

**COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2017-2018**

**ENGLISH (Core)**

**CLASS XII**

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 100

General Instructions:

- (i) This paper is divided into three Sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.*
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION A – READING (30 MARKS)**

1. Read the passage given below:

1. As you approach your career goals, you feel the need of having skill in making presentations. These presentations open the door to a brighter, bigger and more prestigious career. This works in two ways: they open the closed avenues and also bigger ones for those who are already in the queue. These will lead them up the pole of success, promotion and prosperity.
2. These attempts should not be taken carelessly or casually because they put you on the path of realization of your ambition.
3. As in many other spheres, marketing yourself for a job in a career stream too needs your meticulous attention and preparation. This also shows your inner urges; how you look at your job, your long term career perspectives and the ultimate result from it.
4. Failing to prepare is preparing to fail! This should be your guideline. There is no reason to fear making a presentation if one is aptly prepared for it. Plodding is not enough to create an impression and get a concept approved. You have to be able to inform and convince others to get their approval. This is where your presentation skills come into play. Absence of these skills mars your chances.
5. Genuine preparation is the first step. This begins with mental readiness and storing the mind with sufficient relevant matter. An empty mind cannot deliver the goods. Fill the mind with ideas, concepts and facts and figures. You will have a lot of material for presentation.

6. Add to your information base. When your research base is extensive, you can select the best for the presentation. Conduct research through books, magazines, newspapers and publications, interviews, informal charts and letters exchanged with experts in the field. The presentation will be most appreciated when you are able to give the audience something new, more than what it already knows. Add some new slants.
7. Find a presentation with an action point to make it more persuasive. If you know who is going to form the majority of your audience you can tailor to make your presentation to suit it. Make every effort to hit the bull's eye. Begin by stating the purpose and providing a preview of what will be created. The preview should be a quick summary of the outline of what is going to follow. Arouse curiosity and anticipation.
8. Go through the outline point by point. Be sure to cover every topic promised in the preview. In the end, sum up your points briefly, but effectively. Think of some punch lines. Arrange your material in a logical sequence. Put down one idea or one piece of information and carefully link it to the next. One technique you can employ is the use of semantic bridges. For example, "Amazingly, Interestingly" can be put before the sentence runs its own course. The duration is dependent on the nature of the topic, its importance, relevance to a particular situation and audience. The main aim is to express as well as to impress.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options: 1x4 = 4

- (a) You feel the need of making presentations:
  - (i) when you start your working life
  - (ii) when you wish to apply for a new job
  - (iii) when you are at the senior most level
  - (iv) when you wish to improve your current senior position
- (b) Presentations should be taken carefully and not casually:
  - (i) because a presentation is made before many people
  - (ii) because a presentation leads you to realize your ambition
  - (iii) because a presentation requires skills and concentration
  - (iv) because you cannot afford to make mistakes
- (c) How should a presentation be ended?
  - (i) with a punch line
  - (ii) with a summing up
  - (iii) with a semantic bridge
  - (iv) both (i) and (ii)
- (d) The main aim of presentation is:

- (i) to give relevant information
- (ii) to lead from point to point
- (iii) to express and impress
- (iv) to be persuasive

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: 1x6 = 6

- (a) What are the two most important skills in making effective presentation?
- (b) What does failing to prepare bring?
- (c) How do preparations work?
- (d) When will the presentation be most appreciated?
- (e) What is the duration of presentation dependent on?
- (f) What is the first step of presentation that the passage discusses?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: 1x 2 = 2

- (i) progressing slowly and laboriously (para 4)
- (ii) real (para 5)

2. Read the passage given below:

1. One day Pahom was sitting at home, when a peasant passing through the village, happened to call in. He was allowed to stay at the night and supper was given to him. Pahom had a talk with this peasant and asked him where he came from. The stranger answered that he came from beyond the Volga, where he had been working. One word led to another and the man went on to say that many people were settling in those parts. He told how some people from his village had settled there. They had joined the Commune and had twenty-five acres of land per man granted. The land was so good, he said, that the rye sown on it grew as high as a horse and so thick that five cuts of a sickle made a sheaf. One peasant, he said, had brought nothing with him but his bare hand and now he had six horses and two cows of his own. Pahom's heart kindled with desire. He thought:
2. "Why should I suffer in this narrow hole, if one can live so elsewhere? I will sell my land and my homestead here and with the money I will start afresh over there and get everything new. In this crowded place one is always having trouble. But I must first go and find out all about myself."
3. Towards summer he got ready and started. He went down the Volga on a steamer to Samara, then walked another three hundred miles on foot and at last reached the place. It was just the stranger had said. The peasants had plenty of land: every man had twenty-five acres of Communal land given for his use, and anyone who had money could buy, besides, at fifty-cents an acre as much freehold land as he wanted. Having found out all he wished to know, Pahom returned home as autumn came on and

began selling off his belongings. He sold his land at a profit, sold his homestead and all his cattle and withdrew from membership of the Commune. He only waited till the spring and then started with his family for the new settlement.

4. As soon as Pahom and his family arrived at their new abode, he applied for admission into the Commune of a large village. He stood treat to the Elders and obtained the necessary documents. Five shares of Communal land were given to him for his own and his sons' use: that is to say – 125 acres (not altogether, but in different fields) besides the use of the Communal pasture. Pahom put up the buildings he needed and bought cattle. Of the Communal land alone he had three times as much as at his former home and the land was good corn-land. He was ten times better off than he had been. He had plenty of arable land and pastures and could keep as many head of cattle as he liked.

(Source: How Much Land Does a Man Need? by Leo Tolstoy)

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:  $1 \times 2 = 2$

(a) The stranger did not tell Pahom that:

- (i) many people had been settling in those parts.
- (ii) some people from his village had settled there.
- (iii) they had been given 125 acres of land
- (iv) the land was very good

(b) Pahom thought of leaving his home as:

- (i) it was a crowded place
- (ii) he did not like it.
- (iii) he wanted to start afresh and get everything new.
- (iv) all the above

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly:  $1 \times 6 = 6$

- (a) Where had the stranger come from?
- (b) How had the farmer acquired six horses of his own?
- (c) How did Pahom reach the place?
- (d) What was the rate of land at the new settlement?
- (e) What was Pahom busy doing in autumn?
- (f) What did Pahom undertake as soon as he reached his new abode?

2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:  $1 \times 2 = 2$

(i) bundle (para 1)

(ii) accommodation (para 4)

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Cycling survives a popular pastime because it yields pleasure and benefits. First of all, cycling provides exercise, the need of which is felt by most people. The development of machinery tends to deprive us of adequate opportunities of expending energy while earning a livelihood. Other opportunities should be created through the medium of sport. Of cycling, many people hastily say that it is, 'hard work', but a fit and practised rider does not agree with this verdict. The art of easy cycling must be cultivated, as will be shown later, but once it has been acquired, a long day's run need not be only for a Samson. Nobody has better described the exercise of cycling than the late Twells Brex, who said enthusiastically, speaking from experience: "You move along by your own glad effort." Many of us wish to use our legs and our lungs, as well as our eyes. An active, healthy person ought not to be content to travel always as a mere passenger—"like an image pushed from behind," as Stevenson, says. That is not life. Those who would turn all active cyclists into sedentary motor-drivers, or into idle passengers, would serve the nation better if they restricted their attentions to the aged and infirm, for whom petrol-generated propulsion is doubtless a blessing, and may be a necessity.

It is often said that the cyclist cannot travel as fast or as far as the motorist. Admitting this, the cyclist may be permitted to ask if it is always desirable that travel should involve modern motoring speeds (for accidents). Is the enjoyment of a traveller in search of pleasure to be measured merely in miles, or, what is worse, in miles-per-hour, or what is worse still, in miles-per-gallon? Surely, the cyclist, pedaling calmly along at a modest twelve miles an hour is able to assimilate scenery more easily, more completely, and with more enjoyment, than the hurrying occupant of a car! Cyclists believe that their method of travel is a sensible and convenient compromise between walking and driving. If bicycles were unobtainable, most keen cyclists would become trampers rather than motorists.

There are at least two distinct types of cyclists. The exercise of pedaling provides an all-sufficient satisfaction for one type. This is the purely athletic rider who revels in long, fast rides, in time trials, and other forms of strenuous competition, and sometimes attacks records. This type of cyclist goes into strict training, develops leg-thrust and perfect ankle action and thinks nothing of pedalling at twenty miles an hour. The other distinct type is the tourist, who takes no interest in racing but a deep interest in the country side and the pageant unfolded by the open road. Comparatively, few cyclists are interested deeply in both racing and touring.

- (a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-

- minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

### **SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS (30 MARKS)**

4. The student's council of your school has organised an excursion to Goa for students of class XII during winter break. As President of the council, write a notice in not more than 50 words informing the students about this excursion. Sign yourself as Ravi/Raveena. 4

**OR**

You are Manager, Infocom Network, C-3 Main Shopping Center, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Draft an advertisement for the publication in a local daily offering office furniture for sale. Give details.

5. You are Rohit/Reema of 334, Kirti Nagar, Agra. You have just come across an advertisement concerning education abroad.

**The BTN University in collaboration with its Indian counterpart offers the first year of study in India and the three subsequent years in the UK.**

You joined the above course. Despite having spent a substantial amount, you haven't been able to proceed for your studies in the UK. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a newspaper drawing the attention of the public and the education authorities to such advertisements which befool students. Suggest measures which could be taken up against unscrupulous vendors of education. 6

**OR**

You are Neha/Nitin, student of class XII, St. Joseph School, Nanital. You are eager to enter the National Film Academy, Shimla after your board results. Write a letter to the Director of the Film Academy seeking information regarding admission procedure, fee structure, placement opportunities etc. (120-150 words)

6. Write a report in 150-200 words on the Zonal Cricket Tournament held in the playground of A.B.C. School, Laxmi Nagar, Agra last week. Your report should include details such as participating teams, exciting atmosphere, large crowd etc. You are Gopalan/Gauri, Student Editor of your school magazine. 10

**OR**

You are Anurag/Anjali, a reporter of a national daily. You have heard that a multi-storey building near the main railway station has collapsed causing panic in the area. You rush to the site of the accident along with your team. Write a report in 150-200 words mentioning the time and place of the accident, number of casualties, the cause of the accident and the rescue operation conducted by the authorities.

7. 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 everyone with respect. Give examples of individuals who have excelled despite their disabilities. You are Sumit/ Suman. 10

**OR**

Social Media and emerging mobile technologies have changed the interaction of the human landscape. Though it has made life comfortable, it is funny to note that in our obsession with a data driven world human relationships have taken a back seat. Write a debate in about 150-200 words for or against the topic “Has Social Media Made Us Less Social?”

**SECTION C - TEXTBOOKS & LONG READING TEXT  
(40 MARKS)**

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1x4 = 4

On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare’s head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map  
Awarding the world its world.

- (a) What is the condition of the classroom wall?
- (b) What are the two things that show a civilized race?
- (c) What is the specialty of the Tyrolese valley?
- (d) Explain: ‘Awarding the world its world’.

**OR**

...but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes, ...

- (a) Who looked out at young trees?
- (b) What did she see when she looked out of the car?
- (c) What thought did the poet drive away from her mind?
- (d) What do the young sprinting trees and the merry children signify?

9. Answer any **four** of the following questions in about 30-40 words each: 3x4 = 12

- (a) How did Douglas make sure that he conquered the old terror?
- (b) What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla?
- (c) How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?
- (d) Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?
- (e) How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
- (f) What sort of hunts did the Maharaja offer to organise for the high-ranking British officer? What trait of the officer does it reveal?

10. Answer the following question in about 120-150 words: 6

Language is an essential part of one's identity. How did M. Hamel and his students show their love for their language on the last lesson?

**OR**

Every teenager has a hero/heroine to admire. So many times they become role models for them. What is wrong if Sophie fantasizes about Danny Casey and is ambitious in life?

11. Answer the following question in about 120-150 words: 6

Both Derry and Mr. Lamb are victims of physical impairments. Yet they are poles apart in their values and outlook to life. Comment.

**OR**

Reflecting on the story, what did you feel about Evans' having the last laugh?

12. What are Godfrey's arguments for adopting Eppie? Compare these arguments with those of Silas and Eppie. Discuss in 120-150 words. 6

13. Describe Dolly Winthrop as the most lovable character in George Eliot's 'Silas Marner' in 120-150 words. 6

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