

CBSE UNIT TEST PAPER-17**CLASS - XII (ENGLISH)****FIRST TERM UNIT TEST****Time :3Hours****M.M.100****General Instructions :**

- (1) The paper is divided into three sections. All the sections are compulsory.
- (2) Separate instructions are given with each section and question wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (3) Do not exceed the prescribed word-limit while answering the questions.

Section – A [Reading] 20 Marks

Section – B [Advanced Writing Skills] 35 Marks

Section – C [Text book] 45 Marks

Total = 100 Marks

SECTION - A (READING)**20 MARKS****Q.1** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. 12 Marks

1. Call it a blessing or a curse of Mother Nature, we have to breathe in over 10,000 litres of air in a day (more than four million litres in a year) to remain alive. By making it essential for life, God has wished that we try to keep the air we breathe clean. Everyone can see the food that is not clean and perhaps refrain from eating it, but one cannot stop breathing even if one can feel the air to be polluted.
2. Several harmful and noxious substances can contaminate the air we breathe. Generally, much is said and written about outdoor air pollution, most of which is due to vehicular and industrial exhausts.
3. Given the fact that most of us spend over 90% of our time indoors, it is most important to recognise that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill-health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume significance in closed ill-ventilated places.

4. The indoor air pollution can lead to allergic reactions and cause irritation to the skin, the eye and the nose. But as is logical to assume, the brunt of insult by pollutants is borne by the lungs. It can lead to the development of fresh breathing problems, especially in those who have allergic tendencies, or it can worsen the existing respiratory illnesses like asthma and bronchitis.
5. There can be several sources of indoor air pollution. Tobacco smoke is one of the important air pollutants in closed places. "Passive smoking" or environment tobacco smoke (ETS) pollution can lead to all the harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in the smokers in their non-smoking companions. ETS as a health hazard has been unequivocally proven and is also getting social recognition now. One can occasionally see signs displaying the all-important message: "Your smoking is injurious to my health" in offices and homes. The children of smoking parents are among the worst affected persons.
6. The exposure of young children to ETS leads to increased respiratory problems and hospital admissions as compared to non-exposed children. Several studies, including those done at the PGI, have shown an increased risk of lung cancer among women exposed to passive smoking. ETS also worsens the existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis. It may be responsible for the development of asthma in children.
7. The next most important source of indoor air pollution is the allergens. House dust mites (HDM) are very small insects not visible to the naked eye and are the commonest source of allergy in the house. They are ubiquitous and thrive in a warm and moist atmosphere. They breed very fast and are very difficult to eradicate. Modern houses present ample breeding spaces for them in the form of carpets, curtains, mattresses, pillows, etc.
8. Exposure to HDM can be prevented by the frequent washing of linen and by encasing the mattresses and pillows in a non-permeable cover. Pets form an important part of life for some of us. But they can add plenty of allergens to our indoor atmosphere. Cats are notorious for doing this. Fine particles from feline fur can remain stuck to the upholstery and carpets for a long time even after the removal of the animal and lead to

the worsening of asthma and skin allergies. Fortunately, owing to religious and social customs cats are not very popular pets in India. Dogs, however, are quite popular and can be as troublesome. Pets should be kept out of the bedrooms and washed frequently. To remove the fur particles one has to use vacuum cleaners as the ordinary broom and mop are not effective.

9. Moulds, fungi and several other micro-organisms thrive in damp conditions and can lead to allergies as well as infections. Humidifiers in the air-conditioning plants provide an ideal environment for certain types of bacteria and have led to major outbreaks of pneumonia. It is important to clean regularly the coolers, air-conditioners and damp areas of the house such as cupboards, lofts, etc., to minimise this risk.
10. Toxic gases can also pollute the indoor environment. Biomass fuels (wood, cowdung, dried plants) and coal, if burned inside, can lead to severe contamination by carbon monoxide (CO). The poor quality of stoves and other cooking or heating appliances that cause incomplete combustion of LPG can also lead to the emission of CO or nitrogen dioxide. Formaldehyde (a gas) can be released from adhesives that are used for fixing carpets, upholstery and also in making plywood and particleboard.
11. The gases are very toxic in high concentrations as may be encountered during industrial accidents, but even in very minimal amounts, as may be prevalent in homes and offices, they can cause irritation to the skin or the eyes, rashes, headache, dizziness and nausea. Improving is an important preventive measure, besides trying to eliminate the source that may be always feasible.
12. Other indoor pollutants are toxic chemicals like cleansing agents, pesticides, paints solvents and inferior-quality personal-care products, especially aerosols. Very old crumbling pipes, boilers, insulation or false roofing can also be important sources. Asbestos is a hazardous product that can cause cancer in humans.
13. It is important to realise that the air we breathe at home may not be clean always and we must try to eliminate the source of pollution. We should give due consideration to ventilation.

Q.1 (a) Answer the following questions briefly: 9 Marks

- (1) Why is it important to recognise the quality of the air we breathe indoors? 2
- (2) What is "Passive smoking"? How is it harmful? 2
- (3) What are allergens? Why are they difficult to eradicate? 2
- (4) List some of the toxic gases that add to indoor pollution. 1
- (5) How can the risk of allergies be minimized? 2

(b) Find words in the above passage which convey similar meaning as the following :

1. Make impure (para 1-2)
2. Clearly and unmistakably (para 5-7)
3. device for keeping the air moist (para 9-10)

3 Marks

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 8 Marks

Salt, a miraculous gift of nature, is one of most useful and amazing minerals on Earth derived from the sea and rocks. Do you know that it is the only rock that humans can eat?

Salt has seasoned our history, language and food, besides making nutritious foods more palatable. Used in all bakery products, prepared foods, sauces, soups, spices, cereals, dairy foods, meats, poultry, It is also an extraordinary effective food preservative, retarding the growth of spoilage by micro-organisms and making food storage possible long before refrigeration.

How much salt is necessary for human consumption? Medical experts agree that everyone should practice some reasonable 'moderation' in salt consumption. For the average person, a moderate amount might run from 4 to 10 gm a day, or roughly half to one and one-third teaspoons. The equivalent of one to two gm of this salt allowance would come from the natural sodium in food. The rest would be added in processing, preparation or at the table.

Common salt, a chloride of sodium, is chemically represented by the symbol NaCl. The human body has a continual need for salt. Sodium chloride or the common salt is 39 percent sodium and 61 percent chloride. Forming a solution in the body, these two components separate into sodium and chloride ions, each with a different task. Chloride

maintains the balance of water between the living cell and its environment, plays a part in digestion, and pairs with sodium to maintain the blood's acid-base balance, critical for life. Sodium assists in regulating the volume of blood and blood pressure. It facilitates the transmission of nerve impulses and is necessary for heart and muscle contractions. Although the popular conception is that salt is a flavour enhancer, a recent American study suggests that it functions as a flavour filter on food, selectively enhancing and suppressing various tastes. Other studies showed that the use of salt suppresses the bitter of dark green vegetables like bitter gourd (Karela).

Salt's functions in the body are already elucidated. Deficiency signs include lethargy, dizziness, cramps and palpitation. In women excessive-salt intake promotes fluid retardation and can cause breast pain.

But what the good salt can do, in the right dose, is unequalled. Snorers should try spraying their nose with a salt water to moisten mucous membrane and make it easier to breathe. To invigorate the body when tired or to remove dead skin cells, rub a handful of salt all over your body before having a bath. Salt baths encourage detoxification and greatly help muscle and joint pains. Add a pound of salt to a comfortably hot bath and lie in it for 20 minutes, add hot water as it cools. Wrap up in cotton towels and get into a warm bed. You should perspire freely, sleep well and feel much better in the morning. Remove all the congestion in your throat by saline gargles.

The recommendation that no one should exclude salt totally from the diet is awfully wrong. Scientists are of the view that salt is an invisible killer and, therefore, a health hazard. As new evidence piles up; alarm bells have started ringing. And the next battle might just be against salt!

Specialists are convinced that a diet high in salt causes high blood pressure, a disorder that afflicts one third of people above the age of 60. Moreover, this is a risk factor for two big killers – Coronary heart disease and stroke.

Q.2.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary minimum (4). Use a format you consider suitable. Give it a suitable title. 5 Marks
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 3 Marks

SECTION - B

35 MARKS

[ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS]

Q.3. You are Arjun/Aparna. Your school has been invited to participate in an Inter-school on the spot painting competition being organised by the lion's club of your district. As General secretary of the Painting Club of your school, respond to the invitation in not more than 50 words

OR

Design a poster in not more than 50 words for promoting the need for joining the Defence Services. 5 Marks

Q.4. You are Ravi/Raveena of Guru Nanak Public School, Kanpur. You recently attended a seminar on how to decrease the burden of studies on School-going children. Write a report of the same in 100-125 words for your school magazine. OR

Your younger brother has recently joined a boarding school and wishes to open a bank account. Describe the process of opening a S.B. Account in not more than 125 words.

10 Marks

Q.5. Samandar Pal & Sons of 14, Meston Road, Lucknow have not paid you an amount of Rs. 65,380/- for the steel furniture that you supplied to them in Oct. 2008. Write a letter of complaint to them about the non-payment of dues. Sign yourself as Sandeep/Surabhi

OR

You are Jatinder Gill/Parminder Kaur of 122, Bharat Nagar, Rail Rd. Patiala. Recently you read an advertisement for the post of a Mechanical Engineer in ITC Technologies Ltd. Manipal Centre, Bangalore. Write an application for this job giving your complete resume separately. 10 Marks

Q.6. You are Mani/Manjyoti. Many organizations have come forward with the idea of "Education for All". In spite of their best efforts it is still a dream. Write an article, in about

200 words, for publication in a local newspaper, giving your suggestions about making it a reality with the hope of making society a better place. OR

You are Kuber/Kamakshi and have been selected to represent your school in an All-India School Declamation Contest being organized by the Rotary club, Delhi (North). The topic for the same is "Changing face of Global Economy : The Rise of Asia." Write your speech on the more than 200 words, giving concrete examples to support your viewpoints. 10 Marks

SECTION - C (TEXT BOOKS)

45 MARKS

Q.7. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

4 Marks

Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,
Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass.

- (1) What does "Childish longing" imply? (1)
- (2) Name and explain the poetic device used in the lines. (2)
- (3) Why are the cars referred to as selfish? (1)

OR

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring into us from the heaven's brink,

- (1) Who are the "mighty dead" being talked about? (1)
- (2) What are the lovely tales that we have heard or read? (1)
- (3) Explain "Pouring into us brink." (2)
- (b) Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 3x2=6Marks
- (1) What does the "Wedding band" symbolize in Aunt Jennifer's Tigers?

- (2) What is the poet trying to convey through the images of the “Fishermen” and “Men gathering salt” in the poem keeping Quiet?
- (3) Why is Shakespeare referred to as ‘Wicked’ in the poem “An elementary School”?

Q8. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 5x2=10 Marks.

- (1) What is referred to as “the weekly pilgrimage” for sophie’s family?
- (2) Why does saul Bellow refer to the interviews as being “thumbprints on his windpipe”?
- (3) Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain von Stahle?
- (4) Give a brief account of the reception Gandhiji got in Motihari.
- (5) “Even shoes with a hole is a dream come true” for sahib. Discuss.

Q9. Answer any one of the following in about 150 words.

The story the last lesson deals with the theme of language impostion and language loyalty for the people of France. Discuss. OR

In Poets and Pancakes the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Give instances to show how it serves to make the lesson interesting. 10 Marks

Q10. Answer any one of the following in about 150 words.

“Memories of Childhood” speaks of the unjust and inhuman attitude of the people in power towards the weak. Examine the statement in the light of treatment given to Zitkala Sa and Bama. OR

The play “On the Face of it” is a poignant depiction of physically challenged people coming to terms with their disability, Comment. 10 Marks

Q11. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. 8 Marks

- (a) What did Stephens notice inside the cell every time he peeped through the peephole?
- (b) How did Joe react to Roger Skunk’s acceptance by his friends?
- (c) How did the gardener react when Dr. Sadao told him about the wounded American sailor?
- (d) What proposal did the British officer’s secretary give to the Maharaja?