

Std. 12
7-12-2016

Third Unit Test in **ENGLISH**

Time : 1½ hr.
M. Marks: 50

This paper is divided into 3 sections:

Section A	Reading	15 marks
Section B	Writing	10 marks
Section D	Literature	25 marks

SECTION - A (READING)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (1x8=8 marks)

- 1 The morning walk with my wife is a ritual I enjoy and quite look forward to. I recently bought myself an expensive new pair of sports shoes to fuel our endeavor. So you can imagine my excitement as I set off for my walk in my newly acquired footwear the next day.

About 20 minutes into the walk though, one of my shoe laces came undone. And as I stopped to tie the laces, I didn't think too much about it. But when it happened a second time I sensed that there might be a problem with those rounded, smooth, nylon laces in my new shoes. Have you faced a similar problem too? Sounds familiar?

The shoe laces coming off soon became a regular recurring phenomenon. My wife and I would be walking along, talking about the day gone by, and the day ahead, when I would discover that my laces have magically slipped and come undone. And I would find myself interrupting the flow of the conversation-and the walk, to tie my shoelaces.

I began to wonder why the Nike folks couldn't provide better laces, given the high price they were charging. I even thought of writing to the CEO to share my predicament. Meanwhile, I could sense my wife's irritation mounting too. As I sat there on the pavement, tying my laces yet again, I could bet she was thinking "Why couldn't his parents teach him to tie his shoe laces right?"

Determined to set it right, and yet unsure of what I should do, I Googled it. "How to tie shoe laces?" Bingo! Google quickly enlightened me that there are in fact two ways of tying a shoe lace. Very similar in technique, but very different outcomes. As you make a loop out of one lace and hold it, it makes a huge difference whether you bring the other lace from above the first loop - or below it. Bring it from above and you have a weak knot. But take it from below – and you will have a knot that's strong.

There is a weak knot and a strong Knot. And as it turned out, I had all along been tying the weak knot. Armed with this new found knowledge and the secretly acquired new technique, I began to tie my shoe laces the new way. And it worked.

No more interruptions in the walk. The laces stayed in place. And as a bonus I now had a delighted wife too, smiling with pride that at this ripe old age her husband had finally mastered an essential life skill.

The shoe lace problem is thankfully out of the way now. But the lessons have remained and maybe they are relevant for us all.

First, just because you have been doing something for years it does not mean you have been doing it right. Maybe there is a better way. You just need to be willing to learn. Second, when things go wrong, the temptation to blame others can be strong. Laces coming off? It must be Nike's fault! It takes courage to introspect and say, maybe, just maybe, the fault lies within. Own the problem and you'll empower yourself to find a solution. This is hard. Doing things differently is harder than it seems. In life we all get used to a process, a

pattern of work, habits get formed and that's hard to change. Acknowledge takes effort, and time and commitment too.

And finally it's useful to remember that small changes can make a big impact. A simple thing like getting the lace from above the loop-or below it-can make a huge difference. It can keep your shoes on your feet. It can even bring a smile on your wife's face!

Next time you are looking to drive a change initiative in your organization, think of the shoe lace. Skip the blame game. Take ownership. Start small. See if there is a better way. Recognize that change is hard. And then as the change kicks in, Get ready for the appreciation.

The author Iyer is a speaker and leadership coach, and former MD of Kimberly Clark Lever.

- a) What 'morning ritual' does the writer talk about and why is it referred to as a ritual? (1)
- b) Explain the phrase 'fuel our endeavor.' (1)
- c) Why was the writer's wife's irritation mounting? (1)
- d) What information did 'Google' give him? (1)
- e) Mention any two learning lessons that the episode offers. (2)
- f) Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'difficult situation'. (1)
- g) Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'happening again and again'. (1)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Altruism or selflessness is the principle or practice of concern for the welfare of others.

It is a traditional virtue in many cultures and a core aspect of various religious traditions and secular worldviews, though the concept of "others" toward whom concern should be directed can vary among culture and religions. Altruism or selflessness is the opposite of selfishness. The word was coined by French philosopher Auguste Comte in French, as *altruisme*, for an antonym of *egoism*.

Altruism can be defined as an individual performing an action which is at a cost to themselves (eg. Pleasure and quality of life, time, probability of survival or reproduction), but benefits, either directly or indirectly, another third party individual, without the expectation of reciprocity or compensation for that action.

Altruism can be distinguished from feelings of loyalty in that while the latter is predicated upon social relationships, altruism does not consider relationships. Much debate exists as to whether "true" altruism is possible in human psychology. The theory of psychological egoism suggests that no act of sharing, helping or sacrificing can be described, as the actor might receive an intrinsic reward in the form of personal gratification. The validity of this argument depends on whether intrinsic rewards qualify as "benefits".

Alms are the fruits of the moral notion of the gift and of fortune on the one hand, and of the notion of sacrifice on the other. Generosity is an obligation because Nemesis avenges the poor and the Gods for the superabundance of happiness and wealth of certain people who should rid themselves of it. This is the ancient morality of the gift which has become a principle of justice. The Gods and the spirits accept that the share of wealth and happiness that has been offered to them and had been hitherto destroyed in useless sacrifices should serve the poor and children.

It is important to note that while research supports the idea that altruistic acts bring about happiness, it has also been found to work in the opposite direction- that happier people are

also kinder. The relationship between altruistic behaviour and happiness is bidirectional. Studies have found that generosity increases linearly from sad to happy affective states.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) wherever necessary. (5 marks)
- b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (2 marks)

SECTION - B (WRITING)

- 3. Your school is organizing its Annual Sports Day on the 10th of December 2016. Draft a Formal invitation to be sent out to parents and guests on this special occasion. Ace Shooter and Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. (50 words) (4 marks)
- 4. The recent demonetization policy of the government has impacted the life of every citizen of this country. On one hand there are angry, vehement protests accusing the government of inconveniencing crores of its citizens and on the other hand, one also finds citizens applauding the government for this bold step towards fighting corruption. Write an article in about 200 words expressing your opinion on the topic - 'Demonetization: Short Term Pain for Long Term Gain'. (6 marks)

SECTION - C (LITERATURE)

- 5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)

*I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon Amma....*

- a) Name and explain the poetic device used in the above lines. (2 marks)
- b) What is implied by the use of the word 'familiar' in the third line? (1 mark)
- c) Whose childhood fear is spoken about here and what is the fear? (1 mark)
- 6. Answer the following questions in about 50 to 60 words each: (3x5=15 marks)
 - a) The poet makes a universal appeal to all people in the poem 'Keeping quiet'. What is this appeal and what purpose does he wish to achieve through this?
 - b) 'The people will become discontented. Then our state too will fall prey to the Indian National Congress'. Who said the above lines and in what context? What response did these lines evoke?
 - c) The Chapter, 'We too are human beings', highlights discrimination in society. Analyze the lesson learnt from the two episodes in the life of Bama and Zitkala Sa.
 - d) 'Buried somewhere in Jackson, was a tiny core of compassion and Evans knew it'. Analyze how Evans took advantage of this fact to make his escape from prison a reality.
 - e) Sophie and her brother very different from each other in their behaviour and temperament. Elucidate. (Going Places)

7. Answer the following question in about 150 to 200 words: (6 marks)

Comment on the hardships of the bangle makers of Ferozabad, with special reference to the forces that conspire to keep them in a perpetual state of poverty and misery.
(Lost Spring...Stories of Stolen Childhood)

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