

Bhavan's Tripura Vidyamandir
1st Terminal Examination: (2025-2026)

Class:- 12

Time:- 3 Hours

Roll:

Name of the student:

Subject:- English

Total :- 80 Marks

Sec:

General Instructions

- The question paper consists 3 sections: Reading, Writing, and Literature.
- Each question and section may have unique instructions that students must carefully read and follow.
- Write your answers within the prescribed word limits.

Reading Section - 22 Marks

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

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1) When you grow up in a place where it rains for five months a year, wise elders help you to get acquainted with the rain early. They teach you that it is ignorance to think that it is the same rain falling every day. Oh no! the rain is always doing different things at different times. There is rain that is gentle, and there is also rain that falls too hard and damages the crops. Hence, pray for the sweet rain that helps the crops to grow.

(2) The monsoon in the Naga Hills goes by the native name, Khuthotei (which means the rice-growing season). It lasts from May to early or mid-October. The local residents firmly believe that Durga Puja in October announces the end to rain. After that, one might expect a couple of short winter showers, and the spring showers in March and April. Finally, comes the 'big rain' in May; proper rainstorms accompanied by heart-stopping lightning and ear-splitting thunder. I have stood out in storms looking at lightning arc across the dark skies, a light-and-sound show that can go on for hours.

(3) This is the season when people use the word sezuo and suzu to refer to the week-long rains, when clothes don't dry and smell of mould, when fungus forms on the floor and when you can't see the moon or the stars.

(4) The rains are also called after flowering plants and people believe that the blossoming of those plants draws out rain. Once the monsoon sets in, field work is carried out in earnest and the work of uprooting and transplanting paddy in flooded fields is done. The months of hard labour are June, July and August. In August, as the phrogo plant begins to bloom, a rain will fall. This August rain, also called phrogo, is a sign that the time for cultivation is over. If any new grain seeds are sown, they may not sprout; even if they do sprout, they are not likely to bear grain. The rain acts as a kind of farmer's almanac.

(5) The urban population of school-goers and office-goers naturally dislikes the monsoon and its accompanying problems of landslides, muddy streets and periodic infections. For non-farmers, the month of September can be depressing, when the rainfall is incessant and the awareness persists that the monsoons will last out till October. One needs to have the heart of a farmer to remain grateful for the watery days, and be able to observe from what seems to the inexperienced as a continuous downpour-many kinds of rain. Some of the commonly known rain-weeks are named after the plants that alternately bloom in August and September. The native belief is that the flowers draw out the rain.

(6) Each rain period has a job to fulfil: October rain helps garlic bulbs to form, while kumunyo rain helps the rice bear grain. Without it, the ears of rice cannot form properly. End of October is the most beautiful month in the Naga Hills, as the fields turn gold and wild sunflowers bloom over the slopes, all heralding the harvest. Prayers go up for protecting the fields from storms, and the rains to retreat because the grains need to stand in the sun and ripen. The cycle nears completion a few weeks before the harvest, and the rain does retreat so thoroughly from the reaped furrows that the earth quickly turns hard. The months of rain becomes a distant memory until it starts all over again

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

1. The rains are called after flowering plants because:
(A) heavy rains kill plants. (B) flowers grow in the rainy season.
(C) it is believed that the plants bring the rain. (D) flowers grow all the year-round.
2. The rain is like a calendar for farmers because:
(A) it tells them when to sow and when to harvest. (B) it tells them the birthdays of their children.
(C) each month has a time for plantation. (D) different kinds of rains tell different things.
3. People who live in cities don't like rain because:
(A) it brings mud and sickness with it. (B) they are not bothered about the farmers.
(C) they don't like the plants that grow during the rain.
(D) going shopping becomes difficult.
4. People pray asking the rain to retreat because:
(A) the fungus and mould need to dry. (B) children don't get a chance to play
(C) the crops need the sun and heat to ripen. (D) they like to pray.
5. What do elders want you to understand about rains?
(A) That rains are always welcomed. (B) That the same rain falls every day.
(C) That the rain always damages the crops.
(D) That rain always does different things at different times.
6. What helps the crops to grow?
(A) Gentle rain. (B) Prayer for rain.
(C) Rain that falls too hard. (D) Easy rain.
7. What does Durga Puja mean to the farmers of the Naga hills?
(A) It is a holy festival for them. (B) It announces the end of rain.
(C) They expect, thereafter, water showers.
(D) They look for light and sound show during the festival.
8. What kind of rain is called seize?
(A) Winter monsoon (B) Summer rains (C) Weak long rain (D) Short winter shower
9. When can one see sunflowers blowing all over the Naga Hills?
(A) From May to October (B) In September-October
(C) End of October (D) During the retreat of rain
10. Find synonym of the word 'Conversant' word from Para 1
11. Find synonym of the word 'Thriving' word from Para 4
12. Find antonym of the word 'Advance' word from Para 6

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

10

(1) "Who doesn't know how to cook rice? Cooking rice hardly takes time," said my father. So, I challenged myself. I switched from news to YouTube and typed, "How to cook rice?" I took one and a half cups of rice. Since I didn't have access to a rice cooker, I put the rice in a big pot. Firstly, the rice has to be washed to get rid of dust and starch. I thought I won't be able to drain the rice and that it will fall out of the pot. I observed the chef as I swirled the rice around and used my dexterous hands to drain it, not once, not twice, but three times. I looked down at the sink and saw less than 50 grains that made their way out of the pot. Suffice to say, I was up to the mark.

(2) The video stated that the key to perfect rice is equal amounts of rice and water. I have heard that professionals don't need to measure everything; they just know what the right amount is. But as this was my first time in the kitchen, I decided to experiment by not measuring the water needed for boiling the rice. I wanted the rice to be firm when bitten, just like pasta. I don't enjoy the texture of mushy rice. It has to have that chutzpah; it has to resist my biting power just for a bit before disintegrating.

(3) After what seemed like 10 minutes, all the water disappeared. I went in to give it a good stir. To my surprise, some of the rice got stuck to the pot. I tried to scrape it off but to no avail. At the same time,

there was a burning smell coming from it. I quickly turned the stove off. "What have you done to the kitchen?" My mother shouted while coming towards the kitchen. I managed to ward her off.

(4) Finally, when the time came to taste my creation, I was surprised! It wasn't bad at all. The rice had the desired consistency. Sure, a little more salt would've been better, but I just added that while eating. The experience was fairly rewarding and memorable. It taught me a new sense of respect for those who cook food on a regular basis at home or are engaged in gourmet creations professionally.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

1. Father's question to the narrator, about knowing how to cook rice, was intended to
 - (A) criticize the narrator's lack of abilities.
 - (B) make the process sound simple.
 - (C) encourage the narrator to take up cooking.
 - (D) showcase his own expertise in cooking rice.
2. "I switched from news to YouTube ..." Pick the option in which the meaning of 'switch(ed)' is NOT the same as it is in the passage.
 - (A) He switched on the radio to listen to the news while having dinner.
 - (B) "Forget these diet supplements and switch to yoga, if you want a true sense of well-being."
 - (C) Mom switched to reading fiction recently because she was bored with cook-books.
 - (D) The company will switch the trucks to other routes to bring down city pollution.
3. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the process.
 1. Use water to wash the rice.
 2. Repeat the process three times.
 3. Drain the water off.
 4. Put rice in a utensil.
 5. Swirl the water in and around the rice.
 - (A) 4,2,1,3,5
 - (B) 1,3,2,5,4
 - (C) 4,1,5,3,2
 - (D) 5,1,2,4,3
4. The narrator says that he has dexterous hands. He would have had a problem had it been the opposite. NOT BEING dexterous means, being
 - (A) uncomfortable
 - (B) clumsy
 - (C) unclear
 - (D) clueless
5. According to the passage, the fact that the narrator risked experimentation, on his maiden attempt in the kitchen, shows that he was
 - (A) conscientious
 - (B) nervous
 - (C) presumptuous
 - (D) courteous
6. Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'chutzpah'.
 - (A) It is the court's duty to dispense chutzpah to everyone irrespective of caste or creed.
 - (B) The speaker may not have much of a stage presence, but you've got to admit she's got chutzpah.
 - (C) I could crack the code easily which proved me to be a chutzpah and I was the only one who could do so.
 - (D) After his father's demise, the daughter took over the family's chutzpah to save it from disaster.
7. Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen after the writer checked on the rice.
 - (A) Turning the stove off
 - (B) Being taken aback at the condition of rice
 - (C) Forgetting to scrape the stuck rice
 - (D) Smelling the delicious aroma of cooked rice
8. Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the cooking experience.
 1. frustrating
 2. Amusing
 3. satisfying
 4. Disillusioning
 5. Exacting
 6. enlightening
 - (A) 1 and 4
 - (B) 2 and 5
 - (C) 3 and 6
 - (D) 1 and 3
9. Find synonym of the word 'Nimble' word from Para 1
10. Find antonym of the word 'Demoralizing' word from Para 4

Writing Section – 18 Marks

Q3. You are the owner of a stationery shop. Due to insufficient number of customers and low income and profit rates, you have decided to shut down your store. Write a notice informing all the customers about the same and the discount offered on the products. **4**

Q4. On 30th September your school is going to hold its Annual Cultural Day. You want Mr. Ahan Pandey, noted cinema actor of the Movie: *Saiyaara* to give away the prizes to the budding winners of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Varun/Sidhharth, Cultural Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra. **4**

Q5. AF Public School, Chandigarh is planning to take a group of 40 senior students to Shimla on an excursion during the summer vacation. Mr. Mohan Das, the teacher-in-charge of 'Excursions & Field Trips', writes a letter to Insta Tours & Travels, Chandigarh asking them to organize the tour. Write this letter in about 100-125 words giving details of preference such as dates of journey, transport, accommodation, etc. **5**

Q6. A major bus mishap which left several people seriously injured took place at Nicholas Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai. Luckily no life was lost. Collect the information from the eyewitnesses and send a report in 125-150 words to 'The Nungambakkam Times'. You are Baadshah/Begam, a senior reporter of the newspaper. **5**

Literature Section – 40 Marks

Q7. Read the extract below and choose the correct answer:

1X6=6

*"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."*

1. Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment.

- A) Aunt Jennifer's hands are terrified, but when she is dead, her tigers will roam free.
- B) Aunt Jennifer knits her desires, but is overpowered by the wedding ring she wears.
- C) Aunt Jennifer's tigers are proud and unafraid, but she is mastered by ringed ordeals.
- D) Aunt Jennifer makes panels of tigers when she has time from her responsibilities.

2. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the given extract?

- A) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.
- B) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.
- C) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.
- D) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires

3. What makes the tigers "proud and unafraid"?

- A) They embody the grandeur and supremacy of animals in the wild.
- B) They symbolize authority and are 'topaz denizens of green'.
- C) They represent Aunt's repressed desires for freedom and power.
- D) They are a product of Aunt's imagination and colonial experience.

4. Choose the option that DOES NOT reflect the movement implied by 'prancing'.

- A) bounding
- B) frolicking
- C) strutting
- D) shuffling

5. What is the 'ordeal' referred to here?

6. What will the tigers do after her death?

Q8. Read the extract below and choose the correct answer:

4X1=4

MR LAMB: Later on, when it's a bit cooler, I'll get the ladder and a stick, and pull down those crab apples. They're ripe for it. I make jelly. It's a good time of year, September. Look at them.... orange and golden. That's magic fruit. I often say. But it's best picked and made into jelly. You could give me a hand. Who called Derry ugliest?

1. Why does Mr. Lamb pick apples?

- A. To make Jellies
B. To make toffees
C. To make sweets for kids
D. All of these

2. With whom is Mr. Lamb talking to?

- A. Derry
B. Derry's mother.
C. Woman at a bus stop
D. None of these

3. What does Mr. Lamb mean by 'You could give me a hand'?

- A. He is asking for his help
B. He is asking Derry for changing himself
C. He is asking Derry not to be afraid
D. All of these

4. What does Mr Lamb mean when he says 'pull down'?

- A. drag the branches
B. pluck the apples
C. uproot the tree
D. break the branches

Q9. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

6X1=6

'It was only two or three feet deep at the shallow end; and while it was nine feet deep at the other, the drop was gradual. I got a pair of water wings and went to the pool. I hated to walk naked into it and show my skinny legs. But I subdued my pride and did it.'

1. The author subdued his pride and did it. This shows that he –

- A. Hated swimming
B. Loved swimming
C. did not want to swim
D. Was forced to swim

2. What are water wings?

- A. A pair of wings to fly over the water
B. A pair of life saving tube to swim in water
C. both a and b
D. None of these

3. He got water wings before going to the pool. This shows that he –

- A. Was brave
B. Was courageous
C. was rich
D. Was scared

4. State true or False –

The writer could drown at the shallow end of the pool.

5. Why do you think the writer seemed afraid?

6. Find a synonym of 'overpower'.

Q10. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words (any five):

5X2=10

- a) What is the demand of the roadside stand?
b) Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?
c) Why were some elderly persons occupying the back benches that day?
d) How did Douglas get rid of all his residual fears?
e) Why did Gandhi chide the prominent lawyers?

Q11. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words (any two):

2X2=4

- a) Would Charley ever go back to the ticket-counter on the third level to buy tickets to Galesburg for himself and his wife?
b) What qualities of Mr. Lamb attracted Derry to him?

Q12. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words:

5

With determination and perseverance one can accomplish the impossible. Justify the statement in the light of the story "Deep Water".

OR

'Our language is part of our culture and we are proud of it'. Describe how regretful M. Hamel and the village elders are for having neglected their native language, French.

Q13. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words:

5

How did Charley reach the third level of Grand Central? How was it different from the other levels?

OR

The lesson, 'On the Face of It', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.