

**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA**

**CLASS – XI**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**ASSIGNMENT: APRIL-MAY**

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**SECTION 'A' READING SKILLS**

**Q1) Read the following passage and answer the questions: (12 marks)**

Since its invention a little over 130 years ago. The interview has become a commonplace of journalism. Today, almost everybody who is literate will have read an interview at some point in their lives, while from the other point of view, several thousand celebrities have been interviewed over the years, some of them repeatedly. So, it is hardly surprising that opinions of the interview - of its functions, methods and merits - vary considerably. Some might make very extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrate, who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul.

2. V.S Naipaul 'feels that some people are wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves', Lewis Carroll, the creator of Alice in wonderland, was said to have had 'a just horror of the interviewer' and he never consented to be interviewed- it was his horror of being lionized which made him thus repel would be acquaintances, interviewers, and persistent petitioners for his autograph and he would afterwards relate the stories of his success in silencing all such people with much satisfaction and amusement. Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it," yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to 'the interviewing ordeal' but was fairly frequent interviewee and forty years later found himself interviewing Joseph Stalin.

3. Saul Bellow, who has consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe. Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is supremely serviceable medium of communication. "These days more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews," Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence."

**QUESTIONS:**

**1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below by choosing the correct option:**

- a) The positive opinion regarding interview is .....
- An intrusion
  - Source of truth
  - Information in complex form
  - Both first and third
- b) Negative opinion on interview is.....
- An art
  - Honest information
  - An ordeal
  - Development of personality
- c) The creator of 'Alice in Wonderland' is .....
- G. H. Wells
  - Kipling
  - Denis Brian
  - Lewis Carroll
- d) Kipling refused to be interviewed because according to him it is .....
- A crime
  - An assault
  - Immoral
  - All the three above.

### 1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

- a) What do you understand by 'thumbprints on his wind pipe'?
- b) What are the major view points on people on interviews?
- c) How are the celebrities a victim of interviews?
- d) What is one of the advantages of interviews?
- e) Give two extravagant views / claims about interviews expressed by people
- f) In the present time, how do we get to know about our contemporaries?

### 1.3 Find words from the passage which means the same as each of the following: -

- i. Lessens the authority, dignity or reputation (Para - 1).....
- ii. Refusing to give up (Para - 2).....

### Q2) Read the following passage and answer the question that follows: (8 marks)

1. The secrets of sleep were a mystery for centuries simply because there was neither the means to explore them, nor the need. Only when candles gave way to gaslight, and gas to electricity, when man became able to convert night into day, and double his output by working in shifts round the clock, did people seriously start wondering if sleep could possibly be a waste of time. Our ability to switch night into day is very recent, and it is questionable if we will ever either want, or be able, to give up our habit of enjoying a good night's sleep. However, a remarkable research project in London has already discovered a few people who actually enjoy insomnia. Even chronic insomniacs often get hours more sleep than they think. But by placing electric contacts beside the eyes and on the head, it is possible to check their complaint by studying the tiny currents we generate which reveal the different brain waves of sleep and wakefulness. This has shown that for some people seven or eight hours of sleep at night are quite unnecessary.
2. A lot of recent work has shown that too much sleep is bad for you, so that if you are fortunate enough to be born with a body which needs only a small amount of sleep, you may well be healthier and happier than someone who sleeps longer. Every attempt to unravel the secrets of sleep, and be precise about its function, raises many problems. The sleeper himself cannot tell what is going on and, even when he wakes, has only a very hazy idea of how good or bad a night he has had. The research is expensive and often unpopular, as it inevitably involves working at night. Only in the last few years have experts come up with theories about the function of sleep and the laws which may govern it. The real advance in sleep research came in 1937 with the use of the electroencephalogram.
3. This machine showed small – 50 microvolt – changes in the brain, so, for the first time, we could observe sleep from moment to moment. Before that time, one could put the person to bed, watch him mumble, toss, turn, bring back a few rough memories of dreams, and that was about all. In 1937, it was possible to read out these changes, second by second. Then, in 1959 two other things happened. Kleitman and Aserinsky, as they were looking at eye movements trying to understand brainwaves, noticed that after about ninety minutes there would be a burst of the EEG (Electro Encephalon Graph), as if the person was awake, and the eyes would move rapidly. It was not hard to guess that may be that was dream. And indeed, it was. Waking people up during that period, they found they were dreaming: waking them up at other periods, they found no dreams.
4. The electroencephalograph shows that when we fall asleep, we pass through a cycle of sleep stages. At the onset of sleep, cycle lasts about ninety minutes during which you pass stages one, two and three to stage four. This is the deepest form of sleep, and from it you retreat to stage two, and from there into REM, or rapid eye movement sleep. Here, for ten minutes on the first cycle and then gradually longer, it is thought that we do most of our dreaming. Studies of people who volunteered to be locked up for weeks in an observation chamber with no idea of whether it is night or day, gave remarkable results. We are not, in fact, twenty-four-hour creatures. Put people in such circumstances and, even though the patterns of sleep continue, the day is extended to about twenty-five and a half hours. Without any clues to time these people go to sleep the first, after about ten days at three o'clock in the afternoon, thinking that they are still going to sleep at midnight.
5. Today, jet-lag is a familiar hazard for the seasoned traveller. Travel across time zones plays havoc with the biological clock rhythms of the human body. For the active pilot, who is rarely in one place long enough to know if it is time for breakfast or dinner, the impact of jet-lag on his sleep is critical. Several

air disasters have been partly caused by overtired pilots ignoring the natural laws of sleep. Much research is directed to finding out what these laws are and to what extent pilots and astronauts dare disobey them. But they are laws which affect all of us, not just pilots. (From an article in 'The Listener')

**2.1 Based on your reading of the passage make notes on it using headings, subheadings and commonly recognized abbreviations. Also, supply a suitable title to the passage.**

**2.2 Prepare a summary of the passage in 80 words only.**

### **SECTION 'B' – ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR**

**Q3)** As the librarian of your school, write a notice informing the students of the penalty for losing or damaging the book issued to them.

**Q4)** You are Aradhana/Anurag, Head boy/Head Girl of Zion Senior Sec. School, Paharganj, New Delhi. Your school is organizing a day-long Bhajan programme on Gandhi Jayanti. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board inviting names of the students desiring to participate.

**Q5)** As the editor of your school magazine, write a notice inviting original entries in the form of articles, stories, poems etc. for the forthcoming issue of the annual journal, Sagarika.

**Q6)** Write a notice in 50-60 words informing all about a session by an eminent psychologist on 'Study Skills'. You are Anil/Amira, Cultural In charge of St. Mark's School, Jankapuri.

**(GRAMMAR - 1 mark each)**

**Q7) In the following passage one word has been omitted from each line. Mark the place where you think a word has been omitted and write the omitted word in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. (1/2x6=3 marks)**

The habit of reading is one of greatest resources of mankind. (a) \_\_\_\_

We enjoy reading books belong to us much more than if they (b) \_\_\_\_

are borrowed. A borrowed book is like guest in the house; it must (c) \_\_\_\_

be treated with punctiliousness or a certain considerate formality.

You must see that it sustains no damage; it not suffer while (d) \_\_\_\_

under your roof. You cannot leave carelessly, you cannot mark it, (e) \_\_\_\_

you cannot turn down pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And (f) \_\_\_\_

then, someday, although this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.

**Q8) Fill in the blanks with suitable modals.**

1. She ----- come here if she wants to.
2. Mr Sen ----- take care of his old parents.
3. I -----never forget the support she has given me.
4. You ----- tell me the truth.
5. Rana ----- solve the problem inspite of all his efforts.

**Q9) Use appropriate determiners to fill in the blanks.**

1. Never hesitate to take ----- right decision.
2. There are ----- bananas lying on the table.
3. ----- students felt nervous because they didn't prepare well.
4. There is ----- urgent need to send a mail to him.
5. ----- of confidence is required to speak on stage.

**LITERATURE – HORNBILL – PROSE AND POETRY**

**A Photograph**

The poem “A Photograph” shows how time takes its toll on life. We try to capture moments from life which remain as pictures in our mind – some faint, some clear. What is finally left is the silence and death for the next generation to reflect upon. (RTCs- 1 mark each)

**Q10) With reference to the given extract, read the following and answer the questions:**

*The cardboard shows me how it was  
When the two girl cousins went paddling,  
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,  
And she the big girl – some twelve years or so.*

(a) What does the word 'cardboard' suggest here?

.....  
.....

(b) Where had the girls gone? When?

.....  
.....

(c) Why were the two cousins holding on to the poet's mother's hand?

.....  
.....

(d) What feelings are aroused in these lines?

.....  
.....

**Q11) Answer the questions in 40 – 50 words: (3 marks each)**

1. What does the word 'cardboard' denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?

.....  
.....  
.....

2. What is the meaning of the line “Both wry with the laboured ease of loss”?

.....

**Portrait of a Lady**

The title of the chapter, “The Portrait of a Lady” is apt and appropriate. Besides being a pen sketch of his grandmother, the passage is Khushwant Singh's loving tribute to her, his relationship with her and the emotional bond he shared with her. He graphically describes the person and personality of the grandmother who had all the attributes of a lady.

**Q12) Answer the questions in 40 – 50 words: (3 marks each)**

1. Mention three reasons why the author's grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school.  
.....  
.....  
.....
2. Mention the odd way in which the author's grandmother behaved just before she died.  
.....  
.....
3. When the people are pious and good, even nature mourns their death. 'Justify with reference the grandmother's character in the chapter **Portrait of a Lady**.  
.....  
.....  
.....
4. Khushwant Singh's grandmother was not pretty but was always beautiful. Explain the meaning of the statement.  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SNAPSHOTS – PROSE**

**The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse**

Many of William Saroyan's stories are about his childhood experiences among the Armenian – American fruit growers and deal with their sense of being uprooted. "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse" deals with two Armenian boys who stray away from the values of trust and honesty for which their tribe is famous. The story deals with the theme of the adventure and thrill of youth and strong tribe character. It also emphasizes the need of avoiding stereotypes in one's judgement of others.

**Q17) Answer the questions in 40 – 50 words: (3 marks each)**

1. Explain: "Mourad enjoyed being alive more than anybody else who had ever fallen into the world by mistake".
2. Why were the Garoghlanian family members first proud and then honest?
3. Why did Aram find it hard to believe that Mourad had stolen the horse?