

CLASS XI – SUBJECT – ENGLISH**ASSIGNMENT– IV NOVEMBER, 07****SECTION A – READING**

- A1. Read the full passage and answer questions :-

How can you best improve your English depends on where you live. If you here English spoken everyday and mix freely with English speaking people its an advantage. A step-by-step process is the best. Reading English books is also a good idea.

To read a lot is essential – not just text books but also novels and story books. Read for pleasure and not as a duty. Do not choose difficult books simply to learn new words but rather read books that interest you. Don't constantly look for new words in the dictionary – that's boring and uninteresting. Look for words now & then but generally try guessing meanings from the context. Extensive reading and not intensive reading improve your English. As you read you will become familiar with words and sentence patterns and your understanding will improve.

Some people feel that we can not learn a language through books. But this is a wrong notion. Actually there is a lot common between the two. Learning vocabulary of the written form we also learn its spoken form. Therefore we are learning a language in its totality.

- A2.1 Make notes of the above passage.

- A2.2 Give meanings of the following as given in the passage:- (a) Gradual (b) In – depth study (c) Completely

Section B – Writing Skills

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| B1(a) | Write an article on ‘effects of advertisements’. | |
| B2. | Write a newspaper report on the foll. | (a) A theft that occurred in your colony |
| B3. | Magazine report | (a) Visit to a blind school by interact club of your school. |
| B4. | Debate | TOPIC – Reel heroes are the real heroes of politics for and against the motion. |
| B5. | Speeches | (a) A morning assembly speech on strategies to combat stress levels in students |

SECTION C – GRAMMAR

- C1. Use information in headlines to complete sentences :-

- a. SUSPECT ARRESTED

Shahpur police report that _____ in the Nasir Khan Murder case.

- b. NEW SCHOOL PLAN

The Infant Education Society has announced _____ in a vacant plot opposite Pitampura.

- c. DOG BITES INSPECTOR

A vet was called when a dog _____ staying in the police control room. Apparently the inspector had been beating the dog.

- C2. Fill in the blanks of verb given in brackets :-

Robin _____ (want) to go to the U.S. for higher studies. He _____ (propose) to prepare for the entrance exam. His sister from New York _____ (write) that he must _____ (obtain) sample practice appears. He _____ (plan) to attend the Bright coaching centre for this purpose.

NOVEMBER CHAPTER – 6 THE BROWNING VERSION BY TERENCE RATTIGAN

1. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each:-

- (a) What is remove and how do students get it?
(b) What is Taplow's opinion of the subject Crocker – Harris teaches?

2. Answer the following questions in about 100-125 words:-

- (a) Write a character sketch of Crocker – Harris.
(b) What impression do you form of Frank from the play?

CHILDHOOD BY MARKUS NATTEN

- I. Read the extracts given below and answer the question that follow:-

When did my childhood.....was that the day (st. 1)

- (a) Why does the poet mention the age of eleven ?
(b) How are the concepts of Hell and heaven opposed to what is found in Geography?
(c) What is the trait of an independent mind?

NOVEMBER CHAPTER 6 THE GHAT OF THE ONLY WORLD BY AMITAV GHOSH

- I. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each:-
- When did 'Shahid Ali first talk to the writer about his approaching death?
 - What promise did Shahid extract from the writer and why?
- II. Answer the following questions in about 100-125 words each:-
- What impressions of Shahid do you gather from the piece?
 - What do you understand of the India diaspora from this piece?
 - Trace the friendship between the writer and Shahid which prompted him to write this piece.

ASSIGNMENT NO. V**SECTION – A READING**

- Q1.** Read the following passages & answer the questions that follow:-

People travelling long distances frequently have to decide whether they would prefer to go by land, sea, or air. Hardly anyone can positively enjoy sitting in a train for more than a few hours. Train compartments soon get cramped and stuffy. It is almost impossible to take your mind off the journey. Reading is only a partial solution, for the monotonous rhythm of the wheels clicking on the rails soon lulls you to sleep. During the day, sleep comes in snatches. At night when you really wish to go to sleep, you rarely manage to do so. If you are lucky enough to get a couchette, you spend half the night staring at the small blue light on the ceiling, or fumbling to find your passport when you cross a frontier. Inevitably you arrive at your destination almost exhausted.

Long car journeys are even less pleasant, for it is quite impossible even to read. On motor-ways you can at least travel fairly safely at high speeds, but more often than not, the greater part of the journey is spent on narrow, bumpy roads which are crowded with traffic. By comparison, trips by sea offer a great variety of civilized comforts. You can stretch your legs on the spacious decks, play games, swim, meet interesting people and enjoy good food – always assuming, of course, that the sea is calm. If it is not, and you are likely to get seasick, no form of transport could be worse. Even if you travel in ideal weather, sea journeys take a long time. Relatively few people are prepared to sacrifice upto a third of their holidays for the pleasure of traveling on a ship.

Aeroplanes have the reputation of being dangerous and even hardened travelers are intimidated by them. They also have the grave disadvantage of being the most expensive form of transport. But nothing can match them for speed and comfort. Traveling at a height of 30,000 feet, for above the clouds, and at over 500 miles an hour is an exhilarating experience. You do not have to devise ways of taking your mind off the journey, for an aeroplane gets you to your destination rapidly. For a few hours, you settle back in a deep armchair to enjoy the flight. The real escapist can watch a free film show and sip a hot or cold drink on some services. But even when such refreshments are not available, there is plenty to keep yourself occupied. An aeroplane offers you an unusual breathtaking view of the world. You soar effortlessly over high mountains and deep valleys. You really see the shape of the land. If the landscape is hidden from view, you can enjoy the extraordinary sight of unbroken clouds, plains that stretch out for miles before you, while the sun shines brilliantly in a clear sky the journey is so smooth that there is nothing to prevent you from reading or sleeping. In whatever way you decide to spend your time, one thing is certain you will arrive at your destination fresh and uncrumpled. You will not have to spend the next few days recover from a long and arduous journey.

Answer the following questions briefly in your own words as far as possible :-**9**

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Why is it difficult to read on a train in long distance journeys? Give two reasons. | 2 |
| (ii) What are the two disadvantages of traveling by sea? | 2 |
| (iii) What are the two disadvantages of traveling by air? | 2 |
| (iv) What are the pleasures of air-flight, according to the writer? | 2 |
| (v) Why does the writer dislike long car journeys? | 1 |

Find the words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following:-

- (i) Pieces (ii) feel around (iii) causing excitement

A1.1 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:-

We have been brought upto fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, for they contaminate his food, carry diseases, or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation; they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights, or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread, not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps, but of quite harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that the industrious ant lives in a highly organized society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch.

No matter how much we like honey, or how much we have read about the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable, but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating; we enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that, like the praying mantis, they lead perfectly horrible lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly, or a column of ants triumphantly bearing home an enormous dead beetle?

Last summer, I spent days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prized peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphis were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large colony of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which even though it failed to get rid of the ants, kept me fascinated for twenty four hours. I bound the base of the tree with a sticky tape, making it impossible for the ants to reach the aphis. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it. For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at midnight with a torch and noted with satisfaction (and surprise) that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning hoping to find that the ants had given up in despair. Instead, I saw that they had discovered a new route. They were climbing up the wall of the house and then on to the leaves of the tree. I realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly unscientific methods!

Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible: -

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Use one or two sentences only for each answer:-

- (i) What is our attitude to insects? 1
(ii) Why does man try to exterminate insects? 2
(iii) Why does the writer say that knowing about the insects does not help man to change his attitude to insects?
2

(iv) Do you think that attitude of man to insect as described herein is right? Why, why not? Give two reasons in support of your thinking ?

(v) What do you think the writer wanted to prove by the experiment be conducted on ants? Quote words / expression to support your answer. 2

Select words from the above passage which convey meaning similar to the following :-

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- (i) drive away (ii) sudden attack (iii) cleverness

A2. Read the following passages and answer the questions given below :-

Q12. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :
Why has gold been indispensable for hundreds of years? To find answers, one need not look far apart from its ornamental value, the metal has been used as a hedge against inflationary pressures.

Central banks the world over held on to their gold reserves because they needed to provide for stability. But the decline of gold has shaken them also. There has been stagnation in its prices. In recent times, that has fallen beyond the imagination of the common man.

For an Indian, gold has a sentimental value. When a woman leaves her father's house after marriage, the average parent's gift of jewellery is a guarantee against hardships. Cash is too liquid – and slippery – whereas assets like a house involve complicated selling procedure to procure liquidity. Gold is placed midway.

Relatively immune to inflationary pressures, it also ensures hassle – free liquidity should the need arise. Moreover, till date, there is no other mechanism to hedge the rupee. Gold has been the only commodity available for the Indian that is encashable anywhere.

Today, however, this tradition is under threat. That is chiefly since the commodity is being dumped internationally and we happen to be its largest buyers.

Why has the worth of gold suddenly changed? Central banks of various countries and even the International Monetary Fund are giving clear indications that they perceive money invested in gold as dead investment. Developed countries have understood this fact clearly. So they are mobilizing resources away from gold while someone else is ready to pay for it.

The simple solution available to countries like India who want a hedge against foreign currency fluctuations is by the way of a derivative instrument which can yield returns as well as keep the investment safe. More importantly, it has to be the one which gives instant liquidity.

One solution is allowing individuals to invest in open – ended foreign exchange mutual funds or a commodities mutual fund. The former is possible in foreign countries. But in case of Indian investors, one has to be more careful. The mutual fund companies will need technical teams approved by SEBI and other

regulatory bodies who will ensure that the returns made on the investments are safe and yield higher returns. Positive returns will solve the problems for the investors.

But one does also need serious decision making from the policy makers to allow such funds. Suitable norms will have to be made to take the fear away from the mindset of an individual that his investment is in danger.

Such a move will invariably help India to maintain higher foreign exchange reserves and give stability to the currency as well.

Last but not the least, foreign exchange and commodity mutual funds will also set stage for capital account convertibility at an appropriate time. Also, our policy makers need to view gold differently because our import bill is coming under pressure. That, at the end of the day, is weakening our currency and leading to host of unwanted problems.

- Joydeep Ghosh : HT Investor

(a) **Read the above passage and make notes in points only using abbreviations wherever necessary.**

(b) **Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words. Also give a suitable title to it.**

A2.1 Until recently, in India, mineral water was only for the rich and health conscious (read – those with delicate stomachs). However, all that is changing, and quickly. No longer considered a status symbol, the ubiquitous bottle of purified water can be got not only at five star addresses but even at small eateries and establishments.

According to international standards mineral water is defined as “water that is bottled at the source, without any treatment except in some cases, filtration to remove iron and sulphur. It should not be pasteurized, ionized, ozonated, or subjected to ultraviolet light to render it sterile. In addition, the water must flow from the underground source and the natural flow must not be altered.” In the United States 1996 Standards of Identity for Bottled Water, and in accordance with the Europe Mineral water standards, bottled, waters are classified as follows :-

Lightly mineralized water contains 500 milligrams or less of TDS (total dissolved solids) per litre. Moderately mineralized water has, from 500 to 1500 mgs. TDS per litre. Highly mineralized water has over 1500 mgs. TDS per litre.

Unfortunately in our country, the term mineral water is a misnomer. Many companies have the term “mineral water” affixed on their bottles yet what they sell is processed water that has been purified, ozonised and bottled.

Minerals contribute to the water that we drink in two ways: An adjunct to good health: Mineral water are not medicines or multivitamins, but can augment the other minerals we take into contribute to general well being. An added benefit to drinking mineral water is that the body can readily absorb minerals in solutions.

Taste: The balance of minerals in water provides the taste, the exact proportions of which render the distinction of one water from another. Highly mineralized waters have strong pronounced tastes, while lightly mineralized waters might be subtler in flavour. Water without any minerals has no taste.

The body can survive without food for days; even 48 hours without water can be life-threatening, since it facilitates all the biochemical reactions of the body. Indeed a common misconception is to think it is enough to drink water only when thirst strikes. However, thirst is not an accurate indicator of your body's hydration needs. To stay healthy and hydrated one must make a conscious effort to drink at least 3.5 litres of water a day from all sources (liquid beverages, solid foods). Of this amount one to two litres should be plain water, since 65 per cent of an adult's body weight is water, in babies the figure is 75 per cent. Due to the immaturity of certain metabolic functions in babies, drinking water must be safe, free from chemicals and bacteria; hence, it is a good idea to supplement the diet with plenty of safe fluids.

Even pregnant and lactating mothers require an increased amount of purified water. Any intense physical activity requires sufficient and regular water intake before and during activity. It helps if the water also provides essential minerals (like sodium to counteract perspiration loss) and an energy source (glucose). The important fact is to keep the body well hydrated at all times to ensure peak performance. Mineral water may be the prerogative for a few to get an extra boost, but for the rest of us, good old water will do just fine, thank you.

- Fareeda Kanga : The Sunday Review TOI

(a) **Read the above passage and make notes in points only using abbreviations wherever necessary.**

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(b) **Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words. Also give a suitable title to it.**

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WRITING SECTION NOV., 07

LETTER WRITING – 8 MARKS (80-100 WORDS)

Business Letter

Letter of Enquiry conferring for & giving information :-

1. Your R. Malhotra, Purchase Officer, Mohan Electronics, G.M.K. Gandhi Road, Pune, Maharashtra. Write a letter to M/s Spectrum Electronics, 26, Nai Wala Chowk, New Delhi asking about terms and conditions for their electronic appliances like T.V. Sets & V.C.D.s etc.
2. You Akhil / Anita of 126, Mall Road, Shimla you are interested in doing short term course in computer during your summer vacation. Write to Director, Computer world sector-5, Chandigarh enquiring about per course & terms and conditions for admission.
3. You are T.R. Chopra Sales Officer, Spectrum Electronics, 126, Nai Wala Chowk, New Delhi. Write a letter to R. Malhotra Purchase Officer, Mohan Electronics, 6 ,M.K. Gandhi Road, Pune giving information about the Electronic appliances to be supplied by you and the discount offered.

Letters of Complaint

4. Write to the Manager, Bata Shoe Co. Faridabad, complaining about the quality of a pair of shoes bought from a local shop highlight any other steps. You may have taken before this complaint.
5. You are Kiran / Keshav of 26, M. Street Bangalore. You bought a VIP Washing Machine from M/s Tirupati Stores, Mayapatti Bangalore, which is not working properly i.e. not cleaning clothes properly and it makes an unbearable noise. Write a letter to the dealer in this regard.
6. Ravi Sindaran of 28, Civil Lines, Gwalior bought a colour T.V. Set from M/s Ram Electronics, 14, Bazaar Marg Gwalior a mouth ago. Now he finds that the sound is not clear and picture quality changes to black & white and becomes unclear. Write a letter to the dealer complaining about it & ask him to attend to the problem at the earliest.

Letter Placing Orders

7. As the Sports Instructor of your school, place an order with M/s Gulati Sports Store, 26, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh for buying cricket bats, volleyball nets, badminton racquets etc.
8. Write a reply for the aboveletter giving your terms & conditions of sale letter for jobs. (Job Applications + Biodata)
9. Anuradha Dutta read an Ad. for Marketing Executive, where a smart young males / females are required Experience would not be necessary as training is given on the jobs. She decide to apply write her covering letter along with the Bio-data for her.
10. You have degree in Architecture & you've worked for a British Firm for 5 years. Write an application along with your Bio-data for post of senior Architect in AB Constructions Bhopal & you are Vinod Kumar of 56 Cross Street, Seeta Nagar.

Letter to Editor

11. Write a letter to the Editor of your local daily complaining about the menace of shey dogs in your locality. You are Sanjay Awasthi of Crescent Apartments F. Street Simla.
12. Write a letter to the Editor Times of Onida talking of the bad conditions of but roads in your locality & the lack of proper lighting. Both these problems are creating security hazards & encouraging anti social elements. You are Mita Bose 112/42, Apex Street, Pune.

Section – C Grammar

C1. Complete the following dialogue with appropriate words.

- Noori : (i) _____ you tell me the date of your departure from Delhi?
- Avantika : Of course. I (ii) _____ leave by any of the morning flights tomorrow.
- Noori : In fact I too wanted to accompany you. (iii) _____ you book my ticket with you?

Avantika : How nice ! I (iv) _____ don't worry. I (v) _____ ask my travel agent.
Noori : You (vi) _____ confirm by this evening to let me plan accordingly.
Avantika : Why (vii) _____ you worry so much ? My travel agent often does such last minute bookings.
He (viii) _____ not fail me.

Noori : In case he fails !
Avantika : You should not be so pessimistic.

C2. Complete the following sentences.

Garima, do you know (i) _____ (address of the boy's residence). I need it urgently (ii) _____ (giving reason.) Garima told me (iii) _____ (the boys' addresses 117, Patparganj) in Lucknow. But I have (iv) _____ (tell reason).

C3. Rewrite the following sentences as directed.

- (i) Rewrite the following news items as statement new items.
- India loses the second cricket test match.
 - Somnath Chatterjee elected the fourteenth speaker of Lok Sabha
- (ii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable clause to replace the words given in brackets.
Kaifi Azmi (82years old) died after 45 days of prolonged illness.
- (iii) Write a sentence to convey your advice for sure success in exams.
- (iv) Complete the following sentence with an appropriate clause -
- Govind has joined the new branch of Canara Bank _____ (give some reason)