

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2023-24)

CLASS -XIIth

SUBJECT-ENGLISH(Special)

Time-3Hours.

M.M.: 80

General Instructions-

1. The Question paper contains two sections- Reading skill and Writing skill.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section-A

Reading Skill

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:. (20)

Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the eleventh president of India, was a great scientist, teacher and writer. He had written many books like “Ignited Minds”, “India 2020”, “Mission India” and “Wings of Fire”. He was a source of inspiration for the young and old alike. Here is an extract from “Wings of Fire” which depicts his early life in his own words.

My parents Jainulabdeen and Ashiamma were widely regarded as an ideal couple. My mother’s lineage was the more distinguished, one of her forebears having been bestowed the title of “BAHADUR” by the British. I normally ate with my mother, sitting on the floor of the kitchen.

The famous Shiva temple, which made Rameshvaram so sacred to pilgrims was about a ten minutes walk from our house. Our locality was predominantly Muslims, but there were quiet a few hindu families too, living amicably with these Muslim neighbours. There was a very old mosque in our locality where my father would take me for evening prayers. I had not the faintest idea of the meaning of the Arabic prayers chanted, but I was totally convinced that they reached God.

The high priest of Rameshvaram temple, Pakshi Lakshmana , was a very close friend of my father. One of the most vivid memories of my childhood is of the two men, each in his traditional attire, discussing spiritual matters.

When I was old enough to ask questions , I asked my father about the relevance of prayer. “When you pray” he said “ you transcend your body and become a part of the cosmos which knows no division of wealth, age, caste or creed.”

Questions

1. Abdul Kalam lived in an area where _____
 - a. Hindus were in majority
 - b. Muslims were in minority
 - c. Muslims were in majority
 - d. Muslims and Hindus has hostility for one another
2. In early childhood, Kalam sang Arabic prayers because he _____
 - a. His father told him to do so
 - b. Had no idea about their message
 - c. Was sure that they reached God
 - d. Was keen to learn them by heart
3. Islam’s father was a close friend of _____

- a. Ashiammma
 - b. **Aslam**
 - c. Pakshi Lakshmana
 - d. Jainulabdeen
4. Abdul Kalam was the _____ president of India.
- a. Tenth
 - b. Eleventh
 - c. Third
 - d. Sixth
5. Which title was given to Japan's mother forebears by the British?
- a. LORD
 - b. BRAVE
 - c. BAHADUR
 - d. JAGIRDAR
6. Who was Pakshi Lakshmana?
7. What is one of the most vivid memories of Kalam's childhood?
8. From which book this extract has been taken?
9. Why according to Jainulabdeen , were prayers important?
10. Find the words / phrases from the passage having the same meaning:-
- a. Member of family in the past
 - b. Attire
 - c. Convinced
 - d. To rise above or go beyond the normal limits.

Or

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 help. 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.

Questions:-

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. 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. studios 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. quality most essential for a quizzer is.....

- (a) love of learning
- (b) mathematical accuracy
- (c) curiosity to know
- (d) comprehensive learning

B. Answer the following questions in brief:

6. Why did Ramanand Janardhana win mastermind final?
7. Who are called solid quizzers? Why?
8. Which is the most essential quality of a quizzer?
9. How is Kolkata associated with quizzing game?
10. Find the words from the passage which are similar in meaning to these words.
(a) Those who fight for money
(b) Enthusiasm

Section – B

Writing Skill

2. **Attempt any two of the following:- $10 \times 2 = 20$**
 - a. **Write an application to the Principal of your school asking for a transfer certificate as you want to transfer to a different school.**
 - b. You are Mahesh, a resident of Urban Estate, Rohtak. You are concerned about the increasing number of road accidents in your city. Write a letter to the editor of "The Tribune" highlighting the problem and suggesting measures to check the problem.
 - c. **To reduce noise pollution in your area, write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper describing the problem and making a request to the concerned authorities to solve it.**
3. **Write paragraphs on any two topics:- $10 \times 2 = 20$**
 - A. Importance of English
 - B. Corruption
 - C. Value of Discipline
4. **Read the passages carefully and write their summary in your own words with title:- $10 \times 2 = 20$**
 - a. The pace of climate change is speeding up, along with the harmful effects of pollution and environmental damage. This points to a worrying future for the Earth. Science paints a very concerning picture about the state of the planet in coming decades. Global warming will melt polar ice caps, raise sea levels, and permanently change weather across the world. Deforestation and urbanization have dangerously lowered green cover and natural habitats. Plastic pollution has reached alarming levels, contaminating land and choking marine life. Urgent action is needed to address climate change and restore environmental balance. Countries must unite to develop sustainable solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand green cover, and balance economic growth with ecological needs. Individuals too must modify lifestyles to conserve resources and generate less waste. A healthy planet can only happen through global cooperation and personal responsibility.
Questions:-

- A. Give a suitable title to this passage. (2)
 - B. Write the summary of it in your own words. (8)
- b. Democracy is based on principles of representation, discussion, equality, diversity and participation. Citizens appoint elected representatives who discuss and create laws on their behalf. Universal adult voting rights grant all citizens above a certain age the right to vote. Regular, free and impartial elections enable formation of diverse governments representing different sections of society. Freedom of **speech** and expression allow open debate on public issues key for a democratic system. Constitutional protections safeguard minority groups and prevent rule by the majority. Citizens participate directly by debating legislation, engaging with local officials and holding representatives accountable. While no system is ideal, democracy remains best suited to promote inclusiveness, self-governance and rights protections. However, democratic nations must aim to strengthen institutional checks on majority rule and deepen mass participation to achieve the vision of **government** “of the people, by the people, for the people”.

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