

CODE: SET 1		KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN GUWAHATI REGION		TOTAL PAGES :5
		HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2018-19		
CLASS:XI		TIME:	3 HRS	
SUBJECT:ENGLISH		MM:	80	
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:				
a) This paper is divided into three Sections A, B and C . All the sections are compulsory.				
b) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.				
c) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.				
Section A (Reading)[20MARKS]				
Q1.	Read the following passage attentively and answer the questions that follow			12
	<p>1. Almost every leading newspaper and magazine in India these days seem to think it is necessary to organize an ‘Intellectual’ event. They call these events summits, conclaves conferences. The organizers project these events so as to appear on the side of ‘thought ‘or ‘ideas’, as if seeking credibility and justification for their existence. But, these gatherings are nowhere close to the brainstorming sessions they are cracked up to be.</p> <p>2. Basically they are huge ‘talking extravaganzas’ in which every participant is a performer before an audience and, like any other performer, craves its approval. To hand in to them, the performances are quite extraordinary and those who anchor them are equally skilled in the art.</p> <p>3. Speakers are drawn from politics, cricket, Bollywood and a variety of other arenas, not to forget the smattering of international personalities, without whom no conclave is considered worth its salt. Of course, the activist who is the flavour of the season has to be included and given a prime spot, so that the social-political –cultural spectrum is covered.</p> <p>4. We also need to bring in gossip and romance, which is provided by at least one well-known Bollywood star. If his or her film is being released at the same time, it is only a coincidence. The audience consists of the usual suspects from politics, bureaucracy and the media, with some socialites in tow. Among them will be those who can ask intelligent questions, playing to the script, to bring out the best performance from the lead characters. Everyone looks serious. The clothes are appropriate. Nobody is overdressed such that the event is misconstrued as a social gathering. But everyone is still distinctive enough to be noticed. So, what we have is a well-scripted film with abundant funding, which also exudes a sense of social responsibility.</p> <p>5. Why are such events needed? This basic question must be answered to assess their efficacy. Presumably, the concept is to provide a platform where thoughts are expressed, initiated, exchanged and discussed, leading to some kind of ideation. If so, such events must leave us with perspectives that are incisive and important.</p> <p>6. But what are the speakers saying? Nothing new, nothing thought-provoking, nothing that changes your life, or even makes you think about life. It’s nothing. It’s just talk- yes loaded with wit, drama, controversy and intrigue, but beyond chat, nothing. Content, if it is present, is often lost; if there is one speaker who brings out an important issue and deals with it seriously, it is but an accident.</p> <p>7. Let’s not forget that a lot of money is involved in these events. Why should we care so long as it is private money? But we should, as these are the same institutions that question the way public money is being spent. When such questions are being raised, every citizen has a right to question private practice too. Huge corporate house back many such events and some speakers are chosen due to the financial support available from them, bringing into questions even the basic integrity of such events. Are thoughts being manipulated? Are speakers succumbing to corporate pressure? These are serious ethical issues that need to be addressed.</p> <p>(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.</p> <p>(i) Organisers of ‘Intellectual’ events project such events because.....</p> <p>a) They are brain storming sessions.</p> <p>b) They believe in ‘talking extravaganzas’</p> <p>c) They want to appear credible and justify their existence.</p> <p>d) None of these</p>			1X6=6

	<p>(ii) Persons who anchor such events are.....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Highly skilled Foolish Bollywood personalities. Novices. <p>(iii) Why is such an event called 'a well scripted film'?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Because all persons are playing to the script. Because the participants are dressed appropriately for the occasion. Because such an event brings out the best performance from the lead characters. All of the above <p>(iv) Which of the following is a serious ethical issue about such events needing to be dealt with?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The speakers may succumb to corporate pressure. The events are just wasting the time of the participants. The thoughts of the audience may be manipulated. They are wastes of energy. <p>v) In order to bring in gossip and romance it is necessary to have</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Politicians Bollywood stars Bureaucrats Socialites <p>vi) We should bother a lot about the money spent in such events because</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is private money Every citizen has a right to question private practice too These institutions do not question the way public money is spent All the above <p>(b) Answer the following questions as briefly as possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are "Intellectual" events? From where are the speakers drawn in such 'Intellectual' events? What kinds of people constitute the audience in such 'Intellectual events'? What is the necessity of such events? <p>(c) Find the words in the given passage which convey the similar meaning to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Something that occurs (para 1) Honesty (Para 7) 	<p>1X4=4</p> <p>1X2=2</p>
Q2	Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.	8
	<p>There is nothing more frustrating than when you sit down at your table to study with the most sincere on intentions and instead of being able to finish the task at hand, you find your thoughts wandering. However, there are certain techniques that you can use to enhance your concentration. "Your concentration level depends on a number of factors" says Sumati Ghosh, a social counsellor. "In order to develop your concentration span, it is necessary to examine various facts of your physical and internal environment: she adds.</p> <p>To begin with, one should attempt to create the physical environment that is conducive to focused thought. Whether it is the Radio, the TV or your noisy neighbors, identify the factors that make it difficult for you to focus on your task. For instance, if you live in a very noisy neighborhood, you could try to plan your study hours in a nearby library.</p> <p>She disagrees with the notion that people can concentrate or study in an environment with distractions like a loud television, blaring music etc. " if you are distracted when you are attempting to focus, your attention and retention powers do not work at optimum levels", cautions Ghosh. "Not more than two of your senses should be activated at the same time", she adds. What that means is that music that sets your feet tapping is not an ideal accompaniment to your books.</p> <p>Also, do not place your study table or desk in front of a window. "While there is no cure for a mind that wants to wander, one should try and provide as little stimulus as possible. Looking out</p>	

	<p>of a window when you are trying to concentrate will invariably send your mind on a tangent”, says Ghosh.</p> <p>The second important thing, she says, is to establish goals for oneself instead of setting a general target and then trying to accomplish what you can in a haphazard fashion. It is very important to decide what you have to finish in a given span of time. The human mind recognizes fixed goals and targets, and appreciates schedules more than random thoughts. Once your thoughts and goals are in line, a focused system will follow.</p> <p>She recommends that you divide your schedule into study and recreation hours. When you study, choose a mix of subjects that you enjoy and dislike and save the former for the last so that you have something to look forward to. For instance, if you enjoy verbal skill tests more than mathematical problems, then finish Mathematics first. Not only will you find yourself working harder, you will have a sense of achievement when you wind up.</p> <p>Try not to sit form more than 40 minutes at a stretch. Take a very short break to make a cup of tea or listen to a song and sit down again. Under no circumstances should one sit for more than one and a half hours. Short breaks build your concentration and refresh your mind. However, be careful not to overdo the relaxation. It may have undesired effects.</p> <p>More than anything else, do not get disheartened. Concentration is merely a matter of disciplining the mind. It comes with practice and patience, and does not take very long to become a habit for life.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes of it in points only’ using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum 4). Also supply an appropriate title to it.</p> <p>b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.</p>	5 3
	Section B (Writing & Grammar) [30Marks]	
Q3	<p>AK International school is looking for a receptionist for the school. The Administrative Officer decides to give an advertisement in the classified columns of the local newspaper giving necessary details. Draft a suitable advertisement for the same. (4)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>A Blood Donation Camp is going to take place in the Aradhana Colony. As the Secretary of the RWA of the colony, draft a notice asking and encouraging the residents to take part in the cause. Invent the necessary details.</p>	4
Q4	<p>You are Saurav/ Saurab. You purchased a Five Star Washing Machine from M/S Bharti Sales House 22, Panbazar ,Jorhat 8. Write a letter of complaint to the sales manager concerned about the manfunctioning of the machine. Word limit 125 to 150</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in about 120-150 words highlighting the increasing stress in the lives of students in the present competitive world. Give a few suggestions to combat it.</p>	6
Q5	<p>With the advent of computer games, numerous television channels and video-games, children of today hardly go out to play simple games like hide and seek, four corners, among others. Pen down your feelings, in the form of an article, on the joyful experience of playing outdoor games in about 150-200 words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Your school recognizes the academic excellence of the students by giving them certificates and medals on the Recognition Day. Parents are invited and a cultural programme is organised. The highlight of the day is the Principal's address. Write a report for publication in your school magazine describing the event in about 150-200 words. Sign your report as Kabir/Kanchan</p>	10
Q6	<p>The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet as given below, against the correct blank number.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Incorrect/ Correct</p> <p>a. In today's world that is not easy to</p> <p>b. grow up with inculcating reading</p>	1x8 = 4

	<p>c. habits only. There is so many television</p> <p>d. programmes, computer games or the</p> <p>e. play station to keep me busy.</p> <p>f. For, those not only serve as</p> <p>g. entertainment gadgets and are</p> <p>h. educational too at the same time</p>	
Q7	<p>Rearrange the following words/ phrases to form meaningful sentences. The first one has been done for you as an example.</p> <p>e.g., important / it / is / to observe / rules / traffic</p> <p>It is important to observe traffic rules.</p> <p>(i) not / children / below / of/ the age / must / drive / eighteen years</p> <p>(ii) protection / our / we / must / helmets / own / wear/for</p>	1x2=2
Q8	<p>Read the conversation given below and complete the following passage by filling in the blank places appropriately. Do not add any new information.</p> <p>Ritu Hello Reena! Do you know that the school trip to Mussoorie has been cancelled? Reena No, I didn't know that. Why has the trip been cancelled?</p> <p>Ritu Our school Principal is a little worried about our safety.</p> <p>Reena Why is she worried?</p> <p>Ritu It has been raining heavily during the past four weeks. Our Principal feels that a landslide could occur in that area.</p> <p>Ritu met Reena and asked her (a).....cancelled. Reena replied that she didn't know that. She (b).....Ritu told her that (c).....Reena asked her why she was worried. Ritu told her (d).....during the past four weeks and their Principal felt that a landslide could occur in that area.</p>	1x4=4
Section C (Literature) [30 Marks]		
Q9	<p>Read the extract carefully and answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate option.</p> <p>A sweet face My mother's that was before I was born. And the sea . which appears to have changed less Washed their terribly transient feet.</p> <p>a) Name the poem and poet b) Why and when was the feet sweet? c) What poetic device is 'transient feet'?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Upward to heaven ' whence, vaguely formed . Altogether changed. Yet the same</p> <p>a) What is 'vaguely' formed? b) Why is 'it' the same? c) What does 'I' do?</p>	1X3=3
Q10	<p>Answer any three of the following questions.</p> <p>(i) What were the everyday things with which King Tut was buried? Why was he buried with such everyday things?</p> <p>(ii) What does the notice the world's dangerous animal' at a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia, signify?</p> <p>(iii) Why was Mrs. Dorling so hostile towards the narrator of the story 'The Address?'</p> <p>(iv) Who is the writer of the lesson 'The Ailing Planet...' What according to him is 'one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society.'? Any why is it so?</p>	3x3=9
Q11	<p>Answer the following questions in about 120-150 words.</p> <p>How does the story, "We are not afraid to die. If we all can be together", suggest that optimism helps us to endure the direst stress?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>How does the narrator of the lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady' portray his grandmother?</p>	6
Q12	<p>Draw a character sketch of Mourad in terms of his special love for and control over animals and his fulfilling the special attribute of the Garoghlonian tribe as being thoroughly honest?</p>	6

	Or	
	'I was walking in familiar places again for the first time since the War' ('The Address'). What is this 'War' referred to here? What are the examples from the story which suggest that victims of the War like the narrator had immensely suffered in the War because of people like Mrs. Dorling and their suffering had not ended even after the War was over?	
Q17	Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view with examples. (6)	6
	Or	
	Why is the earth called an ailing planet by Nani Palkhivala and how can it be cured?	
