

Std. 11  
15-9-2016

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 passage given below and then answer the questions which follow:
  - 1 "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high.... Where words come out from the depth of truth". Everyone who has read Rabindranath Tagore in any language associates these words with him. Tagore has put the essence of whole human existence into these few lines of Gitanjali.
  - 2 When Tagore sets up such a goal, clearly outlined, it's our turn to decide whether to take up the challenge. Tagore was a poet, painter, singer, composer, playwright, actor and writer. Yet, he concerned himself deeply with the human destiny of his country and the world. He consistently asked the question—what is it that defines a human being? It is not caste, creed, sex, language or country, it's just being born as a member of the human race. To Tagore, all human beings share the same 'holy' brand of existence—humanity.
  - 3 The India in which Tagore wrote is now trifurcated into three major countries. In the early days of our political struggle, Tagore didn't like words becoming more important than human beings, than the suffering millions of the country. The ideals of Bharat Mata and Bharat Lakshmi, he said, were all wrong. Bharat Mata wasn't someone playing the veena in the Himalayas. She, instead, was the mother who lived in her hut in a decayed village and didn't know what to feed her malaria-stricken child day after day. Bharat Lakshmi was no bark-clad damsel who watered plants in the hermitages of Vashishtha or Vishvamitra. She was, rather, the one who, famished or half-fed herself, cooked in a rich man's house to put her son in an English school so that he could become a government clerk one day. For Tagore, the "patriotism" of doling out dreams was a delusion cooked up by politicians. Not many people listened to him then, or now.
  - 4 His patriotism was not of the type that said "my country, right or wrong, is the best country in the world!" He knew that such gloating might lead, and had often led, a country to imperialism. Tagore was a poet of humanity and of this world. As a poet of India, he looked at it as the receptacle of "a great ocean of humanity". One of his deeper human concerns was his passion for the preservation of nature. Nature not only was to be enjoyed or exploited, but had to be cherished for human survival. It was he who initiated vana mahotsava as a ritual at his Shantiniketan school. Here is a poet and a human being with profound human concerns. We can stop listening to him only at our own peril.
- Pabitra Sarkar (Vice Chancellor- Rabindra Bharati University) THE WEEK

1.1 Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options: (6x1=6)

- a) The constant question Tagore asked himself was \_\_\_\_\_.
- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i) What is the meaning of life   | ii) What defines a human being  |
| iii) What is the real patriotism | iv) Which is the ideal religion |
- b) Tagore initiated \_\_\_\_\_ as a ritual at his Shantiniketan school.
- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| i) scripture reading | ii) patriotism |
| iii) vana mahotsava  | iv) poetry     |
- c) Tagore never propagated self righteousness of any country because he believed that it might lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| i) Imperialism | ii) Dictatorship |
| iii) Democracy | iv) War          |
- d) The passion for \_\_\_\_\_ was one of his deeper human concerns.
- |              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| i) Mysticism | ii) Secularism                 |
| iii) Poetry  | iv) the preservation of Nature |
- e) Tagore has incorporated \_\_\_\_\_ in his great work 'Gitanjali'.
- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| i) definition of human life | ii) the essence of human existence |
| iii) patriotism             | iv) holiness of human life.        |
- f) The word 'receptacle' means \_\_\_\_\_ (para 4).
- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| i) origin   | ii) example   |
| iii) source | iv) container |

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (6x1=6)

- How did Tagore, as a poet of India look at his country?
- Which lines of Tagore reflect the essence of whole human existence?
- How did Tagore explain the ideals of 'Bharat Mata' ?
- What was Tagore's version of 'Bharat Lakshmi'?
- In which arenas of life did Tagore prove his mastery?
- What, according to Tagore, defined 'a human being'?

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

Over the generations, the science of yoga took on a life of its own and branched off into hundreds of systems. Many thousands of years later, Patanjali came and saw that it had become too complex and diversified for anyone to grasp in a meaningful way. So, he codified all aspects of yoga into a certain format known as the Yoga Sutras. This is a collection of 196 verses or sutras on yoga. And so, Patanjali is known as the father of modern yoga. "Sutra" literally means "a thread". Or, in modern language, we can say it is like a formula. But, there is an enormous amount of science behind that little formula which most people cannot understand. The sutras are like this. Out of ignorance, people have interpreted these sutras in very superficial ways and have tried to implement them in their lives accordingly. The thread is vital for a necklace or a garland, but it is not a goal by itself. No one ever wears a garland for the sake of the thread. It was for each spiritual master to put his own kind of flowers, beads, pearls, diamonds, or whatever else in the garland.

Patanjali's Yoga Sutras are the most tremendous documents about life in the world, and also the most uninteresting. It is the driest and dullest book you could possibly read. Patanjali did this intentionally; though his mastery of language and composition was matchless, he wrote it in a way that no scholar would find it appealing. If people appreciate the literary, poetic aspects of the work, then all kinds of people would naturally read and misinterpret it. They would miss the fundamental purpose of the sutra—a formula to open up life. The sutra means something only to a person who is in a certain level of experience, and who wants to explore his consciousness. Each sutra is a method. You don't have to read all of them. If just one sutra becomes a reality within you, it will take you into a completely new dimension of experience. If you look at Patanjali in terms of his enlightenment, he cannot be more enlightened than someone else. There is no such thing. Realisation is realisation. But as a man of intellect, he is probably one of the greatest who walked this planet. The breadth of his understanding of life is so vast that today's scholars argue that everything could not have been just one man's work, that many people must have contributed to it. No, it is just one man's work.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations where necessary. (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, Ashish/Asmita, the chief editor of the Xavier Times. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board inviting articles, short stories, self composed poems, sketches, etc. from the students to be published in the magazine. (4)
4. Street dog menace and dog culling have become one of the most discussed and debated topics of recent times. As a concerned citizen of both human and animal rights, write a letter to the chief editor of 'The Hindustan Times' voicing your concerns and proposing a viable solution to the situation. (120 Words)
- (OR)
- You are Amit living at 1 MG Road Bengaluru. You are very concerned about the bad state of roads in the city. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern over the problems faced by commuters and giving suitable suggestions to solve the problem. (120 words) (6)
5. The 21<sup>st</sup> century India has witnessed so many atrocities against human life. People are attacked, lynched and thrashed for trivial reasons. In the same socio-political scenario we get to see poignant pictures and read the news of a man in Odisha who had to carry the corpse of his wife for 10 km owing to the lack of money for an ambulance. Conscious stricken and deeply disturbed by these happenings, write an article on the theme 'The value and dignity of human life must be preserved under all socio-political circumstances'. (150-200 Words) (10)

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)
- Evolution has designed various ways by humans to communicate with \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ for each other, includes language, behaviour, gestures, and facial expressions. a) \_\_\_\_\_  
But this methods are only partial; we often make mistakes in interpreting b) \_\_\_\_\_  
which the other person says. Most words are a combination of thought and c) \_\_\_\_\_  
feeling. However, language is often inadequate to express what we thought d) \_\_\_\_\_  
and feel when we speak or describing an experience. Robots are assisting e) \_\_\_\_\_  
doctors perform complicate surgeries and beating grandmasters in chess. f) \_\_\_\_\_  
Big companies are introducing self driving cars on the roads and smart mouse g) \_\_\_\_\_  
are roaming around with boosted memory. In many ways we are steamrolling  
in the future we have imagined. h) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Complete the following passage by filling the most appropriate word in each blank: (4)
- Deforestation has become a a) \_\_\_\_\_ problem for mankind these days. Man is totally b) \_\_\_\_\_ towards the Mother Nature and is causing c) \_\_\_\_\_ damage to it by cutting and then not d) \_\_\_\_\_ the trees. Floods, change in climate and rainfall and a sharp rise in e) \_\_\_\_\_ are few of the terrible f) \_\_\_\_\_ of deforestation. The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in g) \_\_\_\_\_ health. Humans have the h) \_\_\_\_\_ to be the custodians and guardians of the planet.
8. Re-arrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences: (2)
- a) people / a common / overweight / condition / in / men / who are / snoring is / women of / that affects / all ages / and / especially /  
b) air/ of the/ by / it is / the mouth / the physical / caused / and nose / through / flow of / obstruction

### SECTION – C (LITERATURE) (30 Marks)

9. Read the lines below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option: (3x1=3)
- And who art thou? Said I to the soft falling shower,  
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:  
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of rain,  
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,*
- a) Who is the 'I' mentioned in the first line?  
i) Earth                      ii) Sea                      iii) Poet                      iv) Rain
- b) What does the phrase 'strange to tell' mean?  
i) unfamiliar                      ii) unfortunate                      iii) unexpected                      iv) unconditional
- c) The question in the first line was asked because of \_\_\_\_\_  
i) the noise of the rain.                      ii) the irritation of the poet.  
iii) the beauty of the rain.                      iv) the ignorance of the poet.

10. Answer the following questions in about 50 words each: (3x3=9)
- "The fame of your family for honesty is well known to me. A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart". What do you think John Byro wanted to communicate to Mourad and Aram through these lines?
  - 'I was in a room I knew and did not know'. What made the narrator utter these paradoxical words? (Address)
  - Highlight the unique aspects of the narrator's style of narration in the chapter 'Ranga's Marriage'.
11. Answer the following questions in 120-150 words each: (6)
- Howard Carter had to take a drastic decision regarding the mummy. What was it? How did he justify it?
- (OR)
- The Chapter "We are not Afraid to Die" tells us about the meticulous planning, preparation, and 16 long years of training the narrator and his wife went through for a successful voyage. Analyze the qualities, virtues, and attitude we ought to have in order to face and overcome the challenges of life.
12. Who was Mrs. Umney? Why did she insist that the Canterville Chase was haunted? Give details. (120-150 words) (6)
13. With reference to the first two chapters, explain how 'The Canterville Ghost' is different from conventional ghost stories. (120-150 words) (6)

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x