

Std. 11

16-9-2015

Half Yearly Examination in ENGLISH

Time : 3 hrs.

M. Marks : 80

General instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A (READING) (20 marks)

1. Read the poem given below and then answer the questions which follow:

Good people all, of every sort,
Give ear unto my song;
And if you find it wond'rous short,
It cannot hold you long.

In Islington there was a man,
Of whom the world might say,
That still a godly race he ran,
Whene'er he went to pray.

A kind and gentle heart he had,
To comfort friends and foes;
The naked every day he clad,
When he put on his clothes.

And in that town a dog was found,
As many dogs there be,
But mongrel, puppy, whelp, and hound,
And curs of low degree.

This dog and man at first were friends;
But when a pique began,
The dog, to gain some private ends,
Went mad and bit the man.

Around from all the neighbouring streets
The wond'ring neighbours ran,
And swore the dog had lost its wits,
To bite so good a man.

The wound it seem'd both sore and sad
To every Christian eye:
And while they swore the dog was mad,
They swore the man would die.

But soon a wonder came to light,
That show'd the rogues they lied;
The man recover'd of the bite,
The dog it was that died.

-Oliver Goldsmith

1.1 Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options:

(6x1=6)

- a) The man in Islington seemed to lead a pious and religious life as
- i) he loved dogs and fed them ii) he was self centred and very busy
iii) he went to pray regularly iv) he ran a charitable trust
- b) The dog was different from other dogs of the town because
- i) it was not faithful ii) it was not aggressive
iii) it lacked sensitivity to pain, punishment and rebuke
iv) it had human qualities of love, hate and revenge
- c) The dog went mad and bit the man because
- i) it had to gain some selfish interests
ii) it was shocked by the selfish attitude of man
iii) the enmity between it and the man unhinged it
iv) it wanted to teach the man a lesson
- d) The good people of the town considered the man's wound deplorable because
- i) the mad dog had done something very evil
ii) they foresaw the end of the good man because of the dog bite
iii) the dog bite was unexpected and quite deep
iv) the action of the dog was strange and selfish
- e) The word 'pique' in fifth stanza means
- i) feeling calm and composed.
ii) sudden feeling of anger and annoyance.
iii) impulsive
iv) sudden emotional outburst.
- f) The poetic device used in the last stanza of the poem is
- i)Simile ii)Metaphor iii)Personification iv)Irony

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

(6x1=6)

- a) Who has the author addressed in and through the poem?
b) What was the opinion of the people of the town about the man?
c) What did the people of the town swear about?
d) Which incident is described as a miracle?
e) What, from your point of view, caused the death of the dog?
f) How would you justify the poetic device used in the last stanza?

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The year 1833 holds a special place in the history of British India. Under the Charter Act passed by the British parliament, the governor-general of Bengal Lord William Bentinck was appointed as the first governor-general of India. The act also legitimised the East India Company's efforts to further explore the land, people and cultures of south Asia. The year heralded a new era as interest in India grew in England and modernity blossomed in Europe.

A couple of years later came the shift in focus from the eastern headquarters of Calcutta to north and northwest India. A new governor-general, George Eden, took charge in 1836. Accompanying him was his sister, Emily. She joined him in his trips to the northwest via the Gangetic plain. Travelling across the country, she wrote of life during the early days of the Raj and about the cantonment towns that came up in places like Meerut.

Emily's narratives describe in detail the parties, the plays, the eccentricities and the all-out attempt by the English to "go native". It was the beginning of the cantonment town culture in north India, of which Meerut would remain a model. By the 1830s, the town had emerged as a favourite military post for the British. "Meerut is a large European station, a quantity of barracks and white bungalows spread over eight miles of plains. There is nothing to see or draw," writes Emily in her travelogue 'Up the Country', which was, in fact, a series of letters she wrote. These were compiled and published as a book in 1866.

Emily did not visit the entire town. Perhaps as she was a European aristocrat, her travel was not as free and adventurous as it would be for someone like Rudyard Kipling 50 years later. Her visits were limited to the European quarters of Meerut and she appears to have missed the older section of the town, the Muslim quarters that sprang up around the Jama Masjid. This part of the town, which continues to thrive even today, was at its glorious best in the early 19th century.

On their journeys across the country, the governor-general's team would spend considerable time in different towns and their security was the responsibility of the English soldiers. Security was tight as the British had started operations against the Thugs, who were members of a violent group that waylaid and strangled travellers, in a ritually prescribed manner. They were quite active in north India and the anti-Thug campaign was a sign that the East India Company was serious about moving westward. Despite this, notes Emily, the soldiers and their guests lived in style enjoying elegant dinners, ball-room dancing and ample socialising, fuelled by fine wine and spirit.

Emily also describes the enormous hardships faced by the native people following the decline of the centuries-old political system of the Mughals and the traditional rulers. Her letters contain details of the lawlessness, dreadful malnutrition and famine that had struck the Gangetic plain in

the late 1830s, believed to be among the reasons behind the revolt of 1857. Those days of famine are long gone. The agriculture-dominated western Uttar Pradesh, of which Meerut is the educational and commercial hub, has become increasingly prosperous. But, we found that a new breed of poverty of tolerance and harmony was taking root in Meerut. The communal riots that broke out in neighbouring Muzaffarnagar in August did not spare Meerut, leading to several casualties and displacement of thousands of people.

And, that remains the story of Meerut. Centuries have passed. Yet, public disorder continues to haunt the green belt that adorns India's heartland.

a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and

sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations where necessary. (minimum 4)

(5)

- b) Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title.

(3)

SECTION – B (WRITING SKILLS and GRAMMAR) (30 Marks)

3. You are Shishir/ Shashi Saxena, President of the Science Club of your school. Your school is planning to organize a Science Exhibition for the students of class 11. Prepare a notice informing students about the same and inviting them to prepare models on the topic, 'Waste to Worth'.
Invent all necessary details. (4 marks)
4. You are Vivek/Varsha Malhotra, Head Boy/Girl of Loyola Public School, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi. Your school is planning a trip to Goa. Write a letter to Globe Tours and travels, 235, Nehru Place, New Delhi, enquiring about their terms and conditions, the fare, boarding and lodging charges, arrangements, total time of the trip and the mode of payment. (120 words) (6 marks)
5. Deforestation has become a big problem for mankind these days. Man is totally insensitive towards the mother nature and is causing irrevocable damage to it by cutting and then not replanting the trees. Floods, change in climate and rainfall and a sharp rise in temperature are few of the terrible repercussions of deforestation. Write an article emphasizing all these factors to conscientise the general public. (150-200 words) (10 marks)
6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect words and the correction against the correct blank number in your answer sheet. The first one has been done for you as an example.

(4)

Naturopaths believe that diseases are caused of toxaemia or toxic settlements in the body. The human body has a normal ability to _____ of _____ by
a) _____
_____ sweep away toxins. But, as we age, our detoxification mechanisms b) _____
_____ tend to become slug. Detox-therapies can enhance the elimi- c) _____
_____ nation of toxins in the kidney, skin, colon, and respiratory d) _____
_____ system. They rev up the immune system and works wonders for e) _____
_____ the body. Some of these help break our dependence with sugar, f) _____
_____ caffeine and alcohol, to. Though they may test our willpower g) _____

and patients, the immediate reward of feeling feather-light will _____ h) _____
surely motivate us to go for them more often.

7. Complete the following passage by filling the most appropriate word in each blank :
(4)

Heavy rain a) _____ the capital on Sunday, with the weatherman b) _____ more showers in the c) _____ days. The afternoon shower d) _____ flooded many areas and caused traffic snarls at many places. Many roads e) _____ the city were waterlogged and traffic f) _____ down on a number of arterial roads. According to the weatherman the showers will g) _____ for the next 3 to 4 days. Monsoons are h) _____ to stay in the city till September 15th.

8. Re-arrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences:
(2)

- a) panchakarma / therapies / for / offers / detoxification / purificatory / called / ayurveda /
b) fundamental / results / in accordance / should be / norms / with the / therapies / better / the/ performed / ayurvedic / for/

SECTION – C (LITERATURE) (30 Marks)

9. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option: (3 Marks)

*I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn;
And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my own origin,
And make pure and beautify it;*

- a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
i) the poet ii) the sea iii) the rain iv) the globe
- b) The word 'latent' denotes _____
i) dried up ii) hidden iii) germinate iv) visible
- c) What is the peculiar nature of the process implied in these lines?
i) stable ii) precise iii) eternal iv) unconditional
10. Answer the following questions in about 50 words each: (3x3=9 marks)
- a) "I resolved to forget the address. Of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest". What is your opinion on the decision made by the author?
- b) The narrator of 'Ranga's marriage' comes across as a diligent, wise and meticulous match-maker. Elucidate.

c) The story 'We aren't afraid to die....if we can all be together' stands testimony to the fact that even children, in their own prudent ways can be a tremendous source inspiration and emotional support to the elders. Justify.

11. Answer the following question in 120-150 words. (6 marks)

King Tut had been one of the most revered and renowned Pharaoh of his times and his mummy of King Tut had always been a subject of the scientists' curiosity and wonder. Discuss the plausible reasons.

(OR)

There is a noticeable difference in the way nature reacted and responded as and when the mummy was taken out and kept back. Do you believe that the traditions, beliefs, and funerary practices of the past still hold true in this modern era. Discuss with reference to the chapter.

12. Analyse Mr. Otis' first encounter with the ghost. What light does this throw on the character of Mr. Otis? (120-150 words) (6 marks)

13. 'The Canterville Ghost' is a parody of the traditional ghost stories and has a peculiar plot of it's own. Discuss with reference to the first three chapters. (120-150 words) (6 marks)

-X-X-X-X-X-X-