

**BOHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT
CLASS 12-ENGLISH**

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 emphasised 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 behaviour 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)

(i) Mention any two attributes of a modern woman.

(ii) Why are women's participation and empowerment considered necessary?

(iii) Which factors adversely affect the education of girls?

(iv) What benefits did the women get with the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993?

(v) By what process can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of the people?

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

(i) cruel and unfair (para 2)

(ii) remove (para 3)

(iii) full of people (para 4)

Question 2.

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

1. For many years now the Governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no Government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world, plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living.

2. We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes the implementation of these laws difficult.

3. Also, there is no ban on child labour in nonhazardous occupations. The act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganized or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters, among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing law is lax.

4. There are industries, which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs children to make hand-knotted carpets. There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. In Kashmir because of the political unrest, children are forced to work while many schools are shut. Industries like gem cutting and polishing, pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children.

5. The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.

6. There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older. In these hellholes like the sweet shops of the old, there is no hope.

7. Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fireworks and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and TB. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare.

8. If at all the Government was serious about granting children their rights, an intensive effort ought to have been made to implement the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 which laid down punitive action against employers of child labour. Only compulsory primary education can eliminate child labour.

9. Surely, if 380 million children are given a better life and elementary education, India's human capital would be greatly enhanced. But that needs, as former President Abdul Kalam says, "a Second

(a)

(i) On which two counts has the Government not succeeded so far in respect of children?

(ii) What makes the implementation of child labour law difficult?

(iii) Why do industries prefer child labour?

(iv) What are the adverse effects of hazardous industries on children? Given any two.

(v) What does the Supreme Court's Directive of 1997 provide?

(b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

(i) risky/dangerous (para 1)

(ii) very unfriendly (para 5)

(iii) intended as punishment (para 8)

Question 3

1. As Principal of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lucknow, draft notice in not more than 50 words informing students of the change in school timings with effect from the 1st of October. State valid reasons for the change.

2. You are Secretary of the History Club of Vidya Mandir School. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students of a proposed visit to some important historical sites in your city.

3. Due to a sudden landslide and inclement weather, St. Francis School, Vasco has to be closed for a week. As Principal of that school, draft notice in not more than 50 words to be displayed at the school main gate notice board.

4. You are Sports Secretary of Lalwani Public School, Udaipur. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board asking the students to give their names for participation in various events to be held on the Annual Sports Day of your school. Invent the details of the events. Sign as Lalit/Lalita.

5. Your school has planned an excursion to Lonavala near Mumbai during the autumn holidays. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board, giving detailed information and inviting the names of those who are desirous to join. Sign as Naresf/Namita, Head Boy/Head Girl, D.V. English School, Thane, Mumbai.

Question 4

1. You are Manisha of 10, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore. You want a Maths teacher for your son who is a class 10 student. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words stating your requirements.

2. You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of 'The Hindu' giving all necessary details. You are Niranjana, 247, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru.

3. You are the General Manager of E.V.L. Company which requires posh bungalows in company lease, as guest houses. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words under classified columns to be published in 'The New Indian Express'.

4. Your younger brother aged 5 has been missing for the last three days. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for the Missing Persons column of a local newspaper. You are Ram/Rama. Contact number 931070000.

5. You want to rent out your newly constructed flat in the heart of the city. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in 'The Deccan Herald', Bangalore under classified columns. Give all the necessary details. You are Mohan/Mahima of Jayanagar, Bengaluru.

Question 5

1. Write a letter to the Editor of a magazine Expressions, New Delhi on the deterioration in the standard of living in your city. Give suggestions for improvement. Sign yourself as PMR.

2. Write a letter to the Editor of National Herald, New Delhi about water scarcity in your locality suggesting ways to improve the position of water supply. You are Ramnath/ Reema of Ghaziabad.

Question 6

1. The number of women in the police force seems insufficient especially when we see the increasing involvement of women in terrorist activities. Write an article in 150-200 words for 'The Hindustan Chronicle', on the need of having more women in the police force.

2. Advertisements have become a big business. They are promoted by celebrities drawn from various fields like films, sports, etc., leaving their influence on all people specially the young. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'The Impact of Advertisements on the younger generation.'

LITERATURE

Question 7

1. Who is Saheb? How can you say his name is ironic?

2. Whom did the author meet every day? Where had that person come from and why?

3. What promise did the author make with Saheb? Why had she to feel small?

4. What were the different names given to the King of Pratibandapuram?

5. Why was the dewan not in favour of doubling the tax? What did the king then ordered him to do?

6. What happened to the tiger provided by the dewan

7. What sights did Franz see on his way to school?

8. What did Franz wonder about when he entered the class that day?

9. Why were some elderly persons occupying the back benches that day

10. Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why

11. Why did Charley again wanted to go to the third level?

12. Philately helps keep the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of the human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?