



PON VIDYASHRAM GROUP OF CBSE SCHOOLS

VACATION HOME TEST (2017-2018)

STD XII

ENGLISH ELECTIVE

Section A:	Reading	20 Marks
Section B:	Writing & Grammar	40 Marks
Section C:	Literature	40 Marks

General Instructions

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. You may attempt any section at a time.
3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION – A READING – 20 marks	
Q1.	<p>Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>To an outsider looking in, my life probably looked pretty great. I had what appeared to be a loving family. I lived in a spacious home in a safe neighborhood and I attended a great school. But what an outsider couldn't see was the cold atmosphere that permeated my house. My parents and my endless fights included the shouting of hurtful words bitter stares, and at times, unbearable silence. Misunderstandings inevitably led to fights.</p> <p>This particular fight started just like the others. I packed my bag preparing to leave for an overnight retreat for my confirmation class. I crept down the stairs into our kitchen, only to find my parents glaring at me. "What time should I pick you up tomorrow?" my mom demanded impatiently. I told her that I wasn't certain, but that I thought she should pick me up at approximately 8 pm. I quickly gathered that my reply was not the answer she wanted to hear. "So you don't know what time?" Her face wrinkled with disapproval.</p> <p>I tried my best not to explode and release years of repressed feelings of anger, resentment and sorrow. These feelings were trapped inside my confused body. Whenever my parents and I fought, usually about small insignificant misunderstandings, we seemed to convey more. The fight was not just about the topic of that particular quarrel, but the unspoken emotions that hovered over the sixteen years of my life. My parents and I had issues and we did not know how to voice them.</p> <p>I left my house for the retreat on bitter terms with my parents. I did not want to participate or involve myself in anything that night. I sat by myself, drowning in self pity and refusing to answer any queries. The next morning my instructor approached me and asked if I had received my letter. "What letter?" I wondered, puzzled. Another leader at the retreat handed me an envelope with my name written on it in my mom's handwriting. I stared at the letter with perplexed eyes and strode to the conference room to open it in privacy.</p> <p>"Make rainbows with faith in yourself. Many beautiful things will happen in your life. Your shine brightens our lives." As I read these statements, I tried to choke back the river of tears swelling in my eyes. I failed, and the tears trickled down my cheeks. As I made my way towards the other end of the room, three supportive friends hugged me. But wishing to be alone and to finish reading the letter I broke free from their embrace and rushed out. I sat in my room attempting to gather my thoughts and emotions. My instructor came and</p>

	<p>explained to me that she had asked everyone's parents to write a letter to their son or daughter before we went on the retreat. She then left me alone to sort out my feelings.</p> <p>After rereading those initial statements, I continued reading the rest of the letter. My mom and dad wrote that they loved me, although it didn't always seem like it and they needed me in their lives. Their honesty made me think about our relationship, and I began to realize the role I played in instigating the arguments and our lack of communication. In reality, everyone contributed. And now it was time for all of us to work towards a better relationship.</p> <p>My family was more calm when I returned home from the retreat, and my parents and I had a new found respect for each other. We still have the occasional run-ins, but they are not like they used to be. There are no more cold stares or hurtful shouting matches. Even though my parents and I cannot change the past and the sixteen years lost to incessant bickering, each day we slowly learnt how to communicate as a family, ensuring that another sixteen years won't be lost as well.</p> <p>1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:</p> <p>a) How did the narrator's family appear to any outsider? b) What would an outsider fail to see? c) The narrator felt bitter when she left for the retreat. Why? d) What caused the strain in the relationship between the narrator and her parents? e) What were her emotions when she read her parent's letter at the retreat? f) How did the retreat help the narrator and her parents?</p> <p>1.2 Choose the meaning of the words given below from the options that follow:</p> <p>a) permeate i) penetrate ii) repressed iii) perplexed iv) entered</p> <p>b) resentment i) misunderstanding ii) confused iii) unbearable iv) indignation</p> <p>c) instigating i) trapping ii) inciting iii) inviting iv) debating</p> <p>d) incessant i) ensuring ii) continuous iii) bickering iv) increasing</p>	<p>(6x1=6)</p> <p>(4x1=4)</p>
<p>Q2</p>	<p>Read the passage and answer the questions below:</p> <p>Most people do not realize the impact of well planned lighting in a given space. Putting a light fixture on every wall of every room will only create, simply put, a lit room. Yes, there is no substitute for natural light but when the sun goes down, we all need a little help from some man-made lighting devices.</p>	

	<p>There are four key aspects to remember while creating a lighting plan: Place the right 'type of light', with the 'right intensity' and 'colour', in the 'right location'. The overall look, mood and feel of the room depend on the kinds of light you use and their positioning. Different techniques can change the feel of the space.</p> <p>While some spaces need bright clear light, it could prove harmful for others. Did you know that indirect and low level lighting protects the vulnerable eyes of premature children from blindness in the pediatric ward of hospitals.</p> <p>Lighting is classified by its intended use as general, localized or task lighting, depending largely on the distribution of the light emitted by the fixture. Task lighting is mainly functional and is used for purposes such as reading. Accent lighting is mainly decorative, and intended to highlight pictures, plants or other elements of interior design or landscaping.</p> <p>General lighting bridges the gap between task and accent lighting and is intended for general illumination of an area. Indoors, this would be a basic lamp on a table or floor or ceiling fixture. Angle of lighting is just as important as its quality. It changes the total character of the object under display just like placing a torch under the chin changes a pleasing face into a scary one.</p> <p>Day lighting can be defined as the act of illuminating rooms naturally (i.e. anytime you are able to light a room with a window or a skylight instead of flipping on a light switch). It's that simple! Though the concept of day lighting is as old as the window, recent advances in lighting research, window and glazing technology have opened up new horizons for day lighting. To make the most of the natural light available in our home you need to know how to use it.</p> <p>Enlarge windows by dropping sills and removing a section of the wall below. Add a window on a flanking wall. Small skylights can be very helpful in bringing natural light into a dark room. But be careful, during the summer, when you don't want heat and have the sun directly overhead, they let in an abundance of heat. In the winter, when the sun is at a low angle, you get the least amount of sunlight.</p> <p>Today, there is a variety of high-performance glazing which makes it possible to use more glass while minimizing heat loss, heat gain and glare. If you're building a house, remodeling or replacing windows, you can choose from a wide range of options, selecting glazing best suited to a particular window.</p> <p>If you work from home, you'll need a good task lighting as well as natural light. Avoid putting your desk near the window, as the light will be too intense.</p> <p>Try to bounce natural light off the ceiling. Hang mirrors, particularly opposite windows. Take down unnecessary window dressings and replace with voile or muslin, to diffuse light. Block out harsh sunlight with perforated roller blinds. Turn an inner door into a glazed panel, or replace it with stained or clear glass. Trim trees or bushes that overshadow windows. Use light - reflective surfaces and pale carpets and furnishings. (approx..590 words)</p> <p>a) Make notes on the passage given above in any format using recognizable abbreviations. Give a suitable title to the passage. 6</p> <p>b) Write a summary based on the notes you have made in about 80 words. 4</p>	
SECTION-B WRITING AND GRAMMAR – 40 marks		
Q3.	You are Deepak/ Dipti, the Student coordinator of Little Flower High School. Your school is organising a Career Counselling Session for XI and XII Standard students to help them	4

