

English Assignment: Class-XI

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

In talking with people don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ. Begin by emphasizing the things on which you agree. Keep emphasizing, If possible, that you are both striving for the same end and your only difference is one of method and not of purpose.

Get the other people saying —Yes, Yes, at the outset. Keep him, if possible, from saying 'No'. A 'No' response is a most difficult handicap to overcome. When a person has said 'No', all his pride of personality demands that he remains consistent with himself. He may later feel that the 'No' was ill-advised; Nevertheless, there is his precious pride to consider. Once having said a thing, he must stick to it. Hence it is of the very greatest importance that we start a person in the affirmative direction.

A skillful speaker gets at the outset a number of 'Yes' responses. He has thereby set the psychological processes of his listeners moving in the affirmative direction. It is like the movement of a billiard ball. Propel it in one direction, and it takes some force to deflect it, far more force to send it back in the opposite direction.

The psychological patterns here are quite clear. When a person says 'No' and really means it, he is doing far more than saying a word of two letters. His entire Organism-glandular, nervous, muscular-gathers itself together into a condition of rejection. There is, usually in minute but sometimes in observable degree, a physical withdrawal or readiness for withdrawal. The whole neuro-muscular system, in short, sets itself on guard against acceptance where on the contrary, a person says 'Yes' none of the withdrawing activities take place. The organism is in a forward moving, accepting, open attitude. Hence, the more, —Yeses we can, at the very outset, induce, the more likely we are to succeed in capturing the attention for our ultimate proposal.

It is a very simple technique-this 'Yes' technique. And yet how much neglected! It often seems as if people get a sense of their own importance by antagonizing at the outset. The radical comes into a conference with his conservative brother, and immediately he must make them furious! What, as a matter of fact, is the good of it? Indeed, he is only psychologically stupid.

(i) Give very short answers:

1. Why does a person stick to his negative response for long?
2. How does a clever speaker move his listeners in the affirmative direction?
3. What is meant by physical withdrawal?
4. What is the psychological process of a listener compared to?
5. Which of the titles given below is the most appropriate one for the passage?
(a) Say 'Yes' or 'No' (b) A good speaker (c) Getting a Positive Response

(ii) Complete the following:

- (a) Though the 'Yes' technique is a simple technique it _____
- (b) _____ is a wrong way to begin a conversation.

(iii) Find words from the passage which mean the same as _____

- (a) refusal (para 4) -
(b) opposing (para5) -
(iv) Write the word from the passage which is the antonym of 'negative'.

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

British food best in the world

A British restaurant that serves bacon and egg ice cream has been voted the best place in the world to eat in Restaurant magazine's list of The World's 50 best restaurants. The Fat Duck restaurant, which was runners-up last year, claimed the coveted top spot. The owner and head chef Heston Blumenthal opened his restaurant ten years ago and soon developed a reputation for highly experimental and unorthodox dishes.

The menu includes leather, oak and tobacco chocolates, sardine on toast sorbet, snail porridge, and mousse dipped in liquid nitrogen. He is self taught and has pioneered the art of —molecular gastronomy— experiments with chemistry, physics, food and flavour that result in unique and unusual taste combinations.

Nearly 600 international restaurant owners, chefs and journalists participated in the poll to rank the best restaurants worldwide. A further thirteen British restaurants made it onto the elite eateries list, four in the top ten. This gives the home of fish and chips an unusual reputation as a culinary paradise. Britain is infamous for its bland and uninspiring food, which is scoffed at by the more sophisticated palates of its French neighbors. However, it seems the tide is turning : France had only eight restaurants in the top fifty and London was named in March by Gourmet magazine as the Gourmet Capital of the World. Ella Johnston, editor of Restaurant magazine, said British people are now —becoming more adventurous eaters—.

A) Complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate options from the given ones :

- (1) Last year the restaurant mentioned in the text was voted:
(a) in the third position (b) in the second position (c) in the first position (d) nowhere
- (2) Tobacco is important in this restaurant because:
(a) you can smoke it (b) you can eat it (c) you can chew it (d) you can inhale it
- (3) Great Britain has always been famous for:
(a) its bad food (b) its good food (c) its good cuisine (d) its excellent food
- (4) Ella Johnston is a :
(a) journalist (b) cook (c) customer (d) celebrity
- (5) The word in the first para of the passage which means the same as 'desired' is _____ .
(a) coveted (b) claimed (c) opened (d) voted

Q3. Read the following passage carefully:

DO IT RIGHT

You hope to do several things every day. At the end of each day, most of them are not done. You try using a „to-do list“ but discover in a short while that it is not helping you much. Tasks keep adding to it. In a few weeks, it starts looking like a list of things you will never do and you feel stressed about it.

Making a to-do list is not enough. It is useful only when you understand the key aspects of it and work on it further.

To begin with, recognise that a to-do list is only a pool of tasks. It is just a raw collection that gives you no idea of how you will get to it. To make it useful you have to define the „when“. Entering details about when you will do the different tasks, gives the to-do list a meaning. When you begin creating a schedule, your focus shifts to how long you have to work on each task to complete it. This way you are forced to be realistic about your goals.

You cannot do all the tasks on the list on the same day. So, you should learn to prioritize. Rank the tasks using numbers or group them using letters of the alphabet, according to the order of importance. Now start working according to the schedule where your schedule went wrong by paying close attention to how you are spending the day.

Some of the possible reasons are: - you waste time, made mistake in assessing how much time a task would take or deal with „urgent“ tasks frequently. If the reason is wasting time, learn to concentrate on your work. If you made a mistake in time assessment, prepare a more realistic schedule.

Another way to prioritise tasks is based on the creative energy they require. Separate the tasks into creative and boring ones. This approach helps you to stay productive even during cheerless parts of the day.

Making schedule for items in your to-do list does not promise that all of them are accomplished. But you can at least be strategic about what is left behind and feel happy that you achieved what you accommodated in the finite space. This way you can begin the next day on a confident note rather than feeling helpless and frustrated about failing.

A) Answer the questions given below, on the basis of your reading of the passage:

- (a) What makes a “to-do list” useful?
- (b) Why is the “to-do list” described as a raw collection?
- (c) How do you become realistic about your goals?
- (d) What is “prioritizing”?
- (e) What are the possible reasons for failure of accomplishing the things mentioned in the list?
- (f) How can “separating the tasks into creative and boring ones” be helpful?

B) Fill in with one appropriate word in each blank:-

If you just _____ (a) _____ on to the to-do list without understanding the key concepts the tasks become _____ (b) _____. For _____ (c) _____ your goals you should learn to _____ (d) _____ the tasks according to the order of their importance.

C) Find the opposites of the words given below, in the passage:-

(a) relieved (para 1)

(b) distract (para 5)

Q4. Read the following passage carefully:

Researchers say jogging alone is unhealthy.

A newly published report indicates that jogging could have adverse health effects, especially for those who do it alone. A team of researchers from Harvard University has suggested that going for a run on your own is not as healthy as previously believed and is nowhere near as beneficial as jogging as part of a group. They suggested it could actually be detrimental to one's health. Experiments conducted on rats indicated that running alone raises stress levels and stifles brain cell regeneration.

The researchers monitored two groups of rats on exercise wheels. One group exercised alone, the other as part of a rodent jogging team. After two weeks, the scientists conducted tests to ascertain the rate of brain cell growth in all of the test animals. The results revealed that the communal joggers had double the amount of new brain cells as the solo runners. Professor Gould concluded that : "When experienced in a group setting, running stimulates brain cell growth. However, when running occurs in social isolation, these positive effects are suppressed," Joggers around the world should perhaps take the research with a pinch of salt and remember that jogging is healthier than the rat race.

A) Complete the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate options from the given ones :

(1) Some Harvard researchers claim that jogging alone :

(a) is not healthy (b) is as healthy as it was thought
(c) is not as healthy as it was thought (d) is of no use

(2) Jogging alone :

(a) increases the production of brain cells (b) increases the size of the brain
(c) reduces the production of brain cells (d) regenerates cells

(3) The report suggests that if you decide to go jogging :

(a) you should do it on your own (b) you should do it with someone else
(c) you should do it when your brain tells you (d) you should isolate yourself

(4) The word „stimulates“ in Para 2 means :

(a) fuels (b) publicizes
(c) stirs (d) dampens

(5) In the last line the author is trying to be :

(a) sarcastic (b) humorous (c) funny (d) moralistic

Q5. Read the following passage carefully:

The secret of Leonardo Da Vinci's talent and Pablo Picasso's success may have been their dyslexia. The two men suffered from the „word blindness“ that affects as many as one in 12 children-but it seems it can also bring the keen spatial awareness that

makes the difference between a jobbing painter and a master of art.

The researchers put 41 men and women through tests to assess their visuo-spatial ability. Although we tend to think of the skill in terms of map-reading and marking, the ability to process 3D information accurately is also key to art and design.

Around half of those taking part were dyslexic and so had trouble learning to spell, read and write. The dyslexic men did better than the other men on many of the tests, including recalling the direction of the Queen's head on a postage stamp and reproducing designs using coloured blocks.

They were also faster and more accurate at navigating their way around a "virtual Town" on a computer screen the journal "Learning and Individual Differences" reports.

The researchers said there could be several explanations for the findings, including dyslexics developing an enhanced sense of space to compensate for problems with language. Also many dyslexic people prefer to work out problems by thinking and doing rather than by speaking. This could help dyslexic men develop the kind of skills they need to succeed in the artistic and creative world. However, the dyslexic women had no better spatial awareness than the other women, perhaps reflecting that the ability to manipulate 3D images tends to be more of a "male" trait.

"Now we have real evidence to indicate that dyslexic men are better in this area".

Artists known or believed to have suffered from dyslexia include Da Vinci, Picasso, Rodin and Andy Warhol. Da Vinci, who is also thought to have suffered from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, wrote this note backwards from right to left. Picasso had trouble in reading and struggled at school.

A) On the basis of your reading of the passage complete the following sentences :

1. One in 12 children in the world suffers from _____.
 2. Leonardo Da Vinci and Pablo Picasso are _____.
 3. Forty one men and women went through tests in order to _____.
 4. Dyslexics have difficulty in _____
 5. The _____ was recalled correctly by dyslexics better than normal persons.
 6. Dyslexics were quicker and more accurate _____.
 7. ADHD stands for _____
 8. Picasso struggled at school as _____
- Find the words from the passage which mean the same as :-
9. To control, to alter, (para5).....
 10. Shortage (para 6).....

Q6. Read the following passage carefully:

Acoustic Responsibility

We show an amazing tolerance for a form of pollution that is a growing problem : noise. Airplane traffic is increasing by five percent a year. Urban noise is doubling every ten years. By air, land and sea, we are facing an onslaught of noise that is threatening our ability to live in this world.

We have granted ourselves the right to make noise. But what about our responsibilities ? Have we developed a sense of acoustic responsibility ? The

evidence suggests that we have not. Many people seem to believe they have an unlimited right to make noise with cars and motorbikes, and with loud music at home and in the street. In some countries measures have been taken to force people to make less noise. In Britain, for example, a law has been passed preventing people from disturbing their neighbors with music at night.

It is widely accepted that we should deal with our rubbish in a responsible way. Noise is in reality a particularly dangerous form of rubbish. It destroys community life, pursues us into our homes, keeps us from sleeping and is the cause of many stress-related illnesses, as well as hearing loss.

Our acoustic environment belongs to all of us. Everyone has the right to use it, but no one has the right to abuse it. Let's start using it responsibly.

Complete the following statements by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones given below :

(1) The level of noise produced in cities and towns :

- (a) is four times higher every eight / ten years
- (b) is twice as high now as two years ago
- (c) is twice as high now as ten years ago
- (d) is five percent higher every two years

(2) The right to make noise :

- (a) is often questioned
- (b) is particularly dangerous
- (c) should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility
- (d) is granted to every citizen

(3) Many people :

- (a) think that they have the right to use noisy motorcycles or cars.
- (b) feel responsible for their noise.
- (c) decide on their own rights
- (d) think that cars and motorcycles are disturbing

(4) The author points out that :

- (a) people do not feel responsible for their rubbish
- (b) noise and garbage are problems that disturb us at home
- (c) we should accept our responsibility for noise as we do for rubbish
- (d) we have the right to use our environment our way

(5) The word in the passage which means „related to sound“ is _____ .

- (a) acoustic
- (b) ability
- (c) tolerance
- (d) pollution

Q7. Read the following passage carefully.

BRIDGE ACROSS ERAS

Long before the Chrysler or the Empire State Buildings glinted in the Sun, and even before the Statue of Liberty was unveiled, a marvel of modern engineering

became Big Apple's most enduring and appealing landmark, The Brooklyn Bridge.

The Brooklyn Bridge, the oldest and longest suspension bridge in the world and along with its two Stately 275-foot stone towers, is often dubbed as the „Eighth Wonder of the World“. It is a 1,825 meters steel-wire engineering marvel that links Manhattan with Brooklyn. On it, on an average 145,000 people drive, walk or bike everyday. For long it has been one of the city's most popular, recognizable and photogenic sights. And yet, it is more than just a national landmark.

At a time when American women were still struggling for voting rights, equality etc., and when everywhere they were asked „to do more and talk less“, a spirited Ms. Emily Warren Roebling did exactly what pleased her in the full glare of public gaze. She was, „wife, mother, lecturer, student, world traveller and club woman“ who, by chance, became „the first woman field engineer“ and pioneering example of independence.

Emily's brilliant engineer father-in-law, John Augustus Roebling designed the bridge. But during the construction, a series of mishaps occurred including his death due to tetanus. Emily's husband, Col. Washington, who was familiar with his father's bridge construction projects, took over. However, while working on the giant granite anchorages that were being built in caissons or watertight chambers, he was hit by a debilitating disease that paralyzed him.

With that the onus fell on Emily to complete the bridge. The intelligent lady was familiar with the nuances of “strength of materials, stress analysis, cable construction and in calculating catenary curves”--- things she learnt from her father- in-law, brother and husband. Then with Washington directing her, often with “spyglass” trained out of the window, Emily communicated with the project team, and with the regulatory authorities, to bring the project to completion.

When the bridge finally opened in the spring of 1883, it saw the most „exuberant public celebration of era“. As thousands of citizens noisily cheered and paparazzi were out in full force with their new fangled photography half-tone engraving process, US President Chester Arthur along with demure Emily grandly led the first ceremonial ride across the bridge.

Today, as a symbol of the Roebling's legacy and honor to this amazing woman, the bridge proudly credits her on a plaque: „Back of every great work we can find the self sacrificing devotion of a woman.”

Source - THE HINDU

I On the basis of your reading complete the sentences given below:-

- (a) The Brooklyn Bridge has been _____
- (b) It was designed by _____
- (c) Colonel Washington was not able to continue with the work started by his father because _____
- (d) Emily Roebling had learnt from her father-in-law, husband and brother _____
- (e) The first ceremonial ride across the bridge was led by _____

II Give very short answers:-

- (f) When was the bridge opened for public?

(g) How was Emily honoured for her accomplishment?

(h) Why is the passage titled „Bridge Across Eras“?

III Find the synonyms of the words given below, from the passage :-

(i) responsibility (para 5)

(j) weakening (para 4)

Q8. Read the following passage carefully:

What is bonsai ? It is not as is commonly believed, a tree turned dwarf.

Bonsai is an art worked with plants in a hollow pot to capture the moods of nature in a surprisingly limited space. It is designed to express the beauty struggle of a tree against the vagaries of nature which is rarely to be found among trees growing naturally in fields. In a sense bonsai can be compared with the Japanese Haiku, miniature poem of seventeen syllables.

Haiku expresses with a minimum of words a vast wealth of poetic creation. In this sense both bonsai and Haiku have something in common: a method of embracing much in little.

There are four important sections in a bonsai as in all plants. The trunk constitutes the very basis of a tree. It is, therefore, the most important part of a bonsai. It should taper gradually towards the top. Bonsai requires a careful pruning of the branches from time to time so that the trees looks beautiful from all sides.

The colour of the leaves indicates the health of a tree. It is, therefore, important to expose them to sunlight and open air. They are normally hardy plants and as a rule kept outdoors round the year and occasionally brought indoors for decoration and appreciation. A well shaped rootage lends a special charm to bonsai, suggesting stability and age.

It is an art that demands not only scientific observation but also much care and affection. It is almost a miracle that a miniature copy of a towering giant can be kept alive literally for centuries in a small pot.

Complete the statements by choosing the correct options :

(a) Bonsai is an art dealing with :

(i) Haiku (ii) age (iii) plants (iv) space

(b) Bonsai and Haiku are similar as both :

(i) express a lot in less (ii) use limited space (iii) express a wealth (iv) are miniatures

(c) To make bonsai tree look beautiful the branches must be :

(i) shaped well (ii) tied properly (iii) trimmed well (iv) decorated well

(d) A bonsai is generally kept outside as it :

(i) is a tough plant (ii) not appreciated (iii) cannot tolerate cold (iv) is a rule

(e) The word „vagaries“ means _____.

(i) atrocities (ii) care (iii) unpredictable changes (iv) carnage

GRAMMAR EXERCISES

Q1. Insert a, an or the if necessary.

1. He switched on . . . torch, read . . . meter and wrote . . . reading down on . . . back of . . . envelope.

2. I said in . . . surprise that . . . meter readers usually put . . . readings down in . . . book.
3. He said that he had had . . . book but that it had been burnt in . . . fire in . . . Mr Smith's house.
4. By this time I had come to . . . conclusion that he wasn't . . . genuine meter reader; an.moment he left . .house I rang . . . police.
5. Are John and Mary . . . cousins? ~No, they aren't . . . cousins; they are . . . brother and . . sister.
6. . . . fog was so thick that we couldn't see . . . side of . . . road. We followed . . . car in front of us and hoped that we were going . . . right way.
7. I can't remember . . . exact date of . . . storm, but I know it was . . . Sunday because everybody was at . . .church. On . . . Monday . . . post didn't come because . . . roads were blocked by . . . fallen trees.
8. Peter thinks that this is quite . . . cheap restaurant.

Q2. Insert a, an, the, or my, his, her, our, your, their if necessary.

- 1 He took off . . . coat and set to work.
- 2 Why are you standing there with . . . hands in . . . pockets?
- 3 At most meetings . . . people vote by raising . . . right hands.
- 4 The bullet struck him in . . . foot.
- 5 They tied . . . hands behind . . . back and locked him in a cellar.
- 6 He took . . . shoes off and entered on . . . tiptoe.
- 7 Someone threw . . . egg which struck the speaker on . . . shoulder.
- 8 I have . . . headache.
- 9 I have . . . pain in . . . shoulder.
- 10 The windscreen was smashed and the driver was cut in . . . face by broken glass.

Q3. Add question tags to the following statements .Two has been done for your help.

Example: Bill doesn't know Ann. Does he?

Ann hasn't got a phone., Has she ?

- 1 You aren't afraid of snakes
2. Ann isn't at home.
3. You don't know French.
4. Tom didn't see her.
5. This isn't yours.
6. Mary wasn't angry
7. Bill hasn't had breakfast.
8. You won't tell anyone.
9. I didn't wake you up.
10. Tom doesn't like oysters.
11. You don't want to sell the house.

Q4. Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present or the present continuous tense.

1. Cuckoos (not build) nests. They (use) the nests of other birds.
- 2 You can't see Tom now: he (have) a bath
- 3 He usually (drink) coffee but today he (drink) tea

- 4 What she (do) in the evenings? She usually (play) cards or (watch) TV.
- 5 I won't go out now as it (rain) and I -(not have) an umbrella
- 6 The last train (leave) the station at 11.30.
- 7 He usually (speak) so quickly that I (not understand) him.
- 8 Ann (make) a dress for herself at the moment. She (make) all her own clothes.
- 9 Hardly anyone (wear) a hat nowadays.
- 10 I'm afraid I've broken one of your coffee cups. — Don't worry. I (not like) that set anyway.

Q5. Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past or the past continuous tense.

- 1 I lit the fire at 6.00 and it (burn) brightly when Tom came in at 7.00
- .2 When I arrived the lecture had already started and the professor (write) on the overhead projector.
- 3 I (make) a cake when the light went out. I had to finish it in the dark.
- 4 I didn't want to meet Paul so when he entered the room I (leave).
- 5 Unfortunately when I arrived Ann just (leave), so we only had time for a few words.
- 6 He (watch) TV when the phone rang. Very unwillingly he (turn) down the sound and (go) to answer it.
- 7 He was very polite. Whenever his wife entered the room he (stand) up.
- 8 The admiral (play) bowls when he received news of the invasion. He (insist) on finishing the game.
- 9 My dog (walk) along quietly when Mr Pitt's Pekinese attacked him.
- 10 When I arrived she (have) lunch. She apologized for starting without me but said that she always (lunch) at 12.30.

KHAILATAN
PUBLIC SCHOOL

LEADERS FOR LIFE