

VIDYA VIKAS MANDALS
RAMACRISNA MADEVA SALGAOCAR HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL COMBA MARGAO
FIRST FORMATIVE EXAMINATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE -1
2023-2024

STD XII
DATE-08/07/23

TIME : 1 HR
MAX MARKS: 20

INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) The questions paper is divided into 4 sections- A,B,C,D. All questions are compulsory.
- ii) Write the number of each question clearly.
- iii) Questions 4,5,6,7 & 8 have 4 alternatives and only one of them is the correct answer. Choose the right answer and write it against the appropriate question number in your answer book.
- iv) Questions 9 & 14 have an internal choice.
- v) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
- vi) Figures to the right indicate marks.

SECTION – A (READING SKILLS)

Read the following passage.

Vanilla is the second most expensive spice in the world, after saffron, a result of its long and labour intensive cultivation. Parts of the orchid family, vanilla beans are hand- pollinated on family farms. Each flower opens for only one part of a day during the season, if it is not pollinated on that day, no pod is produced. Once picked, the curing process, which involves drying the beans in the sun by day and allowing them to sweat in a box at night takes three to six months. The main producers of food grade vanilla, known as black vanilla because of the colour of the dried pods, are Madagascar, followed by Mexico and Tahiti. Vanilla from each country has its own distinctive characteristics but it is Madagascar vanilla that produces the creamy, sweet flavour beloved of Britons.

One can get vanilla extract all over the world but Madagascar vanilla is chosen because it has the greatest depth of flavour. There are three main commercial preparations of whole beans, powder and extract. The market price of vanilla has risen over the past 12 months and sharply over the last 12 weeks. This has been driven largely by a poor quality harvest in Madagascar. The pain will be felt most acutely by ice-cream makers, as it is the most expensive ingredient. When prices are high, market experts say, farmers are tempted to pick beans early. That leads to a less intense flavour. This, coupled with inadequate drying in order to increase profits from their crop has led to lower quality vanilla. The combination of high prices and poor quality means some manufacturers are turning to synthetic alternatives. But many food brands are not open to using artificial flavourings. Vanilla is every ice-cream company's biggest- selling product. You can bring out a niche flavour but vanilla will still be on top. You've just got to take the hit on it because customers would notice the difference.

(Source Learninsta 325 words)

On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer questions 1,2&3 briefly in 10 -15 words each and questions 4,5,6,7&8 by choosing the best alternative from those provided.

1. What do you mean by 'labour intensive cultivation'? (1mk)
2. Which are the two most expensive spices in the world? (1mk)
3. Who are the main producers of food grade Vanilla? (1mk)

Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct alternative from those given below:

4. Farmers are tempted to pick the vanilla beans early, which leads to----- (1mk)
 - Very large beans
 - Less intense flavour
 - Sweet vanilla beans
 - Good quality beans

Give the meaning of the word in the context of the passage from the alternatives given below:

5. hand pollination

(1mk)

- natural pollination
- mechanical pollination
- insect pollination
- bird pollination

6. curing

(1mk)

- growing
- drying
- cutting
- throwing

The alternatives provided are words from the passage . Select the alternative that best matches the meaning given below:

7. a quality that is typical of somebody

(1mk)

- beans
- pick
- characteristics
- expensive

8. made from artificial substances

(1mk)

- vanilla pods
- synthetic alternatives
- crops
- Saffron

SECTION –B (WRITING SKILLS)

Attempt any one of the following:

(3mks)

9. You are Shalini Naik , the Secretary of the Students' Council of Mandovi Higher Secondary School, Canacona, Goa. You are organizing an excursion to Tambdi Surla during the following month .Draft a notice informing the students in detail about the proposed excursion. (about 30- 40 words)

Or

9. You are Naresh / Neema Gawas , General Manager of Grand Hilton Resort , Vagator. You wish to appoint an Accountant at the hotel. Draft an advertisement to be published in the classified columns of a local newspaper giving all the relevant details. Contact No, Email id etc. (about 30-40 words)

SECTION – C (GRAMMAR)

Rewrite the following sentence according to the instruction given in the brackets:

10. You ----- wear your helmet before riding.(use the Modal of 'compulsion'). (1mk)

SECTION –D (TEXTUAL)

Read the following stanza carefully and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences of about 10-15 words each:

I saw my mother , beside me,
Doze, open-mouthed, her face ashen like that of a
corpse and realised with pain.....

11. What has the poet realised with pain? (1mk)

12. Name and explain the figures of speech in the last two lines. (1mk)

Answer the following questions in about 25-30 words:

13. What is the significance of the title –' Lost Spring'? (2mks)

Answer any one of the following questions in about 50-60 words:

14. The story , " The Tiger King " illustrates man's feelings of superiority over the rest of nature. Explain. (4mks)

OR

14. Explain why do you think the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? (4mks)