

MAR THOMA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, TIRUVALLA

ANNUAL EXAMINATION—FEBRUARY 2018

PAPER-I: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

STD: XI

MARKS: 100

TIME: 3hrs

Question 1

Write a composition (in approximately 400-450 words) on any one of the following subjects: [25]

- (a) Imagine that a passenger bus has crashed into a tree close to your house. Describe the scene of disaster and what you and other people did to help the injured.
- (b) Animals can sometimes seem remarkably human. Narrate an experience with an animal that acted in a very human way.
- (c) Gratitude is the memory of the heart.
- (d) It is said that communication through computers prevents us from developing interpersonal skills and limits our ability to have meaningful relationships with others. Give your views *for* or *against* the proposition.
- (e) Humility.
- (f) It was night when we arrived, an almost full moon floated above the building... Complete the short story.

Question 2

(a) Write a brief personal profile to be attached with the form for admission in a college. Base **your personal profile** on the hints given below: [20]

Say who you are—personality traits—academic achievements—achievements in co-curricular and extracurricular activities—leadership qualities—relevance of current study—future plans and aspirations.

(b) The world witnessed the hottest year on record in 2016. This has been attributed to global warming and climate change. Write a **proposal**, suggesting ways by which these phenomena can be checked to save our planet from an impending catastrophe. [10]

Question 3

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, but sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning to sentence A. Write down sentence B complete each case. [10]

Example: (0) **A:** It was not easy to get an application form, because of the long waiting list

B: The long waiting list.....

Answer: (0) **B:** The long waiting list made it difficult to get an application form.

1. **A:** It was the last time he saw his grandfather.

B: Never again-----

2. **A:** In spite of Pooja having an outward calm, she has a vicious temper.

B. Pooja may-----

3. **A.** People know more about her novels than her plays.

B. She is better known-----

4. **A.** It wasn't obligatory to go to work today.

B. I need not-----

5. **A.** Vivek's intention was to help the poor boy.

B. Vivek had-----

6. **A:** He threw up his arms in despair.

B: He threw up his arms because-----

7. **A:** Amit did not want to go to the party and neither did I.

B: Neither Amit-----

8. **A:** As soon as the train arrived, the passengers rushed into the compartments.

B: No sooner-----

9. **A:** He showed generosity even to his enemies.

B: He was-----

10. **A:** The weather is finer today than it was yesterday.

B: Yesterday, -----

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence):

[5]

1. The poor farmers were supplied----- food grains.
2. Food grains were supplied----- the poor farmers.
3. He came ----- to my way of thinking after a good deal of argument.
4. He came ----- a fortune last year.
5. She puts----- an artificial accent to impress others.
6. Where did they put you-----for the night?
7. The car battery has run -----; it needs recharging.
8. The poor beggar was run----- by a truck.
9. Dengue broke----- in our town during the rainy season.
10. Our school breaks-----on Saturday due to winter vacation.

(c) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets. Do not rewrite the passage but write down the verbs in the correct order: [5]

Direct democracy----- (1) (imply) that every citizen has a role in the affairs of the country. In ancient Greece, this form of government----- (2) (prevail) to a great extent. In those days, there were city states, so all the people could----- (3) (assemble) at a place and could debate the issue at leisure and then ----- (4) (decide) through a show of hands. Now in modern times, the states ----- (5) (grow) in size, and ----- (6) (become) so vast that direct democracy ----- (7) (replace) by indirect one, i.e., by means of elected representatives and not through direct means. In ancient India also, the king ----- (8) (control) by a Sabha or Samaiti and the village republics were democratic in essence. Hence the concept of democracy is not a new one. Democracy implies discipline and adherence to certain rules and regulations, as ----- (9) (go) an old saying "your freedom ends where the other's ----- (10) (start)."

Question 4

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

The word *city* is derived from the Latin word, *civitas* meaning a settlement. In Indian culture, since the advent of Gangetic civilisation, the city has been celebrated as *nagra*; the fortified settlement, which is the location of civilised life. In traditional European culture, the city has been perceived in its negative and positive aspects. In negative mode, its sophistication and shrewdness are deplored as the opposite of the pastoral and sylvan life; in positive mood, it is seen as a refuge from the terrors of the primeval forest, and an opportunity for the cultivation of higher human possibilities.

The contemporary city is held hostage by its multiple pasts; equally, it is mortgaged to its alternative futures. The city is a social and architectural environment, subjected to constant change. Over the last few decades, urbanisation has become the defining paradigm of human settlement, devastating the original forms of cities. Most modern cities are being recast in the same mould, dotted with glass-faced high rises, multi-lane expressways, resulting in architectural monotony. The city is on the march, devouring more and more of the hinterland to keep its engines of growth roaring.

All cities heave under the colossal burden of opportunities they offer and hence seem to be straining at the seams, attempting to function without bursting and spilling its contents. The urban sprawl seems to be unavoidable. Slums and shanty towns, garish billboards, illegal encroachments, clogged roads, ugly pollution, and rising crime are deep scars on the face of the modern cities.

In most cities, the sunrise industries of information technology and tourism seek to subject the urban landscape to a complete makeover, while ignoring the harsh realities of declining cottage industries, traditional professions and wrecked farming economy. The prosperity and opulence of cities is often a symbol of how they have enriched themselves at the expense of the rural dweller, how they have impinged upon environment and ecology.

An even more horrifying reality is psychological urbanisation- former villagers finding themselves out of step in their native places. They can neither slow down, nor can see the beauty of nature around them. A modern city-dweller is on an average selfish, unthinking, self-destructive creature, unable to think beyond self and realise how the present mode of being spells disaster. He impels the violent engine of the city and then just wonders why it is so violent.

On the other hand, it is only in a city that a motor mechanic, a florist and a cyberspace wizard rub shoulders. The sweatshop labourer, the marginal peasant and the millionaire industrialist co-exist, sharing mass transport and mass entertainment. However, cities have still failed to provide a true sense of belonging to their residents. No doubt, contradictions abound. The coziness and intimacy has been lost, but a broad cosmopolitan outlook has been achieved. Modern cities are in fact both urban 'horror' and 'wonder'; they have a distinct character and a varied personality.

(a) (i) Given below are four words or phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the given passage: [4]

1. having high walls-----
2. disapproved-----
3. ancient-----
4. engulfing-----

(ii) For each of the words given below write a sentence of at least 10 words, using the same word **unchanged in form, but with a different meaning** from that which it carries in the passage: [4]

1. mould

2. face

3. subject

4. present

(b) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible in your own words:

1. What are the negative and positive aspects of a city? [2]

2. How is psychological urbanisation harmful? [2]

3. Mention any **three** characteristic features of a modern city. [3]

4. How is a modern city, a land of opportunity? Why is it considered to be both urban horror, and wonder? [2]

(c) Summarise **the impact of rapid urbanisation** in 100 words. [8]