

CAREERS360

MBSE HSLC
English
Sample Paper 2021

ENGLISH
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER
Full marks – 80
Time – 3 Hours

General Instructions :

- (i) This question paper is divided into four sections – A, B, C and D.
- (ii) All the sections are compulsory. Answer all the questions.
- (iii) Write the number of the question before attempting it.
- (iv) Marks for each question are indicated against it.

SECTION - A : Reading (10 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Why does a person become overconfident? The reason lies in over assessment of his capabilities. Sometimes people over assess their competence and jump into situations that are beyond their control.

Napoleon Bonaparte who became Emperor of France would say that the word ‘impossible’ was common only amongst fools. The overconfident Napoleon invaded Russia in the winter of 1812. This proved to be a big disaster.

Overconfidence generally leads people into misadventures, endangering their chances in life. It is wisely said that any achievement is a result of two factors – one’s personal planning and support from the external world. People take into account only their planning, generally ignoring external factors. As a result they are unable to foresee future developments. Hence, the great risk of failure.

Then there is the question: how can one manage overconfidence? The formula is very simple. Before taking a decision, discuss the matter with other informed people with an objective mind and when it is proved that you are about to go off the path, accept reality and say without delay, “I was wrong”.

Overconfidence is a flaw characterizing people who lack the virtue of modesty. Modesty makes you a realist; you become a person who is cut down to size. People of this kind become very cautious; before taking an action they assess the whole situation. They adopt a realistic approach.

Overconfident people live within their own thoughts. They know themselves but they are unaware of others. Living inside their own cell they are unable to make use of the experiences of others. This kind of habit is highly damaging to all concerned.

There is a saying that the young man sees the rule and the old man sees the exception, with a slight change, I would like to say that the overconfident person sees the rule and the confident person sees the exception. Overconfident people are always at risks. It is said that taking risk is good but it must be well calculated otherwise it becomes very dangerous.

1. 1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions briefly:
(3 X 2 = 6)

- (a) Why does a person become overconfident?
- (b) What does overconfidence generally lead people into?
- (c) How can one manage overconfidence?

1. 2. Choose the most suitable antonym from the options given :

(a) capabilities 1

(i) capacity (ii) power (iii) potentialities (iv) inabilities

(b) disaster 1

(i) calorie (ii) blessing (iii) catastrophe (iv) destruction

1. 3. Find words in the passage which mean the same as : (2 X 1 = 2)

i) Threatening (para 3)

ii) Predict (para 3)

SECTION - B : WRITING (15 marks)

2. (a) With COVID-19 on the rise, universal adoption of safety measures is imperative. Design an attractive poster on COVID-19 to create awareness, highlighting the safety measures and their importance in checking the spread of the infectious disease.

(Word limit: 50) 5

OR

(b) Your father, Mr. Lalthanga, is preparing to host a grand Christmas dinner at your residence on 25th December 20xx at 5 o'clock. Draft an informal invitation on behalf of your father to invite his friend Mr. Vanmawia to join your family at the dinner.

(Word limit: 50) 5

3. As advertised in the local newspapers, one post of a high school teacher is lying vacant at Govt. Tlangmawi High School. Prepare a job application for the post with a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV). (Word limit : 150 - 200 words) 10

SECTION - C : GRAMMAR (15 marks)

4. Identify and label each sentence as *declarative*, *interrogative* or *exclamatory*: (4 X 1 = 4)

(a) How well she sings!

(b) She is a successful writer.

(c) Who told you this?

(d) They will not be joining us for dinner.

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb from the alternatives given: (5 X 1 = 5)

(a) Puia fell ill because he _____ spicy food.

(eat/ has ate / have eaten / had eaten)

(b) Jane _____ her blue jeans today, but usually she wears a dress.

(wears / wearing / wear / is wearing)

(c) Lala _____ not been to Paris.

(is / has / have/ was)

(d) _____ the moon a star?

(Has / Was / Is / Were)

(e) I _____ football last Saturday.

(am playing / play / played / plays)

6. Change the statements from direct to indirect speech and vice versa by choosing the correct answer from the options given: (3 X 1 = 3)
- (a) He said to Susan, "You have committed a mistake here."
 (i) He told Susan that she committed a mistake here.
 (ii) He told Susan that she had committed a mistake there.
 (iii) He told Susan that she would commit a mistake there.
 (iv) He told Susan that she has committed a mistake here.
- (b) The teacher said, "Are you preparing well for the exams?"
 (i) The teacher said that they are preparing well for the exams.
 (ii) The teacher asked if I was preparing well for the exams.
 (iii) The teacher asked whether I have been preparing well for the exams.
 (iv) The teacher said that we were preparing well for the exams.
- (c) The students asked whether they could use the calculator.
 (i) The students said, "Can we use the calculator?"
 (ii) The students said, "Can they use the calculator?"
 (iii) The students said, "Could we use the calculator?"
 (iv) The students said, "Could they use the calculator?"
7. Change the voice : (3 X 1 = 3)
- (a) Is he doing his assignment?
 (b) She will write a letter.
 (c) The train has been missed by him.

SECTION - D : TEXTBOOK (40 marks)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

I was grieving because I had lost a good friend. However, I could not dwell on my grief alone.

- (a) Who is the speaker? How did the speaker lose her good friend? 2
 (b) How did they become best friends? 2

9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Murray Halberg was almost killed in an accident while playing football.

- (a) Who is Murray Halberg? How old was he when the accident happened? 2
 (b) How bad was the accident ? 2

10. (a) Describe the situation that led the crocodile to attack Graham. (Word limit : 50-75) 4

OR

- (b) Describe how Nicola and Jacopo sacrificed themselves to look after their sister.
 (Word limit : 50-75) 4

11. Wangari Maathai was an environmentalist who believed that it is everyone's responsibility to make our world greener. Explain how students can play major roles in promoting a 'greener world'. (Word limit : 50-75) 4

12. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow in *one* or *two* sentences only:

*Till last by Philip's farm I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.*

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Who is the speaker? | 1 |
| (b) What is the refrain in the poem? | 1 |
| (c) The poet of this poem is.... | 1 |
| i) Douglas Malloch | iii) John Keats |
| ii) Alfred Tennyson | iv) William Cowper |

13. Read the extract *and answer the questions that follow* :

*It isn't by size that you win or you fail-
Be the best of whatever you are!*

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (a) How can we be the best in whatever we do? | 2 |
| (b) The speaker in the poem sounds | 1 |
| i) proud | iii) angry |
| ii) sad | iv) positive |

14. (a) Write what the poet wants to show through the poem *The Poplar Field*. What lesson do you learn from the poem? (Word limit : 50-75) 4

OR

(b) The brook faced a number of ups and downs to reach its destination. Compare the journey of the brook to that of men in our journey to reach our goal. (Word limit : 50-75) 4

15. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

(a) *Your visitor seems to have left traces in your bedroom as well as in your study, Mr. Soames.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) Who is the speaker? What is he doing in Mr. Soames' bedroom? | 2 |
| (ii) What traces were left behind by the visitor? | 2 |

OR

(b) *Pray continue your very interesting statement.*

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|---|---|
| (i) Who is the speaker? To whom is he speaking? | 2 |
| (ii) What is the 'interesting statement'? | 2 |

16. (a) Write what you understand about the character of Antonio from the story **The Merchant of Venice** in about 50- 75 words. 4

OR

(b) What was it about the old man that made the narrator of **The Corner Shop** feel so uncomfortable? Give your answer in about 50 - 75 words. 4

17. (a) In the story **The Merchant of Venice**, what was inside the silver casket? 1
 (i) Portia's portrait (iii) fool's head
 (ii) gold (iv) precious stone
- (b) What was the most important day of Helen Keller's life? 1
 (i) the day she met Anne Sullivan (iii) the day she broke her doll
 (ii) the day she could walk (iv) the day she was named
18. (a) The author of the fiction **The Paper Plague** stated that *people under the threat of famine can behave like beasts*. How far is the statement true about human nature, especially in the times of pandemic or crises? (Word limit 50 - 75) 4

OR

- (b) Education empowered Helen Keller who had overcome many obstacles in her life. Based on your own experiences, describe how education has helped you to become a better individual. (Word limit 50 - 75) 4
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