

**ATUL VIDYALAYA
SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2012-13
ENGLISH-I [SET- A]**

**STD: X
DATE:23/11/12
SESSION:**

**MM:80
TIME: 2HRS**

Attempt all four questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

*You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1
and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*

Question 1.

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question)

Write a composition of a reasonable length (400 words) on any one of the topics given below: [25]

- (a) You have travelled with a school party for a picnic. After seeing the sights before lunch, you slip into a shop for an ice-cream; when you come back, your group has disappeared. Describe your attempt to find the group, how you spent the rest of the time, how you got home, and what the others had done in the meantime.
- (b) You are incharge of a committee that is to organize an art and craft exhibition at your school. Write an account of how you proceed to carry this out. You should consider, among other things, the rooms you will need, how to select and display the material to be shown, and how to receive and guide the visitors.
- (c) You have recently been to a wedding. Describe the ceremony and the accompanying celebrations.
- (d) "Teengers should be allowed more freedom." Write down your arguments for or against this statement.
- (e) Study the picture given below. Write a story, or a description, or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it, but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



Question 2.

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select one of the following:

[10]

- (a) Write a letter to your friend telling him about interesting things that have happened recently in your school.
- (b) You have ordered some readymade garments from a shop and have found they are unsatisfactory (for example: wrong colour or bad fit). Write a letter to the shopkeeper telling him what is wrong and asking him what he can do to put things right.

Question 3

Read carefully the passage given below and then answer the questions (a) (b) and (c) that follow:

My uncle, who was *addicted* to letter writing, was the role model in our extended family. He lived in a village and often judged people on the basis of how quickly his letters were replied to. Having retired from service, he posed a challenge to all relatives who knew the consequences of delayed replies. He became a treasured *repository* of family news in the process.

Uncle spent an hour every morning writing detailed letters. He used the window sill as a desk, sitting cross-legged on a wooden bench. He would be greeted loudly by his friends who walked past the gate to the bus stop. He kept a small aluminum box next to him. It contained the postal stationery, pens and an old dog-eared address book. This book had numerous crosses and arrows to signify changes in addresses.

While my uncle wrote letters, aunt would be *squatting* on the straw mat with knives, vegetables and some old newspapers, preparing for the next meal. After writing the main news, he would read it aloud to aunt. He never forgot to add details like birth stars, offerings at the local temple or the inland letter to their fullest *potential*. After writing the main story which covered news from all family nooks, he would add information of lesser significance in very small characters and utilize every millimeter of available space. In fact, the letter had to be turned in different directions for all the news to be read.

After the day's quota of letter writing was over, uncle would walk down to the post office to post the letters. The postmaster knew my uncle very well. He would fold his hands and rise from his chair and gently extend both hands in Uncle's direction for the letters, treating them like a gift of a sacred text. Letter writing was a very important duty in those days and it was one of the traits all responsible men possessed and were regularly called upon to demonstrate.

Gone are those days! After my uncle's death, his sons who live in Mumbai could not maintain his routine. "Who writes letters nowadays?" Was the defense proffered by my jet-setting cousins to my father when he complained of not getting any news about their family. In the last two years, my father's twenty odd letters have been *reciprocated* by three letters and four STD calls. There were six sentences in each of the letters and the STD calls lasted a couple of minutes at the most.

Two of my cousins are business executives. They come home to sleep in the wee hours of the morning, leaving little scope for headline news, leave alone details. The third cousin is software professional. He writes only short e-mails once a month, something that starts like, "Hi, how're you? I'm OK" and ends there!

(a) Five words or phrases are given below. Give the meaning of each as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. [5]

- (i) addicted, (ii) repository, (iii) squatting, (iv) potential, (v) reciprocated

(b) Answer the following questions in your own words: [10]

- 1 The writer says, ".....he posed a challenge to all relatives....." Why?
- 2 How did the writer's uncle get to know all family news?
- 3 How did the writer's uncle get to know all family news?
- 4 ".....the letter had to be turned in different directions for all the news to be read." Why?

5 Why were the letters treated like 'a gift of a sacred text'?

- (c) (i) Letter writing is an art which is on the decline. Illustrate with examples from the passage in not more than 60 words. [8]
 (c) (ii) Give a title to your summary in 3 (c). State a reason to justify your choice. [2]

Question 4

(a) In the following passage, fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

I do not usually cut the vegetables myself. My mother...1.....(cut) them for each meal. While2.....(cut) them last night, she accidentally...3.....(cut) her finger. It was not a serious cut, but it.....4....(bleed) for a while. I tried to stop the cut from...5....(bleed),but was unsuccessful. My mother...6.....(think) I was ...7.....(make) too much of a fuss and ...8.....(laugh) at my concern.

(b) Rewrite the following sentences correctly according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence: [8]

- (1) Students learn very little in some schools.
(Begin: There are.....)
- (2) He said, "Do you know the way to the stadium?"
(Begin: He asked.....)
- (3) The matter is too urgent to be dropped.
(Begin: The matter is.....)
- (4) Audrey finished the work on time.
(Use: succeeded.....)
- (5) No other girl is as pretty as Rena.
(Begin:..... Rena.....)
- (6) Write it down so that you do not forget.
(Begin: You had.....)
- (7) In spite of the good weather we are sweating.
(Begin: The weather is.....)
- (8) He is cleaning the car.
(Begin: The car.....)

(c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: [4]

- (i) The police had to give..... the search because it was getting dark.
- (ii) Mother pointed the mistake which her son had made.
- (iii) She is longingthe day when she will go to America.
- (iv) There is always a demandgood engineers.
- (v) The cabinet meeting was put as the Prime Minister was ill.
- (vi) I have reconciled myself ...my fate.
- (vii) We could not guess what he was aiming.....
- (viii) The thief begged mercythe police.

(d) Combine each of the following pairs of sentences without using 'and' or 'but': [4]

- (i) He has lost his job again. This fact will not surprise anyone.
- (ii) He died very suddenly. This was a great shock to the family.
- (iii) He was driving very fast at the turning point. He met with an accident.
- (iv) He was the topper of our school last year. He was not given any prize.

