

EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS

An Article is a piece of writing that develops an idea or expands a topic in a unified manner. It consists of a group of sentences describing a single topic. The word limit prescribed is 100-120 words for class X while it is 100-150 words for class IX.

VERBAL STIMULUS

The student is provided with a verbal or visual stimulus. The verbal stimulus may be either in the form of a newspaper report or a news clipping. Notes, table and letter are the other forms of verbal stimulus popular with the examination paper-setters. Other verbal stimulus include notice, advertisement, diary extract, message, conversation or other forms of correspondence. Sometimes, the verbal stimulus is provided in the rubric itself.

VISUAL STIMULUS

The visual stimulus could be in the form of a diagram, picture, graph, map, cartoon or flow-chart. It could also be in the form of a pamphlet/brochure. Students are advised to go through the verbal/visual stimulus carefully before attempting the question.

FORMAT OF AN ARTICLE

(a) **Heading** — Give an eye catching heading which conveys the central theme of the article.

(b) **Byline** — Give the name of the person by whom the article is written.

(c) **Introduction.** The opening paragraph must:

- mention what the article is about.
- catch the reader's attention.
- arouse interest in the reader.
 - Limit and control what you intend to discuss in your article.
 - Use clear and precise language; you can even give a quotation or definition.

(d) **Develop a cause-effect relationship**

- Use facts to support your argument.
- Use examples to supplement your views.
- Put your arguments in a clear, logical and convincing way.

(e) **Compare and contrast**

- Give views that are contrary to yours.
- Compare and justify why you consider your views to be better than others.

(f) **Conclusion**

- Sum up all your ideas.
- Offer measures/solution to improve the situation.
- Personal observations and forecasts.

Note: 1. Take care to maintain the flow of thought.

2. Use simple language.
3. The sequence should be logical.
4. Use a catchy sentence to begin the article.

S.No-2

SOLVED EXAMPLES

[Based on Verbal/Visual Stimulus]

1. **Based on the points given below, write an article on the topic "Spring season".**

(Word limit: 100-150)

Four main reasons—spring, queen of all seasons—flowers in full bloom—offer a fascinating view—air scented—greenery everywhere—harvest their crops—foodgrains ripening festivals are celebrated—honeybees collect nectar—florist shops full—old leaves fall—birds welcome—sweet sounds by cuckoo—spring—something new replaces one that exists.

Ans. There are four main seasons—summer, winter, rainy and spring. Of all these, spring season is considered the queen of all seasons. We see flowers in full bloom all over the gardens and parks. Bright flowers in a variety of colours and shades indeed offer a fascinating view. Nature is at its very best in this season. The air is scented and we find greenery everywhere. In this season, farmers harvest their crops and celebrate the foodgrain harvest festivals like Pongal, Bihu, Sankranti, Palsakhi, etc. It is the best season for honeybees to collect nectar as flowers are in plenty. Florist shops are also full of variety of flowers. Old leaves that fall down in winter get replaced by fresh new green leaves. Birds welcome the spring season. Some of them like the cuckoo produce sweet sounds which can be heard wherever there is a dense growth of trees. Indeed spring season signifies that something new will always replace the one that exists.

2. **You are Mayank/Meenakshi of Class IX of Sarvodaya Sr. Sec. School, R.K. Puram. Your teacher had told you about the grading system being implemented from the year 2010. Write an article expressing your views in favour of or against the grading system, giving reasons.**

Ans.

GRADING SYSTEM—A BOON FOR STUDENTS

(By Mayank/Meenakshi)

The grading system has come as a boon for students. For so many years our education system has been examination oriented. The percentage of marks obtained in the Board examination was considered a yardstick to measure an individual's scholastic attainments. The system imposed a heavy stress on the young students. They had to work for fulfilling their own aspirations as well as the wishes of their parents. The unhealthy competition in class also caused peer pressure. Students used to become bookworms as they neared the board exams and gave up all co-scholastic activities, games and even simple physical exercises. The grading system will de-stress the students. They will score better as there's no tension of boards and no parental pressure. Moreover, the percentage of marks will not matter, as grades cover a wide band. In short, it will be helpful to students.

3. **You are Asha/Asit. You have been awarded a prize for rendering the best social service under "Each One, Teach One" Project. Write an article for your school magazine in about 100-150 words on 'The Role of Students in Removing Illiteracy'.**

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THE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN REMOVING ILLITERACY

(By Asha/Asit)

Illiteracy is a blot on the fair name of India. Most of the people living in the villages and slums are illiterate. Illiteracy is a real handicap.

S.No.3

Education makes a man enlightened and perfect. It helps us to prosper physically, economically, socially and even spiritually. It broadens our outlook.

Students can play an effective role in removing the curse of illiteracy. They can organise adult education classes in groups. They can pay individual attention to the illiterates. By personal contact, they can remove the obstacles in their road to learning. They can easily spare an hour a day for this noble purpose. By carrying the lamp of knowledge and literacy to the deprived ones, they would serve the country. We must participate wholeheartedly in a campaign against illiteracy.

4. *The traffic situation in Delhi is quite chaotic. There are all sorts of vehicles from cyclists to fast moving cars. Then there are processions / protest marches and traffic diversion in the name of VIP security. Write an article in about 100-150 words for a local newspaper on 'Improving the Chaotic Traffic Conditions of Delhi'. You are Uma / Umesh.*

Ans.

IMPROVING THE CHAOTIC TRAFFIC CONDITIONS OF DELHI

(By Uma/Umesh)

Delhi has one of the most chaotic traffic situations in the world. Bicycles, cycle rickshaws and push carts vie for space with fast running cars and sometimes they block the traffic for hours. Then there are three-wheelers which stop anywhere and spring up from everywhere. The buses and trucks moving at an average speed of 40 km per hour cause enough accidents as well as traffic jams. The pedestrians also contribute to the chaotic traffic conditions in the capital.

Delhi needs a more efficient and widespread metro rail network. This will reduce the traffic on the city's roads and help in reducing pollution and accidents. Car pooling is another good option. Personal vehicles having an even numbered registration may be allowed to ply on particular days in the week. Those vehicles having an odd numbered registration may be allowed on the remaining days. This rule may be applied to autorickshaws as well.

VIP movement in the capital causes the biggest traffic snarls. The government should self-regulate itself. A one-way traffic system with speed breakers can also reduce road accidents.

5. *Books are the main source of knowledge. Whether we read books printed on paper or telebooks, their importance cannot be denied. They serve as our best friends and companions. Write an article in about 100-150 words on 'Books are Our Best Companions'. You are Shobha / Shobhit.*

Ans.

BOOKS ARE OUR BEST COMPANIONS

(By Shobha/Shobhit)

Books enlighten us, cheer us and encourage us. They make us wise. They are our best companions. They never desert us in our hour of need. Friends may give us a cold shoulder in our adversity, relatives may turn their faces away, but it is not so with books. They amuse, entertain and inspire us even in our darkest hours.

Books contain the best thoughts and experiences of the noblest minds that ever lived on the earth. They are storehouses of knowledge. They give us a glimpse of the divergent cultures, traditions and customs. When we are sad or alone, books provide cheerful company. Loneliness is no more a problem for a reader. In short, books are a source of pleasure and healthy diversion for us.

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6. India is a rich nation inhabited by the poor. There is no dearth of natural resources but its vast millions wallow in poverty and indulge in social evils. Write an article for your school magazine in 100–150 words on 'Poverty is the Cause of All Social Evils.' You are Aditi/Aditya.

Ans.

POVERTY IS THE CAUSE OF ALL SOCIAL EVILS

(By Aditi/Aditya)

Poverty is the state of being poor. We find around us many people who are unable to afford the basic necessities of life. They face difficulties in getting a square meal. They are clad in rags. They are engaged in petty jobs to earn their daily bread. They lead a miserable life. Hunger and poverty make them shameless. Poverty leads them to indulge in criminal activities. Some of them become pickpockets. Others indulge in thefts, robbery, murder, kidnapping and arson. Young street urchins rob vendors. Young boys sell cinema tickets in the blackmarket. All of them are the products of poverty. Without proper education and training they fail to get good jobs. So they adopt dishonest means to earn their livelihood. Many of them become criminals. Poverty compels them to indulge in social evils. If we want to eradicate social evils, we must remove poverty and help the poor to become self-sufficient.

7. You read the given newspaper report. Using information from the report together with your own ideas write an article on 'Water-borne Diseases—A Threat' in 100-150 words.

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ALL WATER SAMPLES FAIL

Samples of drinking water drawn from the municipal limits of the district were found to be contaminated. The samples collected by the district health authorities, from the municipal councils and the public health water resources of these towns were found to contain unacceptable levels of bacteria and were unfit for human consumption.

The district civil surgeon admitted that the bacteria in water might be the source of various diseases including diarrhoea, cholera, hepatitis and typhoid. The contaminated water is more harmful for visitors than the locals.

Ans.

WATERBORNE DISEASES—A THREAT

(by xyz)

The report published above is shocking. It brings to the fore the callous attitude of the administration. It is a total failure of the Water Board to provide a basic necessity—clean, safe water—to the people. The report categorically says that this water is unfit for human consumption.

What are we going to do about this? Are we going to get together and fight or let waterborne diseases like cholera, hepatitis and typhoid spread? Contaminated water can cause these deadly diseases which can cause large-scale deaths, if not treated immediately. These water samples must be shown to the Municipal Commissioner and an explanation demanded. On the one hand, we celebrate World Health Day, while on the other hand, the basic commodity, water, is impure. I'm sure the concerned authorities will look into the matter and ensure clean and safe drinking water for the public.