

PERIODIC TEST - I

NAME: -
CLASS: -XII

SUBJECT: -ENGLISH
MAX MARKS: -20

Note: Read the instructions carefully. Write your name, class, section and roll number clearly on your answer sheet. Answer all the questions. Read each question carefully before answering it.

Section A: Reading Skill – 5 marks

Question 1.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasized the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.
 2. The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.
 3. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.
 4. Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policymakers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress.
- Various Committees and Commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The female literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 per cent in 1991 but India still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. The female literacy index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight States which fall below the national average. The most populous States of the country, UP, MP, Bihar and Rajasthan fall in the category of most backward States as far as female literacy is concerned.
5. The prevailing cultural norms of gender behavior and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.
 6. Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 which gave them 30 per cent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads throughout the country. The National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women's issues.

7. The educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialization process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionize the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

(a) Answer the following questions.

[3]

- (i) Mention any two attributes of a modern woman.
- (ii) Why are women's participation and empowerment considered necessary?
- (iii) What benefits did the women get with the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993?

(b) Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following.

[2]

- (i) cruel and unfair (para 2)
- (ii) remove (para 3)

Section B: Writing Skill – 10 marks

Question 2

a) You are Amit/Amita, the head boy /girl of Rose villa International School. Your school is soon going to publish the annual magazine next month. Write a notice for the notice board of your school inviting students to submit write-ups.

[5]

b) Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic 'Importance of Discipline' for your school magazine.

[5]

Section C: Literature – 5 marks

Question 3

a) Answer the following questions in 30-40 words. (Any one)

[2]

- i) What was Franz expected to be prepared with for school that day?
- ii) Why has the mother been compared to the late winter's moon?

b) Answer the following questions in 70-80 words.

[3]

- i) What does the third level refer to? What is its significance?

OR

- i) How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?