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HS/XII/A/e/NC/26

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ELECTIVE ENGLISH

(New Course)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

General Instructions :

- (i) Write all the answers in the Answer Script.
- (ii) Attempt all parts of a question together at one place.

SECTION—A

(Marks : 20)

1. Read the passage given below :

1. The Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate and access information. Social media platforms have become an integral part of our daily lives, allowing us to connect with people from all over the world. We can share our thoughts, ideas and experiences with others and stay updated about what's happening around us.

2. However, excessive use of social media can have negative effects on our mental health. Studies have shown that spending too much time on social media can lead to feelings of loneliness, anxiety and depression. Moreover, the constant comparison with others on social media can lead to low self-esteem and a distorted view of reality.
3. Despite these risks, social media can also be a powerful tool for good. It can be used to spread awareness about important issues, mobilize support for social causes and provide a platform for marginalized voices. Many people have used social media to connect with others who share similar interests and passions.
4. Social media has also changed the way we consume news and information. With the rise of online news sources and social media, people can now access information from anywhere in the world. This has made it easier for people to stay informed about current events and make informed decisions.
5. In conclusion, social media is a double-edged sword. While it has many benefits, it also has some drawbacks. By being aware of these risks and benefits, we can use social media in a way that is healthy and productive.

On the basis of your understanding, answer the following questions (any *twelve*) : 1×12=12

- (a) What has revolutionized the way we communicate and access information?
- (b) What have social media platforms become in our daily lives?

(3)

- (c) What can excessive use of social media lead to?
- (d) What is a negative effect of constant comparison on social media?
- (e) How can social media be used for good?
- (f) What has social media changed the way we do?
- (g) What is a benefit of online news sources and social media?
- (h) Why is it important to be aware of the risks and benefits of social media?
- (i) What can social media provide a platform for?
- (j) What is a result of spending too much time on social media?
- (k) How has social media impacted the way we stay informed?
- (l) What is social media compared to in the passage?
- (m) What can people use social media to connect with others about?
- (n) What is a drawback of social media?
- (o) What should we do to use social media in a healthy way?

(4)

2. Read the poem *Dust of Snow* given below :

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Based on your understanding of the poem, answer any
four of five given questions : 1×4=4

(a) Who is the poet of the poem *Dust of Snow*?

- (i) Robert Frost
- (ii) William Wordsworth
- (iii) Emily Dickinson
- (iv) Walt Whitman

(b) What fell on the poet from the hemlock tree?

- (i) Snowflakes
- (ii) Dust of snow
- (iii) Leaves
- (iv) Flowers

(5)

(c) What effect did the dust of snow have on the poet?

(d) Complete the sentence appropriately :

The poet's tone in the poem can be described as _____.

(e) Fill in the blank :

The dust of snow has given my heart a change of _____.

3. Read the passage given below :

1. A study conducted in urban schools found that 70% of teenagers spend more than 4 hours daily on smartphones, mostly on social media, gaming and streaming videos. Among these teens, 60% reported difficulty falling asleep and 45% experienced daytime fatigue. Experts found a strong correlation between late night screen time and decreased academic performance.
2. Interestingly, teenagers who limited smartphone use to 2 hours daily reported better sleep quality and higher concentration levels in class.
3. Schools have begun introducing 'digital wellness' programmes to encourage balanced smartphone use, promote outdoor activities and educate students about blue light exposure. The study highlights the

(6)

need for self-regulation and awareness in managing technology use.

<i>Daily Smartphone Use</i>	<i>% of Teens with Sleep Problems</i>
Less than 2 hours	15%
2–4 hours	30%
4–6 hours	60%
More than 6 hours	75%

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any *four* of five given questions : 1×4=4

(a) Fill in the blank by selecting the appropriate option :

Late night screen time is strongly correlated with decreased _____ in class.

(i) academic performance/concentration

(ii) sleep quality

(iii) alertness

(iv) reasoning power

(b) Compare sleep problem percentages between teenagers using less than 2 hours and those using more than 6 hours of smartphones daily.

(c) Name one intervention schools have introduced to improve students' digital wellness.

(7)

(d) State True or False :

The main conclusion of the study is that government intervention and regulation is needed to manage teenage smartphone use.

(e) Do you think technology is harmful or helpful for teenagers according to the passage?

SECTION—B

(**Applied Grammar and Writing**)

(Marks : 28)

4. Transform the following sentences as per the given instructions (any *eight*) : 1×8=8

(a) The chef prepares a special menu for the guests every weekend.

(Begin : A special menu ...)

(b) She is very tired. She can't work.

(Use 'too')

(c) I will meet you at 5 PM.

(Transform the sentence into a question)

(d) The teacher said, "Keep quiet."

(Begin : The teacher asked ...)

(e) He is rich. He can afford a luxury car.

(Rewrite using 'enough')

(8)

- (f) If you don't hurry, you will miss the train.
(Use 'unless' in the sentence)
- (g) This is the best cake I have ever tasted.
(Use 'never' in the sentence)
- (h) The book is very interesting. I couldn't put it down.
(Use 'so ... that')
- (i) She is not as tall as her sister.
(Change into a comparative sentence)
- (j) Let's go to the park.
(Change into a suggestion)

5. Answer any *three* of the following four questions
in 120–150 words each : 5×3=15

- (a) Write an essay discussing the benefits of reading books. Explain how reading can improve your knowledge, imagination and language skills.
- (b) Write an essay analyzing the factors contributing to the rise in teenage mental health issues in recent years and the most effective solutions being implemented.
- (c) Write an essay exploring the meaning of fashion, its influence on individuals and its impact on society.
- (d) In today's fast-paced world, where lifestyles and communication are constantly evolving, write an essay exploring how core values such as respect, honesty and kindness are affected.

6. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 120–150 words : 5

- (a) India is a land of diversity. One way in which it makes us feel proud of it is the number of festivals we enjoy. Write an article on 'Festivals of India'.
- (b) Write a report about a recent event in your school. Include details like what happened, who was involved, when and where it took place and why it was important.

SECTION—C

(**Textbook**)

(Marks : 32)

7. (a) Attempt any *one* of the two extracts (i) and (ii) given below : 6

- (i) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 1×6=6

“Her conviction was so real that I boarded the last train to Rome that same night. As for me, I was so influenced by what she said that from then on I considered myself a survivor of some catastrophe I never experienced. I still have not returned to Vienna.”

1. What did the narrator do after being influenced by Frau Frieda's conviction?
2. Why did the narrator consider himself a survivor of a catastrophe?

(10)

3. Has the narrator returned to Vienna since that night?
 4. What can be inferred about the narrator's attitude towards Frau Frieda's words?
 5. What kind of catastrophe did the narrator consider himself a survivor of?
 6. Which word can be a good synonym for 'catastrophe'?
- (A) Miracle
(B) Triumph
(C) Windfall
(D) Disaster

Or

- (ii) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 1×6=6

"It was hard work—a hard life—but now that she was about to leave it she did not find it a wholly undesirable life."

1. Who does 'she' refer to here?
2. What does the phrase 'hard work' suggest about her past experience?
3. What does her reflection tell us about her emotional state?

(11)

4. What does the line “now that she was about to leave it she did not find it a wholly undesirable life” highlight about her character?
5. How does the line contribute to the overall tone of the story?
6. Why is her realization significant in the context of the story?

(b) Attempt any *one* of the two extracts (i) and (ii) given below :

6

- (i) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 1×6=6

“Bright Flowers slit a Calyx
And soared upon a Stem
Like Hindered Flags—Sweet hoisted—
With Spices—in the Hem—
’Twas more—I cannot mention—
How mean—to those that see—
Vandyke’s Delineation
Of Nature’s—Summer Day !”

1. What did the bright flowers do to the Calyx?
2. How are the flowers described as being on the stem?
3. What is mentioned as being in the hem of the flowers?

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4. What does the poet say they cannot do?
5. What season is being described in the poem?
6. Which word or group of words is a good antonym for 'hoisted'?
 - (A) Raised
 - (B) Lifted
 - (C) Raised up
 - (D) Lowered down

Or

- (ii) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 1×6=6

“Or listen to the clocktowers
Of any old well-managed city
beating their gongs round the clock,
each slightly

Off the others' time, deeper or lighter
in its bronze, beating out a different
sequence each half-hour, out of
the accidents
of alloy, a maker's shaking hand
in Switzerland, or the mutual distances
commemorating a donor's whim.”

1. What is being described in the extract?
2. What do the clocktowers do?

3. Why do the clocktowers have slightly different times?
4. What commemorates a donor's whim in the extract?
5. How often do the clocktowers beat out a different sequence?
6. Which word serves as an antonym of 'commemorating'?
 - (A) Honouring
 - (B) Memorializing
 - (C) Disregarding
 - (D) Remembering

8. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 30–40 words : 2

- (a) What is the poet's attitude towards love in the poem *A Lecture upon the Shadow*?
- (b) Who is Dr. Margolin and what is his background?

9. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 40–50 words : 3

- (a) How does the poet's vision of the Abyssinian maid and her song relate to the creative process and artistic inspiration in *Kubla Khan*?
- (b) What were the events that led to Dr. Margolin's confused state of mind in *A Wedding in Brownsville*?

(14)

10. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 120–150 words : 5

(a) Discuss the difference between natural slavery to Nature and unnatural slavery to Man as described by Shaw in his essay *Freedom*.

(b) How does D. H. Lawrence's essay *Why the Novel Matters* reflect the wholeness of life?

11. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 30–40 words : 2

(a) Describe Raja's experiences in the circus and film industries. How does he adapt to these environments? 1+1=2

(b) Describe Dr. Pal's role in the story and his relationship with Margayya. How does Dr. Pal's advice influence Margayya's financial decisions?

12. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 40–50 words : 3

(a) Analyze Raja's interactions with humans throughout the novel. How does his perspective on humans change over time and what does this reveal about his character? 1+1+1=3

(b) Discuss the themes of ambition and greed in the novel. How do these themes drive the plot and character development, particularly in the case of Margayya? 1+2=3

(15)

13. Answer any *one* of the following three questions in 120–150 words : 5

- (a) How does the ending of Tagore's *Chandalika* reflect Prakriti's inner transformation and moral awakening? 2+3=5
- (b) Analyze the relationship between Margayya and his son. How does Margayya's obsession with wealth and status affect their relationship and what insights does this offer into the consequences of prioritizing material success? 3+2=5
- (c) In what ways does the monk guide Raja toward self-realization and what does this say about compassion and understanding? 3+2=5

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