**Bhartiyam International School**

**Pre – Mid Term Assessment (2022-23)**

**Subject: English Core**

**Class: XII**

**Date: 11/07/2022 M.M.:40**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Roll No.\_\_\_\_ Duration: 90 Mins**

**General Instructions:**

* *This paper consists of FIVE QUESTIONS. All questions are compulsory.*
* *Separate instructions are given with each question, wherever necessary.*
* *Read these instructions very carefully and follow accordingly.*
* *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*
* *Paper presentation should be up to the mark.*
* *Mention the correct question number. Need not copy questions/captions and write answers only.*

**1. Read the passage and answer the following questions. (10)**

The word euthanasia is of Greek origin and literally means “a good death.” The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as “the act of killing a person painlessly for reasons of mercy.” Such killing can be done through active means, such as administering a lethal injection, or by passive means, such as withholding medical care or food and water. In recent years in the United States, there have been numerous cases of active euthanasia in the news. They usually involve the deliberate killing of ill or incapacitated persons by relatives or friends who plead that they can no longer bear to see their loved ones suffer. Although such killings are a crime, the perpetrators are often dealt with leniently by our legal system, and the media usually portrays them as compassionate heroes who take personal risks to save another from unbearable suffering. The seeming acceptance of active forms of euthanasia is alarming, but we face a bigger, more insidious threat from passive forms of euthanasia. Every year, in hospitals and nursing homes around the country, there are growing numbers of documented deaths caused by caregivers withholding life sustaining care, including food and water, from vulnerable patients who cannot speak for themselves. While it is illegal to kill someone directly, for example with a gun or knife, in many cases the law has put its stamp of approval on causing death by omitting needed care. Further, many states have “living will” laws designed to protect those who withhold treatment, and there have been numerous court rulings which have approved of patients being denied care and even starved and dehydrated to death. Because such deaths occur quietly within the confines of hospitals and nursing homes, they can be kept hidden from the public. Most euthanasia victims are old or very ill, so their deaths might be attributed to a cause other than the denial of care that really killed them. Further, it is often relatives of the patient who request that care be withheld. In one court case, the court held that decisions to withhold life sustaining care may be made not only by close family members but also by a number of third parties, and that such decisions need not be reviewed by the judicial system if there is no disagreement between decision makers and medical staff. The court went so far as to rule that a nursing home may not refuse to participate in the fatal withdrawal of food and water from an incompetent patient! “Extraordinary” or “heroic” treatment need not be used when the chance for recovery is poor and medical intervention would serve only to prolong the dying process. But to deny customary and reasonable care or to deliberately starve or dehydrate someone because he or she is very old or very ill should not be permitted. Most of the cases coming before the courts do not involve withholding heroic measures from imminently dying people, but rather they seek approval for denying basic care, such as administration of food and water, to people who are not elderly or terminally ill, but who are permanently incapacitated. These people could be expected to live indefinitely, though in an impaired state, if they were given food and water and minimal treatment. No one has the right to judge that another’s life is not worth living. The basic right to life should not be abridged because someone decides that someone else’s quality of life is too low. If we base the right to life on quality of life standards, there is no logical place to draw the line. To protect vulnerable patients, we must foster more positive attitudes towards people with serious and incapacitating illnesses and conditions. Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow human beings and deserve our care and respect. We must also enact positive legislation that will protect vulnerable people from those who consider their lives meaningless or too costly to maintain and who would cause their deaths by withholding life-sustaining care such as food and water.

**1.1 Answer the following questions. (1x7=7)**

(i) How can the tone of the author be best described?

(ii) In paragraph 3, why does the author find starvation and dehydration induced euthanasia is to be “more insidious"?

(iii) As used in paragraph 3, what is the best synonym for insidious?

(iv) Using the passage as a guide, what would be the case in which, it can be inferred that the author would find euthanasia less objectionable.

(v) In the final paragraph the author writes, "Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow human beings and deserve our care and respect." What is the main purpose of this statement?

(vi) Write the word used in the passage same as ‘Preserving.’

(vii) Find the opposite word used in the passage for ‘vulnerable.’

**1.2 Write down summary of the passage in about 30-40 words. (3)**

**2.** M/s Shyam Lai & Sons are opening a new general store ‘Galaxy Novelties’ in Geetanjali Enclave, Dwarika, Delhi. The inauguration ceremony is fixed for Sunday, the 17th of July 2022 at 11 a.m. Prepare an invitation card for the purpose. **(1x5=5)**

**3. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 30-40 words. (3x5=15)**

(i) **“Born in the caste of bangle-makers they have seen nothing but bangles.” Where do they ‘see’bangles?**

(ii) **Franz thinks, “Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons’ What could this mean?**

(iii) **What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?**

(iv) Who was Sam Weiner? What happened to him?

(v) **Is Saheb happy working at the tea-stall? Explain.**

(vi) **How is Mukesh’s attitude to his situation different from that of his family?**

**4. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 80-100 words. (1x5=5)**

**(i)** Apparent illogicality sometimes turns out to be a futuristic projection? Discuss. (The Third Level)

**OR**

**(ii)** Philately helps keep the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of the human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future? (The Third Level)

**5. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 80-100 words. (1x5=5)**

**(i) With fear and ache inside her heart and words of assurance on lips and smile on the face, the poet presents two opposite and contrasting experiences. Why does the poet put on a smile? (The Last Lesson)**

**OR**

**(ii)  “What a thunderclap these words were to me!” Which were the words that shocked and surprised the narrator? Why? (The Last Lesson)**