

Written as per the syllabus prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education.

CBSE

CLASS X

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE

Salient Features

- Extensive coverage of the syllabus in an effortless and easy to grasp format
- Solutions for the prescribed textbooks – Literature Reader & Main Course Book
- Novels Summarised (Interpretative / Character sketch questions covered)
- Variety of Additional Questions for thorough revision
- Methodical Practice for Reading and Writing Skills

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Note:

- All the Textual questions are represented by * mark
- The pattern of Board Question Paper will be revised from the academic year 2017-2018. However, the Board Question Paper of March 2017 has been included to give a fair idea to the students about the kind of questions asked in the Board Examination.



Section I

Reading Skills

- **Factual Passages**

- **Discursive Passages**

01. Factual Passages

Solved Passages

Passage 1

With the introduction of the mobile-app based model in the taxi market, the business is experiencing a vast difference. The earnings of the cab drivers are skyrocketing with many of them earning anywhere between ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 per month.

Citing one example of a cab driver, Mr. Lokesh R. from Bengaluru earns around ₹ 80,000 per month and sometimes earns more than ₹ 1,00,000 per month if he gets more rides. He adds that prior to this, he was making a meager amount of ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 20,000 per month.

Mr. Arvind Singhal, CEO of TaxiforSure said that with such changes in the taxi business, many educated professionals have approached him to become cab drivers. They are looking at it as an entrepreneurial venture against a 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. IT job.

The online taxi market is driven by mobile-app technology. Also, the highly competitive rates is giving a tough competition to the local cab drivers. The taxi companies blooming in India are Ola, Uber and TaxiforSure. Ola, which is currently valued at \$ 2.5 billion, started its operations four years ago and is currently present in over 100 cities.

Uber, being globally successful and valued above \$ 50 billion started business in India in August 2013 and is currently present in 11 cities. Uber across the world runs only on credit card payment system, wherein the customer fills in the credit card details while booking the cab. But, looking at the cash payment demand in Indian market, the global giant has made a shift in the payment method to make a place in the taxi market.

The taxi market is growing leaps and bounds and currently estimated to be around ₹ 11,000 crore and is growing in double digits. The drivers are making hay while the sun shines by earning more than the regular cab drivers.

In case of Uber, for every trip made, the drivers are paid 80% of the fare, which is credited to their bank account. Also, a bonus of ₹ 150 is paid for every trip during the peak hours and ₹ 50 during non-peak hours. Ola, provides the bonus to drivers if they do six trips in a day, while TaxiForSure charges the drivers with only 8-12% of the ride fare.

With such schemes introduced, the drivers are encouraged to serve the customers. At the same time, the customers also get a cab when in need. Hence, it appears to be a win-win situation for both the parties.

Citing one more example, Mr. Basavaraj from Bengaluru who was under heavy family debts bought

a taxi under Ola financing scheme. Under this scheme, Mr. Basavaraj purchased a cab, the financing for which was done by Ola. Here, the cab/vehicle for initial few years is attached to the company. Later, he was able to clear all his debts.

Nevertheless, the job has its associated pressures. The cab drivers can never keep their mobiles away, as they can't ascertain when they will get their next call. It's an ongoing process as the demand keeps coming in.

In certain cases, even the wives of certain cab drivers have taken a leap into the business, by tracking the cab movement on GoogleMaps and co-ordinating with the drivers. The drivers have become mini-entrepreneurs.

Questions:

1. **How has the mobile-app based taxi business model brought a revolution among the masses?**

Ans: Customer can book a cab on a single click. Post booking, the cab driver receives the customer from his doorstep. This makes the customer's ride easier as opposed to arguments with regular cab drivers and this is how the mobile-app based taxi business model has brought a revolution among the masses.

2. **In what way have the cab drivers benefited after the shift to mobile-app based taxi hailing service?**

Ans: The cab drivers are not only paid well but also receive bonus for their efforts put in. Moreover, they have a systemized process in order to take the booking from a customer and to receive payments.

3. **Why are professionals now opting to become cab drivers over their 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. IT job?**

Ans: From the app-based taxi model, the cab drivers can now make anywhere between ₹ 80,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 a month. Moreover, it is not a 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. job. Professionals see it as an entrepreneurial venture and hence opt it for both, its flexibility as well as the good pay.

4. **What are the various payment benefits given to the cab drivers by the companies?**

Ans: In case of Uber, the drivers are paid 80% of the fare for every trip made, which is directly credited to their bank account. Also, a bonus of ₹ 150 is paid for every trip during the peak hours and ₹ 50 during non-peak hours. Ola, provides the bonus to drivers if they do six trips in a day. TaxiForSure charges the drivers with only 8-12% of the ride fare.



5. **The cab drivers working under mobile-app based taxi model are benefited. Cite an example of happy cab drivers from the passage.**

Ans: Mr. Lokesh R. from Bengaluru, working under the mobile-app based taxi model business earns anywhere between ₹ 80,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 per month. He can be surely called a Happy cab driver as prior to this change, he was making a meager amount of ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 20,000 a month.

6. **How are families joining hands with the cab drivers to support them?**

Ans: Work pressure is a part and parcel of the cab driver's job. The cab drivers can never keep their mobiles away, as they can't ascertain when they will get their next call. At such times, wives of cab drivers help them track the cab movements through Google Maps and co-ordinate with them.

7. **How the companies help the drivers in new purchase of the cabs?**

Ans: There are companies who offer cab purchasing schemes. Under this scheme, the drivers can purchase a cab, the financing for which is done by the companies. Here, the cab/vehicle for initial few years is attached to the company.

8. **Have the mobile-app based cabs affected the regular cabs, if yes, explain?**

Ans: The mobile-app cabs have affected the regular cab drivers severely. This is because regular cab drivers are difficult to track and they have their choices for a place. Very few regular cabs are air-conditioned and in a good state.

Passage 2

As a student, when one decides to step out of the country for studies, it means planning to push oneself beyond the comfort zone. It also means to live life in an independent way. At the same time, learning to manage own finances, accommodation along with academics.

As per the research conducted by the Guardian Professional Networks, the Indian students strive for exposure on a global platform and the best way to do it is through a quality education. 61% of the students consider it to be the biggest reason for moving abroad. The other reasons being the institution, its reputation, the program, its professors, etc. This in all, could help build a student's career. The range of subjects offered with various streams and the top-notch facilities provided are a way ahead then that provided in one's native country. Popular options among Indian students at the graduate level are business and STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields.

They learn to socialize with students from a different background. They meet native students as well as international students; which facilitates building up a global network of friends.

At the same time, the student is introduced to different cultures and languages. It brings about an overall change and the student adapts to a new culture.

As per the ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) Report of June 2013, "Although the fall in the rupee seems to have shaken the aspiration of (Indian) students willing to study abroad, it has not shattered their dreams altogether." It may result in a higher cost by a few lakh of rupees, but the higher studies should be seen as a long term investment rather than an expense. Post securing a reputable job, one can get the return on investment. If the student needs to send money home, with the current rupee value, his/her family would gain abundantly.

Currently, banks have duly introduced top-up schemes for the educational loans to fill the gap caused by the exchange rate fluctuation. If a student has a family member or a relative in his/her destination country, he can find out how to make arrangements to acquire a loan from a local bank. Also, these banks provide loans at a lower rate of interest. This would probably provide an opportunity to repay the educational loan in the same foreign currency as and when he gains employment in the country.

Not only this, the Universities also help the students by providing assistance while searching a job. The help is provided on making resume, interviewing skills and job search through career fairs. During the course, the students are groomed with relevant skills as per the industrial requirement. The universities are associated with the industry and help students find a job. The universities also help in getting an internship during studies for added experience.

Post completion of the studies, students become available to employers. Students experience will be an added value as much as their academic grades and qualification. They can get the desired job, if they convince the employers that the skills and knowledge acquired are transferrable into the working world. The experience once added to their resume can do wonders to their career path.

Questions:

1. **What helps in making the decision to study abroad?**

Ans: Students strive for exposure on a global platform and the best way to do it is through a quality education. They look for a quality education to prosper in their career. This urge to prosper helps in the decision to study abroad.



2. How does the bank help the students, in case of devaluation of rupee?

Ans: The devaluation of rupee causes a rise in the fees to be paid. To avoid such a situation, the banks have introduced top-up schemes for the educational loans to fill the gap caused due to the exchange rate fluctuation. This is how the bank helps the students, in case of devaluation of rupee.

3. How do courses abroad provide an edge over while looking for a suitable job?

Ans: The universities help the students by providing assistance in various ways like making resume, interviewing skills, job search through career fairs etc. The students are also groomed with relevant skills as per the industry requirement. This is how courses abroad provide an edge over while looking for a suitable job.

4. Discuss the benefits of getting a degree from an offshore university.

Ans: By procuring a degree from an offshore university, he/she gets an opportunity to learn and interact with students from various cultural background. This helps to build a global network.

5. How does it bring an overall development in the student?

Ans: The overall development of students occur as they learn to move out of their comfort zone and start living life independently. They learn to manage their finances and accommodation along with academics. They learn to socialize, meet and interact with people from different cultures.

6. Is it a wise decision to make a huge investment for education abroad?

Ans: The exorbitant amount of fees to be paid can be viewed as a long term investment. Once the student successfully completes the course, he/she can seek a job; through which he earns a desirable salary and the amount could be sent to the family. Hence, it is a wise decision to make a huge investment for education abroad.

7. The level of some Indian Universities fail to match with those in abroad. Explain.

Ans: The Indian universities fail to compete with the universities abroad due to their poor infrastructure, lack of efficient professors, outdated content quality, etc. On the other hand, the universities abroad provide world class quality content, highly skilled and experienced faculty, proper infrastructure, various streams that can be offered to students, etc.

8. In the era of globalization, how does higher education from abroad benefit the students in their career path?

Ans: After completing the studies, students become available to employers. They get the desired job, if they convince the employers that the skills and knowledge acquired while studying abroad are transferrable into the working world. The experience once added to the resume can do wonders to their career path. In this way, higher education from abroad benefits the students in their career path, in the the era of globalization.

Passage 3

Food delivery is a segment with innumerable market opportunities and is considered as a profitable segment to invest at the moment. Zomato, an online restaurant directory and food ordering company, has decided to spruce up its delivery process by seizing the opportunity of the growing food delivery segment. It has made strategic investments in Gurgaon-based Pickingo, and Mumbai-based Grab.

Grab, a food logistics firm, was founded by Jignesh Patel, Nishant Vora and Pratish Sanghvi in 2012. Oliphans Capital has invested \$1 million in the company along with an independent investor Haresh Chawla. Pickingo is a B-2-B on-demand hyperlocal start up. It raised \$1.3 million from Orios Venture partners headed by Rehan Yar Khan.

Both these companies are providers of hyper local delivery service. Zomato's investment will enable restaurants to provide last-mile delivery including dine-in-only restaurant that don't otherwise deliver. Apart from these companies, Zomato has also partnered with digital commerce focused logistics venture, Delhivery. The partnership with Zomato has enabled Delhivery to enter the hyperlocal delivery segment.

Deepinder Goyal, Founder and CEO of Zomato, says, "We have unequivocally the largest restaurant base in India and we will work closely with Pickingo, Grab, and Delhivery to improve the last-mile delivery experience for users placing orders online on Zomato. So far, restaurants have been delivering on their own, but with this partnership, we will also be able to target restaurants across the country that doesn't otherwise deliver. We are also launching our online ordering service in Dubai, Australia, and South Africa. Along similar lines, we are also in conversation with hyper local logistics firms in other countries to ensure that we are able to provide a seamless and quality experience to our users there."



Rahul Gill, Co-founder and CEO of Pickingo, says “This investment will not just infuse funds into the company but will also allow us to scale rapidly with Zomato’s online ordering business, while also leveraging Zomato’s strong relationship with restaurants across the country. We have already started working together to deliver from selected restaurants in New Delhi, and we look forward to taking this partnership further.”

According to Pratish Sanghvi, Co-founder and Director of Grab, “last-mile logistics is a challenge for most merchants across India, especially restaurants, and the company views this investment as a great opportunity to solve this problem using technology along with Zomato. Zomato is making strides to move from being a search and discovery portal to a platform offering technology that helps merchants connect more effectively with customers with the launch of online ordering, cashless payments, soon to be launched table reservations, and a point of sale system.”

Sahil Barua, Founder & CEO of Delhivery, says “The food-tech space in India is heating up, and we’re excited about this partnership with Zomato. Delivery logistics for restaurants have always been a challenge, and we believe the technology-first approach will help simplify operations for them, as well as enrich customer experiences.”

Over the past years, Zomato has expanded its reach into global markets. It has acquired nine more companies with the aim of expanding its market in the restaurant search space. One such company is Urbanspoon, which has helped Zomato to occupy a dominant position in overseas market in Australia, Canada and the United States.

Questions:

1. **Which are the investments made by Zomato in the food delivery segments?**

Ans: Zomato has made strategic investments in Pickingo, a B-2-B on-demand hyper local venture and Grab, a food logistics firm. It has also entered into a partnership with Delhivery.

2. **Give details about the company ‘Grab’.**

Ans: Grab is a food logistics firm based in Mumbai. It was founded by Jignesh Patel, Nishant Vora and Pratish Sanghvi in 2002.

3. **Give details about ‘Pickingo’ venture.**

Ans: Pickingo is a Gurgaon based firm. It is a B-2-B on-demand hyperlocal start up. They provide hyper local delivery service.

4. **What does Zomato aim to achieve by making the investments in delivery service?**

Ans: By investing in the delivery service companies, Zomato aims to improve the last-mile delivery experience for users placing orders online on Zomato and target restaurants across the country that don’t deliver.

5. **How Pickingo has benefited from Zomato’s investment in it?**

Ans: Zomato’s investment in Pickingo will infuse funds into the company and also help it to increase its business rapidly.

6. **What problem do most restaurants face and how can it be solved?**

Ans: Most restaurants face the challenge of last mile logistics; which could be solved with the help of technology that would connect the merchants more effectively with customers.

7. **How does Zomato plan to expand its reach in global markets?**

Ans: Zomato plans to expand its reach in the global markets by acquiring more companies such as Urbanspoon which has helped to occupy a dominant position in the overseas market in Australia, Canada and the United States.

8. **Do you think Zomato is right in investing in the food delivery segments?**

Ans: Yes, Zomato is right in investing in food delivery segments as it offers innumerable market opportunities. The food-tech space in India is heating up and with the help of technology; Zomato can offer a big platform to spruce up food delivery services.

Passage 4

‘Ganges River Dolphins’ are found in the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system mainly in India and Bangladesh. They are listed as endangered by the IUCN (*International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources*) due to a probable population decline of approximately 50% over the last five decades and projected a future population decline too. Many dolphins died in the upper reaches of rivers, mainly due to irrigation barrages and dry season habitat. When compared, the level of deaths is lesser in the Brahmaputra River than the Ganges. Therefore, the Brahmaputra River is of great importance for survival of the subspecies.

For ensuring the survival of dolphins, a recent proposal by Oil India Ltd. was rejected. The proposal was to find oil reserves by initiating seismic exploration using explosives and air guns along the bed of the Brahmaputra River. Moreover, the behavioral studies on dive time, surfacing interval and acoustic investigations were carried out in two dolphin hotspots.