

**PRE-BOARD / XII / ENGLISH / 2020-21**

**Time: 3 Hrs.**

**MM : 80**

**General Instructions :**

1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**PART A( 40 Marks)**  
**READING (20 Marks)**

**Q1**

Read the passage given below.

1X10= 10

**Battle of Minds**

1. The Mastermind quiz is billed as a “battle of minds”. This battle is fought in two halves. In the first, each of four participants faces a barrage of questions, for two minutes, on any topic of his or her choice. In the second round, the questions are on general knowledge. There are two points for each correct answer and zero for wrong answers and passes. In the event of a tie, the person who has passed fewer questions wins.
2. Questions can be bizarre, but they are answered none the less. “It absolutely amazes you that these guys know so much. In KBC, it used to be, that this guy knows so little,” says Basu after the show. Siddhartha Basu was the director of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC).
3. This year’s Mastermind final was won by Ramanand Janardhana, a 22 year-old software engineer from Pune. Janardhana had Agatha Christie’s ‘Tommy and Tupence’ novels as his specialist topic. He even knew that Tommy used asofoetida to create a stink in his room.
4. There are, of course, all sorts of quizzers. The diary-toting, Manorama yearbook, wielding variety will typically prepare for a contest by ‘studying’. He knows that the best questions, the ones that get the ‘wah-wahs’, are always repeated. He is a solid quizzer, because he knows the obvious.
5. There is the other kind, like Janardhana, who claim they do nothing extra to prepare for quizzes. They read the papers and magazines, watch TV, and become quizzers because they enjoy the test of recall.
6. It was a test the nation took when KBC fever was at its height. But long before KBC, there were quiz societies across the country, in places from Guwahati to Gandhinagar. Kolkata was the hub of the game; quizzing in India began here in 1967. Even now, the majority of quizzers are from Kolkata. Of the four 2002 Mastermind finalists, two were from that city.
7. Quizzing is big in school and college festivals. It’s the ‘literary’ highlight of all fests. There are even professional quizzers, who, like mercenaries, play for money and the thrill of the game. They represent various organisations at different times.

8. Most quizzers grow out of active quizzing after college. Some, the really hardcore devotees of the game, keep at it. “I don’t get tired of quizzing,” says Pinaki Prasad Roy, a Mastermind finalist. “I get excited.” Roy is a 46-year old finance professional from Kolkata, and has been a quizzer for three decades.
9. Curiosity is the most essential quality for a quizzer. A fantastic memory and instant recall helps. And for Mastermind at least, the choice of specialist subject is critical. In this year’s event, Janardhana took an unassailable lead in the specialist round itself.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any ten questions from the eleven given below.**

1. The Mastermind quiz is called a ‘battle of minds’ because.....  
(a) it is a duel of wits  
(b) the participants are the most intelligent persons  
(c) the participants face a shower of questions  
(d) the mind is on the anvil
2. The participants in the quiz seem ‘masterminds’ because.....  
(a) they seem to know so little  
(b) they have very polished manner  
(c) they show lot of self confidence  
(d) they seem to know so much
3. Ramanand Janardhana won as.....  
(a) he had mastery over the specialist topic  
(b) he had gone through the quiz columns in magazines  
(c) he had chinks in his memory/recall  
(d) he knew all the often repeated questions asked by quizmasters
4. The studious quizzers are called ‘solid’ quizzers because.....  
(a) they prepare expected questions  
(b) they know the obvious  
(c) they bank on general awareness  
(d) they enjoy the test of recall
5. The quality most essential for a quizzer is.....  
(a) love of learning  
(b) mathematical accuracy  
(c) curiosity to know  
(d) comprehensive learning
6. The word ‘mercenaries’ in para 7 means.....  
(a) those who seek mercy  
(b) those who work on machines  
(c) those who are lively and quick  
(d) those who fight for money

7. When the game gets tied, the winner is.....
  - (a) who has answered two extra questions
  - (b) who has passed fewer questions
  - (c) who has passed more questions
  - (d) who has answered instantly
8. Out of the finalists of 2002, two persons are from.....
  - (a) Guwahti
  - (b) Gandhinagar
  - (c) Kolkata
  - (d) New Delhi
9. Where is quizzing considered as literary highlight of all fests?
  - (a) High schools
  - (b) Professional colleges
  - (c) School and college festivals
  - (d) Book clubs
10. In Mastermind quiz, the most critical aspect is.....
  - (a) specialist subject
  - (b) skill based subject
  - (c) theme based subject
  - (d) the choice of language
11. The word 'Unassailable' in para 9 is.....
  - (a) unable to sail
  - (b) unable to see
  - (c) unable to be attacked
  - (d) unable to move

**Q2**

Living with Floods

1X10=10

1. Floods are not new to India and this sub-continent, but in recent years the problem has received much greater attention perhaps largely because it has led to much greater damage than in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimized. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessively heavy rain.
2. In the case of India flooding is very much a function of the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. But, flooding is not confined only to the main rivers of the country, often smaller tributaries and streams can cause heavy damage as well. Once these streams spill

over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams particularly in mountain areas do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.

3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration, but far more intensive. In other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.
4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of flood through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In the case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. This leads to deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spill over of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the river beds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures, symbolized, for instance, by the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, which is merely a trickle most of the year, but bursting its banks during the monsoons as has been the case this year.
5. Flood forecasting is critical to minimizing the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood prone inter state rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any ten questions from the eleven given below.**

1. The problem of floods has been considered important recently because.....  
(a) there are flash floods  
(b) floods are unpredictable  
(c) the rivers change their courses  
(d) these cause much greater damage

2. The danger of floods is not minimised as.....
  - (a) flood forecasting is inaccurate
  - (b) there is little time available for safety measures
  - (c) people are scared and act in panic
  - (d) support infrastructure is poor
3. India suffers from floods during monsoons because.....
  - (a) it rains very heavily and continually
  - (b) the embankments of the rivers are weak
  - (c) the streams and rivers spill over
  - (d) the streams are full of silt
4. Climate change is the direct result of.....
  - (a) increased concentration of green house gases
  - (b) explosion of nuclear devices
  - (c) fire in oil wells in the gulf region
  - (d) significantly changed pattern of monsoons
5. The worst hit people are slum dwellers because.....
  - (a) they are stubborn and helpless
  - (b) they do not have means to move away quickly
  - (c) they have concentrated in large numbers
  - (d) they have settled on the banks of the rivers
6. The word 'precipitation' in para 3 means.....
  - (a) forming a precipitate
  - (b) separation of solid material from liquid
  - (c) falling of rain in an area
  - (d) the quality of being exact or accurate
7. The human action which has heightened the danger of flood is.....
  - (a) population explosion
  - (b) destroying the wildlife
  - (c) cutting of trees in the mountains and plains
  - (d) high level of siltation
8. The word 'Severity' in para 3 means.....
  - (a) Sternness
  - (b) Tolerance
  - (c) Patience
  - (d) Softness
9. The opinions of the scientists indicate their observation about.....
  - (a) pattern of rainfall
  - (b) soil erosion
  - (c) population expansion
  - (d) future threat
10. The response of people where forecasts are timely and accurate is.....
  - (a) they are reluctant to move away
  - (b) they are well prepared
  - (c) they prefer to follow their sentiments
  - (d) they leave the place instantly

11. Flooding occurs even in shallow waters when there is.....

- (a) there is siltation on river banks
- (b) recent development
- (c) stone bursting its banks
- (d) dangerous ship wreck

### LITERATURE (20 MARKS)

**Q3** **Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow.** 4+4=8

(A) This morning, Saheb is on his way to the milk booth. In his hand is a steel canister. "I now work in a tea stall down the road," he says, pointing in the distance. "I am paid 800 rupees and all my meals." Does he like the job? I ask. His face, I see, has lost the carefree look. The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so

1 Who was Sahib?

- a) A shopkeeper
- b) A servant
- c) A ragpicker
- d) All

2 Where was Sahib employed?

- a) At a tea stall in Seemapuri
- b) At a saree shop
- c) At a sweet shop
- d) At a jewellery shop

3 Is Sahib happy working at the tea stall?

- a) Yes
- b) Yes, he earns money
- c) No earning
- d) No, earning but no freedom

4 What does Sahib get for working in a tea stall?

- a) Rs 500
- b) Rs 800
- c) Rs 800 and all his meals
- d) His me

(B) They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 per cent. "There he seemed adamant," writes Reverend J. Z. Hodge, a

British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close range. “Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock.

1. How much did Indigo planters offer to pay?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 40

2. What was Gandhiji’s demand from the British landlords?

- (a) 30% refund as repayment
- (b) 40% refund as repayment
- (c) 50% refund as repayment
- (d) 10% refund as repayment

3. What did Gandhi finally settle on?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 40%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 75%

4. What does the word ‘Deadlock’ mean?

- (a) standstill
- (b) agreement
- (c) advantage
- (d) solution

(C) Jo was starting to fuss with her hands and look out of the window, at the crack of day that showed under the shade. She thought the story was all over. Jack didn’t like women when they took anything for granted; he liked them being apprehensive, hanging on his words.

“Now, Jo, are you listening?” “Yes.” “Because this is very interesting. Roger Skunk’s mommy said, ‘What’s that awful smell?’ ‘Wha-at?’” “And, Roger Skunk said, ‘It’s me, Mommy. I smell like roses.’ And she said, ‘Who made you smell like that?’ And he said, ‘The wizard,’ and she said, ‘Well, of all the nerve. You come with me and we’re going right back to that very awful wizard.’”

1. Choose the option that best demonstrates the relevant traits of Jo and Jack respectively, based on the extract provided.

- a. curious and irritable
- b. patient and irritable
- c. curious and lethargic
- d. patient and lethargic

2. “Jo was starting to fuss with her hands”. This means that Jo was  
a. feeling anxious.

b. getting restless.

c. feeling lazy.

d. fighting sleep.

3. Jo’s “Wha-at?” indicated what she was feeling. Pick the option that correctly states these feelings.

1. terror

2. surprise

3. ignorance

4. displeasure

5. joy

6. approval

a. 1 and 3

b. 2 and 4

c. 3 and 6

d. 4 and 5

4. Mommy says, ‘Well, of all the nerve.’ This reveals her

a. approval, surprise and pleasure.

b. pleasure, hope and approval.

c. betrayal, disapproval and hurt.

d. shock, anger and disapproval.

**Q4**

1x4=4

Read the extracts given below and attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given by answering the questions that follow.

(A) On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare’s head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilised dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map  
Awarding the world its world.  
And yet, for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world  
Where all their future’s painted with a fog,

1. What does the expression - *sour cream walls* – suggest?

- a. Display of donated artefacts on the walls.
- b. Badly maintained walls.
- c. Pitiable as well as miserable state of affairs
- d. A poor choice of paint for walls.

2. The map of the world in the classroom symbolizes
  - a. hopes and aspirations of the children.
  - b. travel plans of the school authorities.
  - c. a world that is unconnected to the children.
  - d. interconnectivity within the world.
3. The expression, '*like bottle bits on stones*' is an example of
  - a. pun.
  - b. satire.
  - c. simile
  - d. irony.
4. In the extract, '*future's painted with a fog*' suggests that the
  - (a) classroom is as foggy as the paint on the walls.
  - (b) beautiful valleys are not a part of the children's future.
  - (c) life ahead for the slum children is as unclear and hazy as fog.
  - (d) fog often finds itself in the classrooms through broken windows.

(B) I looked again at her, wan, pale  
As a late winter's moon and felt that old  
Familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

But all I said was, see you soon, Amma  
All I did was smile and smile and smile

1. What does the poet's smile signify in the poem?

- a) her assurance to mother and helplessness inside
- b) she has a responsibility
- c) she has to do her duty first
- d) she is a loving daughter

2. Quote an example of a metaphor used in the poem.

- a) As a late winter's moon
- b) 'Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes'
- c) Driving from my parent's home
- d) None

3. What were the words she used while parting from her mother?

- a) See you soon mum
- b) See you soon mom
- c) See you soon mother
- d) See you soon, amma

4. What was the poet's childhood fear?

- a) parting from her husband
- b) parting from her friends
- c) parting from her siblings
- d) losing her mother

**Q5.**

**Attempt ANY EIGHT questions from the ten given below.**

1x8=8

1. Which human tendency does the story 'The Last Lesson' highlight?

- a) Male Chauvinism
- b) Procrastination
- c) Courage
- d) Cowardice

2. Who is the author of 'Lost Spring'?

- a) James Bond
- b) Arundhati Roy
- c) Sudha Murthy
- d) Anees Jung

3. 'All we have to fear is fear itself. Who said these words?

- (a) Douglas
- (b) his instructor
- (c) his father
- (d) President Roosevelt

4. Why did Mr. Shukla meet Gandhiji?

- a) to seek his guidance for his own upliftment
- b) to get ideas to be famous
- c) to learn the art of speaking
- d) to seek his help for the poor sharecroppers

5. In peddler's view, what does the world look like?

- a) A Rat
- b) A Jungle
- c) A Jigsaw
- d) A Rattrap

6. Who is the poet of this poem 'My mother at sixty six'?

- a) John Keats
- b) Rudyard Kipling
- c) William Wordsworth
- d) Kamala Das

7. In the poem 'Keeping Quiet' Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm.....

- (a) seahorses
- (b) mermaids
- (c) whales
- (d) tortoises

8..The paper-seeming boy with rat's eyes' means the boy is

- (a) sly and secretive
- (b) short and lean
- (c) hungry and thin
- (d) sad and depressed

9.How is a thing of beauty joy forever?

- a) because it is beautiful
- b) because it is nature
- c) because it is joyful
- d) because its beauty never ends and it leaves a lasting impact

10.What is the poet conveying through aunt Jennifer's tigers?

- (a) wild life
- (b) courageous tigers
- (c) tigers and their courage
- (d) female existence and their fear of men

**PART B (40 MARKS)**  
**WRITING (16 MARKS)**

**Q6**

**Attempt ANY ONE** of the following.

1x3=3

You are Personnel Manager of Green Bio-Products Ltd., Sector 18, Industrial Area, Faridabad. You need an efficient PA / Stenographer for your office. Write an advertisement for the 'Situation Vacant' column of a local daily in about 50 words. Sign yourself as Manish Kumar.

**Or**

You are Secretary,ABC Housing Society,Jaipur Draft a notice in not more than 50 words stating that the second instalment of maintenance charges falls due on 31st March 2011, and requesting the members to pay before the due date. Sign as Anil Sanghi.

**Q7**

**Attempt ANY ONE** of the following.

1x3=3

You are a student of Modern Public School, Nagpur. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 15th November, 2020 at 11 a.m. The HRD Minister Dr M.M. Sharma has consented to be the chief guest.Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Do not exceed 50 words.

**Or**

You are Ankit Verma. Your friend from Malaysia is staying in the hostel. Invite him to join Diwali celebrations with you at your residence. Write an invitation in about 50 words.

**Q8**

**Attempt ANY ONE** of the following.

1x5=5

You are a resident of Mahalakshmi Apartments, Patparganj, Delhi. Your residential area is flooded with roadside dwellers who are deprived of the basic civic amenities like light, public toilets and bathrooms. Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindustan Times, highlighting the problems of these roadside dwellers, and also the problems posed by them to the public. Give suggestions for improvement. (Word limit-120-150 words)

or

You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in The Times of India, inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as Sales Assistants in a reputed company. Apply for the said job along with your biodata. to Box No. 8365, C/o The Times of India, New Delhi. (Word limit-120-150 words)

**Q9**

**Attempt ANY ONE** of the following.

1x5=5

Teenagers are full of energy as well as ideas. Write an article in 120-150 words on 'How to Channelise the Energy of the Teenagers'. You are Tej Prakash. You may use the following clues:

Teenagers curious-full of questions-question elders-sometimes even wrongly-generation gap-may go astray-effect on society-how to channelise-productive hobbies-social work-sports-part-time, freedom to express etc

or

You are Deepak, Secretary of Ahimsa Club, Paras Public School, Delhi. On 2nd October, your school observed 'International Day for peace and non-violence', organising various activities such as visit to Raj Ghat, Charkha spinning, observing silence, lectures by eminent Gandhians etc. Write a report on the same in about 120-150 words.

### **LITERATURE (24 MARKS)**

**Q10**

**Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.**

2x5=10

a) What was unusual about M. Hamel's dress and behaviour on the day of his last French lesson?

b) What does garbage mean for the elders and the children in Seemapuri?

c) Why did Edla plead her father not to send the vagabond away?

d) Why are the young trees described as sprinting in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'?

- e) What is the sadness that the poet, Pablo Neruda refers to in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
- f) Why does Aunt Jennifer create animals that are so different from her own character?

**Q11** **Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.** 2x2=4

- a) What was Charley's vision about Galesburg town in 'The Third Level'?
- b) How does the writer indicate that Dr. Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man?
- c) How did the Governor, Oxford Prison describe Evans to the Secretary Examinations Board?

**Q12** **Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.** 1x5=5

How does Douglas make clear to the reader the sense of panic that gripped him as he almost drowned? Describe the details that have made the description vivid.

or

Give an account of Gandhiji's efforts to secure justice for the poor indigo sharecroppers of Champaran.

**Q13** **Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words.** 1x5=5

A child's standpoint invariably is different from that of an adult. Justify the statement with reference to the story, Should Wizard Hit Mommy.

or

How did Mr. Lamb's meeting with Derry become a turning point in Derry's life?