

Dear Parents / Students

Due to the current situation, Knowledgeplus Training center is mobilized and will keep accompanying and supporting our students through this difficult time. Our Staff will be continuously, sending notes and exercises on a weekly basis through what's app and emails. Students are requested to copy the notes and do the exercises on their copybooks. The answers to the questions below will be made available on our website on knowledgeplus.mu/support.php every Friday. We thank you for your trust and are convinced that, together, we will overcome these troubled times.

Students can also email their work on info@knowledgeplus.mu

Grade 10&11-

English (week 4)

Passage 1 – Pearls

1 Pearls are produced within the soft tissue of oysters in the sea. After an irritating microscopic object – wrongly thought by some to be a grain of sand – has got under its shell, the oyster produces a substance to seal off the irritation, which results in coating after coating of nacre, or mother-of-pearl, which is strong, resilient and shiny. There is evidence that the Chinese carried out extensive fishing of pearls, which are the most beautiful of gems, in the South China Sea 2000 years ago.

2 For centuries, fine quality pearls have been seen as exquisite objects and, because of their perceived beauty, they were used in many societies to make jewellery, where a pearl was set as a centre piece in rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Art from around the world, particularly from Europe, shows that pearls were used to adorn clothing for both men and women. Pearl fishing brought deserved wealth to those who engaged in it, such as the people of the Pandyan Dynasty in India, who controlled pearl fishing along the South Indian coast for several centuries.

3 Pearls feature in several religions, further emphasising their importance. In the Christian Bible, holy things are compared to pearls, and in the Qur'an good deeds are associated with the wearing of pearls. Some Indian mythology describes how powdered pearls can be used for medicinal purposes such as, for example, an aid to good digestion or a cure for mental illnesses.

4 Before the twentieth century, the only way of obtaining pearls was for a diver to gather oysters from the sea, and then open them to see if they contained pearls. This was a very difficult process as hundreds of oysters were needed to obtain perhaps only three or four pearls; this is the reason why pearls fetched such extraordinary prices in

the past. In order to find enough oysters, divers were often forced to descend to great depths, sometimes to over 30 metres, on a single breath; this meant that, in order to survive, they had to grease their bodies to conserve heat and close their nostrils with clips. Divers faced the danger of being attacked by hostile creatures – off some South American coasts, for example, pearl fishing took place in shark-infested waters. Many divers lost consciousness and drowned because they held their breath for too long underwater.

5 In modern times, the vast majority of pearls produced worldwide are cultured pearls, which are formed when natural processes are aided by human intervention. Oysters are kept in farms with the intention of obtaining pearls from them. The system which produces cultured pearls imitates nature; a bead is deliberately introduced as an irritant under each oyster's shell. It responds by coating the irritant in nacre, and a pearl is formed. The introduction of cultured pearls hit the pearl fishing industry hard, with some critics claiming that cultured pearls were not authentic. Nevertheless, cultured pearl farming took off, mainly in Japan, because high quality pearls can be produced with no risk to human life. Moreover, they can be produced much more quickly than natural pearls, in fact in as little as six months. Since every oyster produces a pearl, there is no unnecessary killing of hundreds of oysters. This is good news for conservation groups who argue that such killing is cruel.

6 The advances in the production of cultured pearls mean that coloured pearls can be produced by inserting a natural dye under an oyster's shell; for example, cobalt chloride ensures a pink pearl. Purists would argue that cultured pearls can often be distinguished from natural pearls through the use of x-rays, but most people appreciate the fact that most of the chance and guesswork has been taken out of pearl production. This enables the industry to be a stable form of employment to very many people.

7 Cultured pearls are produced more efficiently and in greater numbers, and so they are very much cheaper in price than naturally produced ones. This means that owning and wearing pearls is no longer limited to the rich.

Read Passage

In the Insert and answer all the questions below.

1 (a) Notes [15 marks]

Identify and write down the importance of pearls and the problems associated with their production in former times, and the main methods of pearl production in modern times and the benefits these bring, as outlined in the passage.

USE THE MATERIAL FROM PARAGRAPH 2 TO PARAGRAPH 7 INCLUSIVE.

At this stage, you need NOT use your own words. To help you get started, the first point in each section of notes is done for you. You will be awarded up to 15 marks for content points.

MAIN POINTS
The importance of pearls and the problems associated with their production in former times
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seen as exquisite / beautiful objects•
The main methods of pearl production in modern times and the benefits these bring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (vast majority of pearls produced worldwide are) cultured pearls formed through human intervention•

(b) Summary [5 marks]

Now use your notes to write a summary in which you state the importance of pearls and the problems associated with their production in former times, and the main methods of pearl production in modern times and the benefits these bring, as outlined in the passage.

This time, you will be awarded up to 5 marks for using your own words wherever possible and for accurate use of language.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must be no longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below. Begin your summary as follows:

In former times pearls were seen as exquisite objects and

.....

2 From your reading of Paragraph 1, decide whether each of the following statements is true, false, or not stated in the passage, and tick the box you have chosen.

	TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
(i) Pearls are produced when a grain of sand gets under an oyster's shell.			
ii) A substance produced by the oyster makes mother-of-pearl.			
(iii) 2000 years ago, all pearl fishers were Chinese.			

[3]

3. Select and write down two of the writer's opinions, one from Paragraph 1 and one from Paragraph 2.

You may use the words of the text or your own words.

The writer's opinion in Paragraph 1 is

.....

The writer's opinion in Paragraph 2 is

.....
[2]