

**BCM SCHOOL, BASANT AVENUE, DUGRI ROAD, LUDHIANA**  
**XII ASSIGNMENT**  
**SUBJECT ENGLISH CORE (301)**

**Section A: Reading Skills**

**I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

I have lived in Rishikesh for 15 years and have seen the shift in the mind-set of India's younger generation. While they are patriotic, prepared to Join any movement, march, wave political flags, join Facebook groups, they are not, in most cases, convinced India's culture. In fact, they ask questions that evidence their dissatisfaction with and disinterest in what we call culture, values and sanskars.

"Why can't we date before marriage? Why do we live in a joint family? I believe in God but not in temples or puja. Why can't my parents understand? They are turning from vegetarians to non-vegetarians, from teetotalers to drinkers, from obedient to rebellious young adults at alarming rates. And at the same time, parents say: "What's wrong with our children? They are going astray.

My academic background is psychology from Stanford University hence I am used to doing analysis. I came to India at the age of 25, having grown up in Los Angeles, in the heart of American upper class 'modern' culture and was so filled with delight by the grace, the truth, the divinity, and the depth of traditional Indian culture that despite protests from people back home-I stayed. I have seen both the worlds, up close hip American culture where acceptance is based on how you look in a black mini-skirt; how many times a week you're seen drinking coffee past 2 am in the local 'hot spot'; how many drug-filled dens you visit on a Saturday night. And I have seen the results. Fifteen-year-olds killed in drunken driving accidents, night after night of sleeplessness stealing the minds of Ivy-League students, third marriages by 25, a country where the most commonly prescribed medicines are anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medication and sleeping pills

There is much to be emulated about Western culture-its commitment to excellence and perfection, punctuality, reliability, fulfilment of promises, adherence to contracts, integrity and honesty-attributes which other countries like India would benefit by adopting. But tragically, what is being adopted by metropolitan Indian youth is the illusion of (not real) sophistication allure of glamour, myth of material enjoyment that is seeping into Indian culture.

India's culture, values, ethics and traditions form the foundation of a successful, meaningful and fulfilling life. If you ask a person in Los Angeles, stepping out of her Mercedes, "How are you?" Chances are you will get in reply a list of complaints- "My back is hurting the housekeeper (maid) didn't show up, the store ran out of my favourite cereal; too much traffic on the road..." "Put the same question to an elderly Indian, and the chances are your question will be answered with "Sub Bhagwan ki kripa hai". This is the fruit of culture: deep satisfaction despite ups and downs of daily life. Apparently, God's kripa seems to have showered abundantly more upon the LA woman. Yet, she needs a pill to go to sleep. A pill to wake up, a pill to make it through the day.

India's values have kept India strong and united despite thousands of years of invasions. They have kept their minds and hearts independent. Even when their country was colonised and oppressed.

However, today what is needed is a new vocabulary. The youth of today are being raised differently from those in previous generations. Information is at their fingertips. Modern science and technology have rendered the inexplicable and impossible a decade ago child's play today. We cannot expect them to accept "because I said so" or "because God made it that way

Most middle-aged Indians today would never have dared disobey or question their parents Therefore, their children's continuous chant of "why?" seems insolent and disrespectful. Today's youth have been raised to wonder, to question, to investigate, to discover

Give them scientific, rational, pragmatic reasons to be vegetarian. Explain that the meat industry is the single largest contributor to world hunger as well as environmental destruction, India is the richest country in the world in its depth of culture, values, ethics and tradition. The values and ethics of centuries ago are just as valid and applicable today as then. We only have to explain them differently.

**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.**

1. What is being adopted by metropolitan Indian youth
2. What is acceptance based on in hip American culture?

	<p>3. The narrator of the passage grew up in-----</p> <p>4. The narrator is used to. -----</p> <p>5. Choose the synonym of 'insolent.'</p> <p>i Disrespectful.      ii Modest</p> <p>iii serene              iv Timid</p> <p>6. What has/have kept India strong and united?</p> <p>i Indian people              ii. Indian values</p> <p>iii People's dissatisfaction      iv. Indian youth</p> <p>7. Read the given statements and choose the correct option.</p> <p>A - There is much to be emulated about western culture.</p> <p>B - Its commitment to excellence and Perfection, punctuality, integrity and Honest</p> <p>i A contradicts B</p> <p>ii B elaborates A</p> <p>iii A is true but B is false</p> <p>iv A is false but B is true</p> <p>8. What has the narrator seen?</p> <p>9. How does India's younger generation show Patriotism?</p> <p>A -By joining movements.</p> <p>B-By marching and waving political flag.</p> <p>C-By joining Facebook groups.</p> <p>I - A and B are true</p> <p>II-A and C are true</p> <p>III-B and C are true</p> <p>IV- All A, B and C are true</p> <p>10. Write the same word -punctuality</p> <p>11. What have been rendered a decade ago?</p> <p>12. Explain Modern culture.</p>
--	--

**Section B: Writing Skills**

<b>II</b>	You are Rachael/Rueben, President of the Wellness Cell of your school. You decide to organise a workshop, to raise awareness of the importance of mental health. This workshop would be conducted by the school counsellor. Write a notice informing the students of classes XI and XII about the workshop.
<b>III</b>	Your friend P.V. Sathish, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You find that you have an important paper of pre-board examination on the day of wedding. Thus, you cannot attend the event. Write a formal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Puneet/Puneeta Vij, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.
<b>IV</b>	Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach political science for which they have placed an advertisement in The Bhilai Express. You are Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV., Applying for the advertised post.
<b>V</b>	Recently a cultural programme was arranged in your school for raising funds to help an association for handicapped children of your city. Write a report on it to be published in your school magazine.

**Section D: Literature**

<b>VI.</b>	<p><b>Read the following stanza carefully and answer the questions.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....Looked but soon put that thought away, And looked out at young trees sprinting the merry children spilling Out of their homes,</p> <p><b>A.</b> What was the poet looking and what did she notice?</p> <p>i. her mother was talking to herself</p>
------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. her mother was reading a book</li> <li>iii. her mother was dozing off</li> <li>iv. all of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>B.</b> What thought did the poet try to drive away?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the thought of having a fight with her mother</li> <li>ii. the thought of her children</li> <li>iii. the thought of losing her mother</li> <li>iv. none of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>C.</b> Why did the poet start 'looking out'?</p> <p><b>D.</b> Why did the poet see from the window of the car?</p> <p><b>E.</b> State whether the given statement is true or false The poet is going to see her mother off.</p> <p><b>F.</b> A word similar in meaning to sprinting is.....</p>
<b>VII</b>	<p><b>Read the following lines carefully and answer the questions.</b></p> <p>"Fix a date," he begged. Impressed by the sharecropper's tenacity and story, Gandhi said, "I have to be in Calcutta on such-and-such a date. Come and meet me and take me from there."</p> <p><b>A.</b> 'He' in the first line is...</p> <p><b>B.</b> Why did 'he' want to fix a date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) He wanted to make arrangement for a meeting with his co-sharecroppers</li> <li>(ii) He wanted to talk to the British landlords</li> <li>(iii) He wanted to take Gandhi to Champaran</li> <li>(iv) None of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>C.</b> Who is impressed by whose tenacity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Rajkumar Shukla by Gandhi's</li> <li>(ii) Gandhi by Rajkumar Shukla's</li> <li>(iii) Gandhi by Kriplani</li> <li>(iv) None of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>D.</b> Find a synonym of the word 'persistence' from the above extract.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Why was Gandhi impressed by the share croppers?</p> <p><b>F.</b> Did the sharecropper managed to take Gandhi with him?</p>
<b>VIII.</b>	<p><b>Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Why do you think being born in the cast of Bengal makers has become both of destiny and a curse?</li> <li>b) How does Kamala das bid farewell to her mother?</li> <li>c) How did the crofter entertain the peddler?</li> <li>d) What makes human being love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?</li> <li>e) How did the instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas?</li> </ul>
<b>IX.</b>	<p><b>Answer the following questions in 40-50 words:</b></p> <p>How did the 100th tiger take its final revenge upon the tiger king? What was Sam's reaction when Charlie mentioned the discovery of the third level to him?</p>
<b>X</b>	<p><b>Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 'Deep water' centers around some misadventure. What is the misadventure and how does William Douglas deal with it?</li> <li>b) The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress; what are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?</li> </ul>

## **XII English Syllabus for September Exams**

### **Reading Section**

- 2 Comprehension Passages

### **Writing Section**

- Notice writing
- Formal Invitations and Replies
- Article Writing
- Report Writing
- Letter to Editor
- Job application

### **Literature Section**

#### **Flamingo**

- The Last lesson
- Lost Spring
- Deep Water
- The Rattrap
- Indigo
- Poets and Pancakes

#### **Poems**

- My Mother at Sixty-Six
- Keeping Quiet
- A Thing of Beauty
- Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

#### **Vistas**

- The Third Level
- The Tiger King
- Journey to the End of Earth