

**Guru Gobind Singh Public School**  
**Sector V/B,B.S.City**

**Class: XII**

**Subject: English Core Assignment 2019**

**I. Read the following passage carefully.**

- I. He was slow in learning how to talk. "My parents were so worried," he later recalled, "that they consulted a doctor."
- II. Even after he had begun using words, sometime after the age of 2, he developed a quirk that prompted the family maid to dub him the dopey one, and others in his family to label him as "almost backwards." Whenever he had something to say, he would try it out on himself, whispering it softly until it sounded good enough to pronounce aloud. "Every sentence he uttered," his worshipful younger sister recalled, "no matter how routine, he repeated to himself softly, moving his lips." "It was all very worrying," she said. "He had such difficulty with language that those around him feared he would never learn."
- III. His slow development was combined with a cheeky rebelliousness towards authority, which led one schoolmaster to send him packing and another to amuse history by declaring that he would never amount to much. These traits made Albert Einstein the patron saint of distracted school kids everywhere. But they also helped to make him, or so he later surmised, the most creative scientific genius of modern times.
- IV. His cocky contempt for authority led him to question received wisdom in ways that well-trained acolytes in the academy never contemplated. And as for his slow verbal development, he came to believe that it allowed him to observe with wonder the everyday phenomena that others took for granted.
- V. "When I ask myself how it happened that I, in particular, discovered the relativity theory, it seemed to lie in the following circumstance," Einstein once explained. "The ordinary adult never bothers his head about the problems of space and time. These are things he has thought of as a child. But I developed so slowly that I began to wonder about space and time only when I was already grown up. Consequently, I probed more deeply into the problem than an ordinary child would have."
- VI. Einstein's development problems have probably been exaggerated, perhaps even by himself, for we have some letters from his adoring grandparents saying that he was just as clever and endearing as every grandchild is. But throughout his life, Einstein had a mild form of echolalia, causing him to repeat phrases to himself, two or three times, especially if they amused him. And he generally preferred to think in pictures, most notably in famous thought experiments, such as imagining watching lightning strikes from a moving train or experiencing gravity while inside a falling elevator.
- VII. "I very rarely think in words at all," he later told a psychologist. "A thought comes, and I may try to express it in words afterwards."
- VIII. Einstein was descended, on both parents' sides, from Jewish tradesmen and peddlers who had, for at least two centuries, made modest livings in the rural villages of Swabia in southwestern Germany. With each generation, they had become, or at least so they thought, increasingly assimilated into the German culture that they loved. Although Jewish by cultural designation and kindred 80 instinct, they displayed scant interest in the religion or its rituals.
- IX. Einstein regularly dismissed the role that his heritage played in shaping who he became. "Exploration of my ancestors," he told a friend late in life, "leads nowhere." That's not fully true. He was blessed by being born into an independent-minded and intelligent family line that valued education, and his life was certainly affected, in ways both beautiful and tragic, by membership in a religious heritage that had a distinctive intellectual tradition and a history of being both outsiders and later wanderers. Of course, the fact that he happened to be Jewish in Germany in the early twentieth century made him more of an outsider, and more of a wanderer, loped than he would have preferred—but that, too, became integral to who he was and in the role he would play in world history.
- X. Einstein's father, Hermann, was born in 1847 in the Swabian village of Buchau, whose thriving Jewish community was just beginning to enjoy the right to practice sister any vocation. Hermann showed "a marked inclination for mathematics," and his lips, family was able to send him seventy-five miles north to Stuttgart for

high school.

But they could not afford to send him to a university, most of which were closed to Jews in any event, so he returned home to Buchau to go into trade. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

- (i) Why was Einstein's maid driven to use a disparaging term for him?
- (a) Because he was a slow-learner (b) Because he oddly repeated everything to himself  
(c) Because everyone thought he could never learn (d) Because he had a linguistic issue
- (ii) Why did one of Einstein's teachers amuse history?
- (a) As he underestimated his potential (b) As he dismissed him from school. . . . ,  
(c) As he called him a distracted child (d) As he was ill-disposed towards him I time.
- (iii) Why did Einstein feel that his discovery of relativity theory became possible?
- (a) Because he didn't think of space and time as a child (b) Because his development was quite slow  
(c) Because he thought brilliantly as an adult (d) Because he was a creative genius
- (iv) Why was Einstein popularised as the patron saint of distracted kids?
- (a) He was dull and different, (b) He was slow and defiant.  
(c) He was rusticated by his teacher. (d) He hated authority.
- (v) To which community did Einstein belong?
- (a) Spanish (b) British  
(c) Jewish (d) Irish

B. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (i) In which way was Einstein's slow learning an advantage?  
(ii) How was Einstein's thinking process different from others?  
(iii) Where does the writer disagree with Einstein about shaping his personality?  
(iv) Were Einstein's parents different from others?  
(v) Give a proof from the passage to show racial discrimination.  
(vi) Find a word from the passage (para-5) which means 'investigated'.  
(vii) Find a word from the passage (para-9) which means 'associated'.

II. **Read the following passage carefully.**

1. It is surprising that sometimes we don't listen to what people say to us. We hear them, but we don't listen to them. I was curious to know how hearing is different from listening. I had thought both were synonyms, but gradually, I realised there is a big difference between the two words.
2. Hearing is a physical phenomenon. Whenever somebody speaks, the sound waves generated reach you, and you definitely hear whatever is said to you. However, even if you hear something, it doesn't always mean that you actually understand whatever is being said. Paying attention to whatever you hear means you are really listening. Consciously using your mind to understand whatever is being said is listening.
3. Diving deeper, I found that listening is not only hearing with attention, but is much more than that. Listening is hearing with full attention, and applying our mind. Most of the time, we listen to someone, but our minds are full of needless chatter and there doesn't seem to be enough space to accommodate what is being spoken.
4. We come with a lot of prejudices and preconceived notions about the speaker or the subject on which he is talking. We pretend to listen to the speaker, but deep inside, we sit in judgement and are dying to pronounce right or wrong, true or false, yes or no. Sometimes, we even come prepared with a negative mindset of proving the speaker wrong. Even if the speaker says nothing harmful, we are ready to pounce on him with our own version of things.
5. What we should ideally do is listen first with full awareness. Once we have done that, we can decide whether we want to make a judgement or not. Once we do that, communication will be perfect and our interpersonal relationship will become so much better. Listening well doesn't mean one has to say the right thing at the right moment. In fact, sometimes if words are left unspoken, there is a feeling of tension and negativity.

Therefore, it is better to speak out your mind, but do so with awareness of listening to the speaker with full concentration.

6. Let's look at this in another way. When you really listen, you imbibe not only what is being spoken, but you also understand what is not spoken as well. Most of the time we don't really listen even to people who really matter to us. That's how \_\_\_ misunderstandings grow among families, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters.

A. On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings.

Use recognisable abbreviations as necessary. Give a suitable title to the passage.

B. Write a summary of the notes prepared, in not more than 80 words.

- III. Prepare a poster spreading awareness on doing away with plastic. You are in the government department working for your state. (50 words)
- IV. You have changed your name from Vaibhav Thakur to Vaibhav Yadav. Draft a classified advertisement for the same to be published in a local newspaper. (50 words)
- V. You are Rishav / Rishika of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school is organizing a workshop on „Prevention of Drug Abuse“ in the coming week. Prepare a poster with complete information for the students of class X-XII.
- VI. You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school has decided to contribute in controlling traffic near your school and requires the names of volunteers from IX to XII. Write a notice to be displayed on the notice board.
- VII. You are Nitin/Naveena. Write a letter on behalf of your school's Chef Club ordering lunch for the participants of Inter-school Home Science Project Competition, to the Manager, L.M. Food & Snacks, Sarojini Nagar, Pune. (120-150 words)
- VIII. You are interested in learning fashion technology through a correspondence course. Write a letter to the Principal of National Fashion Institute, C.R. Das Road, Nasik, enquiring about the details of fee and duration of the Course in Fashion Technology offered by them. Imagine yourself as Shreyajain, who is living at 15, Sangeet Bhavan, is Janakpuri. (120-150 words)
- IX. You are Nitish/Nandita. You had gone to Surat to attend a religious ceremony when a disastrous earthquake rocked Gujarat. Write a report describing the havoc caused by this earthquake in about 150-200 words. You are Alok/Anita. As a special correspondent of a leading local daily, you are sent to cover a cultural fiesta organised by the Lions Club of Mumbai in connection with a fund raising programme for the construction of a building for an orphanage in Mumbai. Write a report in about 150-200 words for publication in the daily.
- X. Your brother is an engineer. He has left his job in Pune. He is going to the U.S.A. because he finds better avenues there. Like him, one of his friends, who is a doctor is going to Australia, someone else is leaving India for the U.K. You got disturbed to see intelligent people leaving India in search of better opportunities. You decide to write an article on the 'Brain-Drain' problem in India for The Times of India. Write the article in 150 – 200 words.
- XI. Children these days are made to stay indoors for various reasons. As a result of this, food habits have changed drastically affecting their structure and movements. Obesity is very common to them and this is dangerous. Write a speech on staying trim and healthy in about 150-200 words.
- XII. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.**
1. Driving from my parents home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away.  
(i) Name the poem and the poet.  
(ii) Why was the poet driving to Cochin?  
(iii) What was the physical state of her mother?  
(iv) Explain: 'but soon put that thought away'.

2. But as the man was opening the door, the daughter said, "I think he ought to stay — with us today I don't want him to go." And with that she went and closed the door. "What in the world are you doing?" said the father, the daughter stood there quite embarrassed and hardly knew what to answer.

- (i) Who is the man mentioned in the above lines?
- (ii) Who is 'us' here?
- (iii) 'I don't want him to go'. Who said this and why?
- (iv) Why was the daughter embarrassed?

**XIII. Answer any five of the following questions-in 30-40 words each.**

- (i) Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What could this mean?
- (ii) Would you agree that promises made to poor children are rarely kept? Why do you think this happened in the incidents narrated in the chapter, 'Lost Spring'?
- (iii) What do the parting words of the poet in 'My Mother at Sixty-six', signify?
- (iv) Do you think that the poet advocates total inactivity and death?
- (v) Why did the hunters tell the King that the tiger was not dead?
- (vi) How did Dr Sadao discover the nationality of the wounded man?
- (vii) What was Sam's answer to Charley's dilemma?

(viii) "We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with" said M.Hamel. Refer to the context and explain what he wanted to convey to his students.

- (ix) Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
- (x) When Gandhi got the whole hearted support of the lawyers, he said, "The battle of Champaran is won". What was the essence behind his statement?
- (xi) Did the prophecy of the astrologer come true at the end of the story? How?
- (xii) What story did Jo want to hear the next day and why? What was father's reaction to it?

**XIV. Answer the following question in 120-150 words.**

Attempt a pen-portrait of the Crofter and show how he treated the rattrap peddler.

- XV. Describe the trial of Gandhiji in Motihari Court and throw light on its outcome.
- XVI. What are the similarities and dissimilarities between Derry and Mr.Lamb.
- XVII. What is the plea of the people in the "Road side stand"? What can be the efforts taken by the city folk to improve their condition.
- XVIII. Mukesh is not like the others. His „dreams loom like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad“. Justify the statement in the light of contrast in the mindsets of Mukesh and the people of Firozabad.
- XIX. The childhood experience of terror of Douglas made him stronger and more determined. Elucidate the above statement supporting it with evidences from the text
- XX. The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards the thinking and broad minded human beings. Elaborate with the help of the story „The Enemy“.
- XXI. Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character Mr. Lamb from the chapter „On the Face of It“.

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