

Viharamahadevi Balika Vidyalaya

Assignment 1 :

English - 73

Grade - 13 -

March/ April

1. Write an essay on one of the following topics, paying attention to relevant facts and supporting evidence, structure and organization, a coherent argument and accurate language and expression.

(30 marks)

- a) Challenges for humans in this century.
- b) A report on the Kidney disease in North Central Province in Sri Lanka.
- c) If the world ends within 24 hours.....

2. Using your own words as far as possible, write a précis of the following passage in approximately 110 words. Supply a title. Divide your paper into 5 columns and number the lines. At the end of your précis, state the number of words you have used.

For most of us, television provides a timeless “eye on the world” through which we can see current and past happenings, people, places and even physical events we could not otherwise experience. We are exposed to lifestyles very different from our own – that of the millionaire, the drug addict, the prostitute or the religious missionary. We are being exposed to comedies, soap operas, and crime adventure programs, marital quarrels, medical consultation and financial hassles. Our TV brings into our living room individuals who, over a time, become so familiar that we just know how they would handle certain situations. Overall, TV appears to be a somewhat dramatized, but accurate representation of the non-TV world. However, like a fun-house mirror, while television actually reflects characteristics which are real, it distorts them.

For most of us, the TV world becomes our world three of four hours each day, seven days a week, throughout most of our lives. Further, the television world appears to be so realistic that we passively accept the people and situations presented and rarely question them. What exactly do we expect that could have negative effects on us?

Any society, including the one portrayed on television, has informal social rule suggesting how males and females of various ages, racial/ethnic groups and social classes should live. The rules indicate how we should act, who we should socialize with, how we should support ourselves, and generally how much wealth, status, and happiness we should have, in the real world, there is flexibility in these rules, with a variety of lifestyles and behaviours available to individuals. However the TV producer condenses these rules, projecting a simpler picture of society in an attempt to reach and extremely diverse audience. Producers feel the characters and stories must be instantly recognizable and believable to the businessman, the farmer, the housewife, the college professor. This is most easily accomplished by exaggerating the more commonly accepted social rules. The result is a rigid

and distorted image and research tells us that the distortions influence how we feel about non-TV people and what we expect from them.

These subtle influences have caused much public concern. Parents, educationists and special interest groups are becoming more conscious of how TV projects informal rules for males and females of various ages, racial/ethnic groups and social classes. While television is by no means the only influence on attitudes and expectations of people, its potential effect is considerable. It becomes important to ask: how accurate is the barrage of information we are exposed to daily?

03. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it, using your own words as far as possible. (20 marks)

Outside the post a great many of us lay on the ground in the dark. They carried the wounded in and brought them out. I could see the light come out from the dressing- station when the curtain opened and they brought someone in or out. The dead were off to one side. The doctors were working with their sleeves up to their shoulders and were as red as butchers. There were not enough stretchers. Some of the wounded were noisy, but some were quiet. The wind blew the leaves in the bower over the door of the dressing station and the night was getting cold. Stretch-bearers came in all the time, put their stretchers down, unloaded them and went away.

As soon as I got to the dressing station, Manera brought a medical sergeant out and he put bandages on both my legs. He said that there was so much blown into the wound that there had not been much hemorrhage. They would take me as soon as possible. He went back inside. John could not drive, Manera said. His shoulder was smashed and his head was hurt. He had not felt bad but now the shoulder had stiffened. He was sitting up beside one of the brick walls. Manera and John each went off with a load of wounded. They could drive all right. The British had come with three ambulances and they had two men on each ambulance. One of their drivers came over to me, brought over by John who looked very white and sick.

- a) Who is the narrator of this story? What has happened to him? (02 marks)
- b) Explain the metaphor used to describe the doctors. What does it convey about the nature of the work they are doing. (04 marks)
- c) What is the situation described here? (04 marks)
- d) What is the relationship between the narrator and the other characters mentioned in the passage? How is this relationship conveyed? (05 marks)
- e) After reading this passage, what are your feelings on how the wounded are treated? Explain your answer with close reference to the passage? (05 marks)

4. Read the following poem and answer the questions given below it, using your own words as far as possible. (20 marks)

Madam and Her Madam

I worked for a woman
She wasn't' mean
But she had a twelve-room
House to clean.

Had to get breakfast,
Dinner, and supper, too
Then take care of her children
When I got through

Wash, iron, and scrub
Walk the dog around
It was too much,
Nearly broke me down.

I said, Madam,
Can it be
You trying to make a
Pack-horse out of me?

She opened her mouth.
She cried, Oh, no!
You know, Alberta,
I love you so!

I said, Madam,
That may be true
But I'll be dogged
If I love you!

(a) Who is the speaker of the poem and how would you describe her character? (04 marks)

(b) Would you agree that the woman mentioned in the first line is not really "mean"?

Give reasons for your answer. (04 marks)

(c) How does the poet use language to indicate the class positions of the two characters?

(04 marks)

(d) Is the title meaningful? How would you explain it? (04 marks)

(e) Does the poem appeal to you? Give reasons for your answer. (04 marks)