

Class 12
15-5-2015

First Unit Test in ENGLISH

Time : 1 hr.
M. Marks : 20

General instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B & C. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A (READING) 5 marks

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

"We become brave by doing brave acts," observed Aristotle. Disposition of character, virtues and vices, are progressively fixed in us through practice. Thus "by being habituated to despise things that are terrible and to stand our ground against them we become brave, and it is when we become so, that we shall be the most able to stand our ground against them."

Standing ground against threatening things is not to be confused with fearlessness, however. Being afraid is a perfectly appropriate emotion when confronted with fearful things. The great American novelist Herman Melville makes the Aristotelian point beautifully in a telling passage in Moby Dick, where Starbuck, the chief mate of Pequod, first addresses the crew. "I will have no man in my boat," says Starbuck, "who is not afraid of a whale." By this seems to mean, not only that the most reliable and useful courage is that which arises from the fair estimation of danger, but that an utterly fearless man is more dangerous than a coward is.

The brave person is not one who is never afraid. That is rather the description of a rash or reckless man, someone who may do more harm than help in an emergency. It is hard to 'educate' such a man on the spot. The coward on the other hand, is characteristically lacks confidence and is disposed to be overly fearful. He may yet be susceptible to the encouragement of an example.

The infectious nature of strikingly courageous behaviour on part of one person can inspire and also in part can shame- a whole group. That was one key to the kind of courage displayed by those who silently suffered abuse when they joined the ranks with Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr to protest non-violently and arouse the public consciousness against injustice.

Another key to their success was reason: practical reason delivered with kind of eloquence that is informed by real command of one's cultural heritage and that steels the will to take intelligent action. The mere desire to do the right thing is not enough. We must know what the right thing to do is. We need wisdom, often of a wise leader, who can help us gather our courage and help us determine the right course of action. We need a leader who can inspire our will and motivate us to act wisely and without fear.

Aristotle is right in proposing that courage lies in facing situations with an appropriate degree of fear and confidence. Man must take a stand, face his fears and then learn to form a set pattern of behavior when faced with terrifying situations. Man must learn to act bravely when he does not feel brave.

- 1.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations. Also provide an appropriate title. (3)
- 1.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (2)
- Std. 12 - 2 -

English

SECTION - B (WRITING) 3 marks

2. You are Mr./Mrs. Saxena, President of the Resident Welfare Association, Deep Apartments, Mayur Vihar, Delhi. Prepare a notice to be put up on the Association notice board informing the residents about a meeting to discuss issues regarding security and cleanliness in and around the apartments. (3)

SECTION - C (LITERATURE) 12 marks

3. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4)

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull
The heavy weight of uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- a) Why were aunt Jennifer's fingers 'fluttering'?
- b) How is Aunt Jennifer different from the images created by her?
- c) Analyze the symbol of the wedding ring.
- d) What do these lines tell us about Aunt Jennifer?
4. Answer the following questions in about 30 to 40 words each: (2x4=8)
- a) Who was Professor Malkhani? Why was the help he rendered to Gandhi considered 'extraordinary'?
- b) Explain the 'conflict of duties' that Gandhi speaks about in the court.
- c) What are the negative aspects of life that the poet speaks about in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?
- d) What images does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

-X-X-X-X-X-