

# CBSE Class 12 English Question Paper 2020



Series HMJ/C

SET-1

Code No. **1/C/1**

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **10** questions.
- Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.



## ENGLISH (Core)



*Time allowed : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 80*



## **General Instructions :**

*Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.*

- (i) *The question paper comprises **three** sections — A, B and C.  
Section A — 20 Marks  
Section B — 30 Marks  
Section C — 30 Marks*
- (ii) *There are **10** questions in the question paper. **All** questions are compulsory.*
- (iii) *There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in four questions in Section B and two questions in Section C. You have to attempt only one of the choices in such questions.*
- (iv) *In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.*
- (v) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

### **SECTION A (Reading Skills)**

**20**

- 1.** Read the following passage carefully :

**12**

1 For many years now, the governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric, no government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world, plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living. We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 years, in hazardous occupations, has been strictly banned. But each State has different rules regarding the minimum age of child employment. This makes implementation of these laws difficult.



- 2 Also, there is no ban on child labour in the non-hazardous occupations. The Act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganised sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters, etc., among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing laws is lax. There are industries which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knitted carpets. Industries like gem-cutting and polishing, pottery and glass-making want to remain competitive by employing children. The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families, have no option but to push their little ones into this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.
- 3 There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills, but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hell-holes, like the sweet shops of the old, there is no hope. Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fireworks and glass industries, they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired due to long hours of work. Once trapped they cannot get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally in the later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare.



4 If at all the governments were serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the directive of the Supreme Court which recommends punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate this child labour. If 380 million children are given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, 'a second vision', as said by former President, Sh. Abdul Kalam.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer **any five** of the following questions by choosing the best answers from the given options :

1×5=5

(a) Our Government promises to uproot

- (i) drug abuse.
- (ii) dowry system.
- (iii) child abuse.
- (iv) child labour.

(b) Work in hazardous industries is against

- (i) moral laws.
- (ii) social norms.
- (iii) Child Labour Act.
- (iv) human resources.

(c) In India, the number of children going to work instead of school is

- (i) 10 million.
- (ii) 60 – 100 million.
- (iii) 380 million.
- (iv) 80,000.



- (d) Industrialists prefer to employ children because they
- (i) are the only bread winners.
  - (ii) need more care.
  - (iii) demand less wages.
  - (iv) lack training in skills.
- (e) The carpet industry employs children because they
- (i) have nimble fingers.
  - (ii) need money for their education.
  - (iii) like to be financially independent.
  - (iv) are good designers.
- (f) The health of child workers suffers because
- (i) they are paid meagre wages.
  - (ii) employers do not give them good food.
  - (iii) they work under unhealthy conditions.
  - (iv) they are completely careless.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly :

*1×5=5*

- (a) Which two promises have not been fulfilled by the Government as yet ?
- (b) What does the Child Labour Act, 1986 state ?
- (c) Why do the woman-headed families have to send their wards to work ?
- (d) Why is child labour preferred in certain industries ?
- (e) Why is child labour banned only in hazardous industries ?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as

*1×2=2*

- (a) dangerous/unsafe (para 1)
- (b) helpful (para 3)



2. Read the following passage carefully :

- 1 The Earth is the fifth largest of the planets in the solar system. It is smaller than the four giant planets i.e., Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, but larger than the three other rocky planets, Mercury, Mars and Venus. Almost 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, and most of that is in the oceans. About a fifth of the Earth's atmosphere consists of oxygen, produced by plants.
- 2 While the Earth orbits the Sun, the planet is simultaneously spinning on an imaginary line called an axis that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. It takes the Earth 23·934 hours to complete a rotation on its axis and 365·26 days to complete an orbit around the Sun.
- 3 The Earth's axis of rotation is tilted in relation to the ecliptic plane, an imaginary surface through the planet's orbit around the Sun. This means the Northern and Southern hemispheres will sometimes point toward or away from the Sun depending on the time of year, and this changes the amount of light the hemispheres receive, resulting in different seasons.
- 4 The Earth's orbit is not a perfect circle, but rather an oval-shaped ellipse, similar to the orbits of all the other planets. Our planet is a bit closer to the Sun in early January and farther away in July, although this variation has a much smaller effect than the heating and cooling caused by the tilt of the Earth's axis.
- 5 According to scientists, the Earth was formed at the same time as the Sun and other planets, some 4·6 billion years ago, when the solar system coalesced from a giant, rotating cloud of gas and dust known as the 'solar nebula'. As the nebula collapsed because of its gravity, it spun faster and flattened into a disk. Most of the material was pulled towards the centre to form the Sun. Other particles within the disk collided and stuck together to form ever-larger bodies, including the Earth.



6 The Earth's magnetic field is generated by currents flowing in the Earth's outer core. The magnetic poles are always on the move, with the magnetic North Pole accelerating its northward motion to 40 km annually since tracking began in the 1830s. It will likely exit North America and reach Siberia in a matter of decades.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it. 4

(b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 4

**SECTION B**  
**(Writing Skills)**

**30**

3. You are Abhinav/Aarti. You have planned a two-week course to help the children of your Group Housing Society, Vikas Sadan, Agra to acquire spoken communication skills in English. Prepare a notice in not more than 50 words for the society's notice-board, stating the objective of the course, its timings, venue and other necessary details. Request the children of the society to join the course as it will be very useful and interesting. 4

**OR**

The Principal, Sunrise Global School, Shimla requires a receptionist for her school. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words stating necessary qualifications, proficiency in the use of computer and a good command of spoken English. Attractive salary. Apply before the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. 4



4. The initiative of the Prime Minister of India to turn Gandhi Jayanti into Cleanliness Day was welcomed by one and all. Many celebrities have also become part of this drive. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily appreciating this drive, emphasising the need to maintain clean surroundings and thereby feel proud of a clean nation. You are Rajesh/Rajni of B-5/147, Swadesh Vihar, Delhi. (120 – 150 words) 6

**OR**

You are R. Kanta of 92 BPL Colony, Kochi. You want to do a course in nursing. Write a letter to the Registrar, College of Nursing, Thiruvanthapuram, describing your present qualification, percentage of marks, age, etc. Ask for the courses you are eligible to pursue, procedure for admission, fee structure, any scholarship available, hostel facilities, etc. (120 – 150 words) 6

5. You are Mohan/Mohini of XII Standard, Vikas Bharti School, Delhi. Recently you read in a newspaper about an incident in which a child tried to imitate the stunts shown on television and sustained serious injuries. Write an article on the hazards of unsupervised television viewing by kids and how parents should guide them in this matter. (150 – 200 words) 10

**OR**

Recently, during the State Health Minister's visit to the local civil hospital, you accompanied him as a reporter. You found that the children's ward was very neat and clean and the hospital was very well maintained. Imagine all possible details and write a report on the visit, to be published in your newspaper. (150 – 200 words) 10





6. You are Rakhi/Rajesh and you feel disturbed at the growing trend of violence among the youth nowadays. Write a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on the topic, 'Growing violence among the teens'. Give suggestions on how to curb this trend. (150 – 200 words) 10

**OR**

Write a debate either for **or** against the motion, "The Internet has proved to be a boon for the students". You are Rahul/Rohini. (150 – 200 words) 10

**SECTION C**

**(Literature : Text Books)**

**30**

7. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : 4+4=8

(a) ... 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, ... ..

- (i) Who is 'I' ? 1
- (ii) What worried 'I' when 'I' looked at his/her mother ? 1
- (iii) Why was the realisation painful ? 1
- (iv) Name the figure of speech used in : 'she was as old as she looked'. 1



(b) Film-making must have been and was so easy with a man like Subbu around and if ever there was a man who gave direction and definition to Gemini Studios during its golden years, it was Subbu. Subbu had a separate identity as a poet and though he was certainly capable of more complex and higher forms, he deliberately chose to address his poetry to the masses.

- (i) What was Subbu's contribution to Gemini Studios ? 1
- (ii) What separate identity did Subbu have ? 1
- (iii) How did Subbu use his capability ? 1
- (iv) What does the writer mean by 'during its golden years' ? 1

8. Answer **any five** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :  $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) What makes the city of Firozabad famous ?
- (b) Why did Rudyard Kipling refuse to be interviewed ?
- (c) What surprises awaited Franz as he entered the classroom ?
- (d) How did Aunt Jennifer face the ordeals in her life ?
- (e) What message do you get from the story, 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy' ?
- (f) What is the impact of burning of fossil fuels ?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

- (g) Why does Derek (Derry) not like being with people ?

(On The Face Of It)

9. Answer the following question in 120 – 150 words : 6

What is the misadventure that William Douglas speaks about ? What were the series of emotions and fears that Douglas experienced when he was thrown into the pool ?

**OR**

“Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind.” Justify the statement.



10. Answer the following question in 120 – 150 words :

6

Evans' escape came about not only because of his own smartness but also because of the mistakes of the prison staff. Describe.

**OR**

Though Zitkala-Sa and Bama come from two vastly different cultures, yet they are united in a common bond. What is this bond and how do they overcome their hurdles ?



Series HMJ/C

SET-4

Code No. 28/C

Roll No.

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## ENGLISH (Elective)



Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

### General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- This question paper comprises **four** sections — A, B, C and D. **All** questions are compulsory.
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| Section A — Reading                              | 20 Marks |
| Section B — Creative Writing and Applied Grammar | 30 Marks |
| Section C — Literature                           | 20 Marks |
| Section D — Fiction                              | 10 Marks |
- There are **10** questions in the question paper.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.



**SECTION A**  
**(Reading)**

**20**

**1.** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : **12**

- 1 In Ladakh, 30 years ago, it was difficult to cross the stream near Hemis monastery, on the way to a small dharma school. It could be done only early morning or in the afternoon and that too, only on horseback. Now you could just walk across the stream. “It is shocking to see how the stream has shrunk,” said Drikung Chetsang Rinpoche, anguished at the alarming ecological changes in the Himalayan region. Besides, China is reportedly planning to divert the Brahmaputra waters to irrigate the parched Xingjiang region, preventing it from flowing into India, he added. “Let us make the Himalayan region — from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, and the Hindu Kush area — green.”
- 2 “Going green is a mindset, a philosophy. It means, first, to be mindful of what you do and its impact on other living beings and our global ecosystem,” said Rajesh Patel. “Green lives matter, but that alone will not reverse climate change. It has to become a movement to make any impact.”
- 3 Go Green, Go Organic and Goldenmile Learning came together in 2015 and harnessed water from melting glaciers, and planted 25,000 trees at 15,000 ft altitude in the Ladakh region. Now they plan to improve their efforts and develop a 250-acre land donated by Phobrang and its nearby villages of Lukung and Yurgo as a model to promote sustainable living to manage climate change and bring economic prosperity to the Himalayan economy.



- 4 The 250 acres of land will be developed within five years to include facilities for the community to interact with each other, learn new skills, showcase and sell their arts and crafts and other produce. An international standard ice rink for ice hockey, too, has been planned.
- 5 Employing best indigenous practices and proven technologies from the world over, conservation agro-forestry, herbal and vegetable cultivation, green energy from the sun and wind, and traditional and modern water management by way of building artificial lakes to trap the glacial melt, kuls and zings, all have been planned to build a thriving and sustainable environment, economic and social ecosystem for the three villages. “Green Himalayas is an all-in-one project which is taking environment into consideration and it includes all kinds of living things. We want environmentalists, economists and agriculturists, everyone to join this mission,” said Namgyal.
- 6 Meenakshi Singh, the Chief Operating Officer, Green Himalayas, said that they had done a survey of what villagers wanted and have designed the place accordingly. “We are not planning to make nomads into agrarians. The trees we are planting are only to hold the water and they are of the indigenous variety. Greening can happen in many ways, through sustainability and spirituality.” When completed, the project will be transferred to the local community and then they will leave.
- 7 For an auspicious start to the Green Himalayas project, a group of Buddhist nuns and little monks from the Drikung Kagyu Institute (DKI), Dehradun, prayed to the Triple Gems — the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, and invoked Goddess Manjushree, the wisdom deity. “We believe that the Buddha is like a doctor, Dharma is like medicine, and Sangha is like nursing care, and in order to heal any kind of illness, these three things are very important. For any activity, wisdom is very important, so we invoke Manjushree to remove darkness of ignorance,” said Khenpo Konchok Rangdol, general secretary, DKI.



On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions briefly :

- (a) How has the stream near Hemis monastery changed over the years ? 1
- (b) Why does Drikung Chetsang Rinpoche feel very unhappy ? 1
- (c) In what ways have the combined efforts of Go Green, Go Organic and Goldenmile Learning benefitted Ladakh ? 1
- (d) What type of trees is 'Green Himalayas' planting in the area ? 1
- (e) What does the term, 'Triple Gems' refer to ? 1
- (f) Name any two facilities planned for the development of Ladakh. 1
- (g) Choose the correct option : 1
- China is planning to divert the Brahmaputra to
- (i) build a dam to produce power.
- (ii) irrigate the thirsty Xingjiang.
- (iii) deprive India of the water from the Brahmaputra.
- (iv) prevent flooding in China.
- (h) Manjushree is the Goddess of : 1
- (i) wealth.
- (ii) learning.
- (iii) wisdom.
- (iv) beauty.



- (i) Meenakshi Singh is : 1
- (i) a Forest Officer.
  - (ii) the founder of Goldenmile Learning.
  - (iii) a Chief Operating Officer.
  - (iv) a Buddhist monk.
- (j) Choose the correct synonym of 'Indigenous'. 1
- (i) Heavenly
  - (ii) Pure
  - (iii) Salubrious
  - (iv) Native
- (k) Choose the correct antonym of 'Wisdom'. 1
- (i) Rudeness
  - (ii) Hastiness
  - (iii) Folly
  - (iv) Betrayal
- (l) Choose the option which best expresses the meaning of the underlined phrase. 1
- We should be mindful of what we do.
- (i) be worthy of
  - (ii) pay close attention to
  - (iii) be sympathetic towards
  - (iv) show affection for





2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

8

Since then, at an uncertain hour,

That agony returns:

And till my ghastly tale is told,

This heart within me burns.

I pass, like night, from land to land;

I have strange power of speech;

That moment that his face I see,

I know the man that must hear me:

To him my tale I teach.

What loud uproar bursts from that door !

The wedding-guests are there :

But in the garden-bower the bride

And bride-maids singing are:

And hark the little vesper bell,

Which biddeth me to prayer !

O Wedding-Guest! this soul hath been

Alone on a wide, wide sea;

So lonely 'twas, that God himself

Scarce seemed there to be.



O sweeter than the marriage-feast,  
'Tis sweeter far to me,  
To walk together to the kirk,  
With a goodly company! —  
  
To walk together to the kirk,  
And all together pray,  
While each to his great Father bends,  
Old men, and babes, and loving friends  
And youths and maidens gay!  
  
Farewell, farewell! but this I tell  
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!  
He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.

On the basis of your reading of the above extract, answer the following questions in 50 – 60 words each :

- (a) The speaker here, the Ancient Mariner has a guilty past and he wants to redeem himself of this guilt. How does he do it as explained in this extract ? 2
- (b) How does he choose his listener ? 2
- (c) Why does the mariner let the wedding-guest go and join the ceremonies ? 2
- (d) What message does this extract convey ? 2



## SECTION B

### (Creative Writing and Applied Grammar)

30

3. Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 120 – 150 words each : 6×2=12
- (a) National safety and security should be our main concern if we wish our country to make progress. Write a speech stressing the need to be ever vigilant to safeguard our country. You are Tania/Tarvinder.
- (b) After the harvest season, the farmers burn the stubble (cut stalks of cereal plants) in the fields. This leads to pollution in the neighbouring cities and states. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily newspaper describing the ill-effects of this burning and what steps can be taken to stop this practice ? You are Ranga/Rajni, 2 Mall Road, Delhi.
- (c) Kite flying is a beautiful pastime. Sometimes the string gets entangled with power lines and disrupts the supply of electricity. Sometimes birds flying in the air are caught in the string and get injured. Write an article on the topic, 'Safe Kite Flying'. You are Pratham/Prathima.
4. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 150 – 200 words : 10
- (a) You are the President of Science Society of your school. Prepare a speech urging the students to spread scientific knowledge among those who continue to believe in superstitions and other irrational beliefs.
- (b) Every now and then, senior citizens are subjected to violence in spite of the safety measures provided to them by the Police. Prepare an article to be published in a leading daily newspaper highlighting the insecure lives of the vulnerable senior citizens suggesting some more safety measures.



5. Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions : 1×8=8
- (a) We pray to God. We then go to bed. (Combine these sentences)
  - (b) He said to me, “You did right to come.” (Change the narration)
  - (c) He will not listen what you say. (Rewrite after correcting it)
  - (d) If this light drizzle had not taken place, it would have been very hot. (Rewrite using ‘But for’)
  - (e) He is so weak that he cannot walk. (Change into a simple sentence)
  - (f) Send this notice to all the members. (Change the voice)
  - (g) Only the wearer \_\_\_\_\_ where the shoe \_\_\_\_\_. (know, pinch)  
(Rewrite by using the correct form of the verbs given in brackets)
  - (h) You should caution him so that he does not repeat the mistake. (Rewrite using ‘lest’)

**SECTION C**  
**(Literature)**

**20**

6. Answer **any one** of the following two questions in 50 – 60 words : 2
- (a) When Captain Hagberd left the tap-room of the New Inn, why did the Colebrook barber laugh ? What did he mean by the expression, “The old one and the young one” ?
  - (b) In the poem ‘Time and Time Again’, why do different clocks show slight variations in time ?



7. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 60 – 80 words each : 4×2=8
- (a) How did the gold ring shaped like a serpent become a crucial piece of information for Gabriel Garcia Marquez ?
  - (b) In his poem, 'On Time', Milton has shown that Time's envy of Man is utterly futile. Comment.
  - (c) What was Dr. Margolin's attitude towards his profession ? How does he show a soft corner for the Jewish community ?
8. Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 80 – 100 words each : 5×2=10
- (a) How is the message of the Gita generally understood and portrayed ? What change in interpretation does Amartya Sen suggest ?
  - (b) What are the issues that Girish Karnad in his play, 'Broken Images' satirises through this TV monologue of a celebrity ?
  - (c) Describe the unbroken flow of thoughts and perceptions of the narrator's mind, using the examples of the Colonel and the Priest.

## SECTION D

### (Fiction)

10

9. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 60 – 80 words : 4
- (a) Describe the upheaval caused by the tiger's entry into Market Road.
  - (b) How did the Collector treat the villagers when they approached him for help to catch the tiger ?
  - (c) Why did Margayya refuse to yield before Arul Doss, the bank peon ?
  - (d) Describe briefly, Margayya's interview with the Madman, the owner of the Central Talkies.



10. Answer any **one** of the following questions in 120 – 160 words :

6

- (a) How does Master's wife try to assert her right as a wife ?
- (b) How does the Monk rescue the headmaster after dissuading Alphonso from shooting the tiger ?
- (c) In the second half of the novel, how does Margayya lose his money ?
- (d) How does Margayya treat his wife, Meenakshi ?