

Holiday Homework (Class XI)

Reading Section

1. Read the passage and answer the questions.

The choices we make on a daily basis—wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation—can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.

You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.

We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe.

I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself, "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, travelling, doing speaking engagements and so on— simply exhausting myself.

Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.

You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike, and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

On the basis of understanding the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1×10=10)

Q1) Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context: "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." ?

1. negligent
 2. indecisive
 3. spontaneous
 4. reckless
 5. purposeless
 6. patient
- a) 2 and 5
 - b) 3 and 6
 - c) 1 and 4
 - d) 2 and 3

Q2) The reason why living on the edge has become popular is because of the

- a) constant need for something different.
- b) population being much younger.
- c) exhausting effort to make changes.
- d) strong tendency to stay within our limits.

Q3) The phrase "potentially harmful circumstances" refers to circumstances that can

- (a) certainly be dangerous.
- (b) be fairly dangerous.
- (c) be possibly dangerous.
- (d) seldom be dangerous.

Q4). Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'outlook', as used in the passage.

- 1. A person's evaluation of life
 - 2. A person's experiences in life
 - 3. A person's point of view towards life
 - 4. A person's regrets in life
 - 5. A person's general attitude to life
- a) (1) and (4)
 - b) (2) and (3)
 - c) (3) and (5)
 - d) (4) and (5)

Q5) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

- 1. It's all about quality of life and finding a happy balance between work and friends.
 - 2. To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short.
 - 3. Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.
 - 4. Balance is not something you find. It's something you create.
- a) Option (1)
 - b) Option (2)
 - c) Option (3)
 - d) Option (4)

Q6) The author explains the importance of discipline and boundaries in our lives using the example of

- a) road accidents.
- b) traffic rules.
- c) lines on the highway.
- d) safe driving.

Q7) The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up.

- a) rebuke
- b) question
- c) offer aid to
- d) offer advice to

Q8) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?

- a) Love what you do.
- b) Love yourself to love others.
- c) Be the best version of yourself.
- d) Be yourself

Q9) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- a) Much too soon
- b) Enough is enough
- c) How much is too much?
- d) Have enough to do?

Q10) The author uses colloquial words such as "yeah" and "Woo-hoo!". Which of the following is NOT a colloquial word?

- a) hooked
- b) guy
- c) stuff
- d) stress

Q11) Select the option that makes the correct use of “unsustainable”, as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.

- a) In the long run, the _____ officials followed emergency procedures.
- b) Emergency procedures were _____ by the officials.
- c) Officials reported an _____ set of events during the emergency.
- d) Officials admit that the emergency system is _____ in the longer run.

Q12) What does the author mean when he says, “to get our lives in order”?

- a) To resume our lives.
- b) To organize our lives.
- c) To rebuild our lives.
- d) To control our lives.

2. Read the passage below and answer the questions.

1. Very often, we do not take the first step towards a good cause because we say to ourselves, "The task is so big. What can I do alone?" So nothing gets done. There is much talk about environmental protection, air pollution and saving our forests. Do we really care? If we do, here are a few things we can do to make our surroundings more pleasant.

2. It is good to adopt a two - uses - attitude! By putting an article to a second use, we are giving it a longer lease of life and using up less raw material from nature. One of the worst things we do is the abuse of paper. The clean sides of envelopes can be used to write small notes, lists and reminders around the house. The more paper we use, the more trees will have to be cut down. For the same reason, we should avoid the use of paper napkins or paper plates. Cloth napkins are just as good, for they can be washed and used over and over again.

3. The one area which needs the most urgent attention is effective garbage disposal. People who are conscious about it follow rules and laws strictly. As a result, their neighbourhoods are clean and beautiful. A lot of people don't care about the environment because they don't understand the adverse effect that society has on it. It is important to convince people to care about the environment. The first step would be to convince people to change by providing simple alternative solutions and ways of doing things. The Internet is a powerful tool and a group of like - minded people can be formed on social media. People can share environmental stories and issues as well as pool in solutions and alternatives to educate one another. With the current state that our [10]

planet is in, it is imperative that people actively care about the environment and most importantly, act now.

4. Similarly, each one of us can contribute to a cleaner environment. All kitchen waste should be collected separately. Those who have green fingers can turn this into valuable manure. Dig a pit and put the kitchen waste into it. When the pit is a little over half full, cover it up with mud. Let nature do the rest. Within three or six months, we will have a good garden manure. It can also be done as a community project by digging a large pit in the colony. Do take help of all the members, for nothing succeeds like co - operation.

- 1. Why don't we take the first step towards a good cause?
- 2. What is a two - uses - attitude?
- 3. What can we do to avoid the abuse of paper? (Any two points)
- 4. What is the result of an effective way of garbage disposal?
- 5. How can the Internet be a powerful tool in spreading environmental awareness?

6. How can the making of garden manure be done as a community project?
7. How long does it take to make good garden manure?
8. Select a suitable word from the passage which means - something in a bad and undesirable way. (Para 2)
9. Pick out the word from the passage which means completely necessary. (Para 3)
10. Select a suitable word from the passage which means - being concerned or interested.

Writing Section

1. You are the Managing Director of Varun Enterprises, a leading garments export house. You need accountants for your Meerut office. Write an advertisement for the Situation Vacant column of a local daily.
2. You are General Manager, Hotel Dosam, Gurgaon. You need a lady Front Office Assistant with sound knowledge of computers. She must be a graduate and good in communication skills with pleasing manners. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Gurgaon Times.
3. You have always been proud of being a citizen of the country which shows love and care for elders. However, now this value is found to be disappearing. Write a letter to the editor in 150 words on 'Difficulties faced by senior citizens.'
4. After the rainy season is over, mosquitoes and insects start breeding. They cause malaria, dengue, chikungunya, etc. These diseases can sometimes prove to be fatal. As the Principal of your school you have decided to do cold fogging for pest control. Write a letter to the municipal corporation for the required assistance in doing so in 150 words.
5. You are Sweetie/Suresh of L.M. Jain School, Ajmer. As Secretary of your School Co-curricular Activities Club, you visited a slum area in your city where the people suffered a great loss of life and property in a massive fire. The students of your school rendered their services and material help to the victims. Write a report in 150 words for your school magazine.
6. Your state government has banned the use of plastic bags. You are Amarjit, a reporter of The National Herald. Write a report in 150 words on how the ban is being ignored and what damage the indiscriminate use of plastic bags is causing to the environment.
7. Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach political science for which they have placed an advertisement in The Bhilai Express. You are Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV, applying for the advertised post.
8. M/s Anant Technologies, Gurugram, Haryana has advertised on Jobs.com some positions of Web-content Managers. Write a job application to offer your services. Express your willingness to work with them and invent all the other necessary details. Enclose your Bio- data/ resume as well.
9. Write a notice for your school board describing the upcoming extra preparation time allotted to the students of class X and XII to prepare for the annual examinations.
10. You are the owner of Ajinx enterprises and you have noticed that some of the employees take extra time during their lunch hours. Point this out in a notice and warn them about the consequences of not being on their required posts when needed.

Literature

Abstract based questions:

1. Read the given extracts and answer the questions.

He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has speculated about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility. Now, leaving his tomb for the first time in almost 80 years, Tut has undergone a CT scan that offers new clues about his life and death — and provides precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of the boyish pharaoh.

1. How old was he when he died?
2. What was his status or role in society?
3. What happened to him after he died?

2. *A lovely name, John Byro said, for a lovely horse. I could swear it is the horse that was stolen from me many weeks ago.*

May I look into his mouth?

Of course, Mourad said, the farmer looked into the mouth of the horse.

Tooth for tooth, he said, I would swear it is my horse if I didn't know

your parents. The fame of your family for honesty is well known to me.

Yet the horse is the twin of my horse. A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart. Good day, my young friends.

a. *What does the line, 'A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart' suggest?*

b. How was John Byro feeling over his missing horse?

i. he was sad

ii. he was overwhelmed

iii. he got enraged

iv. he was excited

c. John Byro didn't suspect the boys. This is because_____.

d. How did John Byro examine the horse and what was his conclusion?

3. *Carter—Howard Carter, that is — was the British archaeologist who in 1922 discovered Tut's tomb after years of futile searching. Its contents, though hastily ransacked in antiquity, were surprisingly complete. They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery — and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.*

1. Who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb?

2. When was Tutankhamun's tomb discovered?

3. What was surprising about the contents of Tutankhamun's tomb?

4. *When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother could. She was not even sentimental. She came to leave me at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary. Silently she kissed my forehead, and when I left I cherished the moist imprint as perhaps the last sign of physical contact between us. But that was not so. After five years I came back home and was met by her at the station. She did not look a day older. She still had no time for words, and while she clasped me in her arms I could hear her reciting her prayers. Even on the first day of my arrival, her happiest moments were with her sparrows whom she fed longer and with frivolous rebukes.*

a. What were the frivolous rebukes the grandmother directed towards her sparrows upon the narrator's return?

b. How did the grandmother's actions demonstrate her love and connection with the narrator despite their long absence?

c. Pick evidence from the passage that suggests the grandmother had a deep and enduring connection with prayer.

5. *The first leg of our planned three - year, 105,000 kilometre journey passed pleasantly as we sailed down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town. There, before heading east, we took on two crewmen - American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler - to help us tackle one of the world's roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean. On our second day out of Cape Town, we began to encounter strong gales.*

- a. List any two sensory details present in this extract.
- b. Pick out the evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the narrator had prior experience with sailing and dealing with strong gales in the past.
- c. How long did the strong gales persist after they encountered them?

6. *My grandmother, like everybody's grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather's portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing room. He wore a big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked at least a hundred years old.*

1. How does the narrator perceive their grandmother?
2. What is the common belief about the grandmother's past?
3. How does the grandfather appear in the portrait?

7. *She had always been short and fat and slightly bent. Her face was a crisscross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere. No, we were certain she had always been as we had known her. Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older, and had stayed at the same age for twenty years. She could never have been pretty; but she was always beautiful.*

1. How does the narrator describe the physical appearance of the woman in the stanza?
2. What impression does the narrator convey about the woman's age?
3. Why does the narrator assert that the woman could never have been considered pretty?

Long answer type questions (to be answered in around 120 words each)

1. Happy moments are short - lived but provide a lifetime memory. They provide a cushion to bear the difficulties which the future has in store for you. Comment in the light of the poem A Photograph by Shirley Toulson.

2. You will probably agree that the story, The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse, does not have breathless adventure and exciting action. Then what in your opinion makes it interesting?

3. Who was Mrs. Fitzgerald? How was she different from Mrs. Annie Pearson in looks and speech?
4. What are the chief qualities of the author's grandmother as depicted in ' The Portrait of a Lady'?
5. Describe the movement of the goldfinch in the laburnum tree.
6. Give reason: Howard Carter's investigation was resented?(Discovering Tut)

7. Aram justified that his stealing the horse wasn't actually stealing. Do you agree?
8. Who is Cyril? How does he behave with his mother?
9. What damage did Wavewalker suffer as a result of bad weather?
10. Both wry with the laboured ease of loss. The poet Shirley Toulson is missing her mother. What is the role of the mother in forming the personality of a child.
11. Discuss the aptness and significance of the title of the story The Address.
12. Comment on the ending of the play Mother's Day.
13. Mention three reasons why the author's grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school. (The Portrait of a Lady)
14. Its silence silences , writes Shirley Toulson. The loss of her mother has silenced her. Do you think that this attitude of the poet is the right attitude to live life? Why/ Why not?
15. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address? Answer in the context of The Address.
16. The play Mother's Day is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the woman in a family. Bring out briefly the elements of humor and satire.

CLASS XII

Literature: Complete notebook. And solve two question papers.

Writing section: Write 4 questions each for all the topics covered in class, i.e.

Notice, Letter, Job application, Report writing, Advertisements etc.