

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, ERNAKULAM REGION
PREBOARD - I - 2018-19**

CLASS XII

ENGLISH (CORE)

**TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100**

General Instructions:

- 1. This paper is divided into three sections: A,B &C. (A-30marks,B-30marks,C-40marks)**
- 2. All the sections are compulsory.**
- 3. Read the instructions very carefully given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.**
- 4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.**

SECTION-A (READING)

Q1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below: (20)

FAILURE IS BETTER TEACHER THAN SUCCESS

1. We grow up hearing age old sayings like “Failure is the pillar of success” or “Failure is the stepping stone to success”, which so repeatedly form a part of any motivational speech we deliver or any inspiring article that we write. But how often do we find ourselves being able to see eye to eye with what such maxims hint at? Failure and success are two sides of the same coin where we associate the former with defeat, rejection, disappointment and darkness while the latter with victory, acceptance, glory and illumination. Success is envisaged by all while failure is anticipated by none. Failure is frightening and creates terror in the mind. What is worse is that this fear of failure stops us from even trying. It is indeed so deep-rooted that we are pulled back from doing what we want to do; from reaching where we want to reach. History is a witness to the fact that anyone who has been able to land on success could have done it only after he had swam across failures. In other words, there is no success without failure. Now, there are two perspectives of viewing this statement. First, failure will always try to obstruct one from reaching one’s goal. Second, failure is a part and parcel of success and every failure has a lot to contribute to the success one achieves. The former view creates anxiety and uncertainty while the latter gives birth to an opportunist perception of acknowledging the prominence of every failure on the glory of success.
2. Patience and perseverance coupled with the determined will to learn from what every single failure invites prove a milestone to success. It is easy to give up but hard holding on without

letting despondency set in. This power of forbearance is a lesson which no success but only failure can impart. It was this perseverance and right attitude that enabled great people like Abraham Lincoln or Nelson Mandela survive the countless setbacks that they faced. Loss of his mother at the tender age of nine, failure in business, demise of his wife, incalculable defeats in his political career for more than a score for years, nothing could make the glimmer inside Abraham Lincoln fade and so he could eventually stand tall as the 16th President of the United States of America. Neither could twenty-seven years in the prison tear apart a single inch of the dreams that Nelson Mandela dreamt. “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work” were the words of the greatest inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, who could see success in every fiasco they came across. It was this hopefulness which made them keep trying and mending their work until success became inevitable. We grow with every failure and we mature with every defeat. Failure gives us a clearer vision to see our own mistakes. It makes us more compassionate, gives us reasons to understand the worth of the life we live. Failure is the test that makes our loyal mates stand out among all the other fair-weather friends thereby improving our understanding of relations. Herein, reference may be made to the aftermath of the Battle of Kalinga in the life of King Ashoka. The repercussions caused by the unprecedented bloodshed were so deep that the emperor became a changed person altogether. He was devastated at the thought that due to his actions thousands of parents became childless, countless children orphaned and numerous women widowed. This made him embrace ‘ahimsa’ and give up violence of all kinds. He became an epitome of benevolence and it is due to such reasons that annals of history suffice his name as ‘Ashoka the Great’.

3. Failure is, many a time, an opportunity; it is a chance to dream bigger and to aim for greater heights. There would not have been the giant Alibaba Group had Jack Ma, the tycoon, not been rejected in thirty job interviews before he thought of going for entrepreneurship. Only accepting failure and learning to cope with it will do no good if it is not followed by a detailed analysis of the mistakes responsible for it and an appropriate understanding of what went wrong. After being burnt down to ashes in World war II in 1945, Japan, a country so small in size and so pathetically starving of natural resources, could make it to one of the world’s biggest economies. As Henry Ford had aptly stated, “Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently”, it must be understood that behind every failure there is a reason, an action which was not in sync with the target that had been set to achieve. The outcome must always be compared to what was anticipated and the deviations, if any, must be carefully studied. The focus should always be placed on finding the causes of the deviations. One should strive to track down all such reasons which made the undesirable happen and bear in mind, that these should not be repeated.
4. Sometimes, unrealistic goal-setting might also be the reason behind a failure. Lack of proper understanding of one’s own potential overlays the way for setting goals that are too difficult for one to achieve within the specified time. Unrealistic goals are also an outcome of comparison with other people’s achievements without making sure whether their

potential and circumstances are the same as that of ours. Failures make us work on our risk-taking and time managerial skills as well. These facilitate proper planning of the course of action to be carried out. Besides this, attaining emotional stability is another boon of failure. Anyone who learns and betters himself with every setback becomes so valiant and fearless that he is able to see and rise beyond such fear.

5. Lastly, to be able to see the silver lining behind a defeat, one must always have the right attitude to learn and grow. Success is not the destination, it is only a by-product. One must be determined to strike while the iron is hot. Considering our results as the luck of the draw and worrying about what others will say if we fail are the shortest routes to failure. Destiny is a matter of choice; we can create our own destiny by adding the right dose of positive thoughts and vibrations to our efforts. Such ever-flowing positivity was the biggest asset of people like Napoleon Bonaparte or Mahatma Gandhi who had the courage to script their own destiny. Swami Vivekananda beautifully explained, “Never mind these failures, these little back sidings; hold the ideal a thousand times, and if you fail a thousand times make the attempt once more”. In a nutshell, great people had great failures and every failure added an extra ounce of greatness to their personality.

(from Competition Success Review: Arbita Chakraborty)

1.1 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

- i) Failure is frightening and creates.....
- a) Enthusiasm
 - b) Optimism
 - c) Terror in the mind
 - d) Inspiration
- ii) History is a witness to the fact that.....
- a) Success is permanent
 - b) There is no success without failure
 - c) Success comes only once
 - d) Failure puts an end to everything
- iii) The lesson that failure alone can impart is.....
- a) The bitterness of defeat
 - b) The power of despondency
 - c) The power of forbearance
 - d) The power of intolerance
- iv) The focus should always be on.....
- a) Justifying the causes of deviation
 - b) Finding the causes of deviation
 - c) Finding the causes of success
 - d) Repeating the causes of deviation
- v) ‘Success is not the destination’ means

- a) We should not think of success
- b) It is one of the milestones in the journey
- c) We should focus on failure
- d) Success is not at all important

1.1. Answer the following questions briefly: (1x6=6)

- i) What is it that pulls us back from doing what we want to do?
- ii) How did Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela survive the setbacks they faced?
- iii) What does the example of Jack Ma signify?
- iv) Which are the skills failures can help us learn?
- v) What does it mean to say that ‘destiny is a matter of choice’?
- vi) How did great failures help great personalities?

1.2. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 25-30 words: (2x3=6)

- i) What are the two ways of looking at the statement, “There’s no success without failure”?
- ii) What kinds of setbacks did Lincoln go through?
- iii) Explain the significance of the reference to Emperor Ashoka.
- iv) How can unrealistic goal-setting lead to failure?

1.3. Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: (1x3=3)

- i) Endurance (para 2)
- ii) Consequences (para 2)
- iii) Digressions (para 3)

Q2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below: (10)

Increased use of internet-connected smartphones has led to strong gains in the user base of social media. About 84% of Facebook users in India access the social networking site on mobile phones and almost one-third of the Facebook users in the country belong to the 18-24 age group. In this connected age, an increased number of students frequenting Facebook indicates how much the students are involved in the virtual world of social networking. From pings and posts to the pokes and emoticons, everything exists to bring people together, to make the world more connected.

Apart from this, the reasons why students use social networking sites like Facebook are many. They give immense freedom for students to get liberated and become ultra-social. These young minds find networking sites as a platform to create identities that the real world generally does not permit.

Every social media has two sides—bright and dark. It can either be a help or a hindrance depending on the way how students use it. It is a known fact that social media is being used for hiring, as an

educational and entertainment tool, and as a platform for people to like and get liked. These platforms are also being used to craft a ‘positioning’ for oneself.

Social media is increasingly used as a medium to spread awareness about one’s likes and dislikes, hobbies and talent, and skills and competencies. Over 90% of the recruiters review social media profile of the candidate before making a hiring decision. The digital image does send signals about the personality, identity and attitudes of a candidate. Recruiters interpret and judge the profile of a job seeker. Today, LinkedIn is a popular medium where prospective employees and employers are brought together and hiring takes place.

If used effectively, social media provides immense opportunities for self and active learning. Students, through active engagement—a core feature of social media—can find immense opportunities to collect and interpret a plethora of information about a subject or domain they are passionate about. For effective learning, one may follow relevant pages, channels and people on social media. But ensure that these channels offer authentic information. Social media offers the opportunity of getting engaged with the right set of people regardless of time and space and provide a platform to learn new things, exchanging ideas and honing one’s networking skills. Across academic institutions, teachers and academicians use social networking sites as an effective medium for learning.

Being on social media platforms, students may explore the possibility of being a teacher or a trainer. Today, students utilise Youtube and Facebook—among other social media—to create their own channels and pages through which they train and coach people in various domains like music, dance, finance, science etc. Instagram is used by many students to showcase their talents, especially photography.

Take a look at the darker side of the use of social media. These platforms may literally act as a hindrance for the progressive development of a student. Learning process of each student is believed to be jeopardized by the overuse of social media. Health issues, specifically mental health related ones, severe addiction leading to isolation from real-life friends, loss of productive time, identity crisis and negative academic performance are perceived to be the major pitfalls of social media overuse.

It is found that students are using social media to vent out their frustrations. Their feeds, most of the times, lead to an endless stream of stress. It is found, through research, that one negative post of a person will influence 1.3 negative posts by friends, leading to a chain of feeds that might result in stress and negative moods. Cyber bullying, having a distorted view of other people’s opinions and a perceived waste of time are some of the factors that lead to stress. Some of the studies have established a link between excessive use of social media and sleep disturbance. Research shows that if envy is controlled, social media may not induce depression. Students blindly aspiring to follow lifestyles depicted by their peers on social media are another point of concern. Most of the students are invariably trapped in the thought that social media will help and thus they keep coming

back to it, even though such an act does not really make them feel better. A study on psychological characteristics, personality and social media concludes that it might be plausible to speak specifically of ‘Facebook Addiction Disorder’ like neglect of personal life, escaping from reality etc. Students tend to chat with ‘friends’ for hours leading to a waste of time that could have been used for studying, playing or learning new skills and acquiring needed competencies. In the quest to achieving higher social quotient, many students tend to share beyond-optimum-level of personal data with their contacts. This can lead to cyber bullying, defamation, hacking personal accounts etc.

More friends on social media do not mean you are a social person! Students must realize that virtual friend-time does not have the real therapeutic effect as spending time with real friends. (from The Deccan Herald)

2.1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)

2.2. Write a summary of the passage in about 100 words. (5)

SECTION-B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

Q3. You are Azeem/Aleena. You have got admission for graduation in a reputed college in the city. You are looking for a suitable PG accommodation. You decide to prepare a classified advertisement giving details of you and specifying your conditions and expectations. Prepare the classified advertisement in not more than 50 words. (4)

OR

The Theatre Club of your school has decided to stage the play ‘Julius Caesar’ by Shakespeare. You are planning to hold an audition in order to select the best actors, costume designers, stage designers, singers, music composers etc. from the school students. Prepare a notice to be displayed on the school notice board giving details of the date, time, venue and expectations from the talented students. You are Swarup/Sweta, the Secretary of the Club. (word limit: 50 words) (4)

Q4. You are a student of Class XII, of Global Citizen School, Kochi. You have observed some students in your school indulging in substance abuse during the school hours. You also suspect the involvement of some drug peddlers in this from outside the school. In spite of repeated requests, they haven’t rectified their ways. You decide to write a letter to the Principal of your school requesting him/her to take necessary action. Write the letter in not more than 100-125 words. (6)

OR

A reputed travel agency in your city is offering attractive summer packages to various destinations in India. You are interested in availing a customized package to a hill station. Write a letter enquiring about the cost, food and accommodation and all other necessary details providing your requirements. Write the letter in not more than 100-125 words. You are Antony/Elizabeth of Flat No.246, Galaxy Apartments, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. (6)

Q5. Your school is organizing an Inter-school Debate competition for the students of Class XI and XII on the topic, "Technology will replace classrooms in the days to come". You have been chosen to represent your school. Prepare your views for or against the motion. (word limit: 150-200 words) (10)

OR

You are the School Captain of Green Valley Public School, Ooty. You have been asked by the Principal to give a speech in the morning assembly on the topic "We're the architect of our future". (Word limit: 150-200 words) (10)

Q6. The world we live in is full of stress and tension. You feel that humour and laughter play a very important role in solving this to a great extent. Unfortunately, laughter is missing from our lives. You decide to write an article for a daily on this topic. You are Manmohan/Meera. (Word limit: 150-200 words) (10)

OR

You are Swapnil/Swapna of Blue Moon International School, New Delhi. The Charity Club of your school recently visited an old age home in the city. Being an active member of the club, you decide to write down your feelings and experience in the form of a report for your school magazine. (Word limit: 150-200 words) (10)

SECTION-C (LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS and LONG READING TEXT)

Q7. Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly: (1x4=4)

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

- Name the poem and the poet.
- How do you explain 'the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands'?
- What are whales killed for?
- What does the poet advocate in these lines?

OR

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- a) Why are her hands 'terrified'?
- b) Who and what was she mastered by?
- c) What is the pun in 'ringed'?
- d) What do the tigers symbolize?

Q8. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 30-40 words: (3x4=12)

- i) Why didn't Sophie want Jansie to know about her story with Danny?
- ii) The peddler signed the letter as Captain von Stahle. Why?
- iii) How did the YMCA misadventure become a handicap in Douglas's personality?
- iv) What does Zitkala Sa mean by 'eating by formula' and why was it a hard trial for her?
- v) How did Evans stop the blood from clotting?
- vi) What does Mr. Lamb want to convey by the tale of the Beauty and the Beast?

Q9. Answer any ONE of the following questions in 120-125 words: (6)

- i) Postponement of learning can lead to serious crisis. Explain with reference to 'The Last Lesson'.
- ii) 'All we have to fear is fear itself'. Elucidate on the basis of the lesson 'Deep Water'.
- iii) Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind. Justify the statement with reference to the story 'Going Places'.

Q10. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6)

- i) The two accounts by the two women are based in distant cultures. What is the commonality of theme found in both of them? (Memories of Childhood)
- ii) A ruler should keep his/her personal interests aside and focus on the welfare of a state/kingdom. How does Kalki drive home this point using satire as a powerful medium in 'The Tiger King'?
- iii) War brings out the worst in man. It also teaches them the futility of everything in front of human values. Illustrate with reference to Pearl S. Buck's story 'The Enemy'.

Q11. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6)

- i) If Griffin is the antagonist in the novel, Dr. Kemp is the protagonist. Give a character sketch of Dr. Kemp.
- ii) "Misdirected and self-serving ambition essentially remains an exercise in futility". Describe Griffin's character in the light of this statement.

Q12. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6)

- i) Would you classify 'The Invisible Man' as a science fiction thriller or a science fiction horror story? Examine the plot and prove your point of view.
- ii) What talks surround the city of Iping on the arrival of the stranger? What are the events that led to this discussion?