

PRACTICE PAPER 1
ENGLISH CORE (CLASS XII)

General Instructions

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and each question wherever necessary. Read them carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A (Reading)

Q1 Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12 Marks)

1. Watching Smriti Mandhana at her best is like watching poetry in motion. There is to her batting an elegance that soothes the eye, warms the heart. "She reminds me of Sourav Ganguly," says W.V. Raman, coach of Indian women's team and someone who knows a thing or two about graceful left-handed batting. Smriti is not just the most stylish batter in Women's Cricket but one of the most feared as well - she sits atop the ICC's ODI rankings. "Becoming the world's best batter was something that I always wanted," says Smriti. She has reached there at the age of 22 with 1,951 runs at an average of 42.41 and a strike rate of 83.51 from 50 ODIs.
2. Striking at close to 120 in T20s, she is also sought after by franchises in the leagues of Australia and England. She was the leading run scorer and the 'Player of the Tournament' in the England and Wales Cricket Board's Kia Super League last year. She will re-join Western Storm for the upcoming edition. Smriti is poised to carry forward the legacy of Mithali Raj, a world-class performer whose example has served as an inspiration for two decades, especially at moments when the game's survival faced challenges.
3. Women's cricket in India has come a long way from the dark ages when players travelled unreserved on trains and, on occasion, on bullock carts. Mithali and other brave women like Jhulan Goswami have made the path easier for their successors. The inflection point, on the field, came against defending champion Australia in the World Cup semifinal in 2017 in England. An astonishing 171 not out off 115 balls by Harmanpreet Kaur- an innings regarded by many as one of the finest ever - not just took India to the final but also caught the imagination of a nation.
4. The turnout at the women's T20 challenge in Jaipur (increasing from roughly 4000 on the first day to about 15,000 for the final) were an encouraging sign of the game's growing popularity. But it can do with increased corporate interest. Smriti's ability to draw new fans can help with that. There is something about her batting: after watching it for the first time, you are keen to find out when India plays next. Smriti could do for cricket what Sania Mirza did for tennis and Saina Nehwal for badminton – they put their sports in limelight with their campaigns on court and in ad spots.

5. That will represent a remarkable achievement for someone who began her cricketing journey in Sangli, Maharashtra, not one of the game's big centres. Smriti's first inspiration was her brother Shravan. He was a promising batsman who played for the Maharashtra junior team. It was through him that Rahul Dravid presented Smriti with one of his bats. She used that bat on international debut, against Bangladesh at Vadodara in 2013. Some six months later, the bat helped her make much bigger news: Smriti hit a stunning 224 off 150 balls for Maharashtra against Gujarat in a West Zone Under- 19 one-day game. "The knock made people aware of Smriti's talent," says her first coach Anant Tambvekar.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate of given options: (1×5=5)

- (a) Smriti Mandhana sits atop the ICC's ODI rankings because she:
- (i) is the most stylish batter
 - (ii) is the most feared batter
 - (iii) always wanted to be the best
 - (iv) has an excellent strike rate of 83.51 and average 42.41
- (b) Smriti is in demand by franchises in the leagues of Australia and England for:
- (i) seeking opportunity in T20s
 - (ii) being player of the tournament
 - (iii) being the leading run- scorer
 - (iv) joining Western Storm
- (c) Author mentions the role of players in evolving women's cricket, but the one who inspired many is:
- (i) Mithali Raj
 - (ii) Jhulan Goswami
 - (iii) Harmanpreet Kaur
 - (iv) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) The period when players travelled unreserved on trains has been referred to as:
- (i) occasion
 - (ii) bullock carts
 - (iii) women's cricket
 - (iv) dark ages
- (e) Smriti's talent was appreciated for her knock with the bat presented to her by:
- (i) brother Shravan
 - (ii) Rahul Dravid
 - (iii) Anant Tamvekar
 - (iv) Maharashtra Junior Team

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:**(1×5=5)**

- (a) Which legacy of Mithali Raj is to be carried forward by Smriti Mandhana?
- (b) Why has Smriti been compared to Sourav Ganguly?
- (c) When did the game catch the imagination of the nation?
- (d) What is common between Smriti, Sania and Saina?
- (e) How would Women Cricket game become more popular?

1.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following:**(1×2=2)**

- (a) ready to move/ ready to act(para 2)
- (b) a change(para 3)

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8 Marks)

1. The Indian Himalayas, which constitute about 12% of the country's land mass, is home to about 30.16% of its fauna, says a new publication from the zoological survey of India.
2. The publication, Faunal Diversity of Indian Himalaya, lists 30,377 species in the region. Spread across six states – from Jammu and Kashmir in the west through Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and West Bengal's Darjeeling to Arunachal Pradesh in the far east – the Indian Himalayas are divided into two biogeographic zones- the Trans-Himalaya and the Himalaya, based on physiographic, climatic and eco-biological attributes. The entire region, spread over 3.95 lakh square kilometre is home to 280 species of mammals and 940 species of birds. The Central Himalayas are the most rich in faunal diversity with 14,183 species, followed by the West Himalayas which is home to 12,022 species.
3. Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director of ZSI, one of the authors of the publication, said no other geographic region in the country is as unique and influences the ecology and bio- geography of the country as the Indian Himalayas. According to Dr Chandra, 85 taxonomic experts and specialists of various groups of faunal groups actively collaborated and contributed more than 50 chapters on the organisms, their habitats and the threats facing them.
4. Measuring the range of species spread over the biotic provinces of the vast Indian Himalayan land mass, the authors and to identify areas for future research. Dr Chandra said the fauna of the region exhibited and intermingling of both the Oriental and Ethiopian elements. He explained that the eastern parts of the Indian Himalayas, a biodiversity hotspot, had tropical elements with their affinities from Indo Chinese region. The fauna of the western part of the Indian Himalayas on the other hand, comprises the Mediterranean elements.
5. The Indian Himalayas also have 131 protected areas, which cover 9.6% of the entire protected area of the country, almost the same as Western Ghats, another biodiversity hotspot in the country. The protected area include 20 national parks, 71 like wildlife sanctuaries, five tiger reserves and seven Ramsar Wetland sites.

6. The publication lists 133 vertebrate species of the region cited as threatened in the IUCN Red List. This includes 43 species of mammals like the critically endangered Pygmy Hog, the Namdapha flying squirrel and the endangered Snow leopard, the Red Panda and the Kashmir Gray Langur. 52 species of birds are also in the threatened category like the critically endangered White Bellied Heron and Siberian Crane and vulnerable species like the Black Necked Crane and the Indian Spotted Eagle, among others. Of the 940 bird species found in the Indian Himalayas, 39 are endemic to the region. The Indian Himalayas host 1249 species or subspecies of butterflies, with the highest density recorded in the Arunachal Pradesh. Some of the rare high altitude butterflies found in the Himalayas are Ladakh banded Apollo and Red Apollo, listed under schedule 1 and schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, respectively.
7. According to experts, most of the threatened species of vertebrates, particularly mammals, require population assessment and study of the role of climate change on their habitat. Climate change is the major threat as far as mammals and birds are concerned. The impact is visible in the shifting distribution of sensitive species like the Asiatic Black Bear, the Snow Leopard, and the Himalayan Marmot. Carnivores and their habitats are threatened by ever-increasing human wildlife conflict in the region. Habitat loss due to land use change, illegal wildlife trade, forest fires and increasing destructive activities pose threats to this Himalayan biodiversity.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (4 Marks)

2.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (4 Marks)

SECTION- B
WRITING SKILLS: 30 Marks

3. You are Rihana/Rehan, head girl/head boy of SDAV Public school, Mubarakpur, Delhi. An excursion to Taj Mahal has been organised by your school during winter vacation. Write a notice to be displayed on the school notice board informing students about the visit and inviting the names of those who are desirous to join.

Or (4 Marks)

Design and draft a poster on the topic 'Global warming a warning for all'. Make the poster appealing and catchy.

4. You are Eliza/Ethan, M – C/8, G.K2, Delhi. You feel very strongly about the ill treatment meted out to stray dogs at the hands of callous and indifferent people. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily giving your views on why some people behave in such a manner and how these dogs should be treated. (word limit-120 to 150 words)

Or (6 Marks)

You are Neelam/Neil, the student prefect in charge of the Readers' club of your school. You have been asked to place an order for children's story books (age 9-12 years). Write a letter to P.K Book Depot, Ansari Road, Delhi, placing an order for the books. Invent the necessary details.

5. You are Niharika/Nipun, a student of class 11, studying in ROS International School, Rohini, Delhi. You have observed at a few places that taps keep on dripping continuously due to which a lot of water is wasted. Write an article in 150-200 words for your school magazine regarding wastage of water due to the leaking taps.

Or

(10 Marks)

A special assembly was organised in your school on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti to impress upon the students that nonviolence is the only way to bring peace to the troubled world. Write a report in 150 to 200 words about the event, to be published in your school magazine. You are Kanishtha/Kartikay.

6. You are Arpita/Arpit of Ideal Learning School, Karol Bagh, Delhi and commute to your school every day by Metro. You notice the benefits of travelling by Metro. Write a speech to be delivered during morning assembly on the topic- Use public convenience; control pollution. (word limit- 150 to 200 words)..

Or

(10 Marks)

Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp etc.) are creating disaffection in society. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION-C (Text Books)

7 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

- (7.1) Far far from gusty waves these children's faces (1x4 =4)
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor;
The tall girl with her weighed-down head

- Who are these children?
- Which figure of speech has been used in the second line?
- Why is the tall girl's head weighed down?
- What does the word "pallor" mean?

- (7.2) It was so warm, so bright! The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods;
and in the open field back of the sawmill, the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was
all much more tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist,
and hurried off to school. (1x4=4)

- How was the day?
- What was more tempting than the rules of participle?
- Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- What did he finally do?

- 8. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each: (2×5=10)**
- a) Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers?
 - b) What was Eco's theory about 'empty spaces'?
 - c) What is the theme of the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?
 - d) How does Mr. Lamb react when Derry enters his garden?
 - e) What was the prediction made by the astrologers when the king was born?
 - f) What kind of person was Evans?
 - g) Did Hana think the Japanese tortured their prisoners of war? Why?

- 9. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6 Marks)**
Why does the author say that Subbu was 'tailor made' for films?

OR

Describe the efforts made by Douglas to overcome his fear of water.

- 10. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6 Marks)**

Why is an adult's perspective on life different from that of a child's?

OR

Children are keen observers and they notice every happening in their surroundings. Injustice in any form cannot escape being unnoticed by them. Explain with reference to 'Memories of Childhood'.