

THE VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, THODUPUZHA
SECOND MODEL EXAMINATION 2023-24
ENGLISH (301)

GRADE XII
05/01/2024

TIME : 3 Hours
Max. Marks : 80

General Instructions:

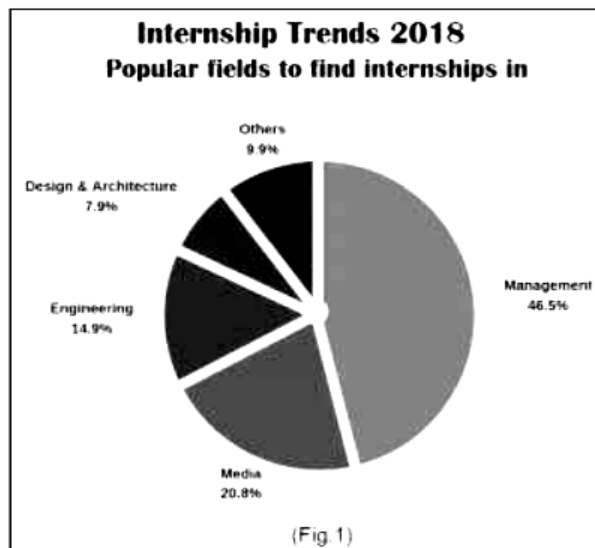
1. This Question Paper contains- five sections A, B, C, D and E. Each section is compulsory .However, there are internal choices in some questions.
2. Section A has of 18 MCQs and 02 Assertion - Reason based questions of 1 mark each
3. Section B has 5 very short answer (VSA)-type questions of 2 marks each
4. Section C has 6short answer (SA)-type questions of 3 marks each
5. Section D has 4 Long answer (LA)-type questions of 5 marks each
6. Section E has 3 source based/case based/passage based/integrates units of assessment of 4 marks each with sub-parts.

SECTION A- READING

(22 Marks)

I. Read the passage given below:

1. Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles, according to a 2018-19 survey by an online internship and training platform. This survey reveals that India had 80% more internship applications — with 2.2 million applications received in 2018 compared to 1.27 million in the year before. The trend was partly due to more industries looking to have fresh minds and ideas on existing projects for better productivity. What was originally seen as a western concept, getting an internship before plunging into the job market is fast



gaining momentum at Indian workplaces.

2. According to the survey data, India's National Capital Region has been the top provider of internships, with a total of 35% internship opportunities, followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru at 20% and 15%, respectively. This includes opportunities in startups, MNCs and even government entities. The survey also revealed popular fields to find internships in (Fig 1). There has been growing awareness among the students about the intern profiles sought by hiring companies that often look for people with real-time experience in management than B-school masters.

3. The stipend has been an important factor influencing the choice of internships. The survey data reveals that the average stipend offered to interns was recorded as ₹7000 while the maximum stipend went up to ₹85,000. According to statistics, a greater number of people

considered virtual internships than in-office internships. Virtual internships got three times more applications than in-office, since a large chunk of students were the ones already enrolled in various courses, or preferred working from home.

4. Internship portals have sprung up in the last three to four years and many of them already report healthy traffic per month. Reports suggest that on an average, an internship portal company has around 200,000-plus students and some 8,000 companies registered on it. It gets around two lakh visits online every month. The Managing Director of a leading executive search firm says that though these web platforms are working as an effective bridge between the industry and students, most established companies are still reluctant to take too many interns on board for obvious reasons. (355 words)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer all the questions by choosing the correct option. (1x10=10)

1. Select the correct inference with reference to the following:

Over the last five years, more companies have been actively looking for intern profiles...

- a) The past five years have seen active applications by interns to several companies.
- b) The activity for intern profiling by the companies has reached a gradual downslide over the past five years.
- c) There were lesser companies searching for intern profiles earlier, as compared to those in the recent five years.
- d) Several companies have initiated intern profiling five times a year in the recent past.

2. Select the central idea of the paragraph likely to precede paragraph I.

- a) Process of registering for internships
- b) Knowing more about internships
- c) Dos and Don'ts for an internship interview
- d) Startups and internships

3. Select the option that displays the true statement with reference to Fig.

- a) Internships for Engineering and Management are the top two favourites.
- b) Design & Architecture internships are significantly more popular than Others.
- c) Internships for Media and Others have nearly equal popularity percentage.
- d) Management internships' popularity is more than twice that for Media.

4. Based on your reading of paragraphs II-III, select the appropriate counter-argument to the given argument.

Argument: I don't think you'll be considered for an internship just because you've been the student editor and Head of Student Council.

- a) I think I have a fair chance because I'm applying for a virtual position than an in office one.
- b) I have real-time experience in managing a team and many companies consider it more meritorious than a degree in Management.
- c) I know that my stipend might be on the lower side but I think that it's a good 'earn while you learn' opportunity.
- d) Lot of metro-cities have a good percentage of positions open and I think I should definitely take a chance.

5. Select the option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship.

	cause	effect
A.	Several students had academic courses to complete	Students applied for online internship

	cause	effect
B.	A large chunk of students preferred in-office internships	Applications were three times more than for virtual internships

	cause	effect
C.	A greater number of students wanted to work from home	Several students had courses to complete

	cause	effect
D.	Students applied for online internship	An equal number of students applied for work-from-home

6. The survey statistics mention the average stipend, indicating that

- 50% interns were offered ₹85,000.
- ₹7,000 was the lowest and ₹85,000 was the highest.
- most interns were offered around ₹7,000.
- No intern was offered more than ₹7,000.

7. The phrase ‘healthy traffic’ refers to the

- updates from portals about health and road safety.
- statistics about adherence to traffic rules by the portals.
- sizeable number of visitors to the portal per month.
- monthly data about the health of internship applicants.

8. Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

- Established companies are reluctant to take too many interns on board.*
- Probability of interns leaving the company for a variety of reasons, is high.*

- (1) is the problem and (2) is the solution for (1).
- (1) is false but (2) correctly explains (1).
- (1) summarises (2).
- (1) is true and (2) is the reason for (1).

9. What is the present form of sought?

10. The synonym of unwilling is (para 4)

II. Read the passage given below:

1. The newest stress buster is paper Yoga. Adults are now changing over from their smartphones to colouring books to beat anxiety and relax. They spend hours hunched over the drawing of mandalas filling in their words into the circle, with colours. These adult colouring books are classified in the adult category and are becoming fast selling items as people reach out to them to relax their minds. And it is not just mandala drawings that are in vogue. Others settle for

elaborate landscapes, cultural tableaux, brimming with images of dancers, singers and concerts. Involutes of various shapes also make up this list.

2. Just as the demand has kept growing, there are also authors who are much in demand for their relaxing creations. Leading in this field is Johanna Basford, who has sold 1.4 million copies of her books ‘Secret Garden’, ‘Enchanted Forest’ and ‘Lost Ocean’, in a matter of just two years. More bookstores have now started stocking such books as customers are asking for them. Publishers now contend that it is not just celebrity authors in this category but any book with the tag-line ‘de-stress’ has a readymade market for it.

3. Another reason for the success of these books is that they are multilingual in the way that they speak to adults of all age groups cultures and dispositions. Even nursery teachers are fast becoming customers of these books not because they are overworked but because of the fun that even five-year-olds are having with their own colouring books.

4. The new trend has been dubbed ‘Paper Yoga’. While the junior versions of these books hold simple generously proportioned patterns, that allow for a child’s broad strokes, the adult variants typically have tight kaleidoscopes that require a fine pen and a staunch eye. As they do not require special skills to execute, publishers are marketing it with the tag-line that their target customer is anyone who can draw satisfaction from something beautiful. The skills of drawing and colouring or conceptualization, essentials for the art of drawing, are not in this list of requirements. Thus the phobia of being an expert or amateur is not a deterrent.

5. So far, publishers have had to import their stock as there are not sufficient titles available. But illustrators are fast catching up with this trend and some have even ventured into self-publishing in this line. Others are innovating still more meaningful inputs into this work by asking customers to bring their own experiences to the book.

6. Individual stories of success are making an appearance too. Illustrator Indu Harikumar started her self-published colouring book, ‘Beauty Needs Space’, on social media. She priced a copy of 12 artworks at ₹1500 and sold 155 of the 200 she had printed. ‘People have written to say that they connected with the book as they worked on it.’

7. While adults are discovering their inner selves through this creative pursuit, art-based therapeutics warn against expecting too much from these books for saving lives or minds. At best, they calm the mind and are a temporary diversion, for the mind and cut off the noise of clamouring thoughts. These books they claim can offer therapeutic returns only when used in conjunction with a therapist’s counsel. As yet the entire process is undergoing a testing time but whatever little of it has emerged, is being hailed as a step in a positive direction.

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

1. Adults spend hours over their mandalas—————
 - a. colouring them
 - b. filling in the words into them
 - c. filling in messages into them
 - d. writing their life history in them
2. Joanna Basford calls her colouring books—————
 - a. Basford Gardens, Secret gardens
 - b. Paper Yoga, Beauty Needs Space
 - c. Enchanted Forest, Paper Boats
 - d. Secret Garden, Enchanted Forest, Lost Ocean
3. Indu Harikumar started her colouring book
 - a. on the social media
 - b. in public spaces
 - c. in school classrooms
 - d. in international meets

4. Colouring books can serve best if combined with
- a temporary diversion of the mind
 - working on social media
 - a therapist's counsel
 - without a therapist's advice

(II) Answer the following questions briefly.

(1x6=6)

1. What is the newest stress buster and what does it use?
2. What topics distinguish adult colouring books?
3. Why are the publishers forced to import stock?
4. What is the latest trend in this line?
5. Who is the leading author in this field?
6. Trace the growth of an Indian author in this line.

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

(1x2=2)

1. very complicated and detailed (para 1)
2. speaking several different languages (para 3)

SECTION B- Writing

(18 Marks)

QIII. As Secretary of Old Students' Association, draft a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the noticeboard regarding a meeting to be held for the celebration of Annual Alumni Meet.

(4Marks)

OR

Nehru Educational Society, a Charitable Organization, is coming to your school to distribute books for the needy students. As Head Boy/Head Girl, write a notice asking students to drop the list of books they need in the box kept outside the Principal's office. You are Arnav/Anupama of Modern Public School, Delhi.

QIV. Lack of job opportunities in rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has a number of slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to the editor of a national newspaper on how you can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Kiran/ Karunya, M 114, Mall Road, Delhi. **(5 Marks)**

OR

You have read an advertisement in The National Daily for the post of Chartered Accountant in Happy Times Industry, Kanpur. You believe you possess the requisite qualifications and experience and would prove to be an asset to the company. Apply for the post, giving your complete bio data. You are Amar Singh of 2, Kailash Puri, Delhi.

QV. Hard work and punctuality are essential for a happy and successful life. They help in meeting the desired targets of our life. You are Kavya/Kanha. Write an article, highlighting the importance of hard work and punctuality in student's life. **(5 Marks)**

OR

Rising prices of essential commodities make life difficult for common man. You are Nalini/Ranbir. Write an article describing the causes, possible solutions and how students can help their parents to cope with the problem.

Q.VI. On 30th November your school is going to hold its annual sports day. You want Mr. Dhanraj Pillai, a noted hockey player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

OR

As the principal of a reputed college, you have been invited to inaugurate a Book Exhibition in your neighbourhood College. Draft a reply to the invitation in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function. You are Ram Gopal/Rani Vijay.

SECTION C- Literature

(40 Marks)

Q VII. Read the extract and answer any one of the following extract: (1x6=6)

From the beginning however, I had an aversion to the water when I was in it. This started when I was three or four years old and father took me to the beach in California. He and I stood together in the surf. I hung on to him, yet the waves knocked me down and swept over me. I was buried in water. I was frightened. Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves. My introduction to the Y.M.C.A pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence.

- 1) Who is I in the above passage?
- 2) Why did he have an aversion to the water?
- 3) What does the speaker mean by 'I was buried in water'?
- 4) Why did he go to Y.M.C.A pool
- 5) Find out a word from the above passage which means restored to consciousness.
- 6) Name the author.

OR

His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

- 1) Whose dreams are being spoken about?
- 2) The simile 'dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets' indicates that his dream was :
 - a) reality, yet seemed distant
 - b) (b) lost in the sea of dust
 - c) (c)illusory and indistinct
 - d) (d) hanging in the dusty air
- 3) 'I will learn to drive a car,' he answers, looking straight into my eyes. This sentence highlights Mukesh was _____
 1. determined 2.Fearless 3.hopeful 4.Valiant 5.ambitious 6. Stern
 - a)1 & 5 (b) 2 & 4(c) 2 & 5 (d) 3 & 6
- 4) What makes the city of Firozabad famous?
- 5) Find the synonym of word 'Mirage' from the given options:
 - a. Optical illusion
 - b. Dream
 - c. Light
- 6) Name the author?

QVIII. Read the extract and answer the questions.

(1x6=6)

*For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.*

1. The poet uses the word “let’s” to _____.
 - a. initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
 - b. invite readers as part of the poem’s larger call to humanity.
 - c. welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject.
 - d. address readers as fellow members of the human race.
2. Margaret Atwood said, “Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole”
Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood’s words and the line from the above extract – “let’s not speak in any language”
 - a. Atwood endorses Neruda’s call to not speak in any language.
 - b. Atwood justifies Neruda’s request to not engage in any speaking.
 - c. Atwood undermines Neruda’s intent to stop and not speak in any language.
 - d. Atwood surrenders to Neruda’s desire for silence and not speak in any language.
3. Why do you think the poet employs words like “exotic” and “strangeness”?
 - a. To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once
 - b. To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life.
 - c. To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
 - d. To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence.
4. Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms given in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. On the face of the earth	(i) in existence
2. What on earth	(ii) To do all possible to accomplish something
3. Move heaven and earth	(iii) To express surprise or shock
4. To salt of the earth	(iv) To be good and worthy

- a) 1 – (i); 2 – (iv); 3 – (iii); 4 – (ii)
 - b) 1 – (i); 2 – (iii); 3 – (ii); 4 – (iv)
 - c) 1 – (ii); 2 – (i); 3 – (iv); 4 – (iii)
 - d) 1 – (iv); 2 – (ii); 3 – (iii); 4 – (i)
5. Identify the literary device used in ‘sudden strangeness’
 - a. repetition
 - b. alliteration
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simili
 6. What would be an exotic moment?

OR

*but after the airport’s
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter’s moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,*

1. What did the narrator do after the security check?
2. Why did the narrator compare her mother’s face to a late winter’s moon?
3. What is the ‘familiar ache’ mentioned in these lines?
4. Identify the poetic device in the lines.
5. Why did the narrator say ‘see you soon, Amma’?
6. Find words from the extract which mean the same as (i) Colourless (ii) Faded yellowish

QIX. Read the extract and answer any one of the following extract: (1x4=4)

Have you ever been there? It's a wonderful town still, with big old frame houses, huge lawns, and tremendous trees whose branches meet overhead and roof the streets. And in 1894, summer evenings were twice as long, and people sat out on their lawns, the men smoking cigars and talking quietly, the women waving palm-leaf fans, with the fire-flies all around, in a peaceful world. To be back there with the First World War still twenty years off, and World War II over forty years in the future... I wanted two tickets for that.

1. Who does 'you' refer to?
2. Choose the option that best describes the society represented in the above extract.
 - a. content, peace-loving
 - b. leisurely, sentimental
 - c. orthodox, upper class
 - d. comfortable, ancient
3. iii Imagine that the city of Galesburg is hosting a series of conferences and workshops. In which of the following conferences or workshops are you least likely to find the description of Galesburg given in the above extract?
 - a. Gorgeous Galesburg: Archiving a Tourist Paradise
 - b. Welcome to the home you deserve: Galesburg Realtors
 - c. Re-imagining a Warless Future: Technology for Peace
 - d. The Woman Question: The world of women at home
4. What would people of Galesburg do on summer evening in 1894?

OR

"O wise prophets! It was I who spoke."

This time there were no grounds for doubt. It was the infant born just ten days ago who had enunciated the words so clearly.

The chief astrologer took off his spectacles and gazed intently at the baby".

1. Why was there no grounds for doubts?
2. How old was the child at the time when he spoke?
3. How did the chief astrologer react to find the child speaking clearly?
4. A word in the passage which means 'with a purpose or intentionally' is

Q X. Answer any Four of the following in 30- 40 words each. (4x2= 8)

- 1) What did M Hamel teach the class in his 'last lesson'?
- 2) What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey?
- 3) How did the instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas?
- 4) How are the phrases 'all I said was' and 'all I did was' significant? Explain.
- 5) What symbol from nature does the poet use to prove that keeping quiet is not total inactivity?
- 6) "You realize the true value of a thing only on losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, 'The Last Lesson'.

QXI. Answer any Three of the following in 30- 40 words each. (3x2=6)

1. What can be inferred from the chapter 'The Rattrap' where the people are carving for human company and dealing with loneliness?
2. Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting in the state?
3. It's important to be a good human being than being a professional or a true patriot. Elaborate with reference to the character of Sadao in 'Enemy'.

4. What is that draws Derry towards Mr.Lamb, inspite of himself?
5. What drawbacks of the interviews have been pointed out by Lewis Carrol?

QXII. Answer the following in 120- 150 words (5 marks)

1. Describe Charley’s experience at the third level..Is the ‘Third Level’ in the story, a medium or a way of escaping from the unpleasant and insecure present?

OR

2. How would you describe the behaviour of the Maharaja’s minions towards him? Do you find them truly sincere towards him or are they driven by fear when they obey him? Do we find a similarity in today's political order?

Q.XIII. Answer the following in 120- 150 words (5 marks)

- 1) Both Bama and Zitkala Sa experienced the harsh reality of discrimination in their childhood. Instead of letting it pull them down, they found a way to overcome it. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post. As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their response/s to these experiences, in 120-150 words. (A cameo is a short description of that neatly encapsulates someone or something)

[Clue: Include the similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced - their feelings - determination to overcome – success] Read more on Sarthaks.com - zitkala-experienced-harsh-reality-discrimination-their-childhood-instead-letting-them

OR

- 2) Take care of small things and the big things will take care of themselves. Instead of ignoring things whether big or small, do care of things to make them more sustainable. What is the relevance of this statement with reference to the lesson ‘Journey to the End of the World’?
