

ASSIGNMENT 1

Subject: English

Class: XII

Maximum Marks: 15

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (7)

The Relevance of Repetition

1. The painstaking memorization of mathematical tables, historical dates, capitals of countries and even poems leave an indelible mark on every adult who has attended school. However, all educators deprecate this rote system learning by orally reciting and consigning lessons to memory as mindless and mechanical, which goes against critical thinking and creativity. But is this dichotomy between creativity and rote learning part of a lazy binary thinking?

2. We often hear about people who can repeat the entire telephone directory or memorize the entire dictionary. Indians have a history of highly developed systems of memorization, perfected through centuries of Vedic learning. From a typically Western perspective, the permanency of the written word has been pitted against the 'unconscious operation of memory' of oral cultures, and held to be more reliable in cultural transmission. However, refuting this thesis, Fritz Stall, an Indie scholar observes that the oral tradition in India is remarkable, "because it has led to scientific discoveries that are of enduring interest". Of course, this mugging up can be aural (i.e., chanting aloud) or visual—mentally storing images in a visual map.

3. The advantages of rote memorization—like it expands areas of the mind to great possibilities—are now becoming evident to the world. Various accounts from ancient India, including those from travellers like I-tsing, point to the fool-proof system of oral memorization and the capacity to absorb volumes of data. While communicating mathematics, philosophy and other scientific disciplines, cryptic text forms were created, that facilitated memorization.

4. A related question pertains to cognition—how can we transmit principles using memorization as a creative tool rather than as a mechanical process of repetition? Bhaskara's Lilavati, the seminal 12th century illustrates how memorization and creativity go together.

5. The fact that Bhaskara's methods still figure in Indian pedagogic consciousness was recently brought home in a news report on the Ramanujan School of Mathematics in Patna, which trains youngsters from poor families to clear the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance test. This year, all the 30 students of the school got through IITs. Anand Kumar, the school's founder, called it the "sheer power of practice to break the so-called IIT code" and a student attributed the success to his teacher's ability to teach differential calculus through a "thrilling story of a daring robber".

1.1 Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x7= 7 Marks)

- I. All educators condemn rote learning as.....
- II. The dichotomy between creativity and rote learning is.....
 - (a) Increased by computer literates.
 - (b) Initiated by western thinkers.
 - (c) the clash of the cultures of west and east
 - (d) Opposed by Indian scholars.

- III. Which of the following is the antonym of the word 'Deprecate' as mentioned in Para 1?
(a) belittle (b) derogate (c) applaud (d) discredit
- IV. The word 'enduring' in para 2 means.....
- V. Why is oral tradition in India called remarkable?
(a) Because it has led to scientific discoveries.
(b) It has been held to be more reliable in cultural transmission.
(c) It has capacity to absorb volumes of data.
(d) Stories were spread through this process.
- VI. What does Bhaskara's Lilavati illustrate?
(a) how memorisation and creativity go together.
(b) the sheer power of practice to break the so-called IIT code.
(c) mentally storing images in a visual map.
(d) ability to teach differential calculus.
- VII. Write the word from passage similar in meaning to the word '**Separation**' (para 1)

WRITING

Q.2 You are Anup/ Anupama, Publication Captain of Sardar Patel Senior Secondary School, Ahmedabad. The school wishes to publish an E- Magazine for the academic year 2023-24. Draft a Notice in not more than 50 words inviting stories, poems, articles, cartoon stripes, paintings in suitable e-formats by the end of December. Invent necessary details. (4 marks)

Q.3 Your school, St. Mother Mary School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi is organising its Annual Sports Day. Famous cricket player MS Dhoni has given his consent to be the chief guest. Draft an invitation to be sent to the parents in not more than 50 words. (4 marks)

OR

You are Ronak of 1235, Vivekananda Marg, Nalasopara. Write a formal reply expressing your inability to attend the 50th birthday celebrations of your friend Kaushik Solanki on 27 July at Nalanda Hotel Mumbai.