1ST SEMESTER TEST BANK & MOCK EXAM

GRADE 12

QUESTIONS

GRADE 12 – UNIT ONE – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text carefully, then answer the questions that follow:



Helen Adams Keller was born on June 27,1880 in Northern Alabama, USA. She was a clever child and began talking even as a six-month old baby. During the first nineteen monthsof her life, she admired natural scenes like the broad green fields, the bright sky, the tall trees,and colourful flowers. But her happy days did not last long, for in February 1882, came an illness which closed her eyes and ears, affected her speech, and drove her into a world of darkness and silence. The illness was diagnosed as **acute** congestion of the stomach and brain. Chances of the child's survival were low.

One morning, however, the fever left her as suddenly as it had come. There was great happiness in the family, but no one, not even the doctor, suspected that the child would be a victim of multiple handicaps. Gradually, little Helen got used to the darkness and silence that surrounded her, till one memorable day, March 3, 1887, when Miss Anne Mansfield Sullivan came to Helen's house. Anne began to teach Helen to communicate by spelling words into her hand, beginning with "d-o-l-l" for the doll that she had brought Keller as a present. Helen also learned from and was grateful to Miss Sarah Fuller, **who** taught her to speak.

Today, Helen's name stands as a symbol of patience and courage. She was a young lady of enormous intelligence, who struggled through life till she was awarded a bachelor's degree from Radcliffe College. Further on, she devoted her life to helping blind and deaf people. She travelled around the world giving lectures and visiting special schools for blind and deaf people and wrote a lot of books and articles. She played a major role in focusing the world's attention on the problems of the blind. Helen Keller died on June 1st, 1968.

****congestion***: *the state in which a part of the body becomes blocked.*

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. The **best title** for the text would be:
    a. Fever Forever
    b. The Bright Sky
    c. Acute Congestion of Brain
    d. A Symbol of Patience and Courage

2. The underlined word "**acute"** in the **1st** paragraph means:
    a. fine
    b. simple
    c. serious
    d. attractive

3. The underlined word **"who"** in the **2nd** paragraph refers to:
    a. Helen
    b. Miss Sarah Fuller
    c. the doctor
    d. Miss Anne Mansfield Sullivan

4. What did Helen admire through the first nineteen months of her life?
    a. She admired her parents.
    b. She admired clever children.
    c. She admired her Northern Alabama.
    d. She admired the natural scenes.

5. The **main purpose** of the writer in writing this text is to:
    a. advise readers to be patient and never give up.
    b. encourage doctors to help sick people.
    c. persuade parents to take care of their kids.
    d. show the results of neglecting precautions.

B) With reference to the text, answer the following questions:

6. What happened to Helen in February 1882?

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7. Why was Helen grateful to Miss Anne?

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8. What did Helen devote her life to?

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9. Why did Helen travel around the world?

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GRADE 12 – UNIT TWO – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow:



You take it for granted that you are a unique person, different from everybody else on Earth, and you understand that everybody else is also unique. Identical twins are fascinatingbecause they challenge this idea: they are unique people, of course, but they are also similarto each other – and not only in terms of appearance. They often share opinions, habits, and personality traits or characteristics.

Identical twins are rare, happening in about three out of every 1,000 births. They seem to happen randomly, regardless of the age and cultural background of the mother, unlike non-identical twins who are remarkably common in Central Africa. Although there may be tiny differences in physical appearances between two identical twins, which allow family and close friends to tell them apart, **they** do have exactly the same DNA.

For most scientists, it is the non-physical similarities between identical twins that are the most interesting. By studying identical twins who have been raised by different families, researchers wanted to determine which certain personality traits are inherited and which are learned from the environment. The Minnesota Twin Study is probably the best-known twin study to date. The study provides information about how our environment and genes work together to influence everything from attitudes and abilities to job selection and health.

Identical twins Jim Lewis and Jim Springer were only four weeks old when they were taken in by different adoptive families. From there, their lives **diverged** as they were raised apart by different parents until they finally met again at the age of 39. The similarities the twins shared not only amazed them, but also amazed researchers at the University of Minnesota. The very fact that both twins were given the same name was a big coincidence. But there's more. As youngsters, each Jim had a dog named "Toy". Both Jims had at one time held part-time jobs as officers. They drove the same type of car and even took vacations at the same beach in Florida. Both were fingernail biters and suffered from constant headaches.

It is obvious from the twins' story that genetics is a major factor in shaping who we are. In fact, research so far indicates that there are some genetic influences on personality. This means that our personality traits as adults are largely determined before we are born, and there is very little that we can do to change them.

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. The **best title** for the text could be:
    a. All twins live identical lives.
    b. Some women give birth to identical twins.
    c. Genetics plays a major role in shaping personality.
    d. Personality is largely determined by physical appearance.

2. The underlined word **"diverged"** in the **4th** paragraph means:
    a. returned
    b. increased
    c. completed
    d. separated

3. What does the underlined word **"they"** in the **2nd** paragraph refer to?
    a. tiny differences
    b. physical appearances
    c. two identical twins
    d. close friends

4. As adults, the Jim twins:
    a. served as part-time officers.
    b. had pets with different names.
    c. suffered from fatal diseases.
    d. drove different types of cars.

5. According to the passage, which of the following is **NOT TRUE** about identical twins?
    a. They are unique but similar to each other.
    b. They share habits and personality traits.
    c. They have totally different DNA.
    d. They are less common than non-identical twins.

B) With reference to the passage, answer the following questions:

6. Where are non-identical twins mainly common?

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7. Why were researchers interested in identical twins raised by different families?

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8. What information does the Minnesota Twin Study provide?

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9. According to the passage, why is it difficult to change our personality?

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GRADE 12 – UNIT THREE – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text carefully, then answer the questions below:



To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the latest issue of your magazine in which you asked readers to share with you some ideas for saving the planet. My name is John, and I come from Brazil. As you have mentioned in your previous issue, everybody should bear responsibility in keeping the Earth a safer environment. For example, we should have special collection points in every neighbourhood or area so that we could keep our household waste for recycling instead of sending **it** to landfills. Also, we could make use of our gardens waste like grass, twigs, and leaves as a valuable source of nutrients by turning it into compost.

In my country, the government has come up with a solution to the issue of waste. It has assigned a committee for holding a waste management conference. The committees have listened to the ideas of various leading industry companies which could **showcase** their wasteand recycling machinery and services.

Deforestation is another problem that our environment is suffering from. Trees are beingcut down in an increasingly careless way. This has negative effects because floods wash awaythe nutrients in the soil and the rate of oxygen that the trees' leaves release into the atmosphere decreases. Deforestation makes the land arid. This is known as desertification. Last but not least, nothing will stop the dust which is bound to cause health problems. Waste management, deforestation and desertification are only a few examples of environmental threats that we are coming up against today. It is our responsibility as citizens to keep up with the most recent ways and inventions to overcome these threats.

However, big questions remain about whether the world`s nations will take action and, ultimately, about whether my letter will matter. We can’t just play a waiting game where we bet on future technological miracles to emerge and save the planet.

Thank you,
John

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. The **best title** for the text could be:
    a. Saving Planet Earth
    b. Waste Management
    c. Waste Recycling
    d. Future Miracles

2. The underlined word **"it"** in the **1st** paragraph refers to:
    a. area
    b. recycling
    c. neighbourhood
    d. household waste

3. The underlined word **"showcase"** in the **2nd** paragraph means:
    a. come up with an idea.
    b. keep up with the recent changes.
    c. show the bad effects of something.
    d. show the good qualities of something in an attractive way.

4. It is inferred from the **3rd** paragraph that:
    a. citizens are responsible for the lack of oxygen.
    b. the cutting down of trees helps boost economy.
    c. deforestation badly affects both the soil and air.
    d. waste, deforestation and desertification are the only issues that face our planet.

5. According to the text, **ONE** of the following statements about saving Earth is **NOT TRUE:**
    a. Composting can be a solution.
    b. Recycling helps protect the environment.
    c. Floods keep the nutrients in the soil and rate of oxygen high.
    d. Technological inventions can help in this respect.

B) With reference to the passage, answer the following questions:

6. What does John suggest for keeping Earth a safer planet?

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7. How does the cutting down of trees affect the soil?

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8. What are the worries of John?

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9. How can gardens' waste be useful?

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GRADE 12 – UNIT FOUR – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions below:



Consumers are buying more clothes and shoes because social media and window-shopping encourage them to buy these things persistently. In addition to that, online shopping makes it is easy for customers to buy unnecessary things without thinking. Major clothing brands also offer cheap clothes that can be treated like disposable items.

In Britain, the average person spends more than £1,000 on new clothes a year. That might not sound like much, but that figure hides two far more worrying trends for society and for the environment. First, a lot of that consumer spending is via credit cards. British people currently owe approximately £670 per adult to credit card companies. That is 66% of the average wardrobe budget. People are not only spending money they do not have, but they are also using it to buy things they do not need.

People might not realise they are part of the disposable clothing problem because they donate their unwanted clothes to charities. Charity shops cannot sell all those unwanted clothes. Therefore, huge quantities end up being thrown away, causing even more environmental problems. However, the "Buy Nothing trend" is a different trend, springing up in opposition to consumerism. The idea originated in Canada in the early 1990s and then moved to the United States. On "Buy Nothing Day", people organise various types of **protests** and cut up their credit cards. Throughout the year, "Buy Nothing" groups encourage people to exchange and repair items they already own.

The trend has now reached influencers on social media who usually share posts of clothing and make-up that they recommend for people to buy. Some famous YouTubers now encourage their viewers not to buy anything at all for periods as long as a year. For instance, two friends in Canada spent a year working towards buying only food. For the first three months, they learned how to live without buying electrical appliances, clothes, or things for the house. After that, they gave up services such as haircuts and eating out at restaurants. In one year, **they** had saved $55,000. The changes the two friends made meant a reduction in plastic and paper packaging and a positive impact on the environment from all the energy saved.

You can participate in this movement by refusing to buy things you do not need. Buy Nothing groups send a clear message to companies that people are no longer willing to accept the environmental and human cost of overconsumption.

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. The **best title** for the text could be:
    a. The Charity Movement
    b. The Wardrobe Budget
    c. The Buy Nothing Movement
    d. The Rates of Overconsumption

2. The underlined word **"protests"** in the **3rd** paragraph means:
    a. local legislations
    b. walkout movements
    c. natural preservations
    d. legal consultations

3. The underlined word "**they**" in the **4th** paragraph refers to:
    a. services
    b. haircuts
    c. restaurants
    d. two friends

4. The two friends contributed to the reduction of buying products by:
    a. encouraging people to eat out at restaurants.
    b. spending a year working towards buying only food.
    c. encouraging people to buy their unwanted clothes.
    d. spending $55,000 to buy electrical appliances for the house.

5. According to the **3rd** paragraph, all the following statements are **TRUE EXCEPT**:
    a. The "Buy Nothing" trend started in the US in the early 1990s.
    b. The "Buy Nothing" trend became a trend due to consumerism.
    c. Throwing away unwanted clothes causes many environmental problems.
    d. "Buy Nothing" groups organise the exchange and repair of items they already own.

B) With reference to the passage, answer the following questions:

6. How does social media influence consumers?

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7. Why might people be part of the disposable clothing problem?

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8. What do people do on “Buy Nothing Day”?

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9. What kind of message may the trend of “Buy Nothing” communicate?

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GRADE 12 – UNIT FIVE – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow:

People think children should play sports. Sports are fun, and children stay healthy while playing with others. However, playing sports can have negative effects on children. It may produce feelings of **poor self-esteem** or aggressive behaviour in some children.

According to research on kids and sports, 40 million kids play sports in the US. Of these, 18 million say they have been shouted at or called names while playing sports. This leaves many children with a bad impression of sports. They think sports are just too aggressive. Many researchers believe adults, especially parents and coaches, are the main cause of too much aggression in children's sports. **They** believe children copy aggressive adult behaviour. This behaviour is then further reinforced through both positive and negative feedback.

Parents and coaches are powerful teachers because children usually look up to them. Often these adults behave aggressively themselves, sending children the message that winning is everything. At children's sporting events, parents may shout at each other's players or cheer when their child behaves aggressively. As well, children may be taught that hurting other players is acceptable, or they may be pushed to continue playing even when they are injured.

In addition, the media makes violence seem exciting. Children watch adult sports games and see violent behaviour replayed over and over on television. As a society, we really need to face up to this problem and do something about it. Parents and coaches should act as better examples for children. They also need to teach children better values. They should teach children to enjoy themselves whether they win or lose. It is not necessary to knock yourself out to enjoy sports. Winning is not everything. In addition, children should not be allowed to continue to play when they are injured. Sending a child with an injury into a game gives the child the message that health is not as important as winning. If we make some basic changes, children might learn to enjoy sports again.

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. What is **the best title** for the text?
    a. Injuries Caused by Sports
    b. Sports Played at Schools
    c. The Positive Effects of Sports on Children
    d. The Negative Effects of Sports on Children

2. Which of the following phrases best defines **"poor self-esteem"** in the **1st** paragraph?
    a. getting honoured
    b. lacking confidence
    c. being selfish
    d. lacking loyalty

3. What does the underlined word "**They**" in the **2nd** paragraph refer to?
    a. parents
    b. adults
    c. coaches
    d. researchers

4. According to the **2nd** paragraph, the number of children who had been shouted at is:
    a. All children
    b. None of the children
    c. Eighteen million
    d. Forty million

5. According to the passage, which of the following sentences is **NOT TRUE**?
    a. Children sometimes have a bad impression about sports.
    b. Forcing an injured child into a game is an advantage.
    c. Parents and teachers are role models for children.
    d. Winning isn't the only source of enjoyment.

B) With reference to the text, answer the following questions:

6. What are the benefits of playing sports for children?

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7. How should parents and coaches act to reduce the effect of violence children see?

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8. What is the main cause of more aggressive playing?

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9. How does the media make violence seem exciting?

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GRADE 12 – UNIT SIX – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text carefully, then answer the questions below:

In some remote or far regions of the world, providing a good education can be a challenge. Here are three innovative solutions for helping all students to learn, no matter where they live.

The first school is the “School in the Cloud”. Educator Sugata Mitra says: "If you give a group of children a set of questions and a computer with an internet connection, they will be able to find answers." Through Sugata Mitra's “School in the Cloud” project, students in remote classrooms teach themselves using a computer and the internet. One school is in Korakati, a village in one of the poorest parts of India. Teachers from other parts of the world connect with the students by Zoom. The teachers guide the students as they explore information online. Since the first “School in the Cloud” opened in 2013, Sugata Mitra’s project has spread to several countries around the world.

The second school is the “Horse-Powered Reading” school. In Ethiopia, mobile libraries travel around the country, bringing books to young children. However, some parts of Ethiopia are very far and cannot be reached by road. An organisation called “Ethiopia Reads” has an unusual solution: a horse-powered library. A horse pulls a mobile or moveable library to the children’s village. It can reach far areas. A storyteller travels with the library, and at each village, children gather for a few hours to hear stories from books, from which **they** develop basic reading and writing skills. For many, it is the first time they have ever opened a book, and it is an experience these children will never forget.

The third school is the “School on the Move”. In western Mongolia, many families do not have a permanent home. Instead, these families move from place to place with their sheep and cows, often staying for just a few weeks at a time. In 1998, UNICEF launched a programme to help the children of these families receive education. Mobile kindergartens, schools for very young children, now follow the families as they move across the land. Each kindergarten **takes place** in a *ger*, a traditional tent that is easy to put up and take down. With these mobile schools, UNICEF aims to provide all young Mongolian children with education, even in the most remote locations.

A) From a, b, c or d, choose the correct answer:

1. The best title for this text would be:
    a. Building Schools
    b. Traditional Schools
    c. Education in India
    d. Bringing Education to All

2. The underlined word "**takes place**" in the **4th** paragraph means:
    a. reads
    b. sleeps
    c. happens
    d. plays

3. The underlined word "**they**" in the **3rd** paragraph refers to:
    a. hours
    b. children
    c. stories
    d. books

4. It is difficult to educate children in Mongolia because they:
    a. live in far areas.
    b. pull horses to children.
    c. have Internet connection.
    d. often move from a place to another.

5. According to the passage, **ONE** of the following sentences is **TRUE**:
    a. The first "School in the Cloud" was opened in 2013.
    b. A horse-powered library cannot reach far areas.
    c. Mobile libraries have a fixed place in Mongolia.
    d. Sugata Mitra is a Mongolian storyteller who works for UNICEF.

B) With reference to the text, answer the following questions:

6. How do students learn in the “School in the Cloud”?

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7. What do children learn from books in some parts of Ethiopia?

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8. Why were mobile kindergartens first launched by UNICEF?

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9. What is a “ger”?

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