

**Deputy Director, Education Officer (Secondary) and  
HSC/Junior College Examination Committee, Aurangabad**

**Time : 3.00 Hrs.  
Std. : XII**

**Prelim Test - II  
Subject : English**

**Marks: 80  
Date :**

**Instructions:**

- (1) Each activity has to be answered in complete sentence/ sentences. Answers written in only one word will not be given complete credit. Only the correct activity number written in case of options will not be given any credit.
- (2) Web diagrams, flow chart, tables, etc. are to be presented exactly as they are with answers.
- (3) In point 2 above, only the words written without the presentation of activity formal/ design, will not be given credit. Use of colour pens/pencils, etc. is not allowed. (Only blue/black pens are allowed.)
- (4) Multiple answers to the same activity will be treated as wrong and will not be given any credit.
- (5) Maintain the sequence of the Sections/ Question Nos./ Activities throughout the activity sheet.

**SECTION - I : PROSE**

(Reading for Comprehension, Language Study, Summary and Mind Mapping)

**Q. 1 A) Read the extract and complete the activities given below: (12)**

I had a very simple upbringing. We were a lower middle class family. Our 300 square feet house did not even have basic amenities such as a fan, a refrigerator, a geyser, a dining table or a gas stove; leave alone an air conditioner or a car. It was only when I entered the college that I got a watch and we got a dining table and a gas stove at home. Nevertheless, culturally, I had a rich childhood. Poets like Vinda Karandikar, Mangesh Padgaonkar and Vasant Bapat used to visit our home and for hours I could listen to the discussions about poetry and literature-Marathi and English. They used to talk about Keshavsut, Mardhekar, Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy. I did not fully understand their discussions in depth, but I was immensely impressed. We also were lucky to have Pt. Kumar Gandharv, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi and Pt. Jasraj visit our place and talk

about Indian music till late night or sometimes dawn. This is how and why I developed my interest in literature and music during my school days. I did not and even today don't understand the 'grammar' of music, but I began to love it tremendously since then.

Most of the times, the topics of discussion at our home were about music, literature, paintings, sculptures etc. I could listen to the discussions about Van Gogh Mozart and Michaelangelo etc. It was because of such a milieu around me that I had a firm belief which I still hold that all arts are equally, if not more, important in our lives than Science or Technology. I had learnt from my childhood that money does not mean everything in life. It is necessary, but if at all there is something which enriches our lives and puts meaning to our existence, it is the arts, music and literature.

- A-1 Make a list of great Indian and foreign personalities who had a great impact on the writer during his childhood. (2)**

Poets	
Writers	
Musicians	
Dramatists	
Painters	

- A-2 Give the writer's opinion about arts, music and literature. (2)**

- A-3 Explain the statement 'Culturally, I had a rich childhood' with reference to the above extract. (2)**

- A-4 Describe your own childhood in around 50 words. (2)**

- A-5 Language Study: (2)**

Write whether the underlined words in the following sentences are main verbs or primary auxiliary verbs:

- 1) We were a lower middle-class family.
- 2) I did not fully understand their discussions in depth.

- A-6 Guess the meaning of the following words: (2)**

- 1) tremendously
- 2) milieu



**B) Language Study: (04)**

**B-1 Do as directed.**

- 1) Vishal is ..... best student in ..... class. (1)  
(Insert suitable article/s.)
- 2) The number of annual road accident fatalities in India crossed to 80,000 marks in 1999. (1)  
(Frame Wh-type question to get the underlined part as an answer.)
- 3) I began taking interest in many different things. (Use infinitive and rewrite the sentence.) (1)

**B-2 Spot the error/s: (1)**

Rohan say, "I believe that he had come here for a reasons."

**Q. 2 A) Read the following extract and complete the activities given below. (12)**

When my father laughs, it is not only home that reverberates but the adjacent houses feel the ripples as well. He loves to laugh-only now, at a ripe old age.

In our younger days we hardly remember seeing or hearing him laugh. He may have laughed in the company of his friends, but not at home. My father, a professor of English, had rigid, cold eyes. His eyes never flickered, penetrating deep into the person in front, if the happened to be the target, enough to upset him from his seat. And they were cold not from an absence of warmth, but like steel that had been tempered. Of course, it was not for us to question why his eyes were cold or why he rarely laughed at home.

Ours was to accept his authority in order to live. Every morning, we would try to gauge father's mood from the movement of his eyes or the few words they spoke. If his voice didn't have a rough edge, would breathe and move around a bit freely. On the other hand, when throat produced grunts and rumbles, we knew we had had it for the day. The most difficult situation was when he was silent. Unable to read him, we would be on the horns of a dilemma: Was it fine to go for a football match? Or would that invite a fine of two slaps, if not three penalty kicks?

**A-1 Rewrite the following sentences and state whether they are True or False: (2)**

- a) The father of the writer had cold and rigid eyes.

- b) The father's instructions and orders were mandatory for his children.
- c) The extract is about the son of the writer.
- d) By looking into the eyes of their father, the children could guess the mood of their father.

A-2 Pick out the sentences from the extract which describe that the father's eyes were controlling his children. (2)

A-3 The author's father used to laugh at a ripe old age. Describe and justify his laughter. (2)

A-4 'Laughter is the best medicine.' Give your response on this statement in 3-4 sentences. (2)

A-5 **Language study:** (2)

- 1) We had had it for the day. (Identify and write the tense.)
- 2) Every morning, we would try to gauge father's mood from the movement of his eyes. (Rewrite the sentence using 'used to'.)

A-6 Pick out the four words which have been used to describe the father's eyes. (2)

B) **Write a summary of the above extract with the help of the following points given in the bracket and suggest a suitable title for it. (03)**  
(father's laugh – movement of eyes – gauge father's mood – tough situation authority of father)

C) **Mind Mapping:** (03)  
Develop a mind mapping design by using your ideas or thoughts or concepts to develop the topic on 'Courses available after SSC'.

## SECTION - II - POETRY

### (Poetry and Appreciation)

Q. 3. A) Read the extract and complete the activities given below: (10)

#### Money

When I had money, money, O!  
I knew no joy till I went poor;  
For many a false man as a friend



Came knocking all day at my door.

Then felt I like a child that holds  
A trumpet that he must not blow  
Because a man is dead; I dared  
Not speak to let this false world know.

Much have I thought of life, and seen  
How poor men's hearts are ever light;  
And how their wives do hum like bees  
About their work from morn till night.

So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,  
And see the rich ones coldly frown  
Poor men, think I, need not go up  
So much as rich men should come down.

When I had money, money, O!  
My many friends proved all untrue;  
But now I have no money, O!  
My friends are real, though very few.

**A-1** State whether the following statements are True or False. Correct the false statements. (2)

- 1) The poet knew no joy till he was rich.
- 2) The poet felt that he should talk about his money.
- 3) When the poet had money, he had many true friends.
- 4) When the poet became poor, he had a few real friends.

**A-2** Write reason/s for the following situations: (2)

- 1) Friends came knocking all day at the poet's door.
- 2) Poor men can laugh freely.

**A-3** Money is not everything in our life as assumed by most of the people. Justify. (2)

**A-4** Identify and write the lines from the extract which express the following figures of speech: (2)

1. Simile
2. Repetition

**A-5** Compose a short poem on 'The Usefulness of Money.' (2)

**B) Appreciation:**

**(04)**

Write a poetic appreciation of the poem given below.

**She Walks in Beauty**

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

**SECTION: III: WRITING SKILLS**

**Q.4 Complete the activities as per the instructions given below: (16)**

**A) Attempt any one from the following activities: (4)**

**1) Drafting a virtual message:**

Imagine that you are going to attend a workshop on 'The Earth Day' in Mumbai the next week. Draft a message in about 100 to 150 words. Appeal the same to your classmates. Justify the reasons for participating in the workshop.

OR

**2) Statement of Purpose:**

You wish to pursue your graduation of your own choice. You have also fixed your goals. Taking into account your choice of graduation, write a statement of purpose in about 100 to 150 words as a part of your application process to get admission in a college of your own choice.



OR

**3) Group Discussion:**

You and your friends Amar, Akbar and Anthony are selected as a team for group discussion in your college. The topic of the discussion is the 'Symptoms and Remedies of the Disease, Covid-19'.

**B) Attempt any one from the following activities:**

(4)

**1) E-Mail:**

You have purchased a smart wrist-watch from Indian Watch Times. The watch is not showing proper day and date. The warranty period is still valid. Write an e-mail in about 100 to 150 words to the owner of the shop asking him to solve the problem or replace the watch.

OR

**2) Report Writing:**

Your Junior College organised a career guidance program. Write a report of the program as a class representative of your class in about 100 to 150 words.

OR

**3) Interview:**

You have been asked to conduct an interview of your teacher who recently wrote a book on 'The Usage of English Grammar'. Draft a set of 8 to 10 questions for an interview with the help of the given table and points draft questions for an interview.

Name of the interviewee	
Area of success	
Date/ Venue/ Time	
Duration of interview	

**Questions:**

Questions should be based on -

- 1) Title of the book
- 2) Medium of writing
- 3) Publisher
- 4) Idea
- 5) Role of family members
- 6) Best autography
- 7) Message
- 8) Further endeavours

**C) Attempt any one from the following activities:** (4)

**1) Speech:**

Imagine you have to deliver a speech on the topic 'Importance of Language' on International Language Day in your Junior College. Draft your speech accordingly in about 100 to 150 words which you wish to deliver before the students of your Junior College.

OR

**2) Compering:**

Suppose, you are going to comper in a send-off ceremony of your favourite junior college teacher at your junior college. As a comper, prepare the script of the programme. You may take the help of the following points:

(Introductory Speech - Welcome Song - Welcome of Chief Guest - Representative Speeches of the Students, Colleagues and Chief Guest - Felicitation of your Favourite Teacher, Special Address of your Favourite Teacher – Principal's Address - Vote of Thanks.)

OR

**3) Expansion of an Idea:**

Expand the idea 'Honesty is the best policy' in 100 to 150 words with the help of the points given below:

- We can cheat others but not ourselves
- Truth always triumphs
- No need to remind
- Honest person is a treasure of nation

**D) Attempt any one from the following activities:** (4)

**1) Review:**

You have recently read an autobiography of a great Indian leader. Write a review in about 100 to 150 words of that autobiography. You may take the help of the following points:

- Name of the autobiography and the author
- Core message of the autobiography
- Style and presentation
- Convince others to read the autobiography

OR

**2) Blog Writing:**



Write a blog in a proper format on 'Health is Wealth' in about 100 to 120 words. You may take the help of the following points:

- Importance of health
- Body should be fit and healthy
- Sound mind in sound body
- Mind management
- Meditation boosts mental and physical power.

OR

**3) Appeal:**

Your junior college has organised a rally to make people aware to 'save water and save life'. Prepare an appeal on the topic 'Save Water - Save Life' in about 100 to 150 words. You may take the help of following points:

- Persuasive appeal
- Importance/ Uses of water
- Famous personality to lead
- Venue, date and time

**SECTION - IV: LITERARY GENRE - NOVEL**

**Q. 5 Complete the given activities as per the instructions.**

**(04)**

**A-1 Complete the following statements:**

**(2)**

- 1) The two types of conflicts that the plot may have are .....
  - a) internal and external
  - b) familiar and unfamiliar
  - c) national and international
  - d) political and social
- 2) The word 'picaresque' is originated from .....
  - a) English b) French c) Sanskrit d) Spanish
- 3) The epistolary novel presents the narrative through .....
  - a) the documents like book and notebook
  - b) the documents like newspaper and hard paper
  - c) the documents like journal or diary entries
  - d) the documents like soft copy and hard copy

- 4) In the 18th century, the middle class could get the time for reading and discussing the novels because .....
- a) They developed their interest in novels
  - b) The spread of machine helped them in their work
  - c) Availability of schools
  - d) Rulers made it mandatory

**A-2 Write short notes on:** (2)

- 1) Stream of Consciousness Novel
- 2) Indian Tradition of Novels

**B) Answer the following:** (04)

- 1) Arrange the incidents in correct sequence as per their occurrence in the extract: (2)
  - a) Denham was outwitted by Miss Phillips.
  - b) The head of the school closed the proceedings.
  - c) Denham asserted that P.T. periods were a waste of time.
  - d) The slips were folded and placed in a hat.
  - e) Fernman was as usual a trump card.
  - f) Denham called out the names of the representatives.
  - g) Students' Council was held every year on November 15th.
- 2) 'When the turn of my class came, I sat up anxiously'. Explain the reasons of the narrator's anxiety by citing suitable references from the extract. (2)

**C) Give the answer of the following:** (04)

- 1) Complete the following table highlighting the various traits of the given characters from the extract. (2)

No.	Character	Traits
a.	Phileas Fogg	
b.	Passepartout	

- 2) Write the central idea of the extract of the novel 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. (2)

**D) Answer the following questions:** (04)

- 1) Sherlock Holmes is the leading character in the extract. Explain. (2)
- 2) Write the central idea of the novel, 'The Sign of Four'. (2)

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