

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER  
CLASS XII  
ENGLISH CORE**

**Time- 3 hr.**

**SET B**

**M.M-100**

The question paper is divided into three sections.

**Section A : Reading**

**30 Marks**

**Section B : Advanced Writing Skills**

**30 Marks**

**Section C : Literature, Text Books & Long Reading Texts**

**40 Marks**

**Instructions:**

**1. All questions are compulsory.**

**2. You may attempt any section at a time.**

**3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.**

<b>SECTION A READING – 30 Marks</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past 25 years was the conquest of the Northwest Passage, powered by sail, human muscle, and determination. In 100 days, over three summers (1986-88), Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell accomplished the first wind-powered crossing of the Northwest Passage.</i></li> <li>2. <b>In Jeff MacInnis's words...</b>Our third season. We weave our way through the labyrinth of ice, and in the distance we hear an unmistakable sound. A mighty bowhead whale is nearby, and its rhythmic breaths fill us with awe. Finally we see it relaxed on the surface, its blowhole quivering like a volcanic cone, but it senses our presence and quickly sounds. We are very disappointed. We had only good intentions - to revel in its beautiful immensity and to feel its power. Mike thinks how foolish it would be for this mighty beast to put any faith in us. After all, we are members of the species that had almost sent the bowhead into extinction with our greed for whale oil and bone. It is estimated that as many as 38,000 bowheads were killed off eastern Baffin Island in the 1800s; today there are about 200 left.</li> <li>3. The fascinating and sometimes terrifying wildlife keeps us entertained during our explorations. Bearded harp and ring seals greet us daily. The profusion of bird life is awesome; at times we see and smell hundreds of thousands of thick-billed murrelets clinging to their cliffside nests. Our charts show we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents upswell and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times these animals scare the living daylight out of us. They have a knack of sneaking up behind us and then shooting out of the water and belly flopping for maximum noise and splash. A horrendous splash coming from behind has a heart-stopping effect in polar bear country.</li> <li>4. We have many encounters with the "Lords of the Arctic," but we are always cautious, observant, and ever so respectful that we are in their domain. In some regions the land is totally devoid of life, while in others</li> </ol>	<b>12</b>

	<p>the pulse of life takes our breath away. Such is the paradox of the Arctic; It's wastelands flow into oasis' that are found nowhere else on the face of the earth. Many times we find ancient signs of Inuit people who lived here, superbly attuned to the land. We feel great respect for them; this landscape is a challenge at every moment.</p> <p>5. We face a 35 mile open water passage across Prince Regent Inlet on Baffin Island that will take us to our ultimate goal - Pond Inlet on Baffin Bay. The breakers look huge from the water's edge. Leaning into the hulls, like bobsledders at the starting gate, we push as hard as we can down the gravel beach to the sea. We catch the water and keep pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves aboard. Immediately, we begin paddling with every ounce of effort. Inch by agonizing inch, Perception moves offshore. Sweat pours off our bodies. Ahead of us, looming gray-white through the fog, we see a massive iceberg riding the current like the ghost of a battleship. There is no wind to fill our sails and steady the boat, and the chaotic motion soon brings seasickness. Slowly the wind begins to build. Prince Regent Inlet now looks ominous with wind and waves. The frigid ocean hits us square in the face and chills us to the bone.</p> <p>6. We were on the fine edge. Everything the Arctic had taught us over the last 90 days was now being tested. We funneled all that knowledge, skill, teamwork, and spirit into this momentous crossing... If we went over in these seas we could not get the boat back up. Suddenly the wind speed plummeted to zero as quickly as it had begun... Now we were being pushed by the convulsing waves toward sheer 2,000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power. Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey. At 05:08 on the morning of our hundredth day, speeding into Baffin Bay, the spray from our twin hulls makes rainbows in the sun as we complete the first sail powered voyage through the Northwest Passage.</p> <p>7. We have journeyed through these waters on their terms, moved by the wind, waves and current. The environment has always been in control of our destiny; we have only tried to respond in the best possible way. We've been awake for nearly 23 hours, but we cannot sleep. The joy and excitement are too great. Our Hobie Cat rests on the rocky beach, the wind whistling in her rigging, her bright yellow hulls radiant in the morning sunlight. She embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic - <b>adaptability</b>. (838 words)</p>	
<p><b>I.</b></p>	<p>On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option</p> <p>1. The passage is about the</p> <p>A. author's sailing adventure through the Northwest Passage</p> <p>B. flora and fauna of the Arctic</p> <p>C. survival skills needed while sailing</p> <p>D. saving the Arctic</p> <p>2. "Lords of the Arctic," (Para 4) refers to</p>	<p><b>(1x4 = 4)</b></p>

	<p>A. Wind breakers  B. Icebergs  C. Polar Bears  D. Innuits</p> <p>3. The author's sailing vessel is named  A. Prince Regent  B. Hobie Cat  C. Perception  D. Arctic</p> <p>4. 'We were on the fine edge' refers to  A. the Prince Regent Inlet  B. the ominous sail  C. the frigid ocean  D. their expedition</p> <p><b>1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why does the author feel disappointed to see the bowhead whale disappear into the ocean?</li> <li>2. How does his sailing partner rationalize it?</li> <li>3. What reason does the author give for a thriving wildlife in the Arctic?</li> <li>4. What is the paradox of the Arctic?</li> <li>5. What skills helped the author and his partner survive the adventure?</li> <li>6. What is the author's sailing vessel an embodiment of?</li> </ol> <p><b>1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Abundance (Para 3)</li> <li>b) Threatening (Para 5)</li> </ol>	<p>(1x6=6)</p> <p>(1x2 = 2)</p>
<p>Q2.</p>	<p><b>Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By the time a child is six or seven she has all the essential avoidances well enough by heart to be trusted with the care of a younger child. And she also develops a number of simple techniques. She learns to weave firm square balls from palm leaves, to make pinwheels of palm leaves or frangipani blossoms, to climb a coconut tree by walking up the trunk on flexible little feet, to break open a coconut with one firm well-directed blow of a knife as long as she is tall, to play a number of group games and sing the songs which go with them, to tidy the house by picking up the litter on the stony floor, to bring water from the sea, to spread out the copra to dry and to help gather it in when rain threatens, to go to a neighboring house and bring back a lighted faggot for the chief's pipe or the cook-house fire.</li> <li>2. But in the case of the little girls all these tasks are merely supplementary to the main business of baby-tending. Very small boys also have some care of the younger children, but at eight or nine years of age they are usually relieved of it. Whatever rough edges have not been smoothed off by this responsibility for</li> </ol>	<p><b>10</b></p>

younger children are worn off by their contact with older boys. For little boys are admitted to interesting and important activities only so long as their behavior is circumspect and helpful.

3. Where small girls are brusquely pushed aside, small boys will be patiently tolerated and they become adept at making themselves useful. The four or five little boys who all wish to assist at the important, business of helping a grown youth lasso reef eels, organize themselves into a highly efficient working team; one boy holds the bait, another holds an extra lasso, others poke eagerly about in holes in the reef looking for prey, while still another tucks the captured eels into his lavalava. The small girls, burdened with heavy babies or the care of little staggerers who are too small to adventure on the reef, discouraged by the hostility of the small boys and the scorn of the older ones, have little opportunity for learning the more adventurous forms of work and play.
4. So while the little boys first undergo the chastening effects of baby-tending and then have many opportunities to learn effective cooperation under the supervision of older boys, the girls' education is less comprehensive. They have a high standard of individual responsibility, but the community provides them with no lessons in cooperation with one another. This is particularly apparent in the activities of young people: the boys organize quickly; the girls waste hours in bickering, innocent of any technique for quick and efficient cooperation. (473 words)

Adapted from: *Coming of Age in Samoa*, Margaret Mead  
(1928)

**2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option**

a) The primary purpose of the passage with reference to the society under discussion is to

**(1x2=2)**

- i. explain some differences in the upbringing of girls and boys
- ii. criticize the deficiencies in the education of girls
- iii. give a comprehensive account of a day in the life of an average young girl
- iv. delineate the role of young girls

b. The list of techniques in paragraph one could best be described as

- i. household duties
- ii. rudimentary physical skills
- iii. important responsibilities
- iv. useful social skills

**2.2 Answer the following as briefly as possible:**

**(1x6=6)**

- a) What is the prime responsibility of a girl child by the time she is six or seven?
- b) What simple techniques does she learn at this stage?
- c) What household chores is she responsible for?
- d) In what way is a boy's life different?
- e) What qualities ensure that the boys move on to a higher responsibility?
- f) Why do small girls have little opportunity for learning the more

	<p>adventurous forms of work and play?</p> <p>g) In what way is the girls' education less comprehensive?</p> <p>h) How is this apparent?</p> <p><b>2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:</b></p> <p>(i) brusquely (para 3)</p> <p>(ii) scorn (para 3)</p>	(1x2=2)
<p><b>Q3.</b></p>	<p><b>Read the following passage carefully:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It seems that there is never enough time in the day. But, since we all get the same 24 hours, why is it that some people achieve so much more with their time than others? The answer lies in good time management. “Time management” refers to the way that you organize and plan how long you spend on specific activities. Good time management requires an important shift in focus from activities to results: <b>being busy isn't the same as being effective.</b> (Ironically, the opposite is often closer to the truth.) Spending your day in a frenzy of activity often achieves less, because you're dividing your attention between so many different tasks. Good time management lets you work smarter – not harder – so you get more done in less time.</li> <li>2. It may seem counter-intuitive to dedicate precious time to learning about time management, instead of using it to get on with your work, but the benefits are enormous. It improves productivity and efficiency. Your reputation as a professional grows. The stress levels dip and the a world of opportunities opens up for you. Your career advances and important goals are reached.</li> <li>3. Failing to manage your time effectively can have some very undesirable consequences. Deadlines are missed and the work flow is not only inefficient but of poor quality. It dents your reputation as a professional and your career is in in danger of being stalled. As a result your stress level shoots up.</li> <li>4. Everyday interruptions at work can be a key barrier to managing your time effectively and, ultimately, can be a barrier to your success. Think back to your last workday, and consider for a minute the many interruptions that occurred. There may have been phone calls, emails, hall way conversations, colleagues stopping by your office, or anything else that unexpectedly demanded your attention and, in doing so, distracted you from the task at-hand. Because your day only has so many hours in it, a handful of small interruptions can rob you of the time you need to achieve your goals and be successful in your work and life. More than this, they can break your focus, meaning that you have to spend time re-engaging with the thought processes needed to successfully complete complex work. The key to controlling interruptions is to know what they are and whether they are necessary, and to plan for them in your daily schedule. (403 words)</li> </ol> <p>a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>5</b></p>

	<p>wherever necessary.</p> <p>b) Write a summary of the above in 80 words using the notes.</p>	<b>3</b>
	<p><b>SECTION B</b></p> <p><b>ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS – 30 Marks</b></p>	
4.	<p>In a recent survey it was found that your city has the highest rate of pollution in the country. Innumerable vehicles on the road and lack of green cover have made the air unfit to breathe. Draft a poster in about 50 words, creating awareness about the need to keep your city clean and green.. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the same. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.</p>	<b>4</b>
5.	<p>Your school recently launched a GPRS system in the school buses which will enable the parents to keep track of their children while they are travelling in the bus. The service, however, is not smooth and is facing a lot of problems. As the Transport Incharge of DML Public School, Delhi, write a letter in about 120-150 words to the Manager, Forumloft, 21 Park Street, Delhi, complaining about the same.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Your school has opened a new activity wing for the kindergarten students for which you require play equipment. Write a letter to the Manager, OK Toys, 21, Daryaganj, Delhi, in about 120-150 words placing an order for educational toys and other play equipment. You are Neera/Naresh, Manager, DML Public School, Delhi</p>	<b>6</b>

6.	<p>Although students have been using cell phones consistently in their daily lives for almost a decade, schools continue to resist allowing the devices into the classroom. Schools generally grapple with new technologies, but cell phones' reputation as a nuisance and a distraction has been hard to dislodge. Using information given below prepare a speech in about 150-200 words in favour of or against the cell phone being allowed in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critics believe that allowing these devices will only encourage their non-educational use in school</li> <li>• they will be a significant distraction for teachers and students</li> <li>• a potential tool for cheating</li> <li>• could foster cyberbullying</li> <li>• But on the other hand BYOD-Bring Your Own Device is gaining momentum as a learning tool, not just a toy for entertainment</li> <li>• can be cost effective for the schools instead of having to purchase technology for students.</li> <li>• many educators believe that banning any type of technology can foster inequity</li> <li>• Schools can develop rules for how students physically handle the device in the classroom.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>It is a toss-up between Class X boards &amp; CCE. The board exams were once considered a rite of passage but with the introduction of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation, (CCE), students have greater choice. Write a speech in about 150-200 words in favour of or against the topic giving reasons for your stand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCE allows students to study select portions of the year's syllabus for the examination.</li> <li>• Stress free and comprehensive</li> <li>• encourages project work more than rote learning</li> <li>• Board exams have a standardized system of evaluation</li> <li>• Board exams cater to the competitive spirit in students</li> <li>• Board exams provide an equal platform for students from all strata of schools.</li> </ul>	10
7.	<p>They may have stood the test of time but there is a growing demand for the need to protect the country's monuments. Write an article in about 150-200 words for your school magazine on how we can conserve our built heritage. You are Akshay/ Akshita. of Graham Public School, Indore.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>As part of an Entrepreneurship project the commerce students of your school recently launched a product called Oatlicious. They not only set up a</p>	10

	company to produce the product but also designed its advertising and marketing strategy. Write an article in about 150-200 words for your school magazine giving details of the enterprise and its launch. You are Akshay/ Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.	
	<b>SECTION C</b> <b>LITERATURE, TEXT BOOKS, A LONG READING TEXT – 40 Marks</b>	
8.	<p>Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Perhaps the Earth can teach us As when everything seems dead And later proves to be alive Now I will count upto twelve And you keep quiet and I will go.”</i></p> <p>a) What does the Earth teach us? b) What does the poet mean to achieve by counting upto twelve? c) What is the significance of “keeping quiet”?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer’s hand.</i></p> <p>a) Why are Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering? b) What is the result of the fluttering? c) Explain: ‘The massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band’. d) What is Aunt Jennifer’s state of mind?</p>	<p>1 1 2</p> <p>1 1 1 1</p>
9.	<p>Answer any <b>four</b> of the following in about 30 -40 words each:</p> <p>a) How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day? b) Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas. c) How does the poem, ‘An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum’, portray/describe the slum children? d) According to Keats what moves away the pain and suffering from human life? e) How did the Tiger King’s Diwan prove to be resourceful? f) How does Evans escape from the jail?</p>	<b>3x4=12</b>
10.	<p>Answer any <b>one</b> of the following questions in about 120-150 words :</p> <p>Edla is able to bring about a change of heart in the Pedlar. Justify this with reference to the story, ‘The Rattrap’. What qualities helped her bring about this transformation?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?</p>	<b>6</b>
11.	Answer any <b>one</b> of the following questions in about 120-150 words :	<b>6</b>



	<p>What efforts were made by Dr . Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Do you think Jack shared an affinity with Roger Skunk? Explain.</p>	
12.	<p>Answer any <u>one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words:</p> <p>How do both the thefts determine Marner’s interaction with the people of Raveloe?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>What disadvantages does Griffin face because of his invisibility?</p>	<b>6</b>
13.	<p>Answer any <u>one</u> of the following questions in about 120-150 words</p> <p>Not only does Eppie have golden hair but she also has a heart of gold. Justify by giving instances from the novel.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Griffin is the model of science without humanity. Justify with reference to the Invisible Man.</p>	<b>6</b>