D.A.V. CENTENARY PUBLIC SCHOOL, PANIPAT

PRACTICE SAMPLE PAPER-2

ENGLISH

CLASS-XII

Time-3 Hours M.M.100

SECTION- A

(READING) ( 30 Marks)

Q1-Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (12 marks)

1. This year marks a great milestone in the human saga, similar in magnitude to the agricultural era and industrial revolution. For the first time in history, a majority of human beings will be living in vast urban areas, according to the United Nations-many in mega cities and suburban extension with populations of 10 million people more. We have become Home Urbans.

2. Millions of people huddled together and stacked on top of each other in gigantic urban centres is a new phenomenon. Recall that 200 years ago, the average person on earth might have met 200 to 300 people in a lifetime. Today, a resident of New York City can live and work amongst 2,20,000 people within a 10 minute radius of his home or office in midtown Manhattan. Only one city in all of history-ancient Rome-boasted a population of more than a million inhabitants before the 19th century. London became the first modern city with a population of over one million people in 1820. Today, 414 cities boast populations of a million or more people and theres no end in sight to the urbanisation process because our species is growing at an alarming rate. Around 3,76,000 people are born every day on earth. The human population is expected to increase to nine billion by 2042, most living in dense urban areas.

3. No one is really sure whether this profound turning point on human living arrangements ought to be celebrated, lamented, or merely acknowledged for the record. Thats because our burgeoning population and urban way of life has been purchased at the expense of the demise of the earths vast ecosystems and habitats. Cultural historian Elias Canetti once remarked that each of us is a king in a field of corpses. If we were to stop for a moment and reflect on the number of creatures and earths resources and materials we have expropriated and consumed in our lifetime.

4. Large populations living in mega cities consume massive amount of the earths energy. To put this in perspective, the Sears Tower alone, one of the tallest skyscrapers in the world, uses more electricity in a single day than a town of 35000 inhabitants. Even more amazing, our species now consume nearly 40 per cent of the net primary production on earth-net amount of solar energy converted to plant organic matter through photosynthesis-even though we only make up one half of 1 per cent of the animal biomass of the planet.

5. Its no accident that as we celebrate the urbanisation of the world, we are quickly approaching another historic watershed, the disappearance of the wild. Rising population, growing consumption of food, water and building materials, expanding road and transport, and urban sprawl continue to encroach on the remaining wild, pushing it to extinction. Our scientists tell us that within the lifetime of todays children, the wild will disappear from the face of the earth after millions of years of existence, The Trans-Amazon Highway is hastening the obliteration of the last great wild habitat. Other remaining wild regions from Borneo to the Congo Basin are fast diminishing with each passing day. Its no wonder that according to Harvard Biologist EQ Wilson, we are experiencing the greatest wave of mass extinction of animal species in 65 million years. By 2100, two-thirds of the earths remaining species are likely to become extinct.

6. Where does this leave us? Try to imagine 1,000 cities of nearly one million or more inhabitants in 35 years from now. It boggles the mind and is unsustainable for the earth. Perhaps the commemoration of the urbanisation of the human race in 2007 might be an opport

opportunity to rethink the way we live on this planet. Certainly there is much to applaud about urban life : its rich cultural diversity and social inter course and dense commercial activity come readily to mind. But the question is one of magnitude and scale. We need to ponder how best to lower our population and develop sustainable urban environments that use energy and resources more efficiently, are less polluting, as well as better designed.

7. In short, in the great era of urbanisation we have increasingly shut off the human race from the rest of the natural world in the belief that we could conquer, colonise and utilise the rich largesse of the planet to ensure our complete autonomy and without dire consequences to us and future generations. In the next phase of human history, we will need to find a way to reintegrate ourselves back into the rest of the living earth if we are to preserve our own species and conserve the planet for our fellow creatures.

**A. Questions**

(a) What is the significance of the present year in human history? (2)

(b) How is life different today from the life in Past? (2)

(c) Why should we lament at the growth of population and not celebrate the progress?(2)

(d) How is the urbanization harmful for the natural resources?(2)

(e) What is the warning given by our scientists for future? (2)

**B. Find out the words which mean just the opposite of the following:  (2)**

(i) small (para 1) (ii) shrinking (para 5)

### 2-Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow: 10 marks

1. In spite of all the honours that we heaped upon him, Pasteur, as has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace, and the longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him. In truth he did become a great artist, though after his sixteenth year he abandoned the brush for ever. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For to him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that was to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win. The sight of injured children, particularly, moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in that suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at *Villeneuve Etang*, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, “practicing the Gospel virtues.”
2. “He revered the faith of his fathers, “says the same writer, “and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period.”
3. The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: “The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant.”
4. But even then in retirement he loved to see his former pupils, and it was then he would reiterate his life principles: “Work, “ he would say, “never cease to work.” So well had he kept this precept that he began rapidly to sink from exhaustion.
5. Finally on September 27, 1895, when someone leant over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly: “I cannot, “ and with a look of perfect resignation and peace, seemed to fall asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of a world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday.
6. Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote at a plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth.
7. No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner’s son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

487 words

### Answer the following questions:

* + 1. Even accolades and honours did not change the simple man that

Pasteur was. Why? 2 marks

* + 1. How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases? 1 mark
    2. How did Pasteur engage himself in the estate? 2 marks
    3. What advice did he always give to his pupils? 2 marks?

### Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: 3 marks

* + 1. To give up (para 1)
    2. People belonging to the same period (para 3)
    3. Vote by the people of the country to decide a matter of national importance (para 6)

### 3- . Read the passage given below: 8 marks

Residents of the Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bishmillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year -old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah’s land, recalled

: *“Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality”.*

He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji’s Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Quamaruddin and became Bishmillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in Varanasi.

His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him. For Bishmillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bishmillah Khan won’t just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhanas to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was a

testimony to the plurality that is India. A practicing Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of *kusti* in *Benia Baga Akhada*. Every morning, Bishmillah Khan would do *riyaaz* at the Balaji temple on the banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn’t desert Bishmillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a *thumri* to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music.

Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bishmillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the very end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

3a-On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary.(5)

3b-Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (3)

Section –B (writing skills) (30 marks)

4 The Eco club of your school wants to launch a special cleanliness drive in the school and its neighbourhood. As secretary of the club, write a notice in 50 words giving all the relevant details of the programme. (4)

Or

Suresh has cleared the pre Medical pre Dental Entrance Examination.The family is elated at the achievement and they decide to have a get together for all friends. Draft an informal invitation for the get together.

5 In the recently conducted IIT-JEE ,students allege that there was a printing error in the diagram of a question of 3 marks in the physics section of paper II. As one of the student Mihir , write a letter of complaint to the organizers of IIT-JEE asking for the benefit of doubt because 3 marks are really crucial for an important exam like IIT. (Word limit 120-150) (6)

OR

Children these days are not leading a healthy life style .Hence most of them end up with problems of skin, teeth, eyesight, weight etc. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily advising the mothers on how to insist on correct food habits.

6 Your principal has asked you to give a speech in the school assembly on the dangers of eating junk food. You may use the following points. Write the speech in about 200 words. (10)

* Junk food – popular through T.V
* Advertisements by film stars and sports heroes for chips , noodles etc.
* Put on weight – health hazard

Or

Write an article in about 200 words on the ‘Harmful effects of using fire crackers’ at the time of rejoicing. You may take help of the following notes:

* Cause of noise pollution
* Cause of air pollution
* Fire accidents etc.

7- Education is a solution to all social evils , malpractices and the other intractable problems. Do you think that education has the knack to solve all the problems of modern India ? You can write in favour or against the motion .Do not exceed 200 words. (10)

Or

Some people believe that social media distracts attention . They consider it a bane. Is social media a bane to the modern society ? Express your opinions on this crucial issue . Do not exceed 200 words.

Section –C ( literature and long reading task) (40)

8- Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4)

It would be an exotic moment

Without rush, without engines,

We would all be together

In a sudden strangeness.

a) What does ‘it’ refer to?

b) Who is the poet speaking to?

c) What would be the moment like?

d) What do you mean by exotic?

Or

Aunt Jennifers’ tigers prance across a screen.

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,

They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

They pace in sleek chivalries certainty.

a)How are aunt jenifer’s tigers described?

b) Why are they described denizens of a world of green?

c)Why are they not afraid of the men?

d) What is the meaning of ‘chivalries’?

9 -Answer any four of the following in 30-40 words. (4\*3=12 marks)

a) Why has the poet’s mother been compared to the late winter’s moon?

b) How did Franz react to the declaration that it was their last French lesson?

c) How did the instructor turn Douglas into a swimmer?

d) What did jo want the wizard to do when Mummy Skunk approached him?

e) comment on the ending of the play ‘on the Face of it’?

10- Answer the following in 125-150 words. (6)

How did the peddler feel after robbing the crofter? What course did he adopt and how did he react to the new situation? What does his reaction reveal?

Or

Exploitation is a universal phenomena. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected . Even after our independence we find exploitation of unorganized labour . What values do we learn from Gandhiji’s campaign to counter the present day problem of exploitation?

11- Inspiration and motivation play a vital role in our life. How did Mr.Lamb’s meeting with Derry become a turning pont in Derry’s life?

12- “ Selfishness makes a being cruel”. Justify it with reference to Griffin’s deeds. (6)

13- Discuss the character traits of Mrs. Hall. (6)