

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR**  
**Periodic Test - II (2023 – 2024)**

**Class: XI**  
**Subject: English Core**

**MM: 20**  
**Time: 01 Hour**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each question. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

**Section A – READING SKILLS**

**Q. 1 – Read the passage given below:**

1. “Who doesn't know how to cook rice? Cooking rice hardly takes time.” said my father. So, I challenged myself. I switched from news to YouTube and typed, “How to cook rice?” I took one and a half cups of rice. Since I didn't have access to a rice cooker, I put the rice in a big pot. Firstly, the rice has to be washed to get rid of dust and starch. I thought I won't be able to drain the rice and that it will fall out of the pot. I observed the chef as I swirled the rice around and used my dexterous hands to drain it, not once, not twice, but three times. I looked down at the sink and saw less than 50 grains that made their way out of the pot. Suffice to say, I was up to the mark.
2. The video stated that the key to perfect rice is equal amounts of rice and water. I have heard that professionals don't need to measure everything; they just know what the right amount is. But as this was my first time in the kitchen, I decided to experiment by not measuring the water needed for boiling the rice. I wanted the rice to be firm when bitten, just like pasta. I don't enjoy the texture of mushy rice. It has to have that chutzpah; it has to resist my biting power just for a bit before disintegrating.
3. After what seemed like 10 minutes, all the water disappeared. I went in to give it a good stir. To my surprise, some of the rice got stuck to the pot. I tried to scrape it off but to no avail. At the same time, there was a burning smell coming from it. I quickly turned the stove off. “What have you done to the kitchen?” shouted Mother, while coming towards the kitchen. I managed to ward her off.
4. Finally, when the time came to taste my creation, I was surprised! It wasn't bad at all. The rice had the desired consistency. Sure, a little more salt would've been better, but I just added that while eating. The experience was fairly rewarding and memorable. It taught me a new sense of respect for those who cook food on a regular basis at home or engage in gourmet creations professionally.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions: (1x4 = 4)**

- (i) Father's question to the narrator, about knowing how to cook rice, was intended to
 

(a) criticize the narrator's lack of abilities.	(b) make the process sound simple.
(c) encourage the narrator to take up cooking.	(d) showcase his own expertise in cooking rice
- (ii) “I switched from news to YouTube ...” Pick the option in which the meaning of ‘switch(ed)’ is NOT the same as it is in the passage.
  - (a) He switched on the radio to listen to the news while having dinner.

- (b) "Forget these diet supplements and switch to yoga, if you want a true sense of well-being."  
 (c) Mom switched to reading fiction recently because she was bored with cook-books.  
 (d) The company will switch the trucks to other routes to bring down city pollution.

(iii) Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen after the writer checked on the rice.

- (a) Turning the stove off. (b) Being taken aback at the condition of rice.  
 (c) Forgetting to scrape the stuck rice. (d) Smelling the delicious aroma of cooked rice.

(iv) Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the cooking experience.

1. frustrating 2. amusing 3. satisfying 4. disillusioning 5. exacting 6. enlightening  
 (a) 1 and 4 (b) 2 and 5 (c) 3 and 6 (d) 1 and 3

### Section B – GRAMMAR & WRITING

**Q. 2 – Reorder the following words/ sentences to make meaningful and correct sentences. (1x2 = 2)**

- (i) to/ be/ her/ Sudha/ the/ hard/ class/ is/ working/ in/ order/ best  
 (ii) on the platform/ vendors with/ were/ wares/ their/ selling/ flowers/ sweet-smelling/ the

**Q. 3 – Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words: (3x1 = 3)**

- (A) You are the secretary of the Indian Institute of Foreign Languages, Hyderabad. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in a newspaper announcing the commencement of new courses.  
 (B) Design a poster in about 50 words to create awareness among the people of your city on the importance of following traffic rules.

### Section C – LITERATURE

**Q. 4 - Read the given extract and answer the questions given below: (1x2 = 2)**

*"And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,  
 Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here  
 translated:  
 I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,"*

- (i) What is the difference between the two 'I' in the given lines?  
 (a) One is of the poet and the other is of the rain  
 (b) One is with love and other is with surprise  
 (c) One asks the question and the other answers  
 (d) Both (a) and (c)  
 (ii) The poet specifically says that the answer was given by 'The Voice of the Rain'. The emphasis on voice of rain adds a hint of ..... to the poem.  
 (a) mystery (b) thrill (c) drama (d) doubt

**Q. 5 – Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in 40-50 words: (3x3 = 9)**

- (i) Who was Professor Gaitonde? What did he plan in Bombay?  
 (ii) How was Bakhar's account of the Battle of Panipat different from what was written in other history books?  
 (iii) What reason did Mrs Dorling give to the narrator's mother to take her belongings?  
 (iv) Why did the narrator wait for a long time before heading to the address her mother gave?

\*\*\*\*\*