct thoughts, let them go off. All you need to do is to keep your focus on breathing. When you try this initially, you will see how difficult it is to do! But soon, you will gain mastery over it and who knows you might end up as a spiritual Guru !

Questions :

- (i) Make notes on the above passage in points. 3
Use abbreviations wherever necessary following numbering and indenting format.
- (ii) Write a suitable title to the passage. 1

SECTION - B (Writing Skills)

- 3 You are Deepak/Deepika. You want to sell your bike (motorcycle). Design a suitable classified advertisement to be published in a local newspaper. Add other details from your side. 4

OR

You are Sharad/Seema, head Boy/Girl of your school GHSS, XYZ. Draft a notice to all captains of class 9th to 12th regarding a meeting on how to improve discipline in your school.

- 4 Write an application to your principal requesting him/her to arrange for an extra class of English Subject, giving reasons on behalf of Rati, School Captain, GHSS Satna, M.P. 4

OR

You are Samawart, a student of Class XII. Write a letter to your friend congratulating him/her on his/her brilliant success in board examination 2025.

- 5 **Write a paragraph in about 120 words on any ONE of the following topics:** 4

- (i) My ideal Teacher
- (ii) Importance of computer in modern age.
- (iii) Clean India, Green India.
- (iv) Role of Youth in Nation Development

OR

Write a report in about 120 words about 'Sports Day Function' of your school GHSS, Bhopal.

Use the following inputs : Date, time, place, chief guest, various events performed, prize distribution, speech by guest, vote of thanks.

SECTION - C (Grammar)

6 Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option : (Any Five) 5×1=5

- (i) He _____ football since morning.
(A) played (B) playing
(C) play (D) has been playing
- (ii) She works hard _____ she may get good marks.
(A) though (B) if
(C) and (D) so that
- (iii) It _____ rain today.
(A) need (B) may
(C) dare (D) ought
- (iv) _____ Ganga is a holy River.
(A) A (B) An
(C) The (D) No article
- (v) The principal is _____ the office.
(A) in (B) into
(C) on (D) upon
- (vi) Sohan is superior _____ Mohan.
(A) from (B) than
(C) to (D) on
- (vii) The _____ class was making noise.
(A) all (B) some
(C) whole (D) both

7 Do as directed (Any Five) : 5×1=5

- (i) As soon as the students saw the teacher, they became silent.
(Rewrite the sentence using 'No sooner.....than')
- (ii) He shut the window.
(Change into negative sentence)
- (iii) I know him.
(Change the voice)
- (iv) If they do not work hard, they will not get good marks.
(Rewrite the sentence replacing 'If' with 'Unless')
- (v) They found a ladder. It was dragged from its place.
(Combine the sentence to form a complex sentence with relative clause)
- (vi) Urmila is very strong. She can do everything.
(Combine the sentence into simple sentence using 'too to')
- (vii) The manager will go to Mumbai on Monday.
(Change the sentence into past Simple Tense)

SECTION - D (Literature)

- 8 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (Flamingo) $5 \times 1 = 5$

One dark evening as he was trudging along the road he caught sight of a little gray cottage by the road side. He knocked on the door to ask shelter for the night and was not refused. Instead of the sour faces which ordinarily met him, the owner, who was an old man without wife or child, was happy to get someone to talk to in his loneliness. Immediately he put the porridge pot on the fire and gave him supper; then he carved off such a big slice from his tobacco roll that it was enough both for the stranger's pipe and his own. Finally he got out an old pack of cards and played 'mjolis' with his guest until bedtime.

Questions :

- (i) The extract is from which lesson?
(A) The Last Lesson (B) Lost Spring
(C) The Rat Trap (D) Deep Water
- (ii) What did the host offer the stranger?
(A) A pack of cards (B) Supper and tobacco
(C) Mjolis and tobacco (D) Supper and cards
- (iii) Why was the owner happy to see the stranger ? It was because _____.
(A) the owner was lonely
(B) the stranger was an old friend
(C) the owner wanted to give shelter
(D) the stranger would pay him
- (iv) The old man and the peddler played _____.
(A) Rummy (B) Chess
(C) Flash (D) Mjolis
- (v) Write the name of the author of this extract :
(A) Selma Lagerlof (B) William Douglas
(C) Anees Jung (D) Louis Fischer

- 9 (A) Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow it : (Flamingo) $3 \times 1 = 3$

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away.

Questions :

(i) Which day is described in the above extract?

- (A) Monday (B) Friday
(C) Tuesday (D) Sunday

(ii) Give the opposite of the word 'soon'.

- (A) late (B) early
(C) quick (D) hurry

(iii) The word 'corpse' means _____.

- (A) a body part (B) father
(C) parents (D) dead body

(B) Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions $4 \times 1 = 4$ given below it : (Vistas)

Yes, I've taken the obvious step; I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking-dream wish fulfillment. He said, I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

Questions :

(i) What did Charley's friend think of him?

- (A) that Charley wanted to escape
(B) that Charley was true
(C) that Charley was right in his discovery
(D) that Charley was lying

(ii) What was the obvious step taken by Charley?

- (A) He talked to his wife
(B) He went to Galesburg, Illinois
(C) He talked to a psychiatrist friend
(D) He went home

(iii) Who is the main character of the story?

- (A) Marley (B) Charley
(C) Harley (D) Darley

(iv) The antonym of 'Wander' _____.

- (A) Roam (B) Ramble
(C) Stroll (D) Stay

- 10 Answer the following questions in about 30 words each : $5 \times 2 = 10$
(Any Five) (Flamingo)
(i) What had been put up on the bulletin board?
(ii) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?
(iii) What makes the city of Firozabad famous?
(iv) Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers?
(v) Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List two of his special abilities.
(vi) What are some of the positive views on interviews?
(vii) Why did Sophie wriggle when Geoff told her father that she had met Danny Casey?
- 11 Answer the following questions in about 30 words each : $3 \times 2 = 6$
(Any three) (Flamingo)
(i) What is the 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
(ii) What is the secret of good health according to the poet 'John Keats'?
(iii) How does the poet describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers?
(iv) What is the 'childish longing' that the poet refers to in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?
- 12 Answer the following questions in about 30 words each : $2 \times 2 = 4$
(Any Two) (Vistas)
(i) What did Dr. Sadao and his wife do with the man?
(ii) Why does Mr. Lamb leave his garden open?
(iii) How did Zitkala - Sa find the 'eating by formula' a hard trail?
- 13 Answer the following questions in about 75 words : (Any Two) $2 \times 3 = 6$
(Flamingo)
(i) How did M. Hamel pay a tribute to the French Language?
(ii) When did the Iron Master realise his mistake?
(iii) What was Gandhiji's politics intertwined with?
- 14 Answer the following questions in about 75 words (Any One) $1 \times 3 = 3$
(Flamingo)
(i) Write the central idea of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.
(ii) Summarise the poem 'A Roadside Stand'.
- 15 Answer the following questions in about 75 words (Any One) $1 \times 3 = 3$
(Vistas)
(i) Who was Dr. Sadao ? Where was his house?
(ii) How did the hundredth tiger take its revenge upon the Tiger King?