

# HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2018-19

ENGLISH

Class – IX

Time : 3 hrs.

M.M. : 80

Date – 15.09.2018 (Saturday)

Name of the student \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

## General Instructions

- This question paper is divided into three sections :  
Section A : Reading 20 Marks  
Section B : Writing and Grammar 30 Marks  
Section C : Literature Textbooks 30 Marks
- All the questions are compulsory
- All the questions of a particular section must be attempted in particular order.

## SECTION – A (Reading – 20 marks)

### Q.1 Read the following passage carefully:

1. Just visualise hundreds of people walking on a beach in the middle of the night, stopping every once in a while to search for turtle eggs and hatchlings! I was a part of this walk recently in the heart of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Our aim was to take them safely to a 'hatchery'. As we trudged along the beach, we came across the tractor-like tracks of a turtle that must have come ashore to lay its eggs. These tracks were unmistakable. These were caused by the feet and back flippers of the turtle as it dragged itself across the sand. But try as we might, we could not locate the nest that the turtle must have dug to drop its eggs. An hour later, we came across another set of tracks, and this time located the nest.
2. As our expert guides dug, a wave of excitement went through the group. One by one, turtle hatchlings emerged from the hole. They began walking and we guided them to the sea so they could swim off. We found and released 87. This night exercise has been a part of the unique 'turtle walk' organised by conservationists in Chennai for the last 20 years. Every year when the nesting season of the Olive Ridley turtles comes around, people gather to patrol the beach every night. They ensure that no one digs up the eggs or hatchlings to eat them, and when they find the eggs, they transfer them to a safe enclosed hatchery. Why do they need to do this? Because the Chennai beach is visited by thousands of people and dogs, and the turtles could easily be disturbed or dug up.
3. Another threat faced by the hatchlings is the lighting on the beach. When they

emerge from the nest, these turtles look for the brightest part of the horizon and head there. In natural conditions, this would be the sea. In Chennai, however, it is now brighter inland than at the sea. This makes the turtles move away from the beach. Chennai's turtle volunteers spend hours every night to ensure that this does not happen.

**Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(1×8=8)**

- a) Why were the author and others looking for the turtle eggs at night?
- b) Which tracks is the author talking about?
- c) How many hatchlings were released from the hole dug by the expert guides?
- d) Who organised the 'turtle walk' in Chennai? How long they have been organising this event?
- e) At what time every year do the people of Chennai patrol the beach every night?
- f) What are the turtle eggs and the hatchlings in danger of?
- g) How is inland light affecting the hatchlings at the beach?
- h) Which word in paragraph 1 of the passage means 'walked slowly and with heavy steps'?

**Q.2 Read the following passage carefully:**

**[12]**

1. You may well ask, 'Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches, etc.? Isn't negotiation a better path?' You are absolutely right in your call for negotiation. Indeed, this is the purpose of direct action. Non-violent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community, that has constantly refused to negotiate, is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to dramatise the issue so that it can no longer be ignored. I just referred to the creation of tension as a part of the work of the non-violent resistance. This may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word 'tension'. I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive non-violent tension that is necessary for growth.
2. Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half-truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, we must see the need of having non-violent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood. So the purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door for negotiation. We, therefore, concur with you in your call for negotiation. Too

**(2/5)**

long has our beloved Southland been bogged down in the tragic attempt to live in monologue rather than dialogue.

3. We must use time creatively, and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy, and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity.

**Answer the following questions based on your reading of the passage. (2×4=8)**

- a) As explained by the author, what is the purpose of a non-violent direct action?
- b) In terms of negotiation, what is the condition of the people of Southland?
- c) What was the belief of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates?
- d) What does the author propose in view of using time?

**Pick out words/phrases from the passage which mean : (4x1=4)**

- e) Which word in para 1 means the same as 'serving a useful purpose and is intending to improve'?
- f) Which word in para 2 means 'restrained/captivated by anyone or anything'?
- g) Which word in para 2 means the same as 'agitators'?
- h) Which word in para 3 means the same as 'marshy swamp' ?

### **SECTION - B (Writing & Grammar – 30 marks)**

- Q.3 Write a descriptive paragraph about Rumtek Monastery in 100-150 words based on the verbal clues. (8)**

Rumtek Monastery—Buddhist monastery—23 kilometer from Gangtok in Sikkim—Surrounded by green mountains—A beautiful shrine temple and a monastery for the monks—Ancient Buddhist sculptures and a golden *stupa*.

**OR**

You are Aditi/Aditya, a football enthusiast. You have won an online contest and got a chance to watch the final of the world cup at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow to be held in the next month. Make a **diary entry** describing your feelings in **100-150 words**.

- Q.4 Write a story in 150-200 words beginning with the following line : (10)**

“Joseph was walking along the deserted road of the hill station when he suddenly heard somebody screaming from the forest up the hill...”

**OR**

Develop a story with the given outline:

Ramachandran – a village boy – comes to study in a city—others make fun of him—Ramachandran stays quiet and continues to help other classmates—wins the heart of all.

**Q.5 Fill in the blanks with grammatically appropriate words:** **[½×8=4]**

\_\_\_\_\_ wetland is not just any water body, it is a land that is covered \_\_\_\_\_ shallow water, either still or flowing , in \_\_\_\_\_ the water table \_\_\_\_\_ close to the surface. Wetlands like mangroves provide a barricade \_\_\_\_\_ the sea and the land and help stabilize the shoreline. \_\_\_\_\_ centuries, such wetlands have been acting as shields \_\_\_\_\_ cyclones and storms that might \_\_\_\_\_ frequently hit the shores.

**Q.6 The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each of the lines against which a blank is given. Identify the error and write it along with the correction to be made:** **[½×8=4]**

	<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
Just then a messenger came gallop down the street.	_____	_____
“Look!” cried a man who has noticed him in the	_____	_____
distance. “What news is been brought?” he asked	_____	_____
Tenaji’s servant who stood near. Since the servant	_____	_____
could reply, a rider came to a stop in front off them.	_____	_____
The rider looked tired and injury. He said, “Tenaji is	_____	_____
on trouble. He needs help!” The minister in charge	_____	_____
was instant summoned by Tenaji’s minister.	_____	_____

**Q.7 Rearrange the following words/phrases to frame meaningful sentences:** **[1×4=4]**

- a) never seems/the headlines/ in Delhi/road rage/for long, particularly/to be outside/
- b) of incidents/management/wrong with/the frequency/our traffic/implies/ that something is
- c) are not/in most cities/country/traffic laws/enforced/of our
- d) a major/in causing/this/road rage/contributing factor/is

**SECTION – C (Literature Text Book - 30 marks)**

**Q.8 Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:** **[1×4=4]**

“When the humid shadows hover  
Over all the starry spheres  
And the melancholy darkness  
Gently weeps in rainy tears,  
....”

- a) What does the phrase ‘humid shadows’ imply?
- b) What does the poet subsequently consider as a blissful moment?
- c) Which poetic device is used in the expression “the melancholy darkness”?
- d) Which word in the extract means ‘to stay/float in the air’?

OR

“But Khansaab asked him if he would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Later he is remembered to have said, ‘That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan’.”

- a) Who is referred to as Khansaab?
- b) What was the promise made by his student in the context?
- c) Which character trait of Khansaab is revealed here?
- d) Give the meaning of the word ‘yearn’.

**Q.9 Answer the following questions. (word limit 30-40)**

**[2×5=10]**

- a) While visiting the fair, the boy did not wait for an answer after he had pleaded for sweets. Why?
- b) What did Kezia’s father do to Kezia after she had a nightmare?
- c) What are the things the wind does in the first stanza of the poem ‘Wind’?
- d) Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools?
- e) Who helped Evelyn continue with music? What did he do and say?

**Q.10 Answer any one of the following questions in 100-150 words:**

**[8]**

Describe Innisfree as visualized by the poet so graphically. What does the poet wish to do there?

OR

Einstein’s journey was one from chaos to cosmos, from disorder to order. Discuss with reference to ‘A Truly Beautiful Mind’.

**Q.11 Answer any one of the following questions in 100-150 words:**

**[8]**

Grandfather was a great lover of animals. Discuss with reference to some other prominent characteristics of the grandfather.

OR

Discuss how Ishwaran proves himself to be an ‘asset’ to Mahendra.

