



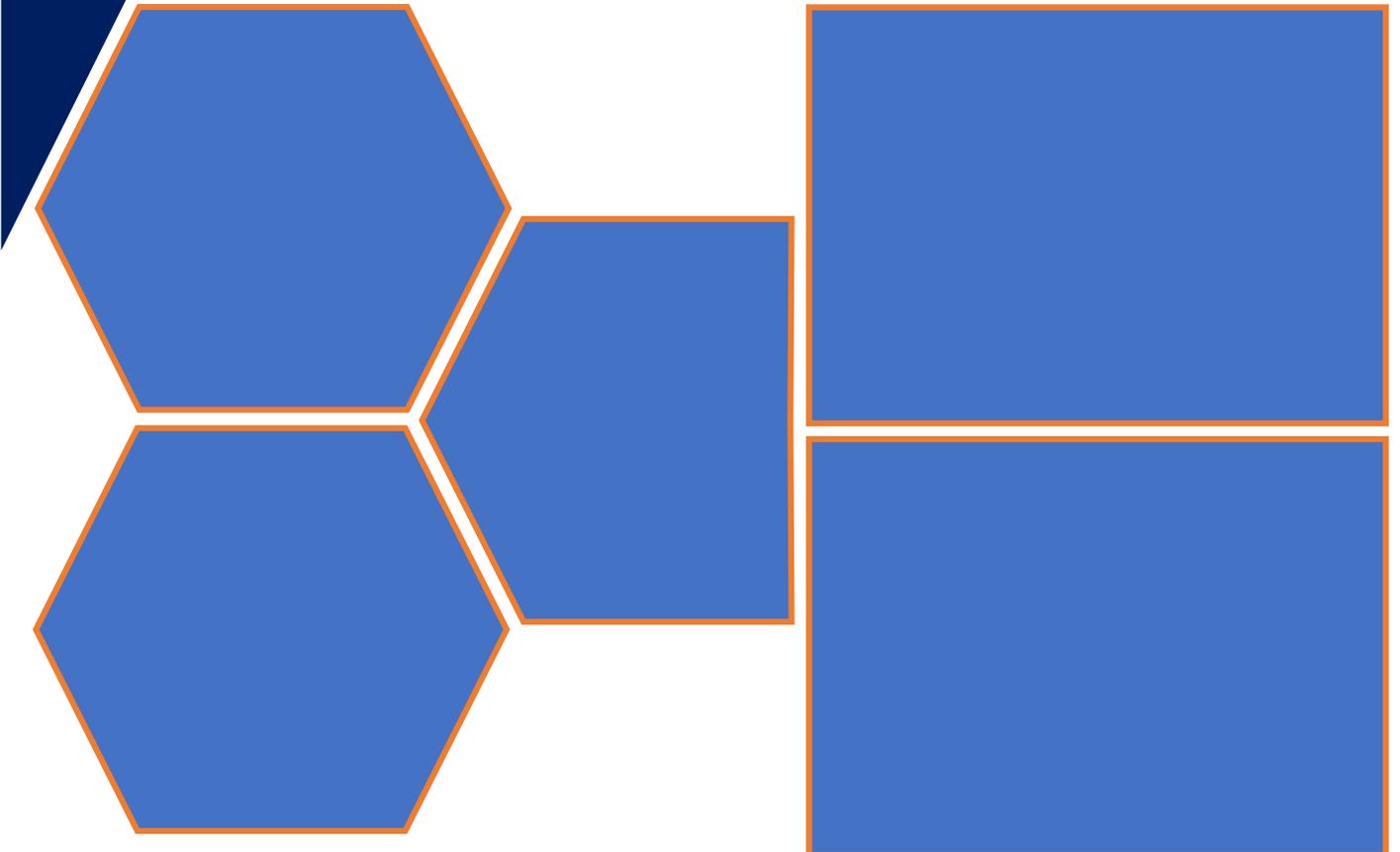
# SHREE VASISHTHA

**VIDHYALAYA**  
CBSE – ENGLISH MEDIUM

**2023-24**

**SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

**CLASS – XI Commerce**



# Summer Assignment



Dear Students,

Greetings!

***“Searching and learning is where the miracle process all begins”. - Jim Rohn***

Vacation is just one letter different than vocation. Summer vacation is the time when you can be more candid and creative with your studies. This is the time when intellectual and other skills can be nurtured and developed. Keeping the same thought these Holiday assignments are designed by your mentors to help you stay in touch with the concepts you've learned, to explore new skills and be creative in presentation.

Here are some ways by which you can make your holidays fun and productive.

- Read a newspaper daily. Explore some good books preferably related to the field you wish to pursue in future.
- Play indoor games like Ludo, carom board, scrabble, chess etc.
- Help your parents in small household chores like cleaning the cupboards, watering the plants, making the bed, etc.
- Complete the Holiday Home Work as per the instructions given.
- Most importantly: Limit your screen time.

Have an enjoyable Summer Vacation. Stay Safe.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A.K. Gaur', written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Dr. A. K. Gaur**  
Advisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Srivastava', written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Ms. S. Srivastava**  
Principal

# SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: 2023-24

## Class: XI (Commerce Stream)

### General Instructions:-

1. All the subject assignments have to be done in separate files using project papers.
2. Submission date:- 14<sup>th</sup> June, (Wednesday)
3. The Summer Break is scheduled from 07<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The students will resume the school from 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

**Note:-** These assignments are a part of your internal assessment & will be marked accordingly out of 10.

### ENGLISH CORE (301)

#### I. Read the passage below and answer the questions:

1. In life we sometimes have disagreements with people. It could be with your partner, with your boss, with your parents, or with a friend. When this happens, the important thing is to try not to let a calm discussion turn into a heated argument. But of course this is easier said than done.
2. The first thing I would say is that the way you begin the conversation is very important. Imagine you are a student and you share a flat with another student who you think isn't doing her share of the housework. If you say, 'Look, you never do your share of the housework. What are we going to do about it?', the discussion will very soon turn into an argument. It's much more constructive to say something like, 'I think we'd better have another look about how we divide up the housework. Maybe there's a better way of doing it.'
3. My second piece of advice is simple. If you're the person who is in the wrong, just admit it! This is the easiest and best way to avoid an argument. Just apologize to your flat mate, your parents, or your husband, and move on. The other person will have more respect for you in the future if you do that.
4. The next tip is don't exaggerate. Try not to say things like 'You always come home late when my mother comes to dinner' when perhaps this has only happened twice, or 'You never remember to buy the toothpaste.' This will just make the other person think you're being unreasonable, and will probably make him or her stop listening to your arguments.
5. Sometimes we just can't avoid a discussion turning into an argument. But if you do start arguing with someone, it is important to keep things under control and there are ways to do this.
6. The most important thing is don't raise your voice. Raising your voice will just make the other person lose their temper too. If you find yourself raising your voice, stop for a moment and take a deep breath. Say 'I'm sorry I shouted, but this is very important to me', and continue calmly. If you can talk calmly and quietly, you'll find your partner will be more ready to think about what you are saying.
7. It is also very important to stick to the point. Try to keep to the topic you are talking about. Don't bring up old arguments, or try to bring in other' issues. Just concentrate on solving the one problem you are having, and leave the other things for another time. So, for example, if you're arguing about the housework, don't start talking about mobile phone bills as well.
8. And my final tip is that if necessary call 'Time out', like in a sports match. If you think that an argument is getting out of control, then you can say-to the other person, 'Listen, I'd rather talk about this tomorrow when we've both calmed down'. You can then continue the discussion the next day when perhaps both of you are feeling less tense and angry. That way there is much more chance that you will be able to reach an agreement. You'll also probably find that the problem is much easier to solve when you've both had a good night's sleep. Well, those are my tips.
9. But I want to say one last important thing. Some people think that arguing is always bad. This is not true. Conflict is a normal part of life, and dealing with conflict is an important part of any relationship, whether it's three people sharing a flat, a married couple, or just two good friends. If you don't learn to argue properly, then when a real problem comes along, you won't be prepared to face it together. Think of the smaller arguments as training sessions. Learn how to argue cleanly and fairly. It will help your relationship become stronger and last longer.

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer each of the following questions by selecting the most appropriate option from the given ones.**

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ is easy to suggest but quite difficult to do.

- (i) To have disagreements with people.
- (ii) Not to let a peaceful discussion change into a heated argument.

(iii) "Never raise your voice"

(iv) To have heated argument with friends.

(b) In case we are wrong we should \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid argument.

(i) flat mate                      (ii) exaggerate                      (iii) respect                      (iv) apologise

(c) The second paragraph suggests when we \_\_\_\_\_ others, it leads to argument.

(i) share the work with                      (ii) accuse  
(iii) divide the work anew with                      (iv) only (i) & (ii)

(d) \_\_\_\_\_ can help strengthen relationships.

(i) Learning to argue clearly,                      (ii) Learning to avoid arguments,  
(iii) Learning to argue fairly,                      (iv) Only (i) and (iii)

**Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (i) What happens if a complaint is exaggerated?
- (ii) Name two activities that help to keep arguments under control.
- (iii) Raising our voice in an argument is not good. Why?
- (iv) What happens if we don't learn to argue properly?
- (v) How does 'Time Out' help in argument?
- (vi) When is your partner in an argument more ready to think about your point of view?
- (vii) Find words/phrases from the passage which mean the OPPOSITE as each of the following:  
(i) Surely (Para-4)                      (ii) Initial (Para 8)

**II. Answer the following questions briefly with 50-60 words.**

- 1) Why was it hard for the author to believe that the grandmother was once young and pretty?
- 2) The grandmother has been portrayed as a very religious lady. What details in the story create this impression?
- 3) What was the happiest moment of the day for the grandmother?
- 4) Everybody including the sparrows mourned the grandmother's death. Elaborate.
- 5) Why does the poet feel emotional on seeing the photograph?
- 6) How has the poet expressed her sense of loss?
- 7) What are the unique traits of the Garoghlanian tribe?
- 8) Why was Aram delighted and frightened at the same time when he saw his cousin Mourad on a beautiful white horse?
- 9) How can we say that Aram and Mourad were very fond of riding?
- 10) What do you think induced the boys to return the horse to its owner?

**III. Answer the following questions briefly with 120-150 words.**

- 1) Write a character sketch of the author's grandmother by using the following words: affectionate, caring, kind and benevolent, religious, a strong woman.
- 2) Gradually, the author and the grandmother saw less of each other and their friendship was broken. Was the distance in the relationship deliberate or due to the demands of the situation?
- 3) The opening lines of the poem 'A Photograph' describe three young girls on a seaside holiday, Holidays are obviously times for de-stressing and enjoying one's leisure. Write on the need for holidays in modern stressful times.
- 4) The poem 'A Photograph' contains the line 'And the sea, which appears to have changed less, washed their terribly transient feet'. The idea conveyed is that human life is subject to change in terms of age and circumstances. Briefly express your views on how a human being should handle change.
- 5) Do you think John Byro recognised his horse? Why did he not accuse the boys of stealing his horse?

## ECONOMICS (030)

**Q1. Case study based questions:**

**Read carefully the case study below and answer the question accordingly:-**

The Production Possibilities Curve (PPC) is a model widely used in economics to explain various economic problems and theories especially the trade-offs associated with allocating resources between

the productions of two goods. The PPC can be used to illustrate the opportunity cost, efficiency, inefficiency, economic growth, and contractions. This concept is also helpful to explain the central problems of what, how and for whom to produce. China is one of the fastest growing economy in the world. The country is blessed with large number of human resources and capital. China produces variety of consumer goods and export it to different part of the world. Let us suppose that China produces two commodities, cotton and wheat. We suppose that the productive resources are being fully utilized and there is no change in technology. The following table gives the various production possibilities. The Chinese government has made innovation a top priority in its economic planning through a number of high-profile initiatives, such as “Made in China 2025,” a plan announced in 2015 to upgrade and modernize China’s manufacturing in 10 key sectors through extensive government assistance in order to make China a major global player in these sectors. However, such measures have increasingly raised concerns that China intends to use industrial policies to decrease the country’s reliance on foreign technology (including by locking out foreign firms in China) and eventually dominate global markets.

Possibility	Cotton(in 000 quantils)	Wheat(in 000 quantils)
A	0	15
B	1	14
C	2	12
D	3	9
E	4	5
F	5	0

**Question: -**

- (i) Illustrate the PPC of China in a graph based on above information
- (ii) Explain how the concept of PPC is useful for the allocation of resources in an economy like China.
- (iii) How the concept of PPC is useful to address the problem of “how to produce” in a country like China?
- (iv) Suppose China want to increase the production of wheat from 5000 quintals to 12000 quintals. What is the opportunity cost of this decision?
- (v) Discuss the strategies that Government of China has formulated for faster economic growth.

**Q2.** Effect on PPC due to various Government policies. Explain the impact on any 5 policies and draw diagram for the same.

**BOARD QUESTIONS**

- Q3.** Production in an economy is below its potential due to unemployment. Government starts employment generation schemes. Explain its effects using production possibilities curve.
- Q4.** Explain the meaning of opportunity cost with the help of production possibility schedule.
- Q5.** With the help of suitable example the problem of “for whom to produce”.
- Q6.** Define opportunity cost.
- Q7.** Why does an economic problem arise? Explain.
- Q8.** Explain the problem “what to produce”.
- Q9.** Unemployment is reduced due to measures taken by the government. State its economic value in the context of production possibilities frontier.
- Q10.** The government has started promoting foreign capital. What is its economic value in the context of PPC?
- Q11.** Why is PPC concave?
- Q12.** Explain with the help of an example how the rotation of ppc only for x commodity and only for y commodity takes place.

- Q13.** Unemployment is reduced due to the measure taken by the government. State its economic value in the context of PPC.
- Q14.** The government has started promoting foreign capital. What is its economic value in the context of PPF?
- Q15.** Large number of technical training institutions have been started by the government. State its economic value in the context of PPF.
- Q16.** What will be the impact of recently launched 'Clean India Mission' on the PPC of the economy and why?
- Q17.** What will be the impact of large scale outflow of foreign capital on PPC of the economy and why?
- Q18.** What will be the impact of 'Make in India' appeal to foreign investors by the Prime Minister of India, on the PPC and why?
- Q19.** A lot of people die and many factories are destroyed because of severe earthquake in the country. How will it affect country's PPC

### BUSINESS STUDIES (054)

- Q1.** The structure in which there separation of ownership and management is called?
- Q2.** The karta in Joint hindu family business has
- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Limited liability   | (b) No liability for debts |
| (c) Unlimited liability | (d) Joint liability        |
- Q3.** Statement in lieu of prospectus can be filed by a public company going for a public issue.
- Q4.** ABC is planting a tree on module. Which objective it is trying to achieve?
- Q5.** Why the insurance known as a tertiary industry?
- Q6.** A Lawyer is working in a knowledge process outsourcing? What type of economic activity he is performing?
- Q7.** What is a prospectus? Is necessary for every company's prospectus?
- Q8.** Shis, Anandi & John were partners John died in a car accident Both Shis & Anandi decided to admit his son Ryan who was 16 years old as partner .Can they do so?
- Q9.** Classify the following into business profession, and employment:
- (1) A farmer
  - (2) An advocate
  - (3) A clerk
  - (4) A hawkers selling toys for children
  - (5) A doctor
  - (6) A person repairing a scooter on roadsides
- Q10.** Comment on the following:
- (a) Meeting of X Ltd was going on in which all the members of the company calamity occurred and all the members die of the company What would happen to the existence of the company
  - (b) The company being an artificial person acts through the Board of Directors All the agreement on behalf of the company are entered by the Board of Directors. When is agreement entered by the BOD not legally binding on the company
- Q11.** Different situations in different business are being elaborated below:
- (vi) Raghunath Gorkha had a match stick factory in Nepal which got distracted by the recent earthquake.
  - (vii) Mr. Arya, a senior manager in a telecom company shared confidential information about the company with a competitor which led to huge losses for the company.
  - (viii) Vodafone Co was charged with evasion of tax and asked to pay fine in excess which would lead to heavy losses for the company.
  - (ix) Type writers becoming redundant because of laptops.
- Q12.** (a) Which characteristic of business is being referred to in all the above cases?  
 (b) How can you classify the different cases based on this characteristic?

## ACCOUNTANCY (055)

- Q1.** Write two Features of accounting.
- Q2.** Which of the following will come at first in the sequence followed for accounting process?  
(a) Classifying, (b) Summarizing,  
(c) Recording, (d) Analysis and interpretation of results
- Q3.** Write two points of differences between Single Entry System and Double Entry System.
- Q4.** Which of the following is not an expense?  
(a) Salary (b) Sales (c) Rent (d) Electricity Charges
- Q5.** Give two examples of Incomes?
- Q6.** Whenever we sale goods in credit immediate payment is received from customer. State whether the statement is True or False?
- Q7.** When owner of contributes funds in business is known as :  
(a) Capital (b) Drawing (c) Expenses (d) Liabilities
- Q8.** A Provision is made out of profits in expectation of upcoming losses/ liabilities according to which of the following concepts:  
(a) Prudence (b) Materiality (c) Consistency (d) Business entity
- Q9.** State any two branches of accounting.
- Q10.** Explain in brief Going concern Concept.
- Q11.** Mr. C started business of Clothes has Invested ₹5,00,000 in business out of his savings. He bought ₹1,50,000 worth of jeans on credit, ₹2,00,000 worth of Shirts and T shirts on credit. He sold some jeans at ₹2,70,000 on credit and some shirts and t-shirts at 3,20,000 on credit. Determine the total amount of credit sale and credit purchase and capital.
- Q12.** Fun zonet is a sole proprietorship concern running business of ice creams. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 they have refrigerator costing 1,50,000. They have some family pack ice creams costing 80,000 and candy bars costing 30,000, some cups costing 40,000 some cones costing 50,000. They want to show following in the books of accounts
- Refrigerator as expenses in the books of accounts
  - Ice creams at combined market value of ₹ 3,20,000 which is less than its original cost
  - A customer has ordered 50,000 worth ice creams and paid 20,000 as advance but goods has not been delivered yet
- State which accounting concepts are violated by adopting above three conditions
- Q13.** Write short note on following (Any two):  
(i) Classifying  
(ii) Providing information to the users  
(iii) Management accounting
- Q14.** Mr. Venkatesh is running a fruits business as wholesaler in the name of M/s Venkatesh Stores. He Purchased 1000 kilograms of Oranges in cash for ₹50,000, 2,000 kilograms of Mangoes for ₹2,00,000 half of which is in credit, 500 kilograms of Pineapples for ₹1,00,000 25% in credit. He sold 200 kilograms of Oranges for ₹80,000 on credit, 700 Kilograms of Mangoes for ₹60,000 (40% in cash) and 1200 kilograms of Pineapple for ₹1,80,0000 (in cash). Determine total amount of debtor and Creditor after all above transactions
- Q15.** Explain in brief:  
1. Business entity concept                      2. Consistency Concept                      3. Accrual Concept  
4. Money measurement concept              5. Concept of Realisation

## APPLIED MATHEMATICS (241)

- Q1.** Which of the following binary number is equivalent to decimal number 24?  
(A) 1101111                      (B) 11000                      (C) 111111                      (D) 11001

- Q2.** The decimal equivalent of the binary number 10101 is :  
 (A) 21 (B) 12 (C) 22 (D) 31
- Q3.**  $\sqrt[4]{\sqrt[3]{2^2}}$  is equal to :  
 (A)  $2^{-\frac{1}{6}}$  (B)  $2^{-6}$  (C)  $2^{\frac{1}{6}}$  (D)  $2^6$
- Q4.** Value of  $(256)^{0.16} \times (256)^{0.09}$  is :  
 (A) 4 (B) 16 (C) 64 (D) 256.25
- Q5.** Which of the following is equal to  $x$ ?  
 (A)  $x^{\frac{12}{7}} - x^{\frac{5}{7}}$  (B)  $\sqrt[12]{(x^4)^{\frac{1}{3}}}$  (C)  $(\sqrt{x^3})^{\frac{2}{3}}$  (D)  $x^{\frac{12}{7}} \times x^{\frac{7}{12}}$
- Q6.**  $\sqrt[4]{(81)^{-2}}$  is equal to :  
 (A)  $\frac{1}{9}$  (B)  $\frac{1}{3}$  (C) 9 (D)  $\frac{1}{81}$
- Q7.** (i) Add the following binary numbers : 11011101 and 10101001  
 (ii) Subtract the following binary numbers : 10011010 from 100011110
- Q8.** Simplify:  $\frac{5^{n+2} - 6 \times 5^{n+1}}{13 \times 5^n - 2 \times 5^{n+1}}$
- Q9.** If  $x = \sqrt[3]{28}$  and  $y = \sqrt[3]{27}$ , find the value of  $x + y - \frac{1}{x^2 + xy + y^2}$
- Q10.** (i) Perform binary division and write the quotient and remainder : 10000001 by 1111.  
 (ii) Perform binary multiplication of 1100110 by 1001. Also check the result by converting them to decimal system.

## INFORMATICS PRACTICES (065)

### Q1. Multiple choice Questions:-

1. Arrange memory units in ascending order as per their capacity.  
 (a) TB<GB<MB<KB (b) GB<TB<KB<MB  
 (c) MB<KB<GB<TB (d) KB<MB<GB<TB
2. ASCII stands for  
 (a) American Standard Code for International Information  
 (b) American Standard Code for Information Interchange  
 (c) American Standard Code for International Interchange  
 (d) American Standard Code for Internet Information
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a component of the processor that performs arithmetic, comparison and logical operations.  
 (a) ALU (b) MU (c) CPU (d) CU
4. Ramu bought a new laptop, he noticed that there was a flat surface to control the pointer instead of a mouse. What is the flat surface called?  
 (a) Mousepad (b) Touchpad (c) Keypad (d) Touch Screen
5. Pen drive is known as  
 (a) Flash Drive (b) PD (c) Scan Drive (d) Short Drive
6. Device driver handles all the operation except  
 (a) System booting (b) System call from user process  
 (c) User level request (d) Memory management
7. In Information Technology, Information means  
 (a) Output returned by computer after processing data  
 (b) Any report generated by computer  
 (c) Plural of data  
 (d) Collection of raw facts and figures

8. The central processing unit
- (a) Is operated from control panel (b) Is managed by input device  
(c) Controls all input, output and processing (d) Controls memory and data transfer.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ =  $1024 \times 1024 \times 1024$  Bytes
- (a) 1KB (b) 1MB (c) 1GB (d) 1TB
10. Which of the following is not the part of CPU?
- (a) Registers (b) Processor (c) Flash Drive (d) Motherboard
11. Instructions to the computer is given through
- (a) Program (b) Input (c) Hardware (d) Memory
12. Keyboard designed for visually impaired is termed as
- (a) Special keyboard (b) Multimedia keyboard  
(c) Braille keyboard (d) Thermal keyboard
13. Control unit CU of the computer
- (a) Perform logical operations in computer  
(b) Controls sequential instructions executions  
(c) Guides data from through the computer's memory  
(d) b and c  
(e) All a, b and c
14. Scanner is used to
- (a) Capture and store information in graphic format  
(b) Capture information  
(c) Create graphics  
(d) Store information
15. Data entered through input device is temporarily stored in
- (a) ROM (b) Hard Disk (c) RAM (d) Catch Memory
16. Which of the following is considered as main memory of computer?
- (a) ROM (b) RAM (c) HDD (d) Catch Memory
17. \_\_\_\_\_ known as father of computer who invented \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) Charles Babbage, Additional engine (b) Charles Babbage, analytical engine  
(c) Herman Hollerith, tabulating machine (d) John Von Neman, EDVAC
18. Select the correct statement for Catch memory
- i. Placed between the CPU (Processor) and Primary Memory (RAM)  
ii. It stores copies of data from frequently accessed primary locations
- (a) i true, ii false (b) i false, ii true (c) both true (d) both false

**Q2. Answer the following questions: -**

19. Who founded Moore Law and what he predicted about it?
20. Write the full form of EDVAC?
21. Difference between HDD and SSD? (2 points each)
22. Write any one security concerns associated with data?
23. Explain System Utilities with example.
24. What is punched card?
25. Write the full form of VLSI?

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (048)**

**VERY SHORT TYPE OF QUESTION**

- Q1. Where Lakshmi bai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIFE) is situated?
- (a) New Delhi (b) Patiala (c) Kerela (d) Gwalior
- Q2. SAI Stands for
- (a) Sports Appointment of India (b) Sports Academic of India  
(c) Sports Authority of India (d) Sports Accreditation of India

- Q3.** After competing M.P.Ed. you can teach Classes  
 (a) I to VIII (b) I to V (c) VI to VIII (d) XI to XII
- Q4.** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India launched the Khelo India Programme in  
 (a) 2013-2014 (b) 2015-2016 (c) 2011-2012 (d) 2017-2018
- Q5.** “Helping others to feel safe from violence” is an example of which of the following Olympic value?  
 (a) Friendship (b) Respect (c) Excellence (d) Trust
- Q6.** “Playing beyond the rules of the game” is violation of which of the following educational value?  
 (a) Pursuit of Excellence (b) Balance Between Body, Will and Mind  
 (c) Joy of Effort (d) Fair Play
- Q7.** The Ancient Olympic Games started in  
 (a) 776 BC (b) 394 AD (c) 1896 (d) 1986
- Q8.** The word “Altius” in the Olympic motto means  
 (a) Faster (b) Higher (c) (d) Heavier

**VERY SHORT TYPE OF QUESTION**

- Q9.** What do you think Wearable Gears and Sports Equipment?  
**Q10.** What do you understand by Olympism?  
**Q11.** Write a short note on the Olympic flag.  
**Q12.** What are advantages of using technology in sports?  
**Q13.** What is Khelo India Programme?  
**Q14.** Describe any one of Olympic core Value.  
**Q15.** Describe the formation of the IOA.

**DESCRIPTIVE TYPE OF QUESTION**

- Q16.** Write down few lines on different committee constituted for the purpose of development of physical Education in India after Independence.  
**Q17.** Discuss the developmental process of first professional institution of physical education after independence.  
**Q18.** What are advantages of using technology in sports?  
**Q19.** What do you think Wearable Gears and Sports Equipment  
**Q20.** Classify various playing surfaces in sports?  
**Q21.** Classify various playing surfaces in sports?  
**Q22.** What are the objectives of Physical Education?  
**Q23.** What is the need of sports competition in school? Discuss in detail.  
**Q24.** Explain the Physical Education development in India after Independence.  
**Q25.** Do you think ‘Sports for Peace and Development’ will work for restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir? Support your answer with evidence.  
**Q26.** Will the increase in professional sports leagues bring any transformation in Indian sporting culture? Justify your answer.  
**Q27.** Describe any one of Olympic core Value.  
**Q28.** Describe Olympic Educational Values with suitable examples.  
**Q29.** How did the Modern Olympic games originate?  
**Q30.** Describe the Olympic oath.

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## **Yuval Noah Harari on what the year 2050 has in store for humankind**

**"As the pace of change increases, the very meaning of being human is likely to mutate and physical and cognitive structures will melt"**

Forget programming - the best skill to teach children is reinvention. In this exclusive extract from his new book, the author of *Sapiens* reveals what 2050 has in store for humankind.

### Part one: Change is the only constant

Humankind is facing unprecedented revolutions, all our old stories are crumbling and no new story has so far emerged to replace them. How can we prepare ourselves and our children for a world of such unprecedented transformations and radical uncertainties? A baby born today will be thirty-something in 2050. If all goes well, that baby will still be around in 2100, and might even be an active citizen of the 22nd century. What should we teach that baby that will help him or her survive and flourish in the world of 2050 or of the 22nd century? What kind of skills will he or she need in order to get a job, understand what is happening around them and navigate the maze of life?

Unfortunately, since nobody knows how the world will look in 2050 – not to mention 2100 – we don't know the answer to these questions. Of course, humans have never been able to predict the future with accuracy. But today it is more difficult than ever before, because once technology enables us to engineer bodies, brains and minds, we can no longer be certain about anything – including things that previously seemed fixed and eternal.

A thousand years ago, in 1018, there were many things people didn't know about the future, but they were nevertheless convinced that the basic features of human society were not going to change. If you lived in China in 1018, you knew that by 1050 the Song Empire might collapse, the Khitans might invade from the north, and plagues might kill millions. However, it was clear to you that even in 1050 most people would still work as farmers and weavers, rulers would still rely on humans to staff their armies and bureaucracies, men would still dominate women, life expectancy would still be about 40, and the human body would be exactly the same. Hence in 1018, poor Chinese parents taught their children how to plant rice or weave silk, and wealthier parents taught their boys how to read the Confucian classics, write calligraphy or fight on horseback – and taught their girls to be modest and obedient housewives. It was obvious these skills would still be needed in 1050.

Read the rest of the article at: <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/yuval-noah-harari-extract-21-lessons-for-the-21st-century>