

**CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION****Practice Question Paper-2  
Session : 2021-22  
SUBJECT : ENGLISH  
CLASS : XII****Time : 2 Hours****Marks: 40****General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains **THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.**
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A – READING (14 marks)****1. Read the following passage carefully :****[1 × 8 = 8]**

- (1) It is worth looking at one or two aspects of the way a mother behaves towards her baby. The usual fondling, cuddling and cleaning require little comment, but the position in which she usually holds the baby against her body is rather revealing. Careful American studies have disclosed the fact that 80 per cent of mothers cradle their infants in their left arms, holding them against the left side of their bodies. If asked to explain the significance of this preference, most people reply that it is obviously the result of the predominance of right-handedness in the population. By holding the babies in their left arms, the mothers keep their dominant arm free for manipulations. But a detailed analysis shows that this is not the case. True, there is a slight difference between right-handed and left-handed females, but not enough to provide an adequate explanation. It emerges that 83 per cent of right-handed mothers hold the baby on the left side, but then so do 78 per cent of left-handed mothers. In other words, only 22 per cent of the left-handed mothers have their dominant hands free for actions. Clearly, there must be some other, less obvious explanation.
- (2) The only other clue comes from the fact that the heart is on the left side of the mother's body. Could it be that the sound of her heartbeat is the vital factor? And in what way? Thinking along these lines, it was argued that perhaps during its existence inside the body of the mother, the growing embryo becomes fixated on the sound of the heartbeat. If this is so, then the re-discovery of this familiar sound after birth might have a calming effect on the infant, especially as it has just been thrust into a strange and frighteningly new world outside. If this is so, then the mother, either instinctively or by an unconscious series of trials and errors, would soon arrive at the discovery that her baby is more at peace if held on the left against her heart, than on the right.
- (3) This may sound far-fetched, but tests have now been carried out which reveal that it is nevertheless the true explanation. Groups of newborn babies in a hospital nursery were exposed for a considerable time to the recorded sound of heartbeat at a standard rate of 72 beats per minute. There were nine babies in each group and it was found that one or more of them were crying for 60 per cent of time when the sound was not switched on, but that this figure fell to only 38 per cent when the heartbeat recording was being replayed. The heartbeat groups also showed a greater weight-gain than the others, although the amount of food taken was the same in both cases. Clearly, the beatless groups were burning up a lot more energy as a result of the vigorous actions of their crying.

- (4) Another test was done with slightly older infants at bedtime. In some groups, the room was silent; in others, recorded lullabies were played. In others, a ticking metronome was operating at the heartbeat speed of 72 beats per minute. In still others, the heartbeat recording itself was played. It was then checked to see which group fell asleep very quickly. The heartbeat group dropped off in half the time it took for any of the other groups. This not only clinches the idea that the sound of the heart beating is a powerfully calming stimulus, but it also shows that the response is a highly specific one. The metronome imitation will not do — at least, not for young infants.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT questions from the nine given below.**

- (i) What is the most significant thing about the way most mothers hold their babies? [1]
- (ii) How can you say that mothers don't hold babies on the left side of their bodies with the sole purpose of keeping their right arm free for work? [1]
- (iii) What has a calming effect on an infant and why? [1]
- (iv) Why does the baby feel more at peace against the left side of the mother's body? [1]
- (v) What fact is proved by the paintings of Madonna-and-Child? [1]
- (vi) What does the observation unfold about the females carrying parcels? [1]
- (vii) What has the Careful American significantly studied about women? [1]
- (viii) Why were the beatless groups burning a lot more energy? [1]
- (ix) Find the antonym of the word 'vigorous' from paragraph 3. [1]

**2. Read the following passage carefully.**

- (1) Online shopping is now ingrained in our day to day, but snapping up whatever you want with the click of a mouse wasn't always so commonplace. How many times have you clicked check-out' to buy something in the last few months? If the spike in online sales amid Covid-19 is any indicator (or, perhaps, the list of merchants on your last credit card statement), it's probably a lot.
- (2) Groceries, books, beauty supplies, inflatable children's pools as the pandemic persists, we have relied on e-commerce to get things to our doors, contact-free and fast. These things range from essentials to not-so-quite essentials: in Canada in April, online shoppers trapped at home were scooping up canned quail eggs, sitar strings and trampolines for the kids.
- (3) From panic buying and hoarding, we already know that the stress of the pandemic can break our brains and morph our buying habits. However, even though online shopping has been around for years - actually, decades - it's only become truly mainstream recently. Amazon has been around since the mid-90's, but by even 2010 in the US, online shopping only made up just more than 6% of all retail sales.
- (4) And now? Internet sales as a total percentage of sales in the UK rocketed from 2.8% in November 2006 to 18.9% in February 2020 - and then shot up again to 30% in April 2020 because of the pandemic. In May 2020, sales from non-store retailers" in the US were up 30.8% from May 2019.
- (5) Before Covid-19, relying on the internet for shopping hadn't been so ingrained in our day-to-day lives. A couple of decades ago, online shopping was a novelty, just as the internet itself still was. Most people were only buying hard-to-find records or obscure action figures on eBay.
- (6) So, how did we get to the point where online shopping became a way of life? And where will it guide us in the post-pandemic future?

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY SIX out of the seven questions given below.

- (i) What type of items people have started shopping online during pandemic, according to the passage? [1]
- (ii) What is the reason of surge in e-commerce in the recent days? [1]
- (iii) What was the percentage of sale through online shopping before the pandemic? [1]
- (iv) What was the increase in online shopping in May 2020 in the US, in comparison to non-store retailers? [1]
- (v) What was the situation of online shopping a decade ago? [1]
- (vi) What does the online shopping offer to sell? [1]
- (vii) How did the online shoppers in Canada enjoy the boon of online shopping? [1]

### SECTION B – WRITING (8 Marks)

3. You are Dhruv/Deepa. Your father, Shri Dheeraj Garg of Gurugram wants you to draft an invitation to be sent to friends and relatives on the occasion of your elder sister's marriage. Prepare the invitation giving necessary details in not more than 50 words. [3]
4. You are Shobha/Sushil from 56, A Block, Saket, Agra. Write an application along with a personal resume in 120 -150 words in response to the following advertisement:  
Wanted an experienced hockey coach having B.F.Ed Degree for our school. Apply to the Principal, Agarsen Public School, Agra by 15th March, 2019. [5]

OR

A massive fire due to short circuit gutted 50 odd shops in the congested area of Sadar Bazar in Delhi leading to loss of life and property. As a reporter with The Tribune write the report for the newspaper. (150-200 words)

### SECTION C – LITERATURE (18 Marks)

5. Attempt ANY FIVE of the six questions given below, within 40 words each. [2×5=10]
  - (i) What did the ironmaster plan to do for the so called Captain ? [2]
  - (ii) What do you understand by “massive weight of uncle’s wedding band”? [2]
  - (iii) Will the exam now go as scheduled ? (Evans Tries an O-Level) [2]
  - (iv) Jo was allowed to use the big master bed for Saturday naps, or when she was ill. What idea do you form about the relationship between the parents and small children in America from this context? [2]
  - (v) What problems were the Champaran indigo sharecroppers facing ? [2]
  - (vi) How does beauty leave an indelible imprint on our mind ? [2]
6. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 120-150 words each. [4×2=8]
  - (i) What philosophy of life is highlighted in the poem "A thing of Beauty" ? [4]
  - (ii) What was the dispute between the landlords and the Champaran peasants ? what role did Gandhiji play in resolving the dispute successfully ? [4]
  - (iii) A minute study of story "Should Wizard Hit Mommy ?" reveals that it can be convincingly ended at, atleast three different levels. Justify. [4]