



ST. VIVEKANAND MILLENNIUM SCHOOL
HMT Township, Pinjore
Subject: ENGLISH (Level-2)
Half Yearly EXAM, 2025

CODE: XII/301/SET-II

Time allowed : 3 hours

MM : 80

General Instructions :

- All Questions are compulsory.

SECTION-A

- 1 Today, etiquette is not seen as the conventional code of behavior and interaction within a household or society, nor is it limited to table manners and dining etiquettes. Instead, etiquette is seen as a qualifying characteristic in a person to be socially pleasing and is considered to be an important part of one's personality as etiquettes reflect grooming and finesse.

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Etiquettes play a very important role after marriage, when everyone notices every act of yours. Etiquette is dependent on culture; what is excellent etiquette in one society may shock another. Etiquette evolves within culture. Etiquette can vary widely between different cultures and nations. For example, in Hausa culture, eating while standing may be seen as offensively casual and ill-omened behavior, insulting the host and showing a lack of respect for food—the offense is known as "eating with the devil" or "committing santi". In China, a person who takes the last item of food from a common plate or bowl without first offering it to others at the table may be seen as a glutton who is insulting the host's generosity. Traditionally, if guests do not have leftover food in front of them at the end of a meal, it is to the dishonor of the host. In America a guest is expected to eat all of the food given to him, as a compliment to the quality of the cooking. However, it is still considered polite to offer food from a common plate or bowl to others at the table. Making sound while eating is generally considered ill-mannered; however, in Japan slurping while eating or drinking is a sign of appreciating the food, and not doing so might be considered a lack of etiquette. In such rigid hierarchical cultures as Korea and Japan, alcohol helps to break down the strict social barrier between

classes. It allows for a tint of informality to creep in. It is traditional for host and guest to take turns filling each other's cups and encouraging each other to gulp it down. For someone who does not consume alcohol (except for religious reasons), it can be difficult escaping the ritual of the social drink.

Etiquette may be wielded as a social weapon. The outward adoption of the superficial mannerisms of an in-group, in the interests of social advancement rather than a concern for others, is considered by many a form of snobbery, lacking in virtue.

Social norms are described by sociologists as being laws that govern society's behaviors. Although these norms are not considered to be formal laws within society all the time, they still work to promote a great deal of social control. Social norms can be enforced formally (e.g., through sanctions) or informally (e.g., through body language and non-verbal communication cues). If people do not follow these norms then they become labelled as deviants and this can lead to them being considered the outcast of society. It is important to note that what is considered "normal" is relative to the location of the culture in which the social interaction is taking place. As social beings, individuals learn when and where it is appropriate to say certain things, to use certain words, to discuss certain topics or wear certain clothes, and when it is not. Thus, knowledge about cultural norms is important for impressions, which is an individual's regulation of their nonverbal behavior. One also comes to know through experience what types of people he/she can and cannot discuss certain topics with or wear certain types of dress around.

Typically, this knowledge is derived through experience (i.e. social norms are learned through social interaction). An example of the need to polish his or her behavior would be when people go to a job interview in the white collar work force and dress properly in order to give a great first impression so that they get the job.

Answer the following questions.

- (i) What makes etiquette so important today? [1]
- (ii) What personality traits does etiquette inculcate? [2]
- (iii) How do the Chinese, Americans and Japanese differ in their table etiquette? [2]
- (iv) What 'ritual of the social drink' is mentioned in the passage?

[2]

(v) How does a person learn etiquettes? [2]

(b) Pick out the words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: [1X3 = 3]

(i) Having a social order or system ranked one above the other
(Para 4)

(ii) Behaviour that shows pride in social position and wealth and contempt for the poor (Para 5)

(iii) Different from the normal social norm (Para 6)

2 Read the passage and answer the questions:

The You Gov survey found that most of the people face the threat of being exposed to pollutants on a daily basis. Around two-third of the respondents (65 percent) said that they spend up to an hour a day in traffic. 10

Indian cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata saw air pollution reach alarming levels in November. The situation in Delhi, which is reeling under the effects of stubble burning, has prompted the authorities to even consider inducing artificial rain this week to wash away toxic pollutants.

You Gov India conducted a pan-India survey of men and women and collecting data from 1,049 respondents, asking them questions on the issues faced by them due to air pollution. The survey found that over three-fourth of respondents view air pollution as a pressing concern and needs to be addressed immediately. In Delhi, 81 percent people think the air quality is unhealthy or toxic, while in Bengaluru 29 percent think the air is unhealthy or toxic, and in Mumbai 40 percent think so. Most of the people also face the threat of being exposed to pollutants on a daily basis. The survey found that around two thirds of respondents (65 percent) spend up to an hour a day in traffic, with a little over a fourth of women (28 percent) spending less than 30 minutes. A total of 22 percent spend one to two hours in traffic every day.

Poor air quality affects both physical and mental state of a person, the survey found. Majority of the respondents (87 percent) revealed they were personally affected by rising pollution levels. Sixty four percent of the people reported irritation in their eyes, nose and throat as the most visible impact of air pollution, more so among Delhi residents compared to

other states. Breathlessness (57 percent) and skin allergies (52 percent) are some of the other issues faced by people.

Close to a quarter of the overall respondents reported frequenting hospitals/doctors more often recently, while a third revealed a decrease in their outdoor activities. Due to a growing pollution problem, 21 percent people claimed to have faced mental health issues like depression, with residents of Tier 1 cities reporting more such cases than people of other city tiers. Very few respondents admitted to have acted in safety of their health in view of the rising pollution. Despite irritation of eyes/nose being a dominant concern for the respondents, only 27 percent said they have taken an allergy/ lung test of late to ensure they are safe.

Dissatisfaction with the government's actions was reported by 45 percent of the people, while 39 percent were unsure. The highest level of dissatisfaction was seen in Delhi, with 53 percent stating their unhappiness with the government.

The respondents showed willingness to take actions to deal with the increasing pollution levels. While 71 percent of the respondents showed interest in using eco-friendly products, 70 percent said conserving energy at home can help solve the problem. A considerable proportion of people (66 percent) also proposed recycling/reusing products and choosing car pools and public transport over private cars (64 percent) to reduce pollution.

Interestingly, 39 percent of the respondents believed that investing in air pollution tracking and minimizing devices will ensure a safe and clean environment around them.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

10x1

- 1) Select a suitable title for the above passage.
- 2) The ways suggested to reduce pollution in the last paragraph can be best described as.....
 - a) Impractical
 - b) Persuasive
 - c) Prudent
 - d) Pleasing
- 3) The main idea of paragraph 5 and 6 is
 - a) Causes of air pollution in cities
 - b) Effects of air pollution on city dwellers
 - c) Solutions to the problem of air pollution
 - d) Life of tier 1 city dwellers
- 4) The purpose of the passage is to.....the readers on the

topic.

From the options given below, select the one which is NOT a purpose of the passage.

a) entertain b) inform c) Instruct d) Apprise

- 5) Does the following statement agree with the information given in the passage above?

Select any of the following based on your understanding of the passage:

The statement is: Increasing traffic is the main cause of air pollution and city dwellers are affected the most.

a) True- if the statement agrees with the information

b) False- if the statement contradicts the information

c) Not given- if there is no information on this

d) All of the above- if all the 3 options given above are correct

- 6) Based on your reading of the given passage, state which fact/facts might have led the reader to make the below statement:

It is high time the matter of air pollution is looked into, by the authorities concerned. This has to be given utmost priority.

- 7) In the context of the passage, what does 'reeling under the effects of' in paragraph 1 mean.

- 8) Majority of the Indians consider the problem of air pollution very seriously and seek for an urgent solution to it. (Give points/statements from the passage which support the above statement)

- 9) How do you know that the respondents are very keen on reducing air pollution and are taking sincere efforts towards this?

- 10) The entire passage can be summed up in one sentence as.....

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SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

Your school is organizing a tour to Mumbai and Goa during the winter vacation. Write a notice giving detailed information to the students. You are Rishi/ Rishita, School Pupil Leader, Sardar Patel Senior Secondary School, Ahmedabad.

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OR

You are Pavan/ Pavani, Secretary, Cultural Club, Amma Public School, Kochi. A charity show has been arranged in your school in aid of cancer patients. Write a notice to be displaced on the school noticeboard informing the students about the show and asking them to cooperate and make it a success.

4 You are Jimmy Shergil, the Head Boy of Bharti Public School, Delhi. Your school is holding an Inter School Limited-Over Cricket Championship from 2 November, 2023. Draft a formal invitation card to Shri N. K. Trivedi, the legendary cricketer to inaugurate the championship on 2 November at 11 a.m. at your school playground. 4

OR

Suppose you are Mr. Ramakant Shakya, Principal of D A V PUBLIC School, Mudkhed. Write a formal invitation letter to Brig. G.S. Reddy, DIGP, CRPF, Mudkhed to invite him as the Chief Guest for the Annual Day Function of your school.

5 You are Anchit/Anchal of 21, Brij Nagar, Rajkot. You saw an advertisement in The Hindustan Times for the post of Marketing Manager in a reputed firm in Mumbai. You would like to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Public Relations Officer, Chahat Enterprises, Mumbai, applying for the job. Write a letter in 100- 120 words submitting your candidature with a detailed bio data . 5

OR

You are Sagar /Sagarika of 29 orchid lane Pune, Recently you have read the following advertisement. Write an application for job giving your complete Bio- Data separately.

PRINCE PIPES CO. LTD PUNE REQUIRE A SALES EXECUTIVE FOR PUNE BRANCH. QUALIFICATION: DIPLOMA OR DEGREE IN MARKETING MANAGEMENT WITH 5-10 YEARS EXPERIENCE. MUST HAVE GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILL. APPLY IMMEDIATELY WITH COMPLETE BIO-DATA TO THE MANAGE PRINCE PIPES CO. LTD

6 You are Anand / Anandi of S.D.Public School, Pune. You have attended a workshop on 21 century skills. Write a report on the workshop in 120 to 150 words for the school magazine by using the following verbal input. 5

Workshop on 21 century skills, participants students of class XII, inauguration, focal theme, activities - debate, symposium poster designing, creative writing, Problem solving tasks, group work, hands on experience, communication skills, real to life situations for experience, best participants, prize distribution, address by the chairperson, role of resource persons, a vote of thanks.

or

Ranikhet district, Uttarakhand, on the occasion of Basant

Panchami celebrations had organized a three-day cultural festival. You are Bhupinder/ Priyanka Bhisht. Your newspaper had deputed you to cover the inaugural event of this festival. As a newspaper reporter, use the given cues along with your own ideas to write a report about the same in 120-150 words.

Big crowds - main grounds of the marketplace

Colourful decorations

Inauguration-local panchayat member to inaugurate

Folk

dance and songs

Speeches

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions:

6

A. It would be an exotic moment

without rush, without engines,

we would all be together

in a sudden strangeness.

(a) What will happen if there will be no rush or running of engines?

(i) it will be boring

(ii) people will suffer a lot

(iii) it will be a moment of tranquility

(iv) all the animals will come on the road

(b) Why the moment is called 'exotic'?

(c) What is the poetic device used in the phrase 'we would'?

(i) imagery (ii) alliteration (iii) antithesis (iv) repetition

(d) Which strangeness is the poet talking about?

(e) Which moment has been described as exotic?

(f) Explain: 'without rush, without engines'.

Or

"And looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache,"

(a) "Young Trees sprinting," is similar to -----in the use of figure of speech.

1. Roaring silence

2. Hungry mouths to feed
3. He is older than the hills
4. Because I could not stop for Death, he kindly stopped for me

(b) State whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE:

The poet is filled with pain, anxiety and fear as she is about to depart.

© By comparing the mother's face to the pale winter's moon the poet suggests that -----

(d) The literary device used by the poet in the following line ... as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, ... is similar to

- (i) The snow is a white blanket.
- (ii) The Alarm clock yelled at me
- (iii) Like a kite against the wind
- (iv) Both a and c
- (e) What is the effect achieved by the imagery of "the merry children spilling"?
- (f) What does the poet want to suggest through the imagery of "Young Trees sprinting"?

8 Read the given extracts and answer the questions:

4

Now Sadao remembered the wound and with his expert fingers he began to search for it. Blood flowed freshly at his touch. On the right side of his lower back Sadao saw that a gun wound had been reopened. The flesh was blackened with powder. Sometime, not many days ago, the man had been shot and had not been tended. It was bad chance that the rock had struck the wound.

- a) Who was wounded?
- (b) Which word best suits 'trained' in the extract?
 - (i) touch (ii) tended (iii) expat (iv) expert
- (c) What kind of wound the man had?
- (d) How old was the wound?
 - (i) few days old (ii) a month old (iii) a week old (iv) many days old

He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central

Station. But that's the reason, he said, and my friends all agreed. Everything points to it, they claimed. My stamp collecting, for example; that's a 'temporary refuge from reality.' Well, maybe, but my grandfather didn't need any refuge from reality; things were pretty nice and peaceful in his day.

- a) Why did Sam's verdict make Charley's wife 'mad'?
- b) Select the option that signifies the condition of the people of 'modern world' mentioned in the extract.
- 1) unsure 2) lazy 3) offensive 4) anxious 5) afraid
- i) 1) and 3)
ii) 2) and 5)
iii) 2), 3) and 4)
iv) 1), 4) and 5)
- c) Why didn't Charley's grandfather need refuge from reality?
- d) Select the option that displays a cause-effect set.

	cause	effect
A.	Charley's stamp collecting	Wandering into the third level

	cause	effect
B.	Everybody wants to escape	Modern world full of insecurity

	cause	effect
C.	Charley's wandering into the third level	Charley's stamp collecting

	cause	effect
D.	Modern world full of insecurity	Everybody wants to escape

9 Read the given extracts and answer the questions: 6

A. "You do preach worse than a parson", said the ironmaster. "I only hope you won't have to regret this"

- (a) Who was the ironmaster talking to?
- (i) to his workers
(ii) to the peddler
(iii) to his daughter
(iv) to his companion
- (b) Identify the figure of speech used in the phrase "preach worse than a parson"?
- (i) simile (ii) metaphor (iii) personification (iv) symbolism
- (c) What was she preaching?
- (d) Why did the ironmaster ask her not to regret in future?
- (e) Why did Edla still plead with her father not to send the

vagabond away ?

(f) Why did the iron master invite the peddler home?

Or

It had happened when I was ten or eleven years old. I had decided to learn to swim. There was a pool at the Y.M.C.A. in Yakima that offered exactly the opportunity. The Yakima River was treacherous. Mother continually warned against it, and kept fresh in my mind the details of each drowning in the river. But the Y.M.C.A. pool was safe. 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.

(a) The word 'treacherous' means

(b) What is the theme of the lesson 'Deep Water.

i. Understanding another person's experience.

ii. A real-life personal account of experiencing fear and the steps taken to overcome it.

iii. Sharing personal experiences.

iv. Sharing accounts of acts of courage

© 'The curtain of life fell'. Corresponds to an aspect of

i. Geometry ii. History iii. Sports iv. Drama

(d) If someone else had narrated Douglas's experience, how would it have differed from this account? Which style of narration would you consider to be more suitable?

A. Stream of consciousness B. Magical realism C. Third Person
D. First person

(e) Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the Yakima was treacherous.

(f) Which of the following sub title best suggests the central idea of the extract.

10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words. 5X2

(a) Why was Franz not scolded that day when he reached late without being prepared for participles?

(b) Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?

©Why did the narrator-Douglas say, “But I was not finished”?

(d)According to the poet Keats, what are the things that cause pain?

(e)“Little has moved with time in Firozabad.” What could be the reasons of this conclusion/statement?

(f)How did Kamala Das put away the thought of her mother’s old age?

11 Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words. 2X2

(a) Why did the messenger come to Dr. Sadao ? What did Hana think about it ?

(b) How did Mr. Lamb pass his leisure time?

©Imagination might be the only great escape. Explain with reference to the lesson ' The Third Level'.

12 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions. 5

A. ‘I crossed to oblivion and the curtain of the life fell’. Explain this statement with reference to the lesson “Deep Water”.

OR

B. The chapter Lost Spring by Anees Jung highlights the importance of transformative power of education, and it can break the cycle of poverty.

As Anees Jung, draft a speech in about 120-150 words to be delivered in the slum area of Firozabad to motivate people to encourage children like Saheb and Mukesh.

13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions. 5

A. How did the Maharaja devise a new avenue to fulfil his ambition to kill one hundred tigers ? How far did he succeed ?

OR

B. How does Tishani Doshi's decision to explore the white continent of Antarctica align with Khalil Gibran's notion of ambition beyond existence as the essential purpose of our being? Support your answer with references to the journey to the end of the Earth and its significance in understanding our existence.

