

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2018-19

ENGLISH

Class XI

Time : 3 hrs.

M.M. : 100

Date – 12.09.2018 (Wednesday)

Name of the student _____ Section _____

General Instructions-

- This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- Follow the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A (Reading – 20 marks)

Q.1 Read the passage given below -

1. President Barack Obama likes to draw parallels between himself and Abraham Lincoln. One reason Obama seeks inspiration from the US's greatest leader is the enormity of the challenges he faces. The new administration's highest priority will be an economy heading for the severest recession since at least the 1970s. Obama also inherits two wars, and a lurking threat from terrorism. Though all this pales in comparison to the political landscape that confronted Lincoln, the newest US presidency sees climate change as an existential threat of a kind never before faced by a White House resident.
2. On the day before moving into the nation's most storied house, Barack Obama visited a shelter for teenagers with no home. With sleeves rolled up, he spent a few minutes painting for the benefit of the cameras that trail him everywhere now.
Cara Fuller, a shelter worker, asked if he was sweating.
"Nah, I don't sweat," he told her. "You ever see me sweat?"
Not yet. But then again, it is still early.
3. Throughout the 77 days since his election, he has been a font of cool confidence, never too hot, never too cold, seemingly undaunted by the magnitude of troubles awaiting him and unbothered by the few setbacks that have tripped him up.
4. He will eventually have to choose between competing advice and priorities, risking the disappointment or anger of constituencies that for the moment can still see in him what they hope to see. What the country has seen of his leadership style so far evokes the discipline of George W Bush and the curiosity of Bill Clinton. Obama is not shy about making decisions and making them expeditiously he assembled his team in record time - but he has also sought to tap into the nation's intellectual dialogue at a time of great ferment.

5. More than any president since he was an infant, Obama has taken a place in society that extends beyond political leadership. He is as much symbol as substance, an icon for the young and a sign of deliverance for an older generation that never believed a man with his skin colour would ascend those steps to vow to preserve, protect and defend a constitution that originally counted a black man as three-fifths of a person.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the options. (6)

- (a) What is the parallel between President Barack Obama and Abraham Lincoln?
- (i) Both are negroes (ii) Both faced enormous challenges
(iii) Both faced wars and terrorism (iv) Both faced climate change
- (b) What is Obama's 'inheritance' as the President ?
- (i) troubled political landscape (ii) climate change
(iii) recession, two wars, terrorism (iv) all of the above
- (c) The challenges faced by Obama...
- (i) are greater than those faced by Lincoln
(ii) are as great as those faced by Lincoln
(iii) are not as great as those faced by Lincoln
(iv) are greater than those faced by any president of the USA
- (d) Obama's style of leadership includes the quality of -
- (i) posing for cameras (ii) representing the negroes
(iii) making intellectual dialogue (iv) making decisions boldly and quickly
- (e) 'Pales' in paragraph 1 means
- (i) a light shade of yellow (ii) appears weak
(iii) appears strong (iv) appears bright
- (f) 'To tap' in paragraph 4 means .
- (i) to measure (ii) to communicate with
(iii) to hit lightly (iv) to let out liquid

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly. [6]

- (a) What does Obama mean when he says, "I don't sweat?"
- (b) What image did Obama project during his election campaign?
- (c) What is the importance of Obama as a president of the USA beyond politics?
- (d) What does Obama share with his predecessors George Bush and Bill Clinton?
- (e) Find the word which means the same as 'a reservoir' (para 3).
- (f) Find the word which means the same as 'areas from where politicians fight elections' (para 4).

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

1. The presence of pollutants in air is a devastating issue in this automation era. It is more severe because every millionth fraction of a second we inhale the air around us. The most damning aftermath of air pollution is the attack on our respiratory system.
2. If you suffer from respiratory problems, be cautious: breathing polluted air could hospitalise you with heart disease and pulmonary disorders much quicker than you believe. A recent study at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, USA, shows that risk of hospital admissions for people having cardiovascular problems induced by air pollution is nearly double that for others. In fact the chances of a patient dying of heart disease caused by air pollution shoots up if he or she is experiencing respiratory problems.
3. It is astonishing that the chronic pollution in Mexico city, which stains the sky yellow and can trigger government warnings to stay indoors, could be killing off residents' sense of smell, as warned by the scientists. Tests show that the residents of the city struggled to sniff out everyday odours, like coffee, compared to residents of the nearby towns.
4. The study used records of hospital admissions between 1985 and 1994, in Cook County, Illinois, the most populous county of USA which maintains daily records of levels of particulate matter below the size of 10 micron (PM₁₀) in the ambient air. Researchers categorised and listed people admitted each day of the given period admitted with cardiovascular diseases (CVD), pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) induced by air pollution. Amongst these, they made further classification of those suffering from other respiratory diseases, like asthma and acute bronchitis. The figures were then used for statistical analysis.
5. The analysis showed that pre-existing cardiovascular diseases, particularly conduction defects, dysrhythmias and heart failure, substantially increased risks of hospitalisation caused by pollution. It also showed that asthmatics are more susceptible to pneumonia and cardiovascular complications induced by presence of PM₁₀ particles. In fact, people with asthma faced twice the risk of being hospitalised with pneumonia as compared to others. Researchers were also able to conclude that acute bronchitis increased susceptibility to pollution associated admissions for CVD and COPD (*Environmental Health Perspectives*, Vol 108, No.9). The Canadian House of Commons became the first House in the world to pass a Climate Act.
6. A spin-off of the extensive study and analysis was evidence emerging that PM₁₀ concentrations were associated with approximately 1,600 hospital admissions every year for heart diseases and 740 admissions for COPD - a large proportion of those admitted from the region, according to the study.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using heading and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviation, wherever necessary and also suggest a suitable title. (5)**
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words. (3)**

SECTION – B (Writing & Grammar – 30 marks)

- Q.3** You are Ankit/Ankita, Secretary of the school Music Club. **Draft a notice** for the school notice board informing about the ‘Music Carnival’ to be held in school. The students interested in participating in it should appear for the audition. Give all necessary details. **(Word limit 50 words)** **(4)**

OR

You are associated with an NGO named ‘Kids Tale’. This NGO collects the old, broken and discarded toys of kids of well-to-do families, fixes and distributes them among poor kids. You want to help them. **Design a poster** to be displayed in different areas around the city asking people to donate toys generously.

- Q.4** While shopping at a popular fashionable market, you were distressed to see the harassment faced by some foreigners at the hands of self-proclaimed guides, greedy shopkeepers, vendors and even beggars. **Write a letter** to the editor, The Indian Express mentioning that we have forgotten our culture of hospitality and are spoiling the image of our country. You are Abhinav/ Abhilasha ,3480, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. **(Word limit 125-150 words)** **[6]**

OR

Lack of job opportunities in the rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has a number of slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. **Write a letter** to the editor of a national newspaper on how we can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Karun/Karuna,M114, Park Avenue, Delhi. **(Word limit 125-150 words)**

- Q.5** The sports field is said to be a minifield of life. Whatever we experience or learn here serves as an invaluable experience to us for life. **Write an article** on ‘More lessons are learnt on the sports field than in the classroom’ in 150 to 200 words. You are Sarika/Sandeep. **[10]**

OR

The Heritage Centre, Ambala organized a national level Inter- School Quiz Contest with its academic partner LIC of India. **Write a report** on the event for your school magazine, giving necessary details. You are Karan/Kirti, coordinator of the Quiz Club. (150-200 words)

- Q.6** **The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Identify the wrong word and write it with correction in the copy.** **(4)**

	Incorrect	Correct
Traders of nearly 2250 roads and streets	a) _____	_____
across Delhi got the respite from	b) _____	_____
sealing and demolition of the Municipal	c) _____	_____
Corporation of Delhi following a supreme	d) _____	_____
Courts order in September 29 allowing	e) _____	_____

continuation of commercial activities on f) _____
residential areas pending a final g) _____
decision in the matter. h) _____

Q.7 Look at the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. (4)

- a) Than/no/mist/sooner/did/the/the/disappeared/sun/rise
- b) do/get/the/forests/from/what/we/products
- c) providence/Vivekananda/ in/ of /believed/the/god
- d) give/to/armies/wars/forests/during/our/cover

Q.8 Correct the following sentences. (2)

- a) I have chosen to be the Head Boy of my school.
- b) I have known him since a long time.

SECTION – C (Literature Text) 30 marks

Q.9 Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. (3)

Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up
Of chitterings and a tremor of wings, and trilling
The whole tree trembles and thrills.

- a) Who is 'she' in the second line? Where does she enter?
- b) What does 'machine' refer to in the extract?
- c) Find a word from the extract which means 'shudder'.

OR

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

.....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 the rain.
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea..

- a) Name the poem and the poet.
- b) What rise impalpable out of the land and how?
- c) Name the poetic device used in the third line.

Q.10 Answer any three of the following questions in 30 to 40 words each. (3x3=9)

- a) Why did Ranga say that "There is greater truth in that shastras than we imagine"?
- b) What preparations did the author and his wife make for their round- the-world voyage?

- c) “The landscape is an inner one, a spiritual and conceptual space.” Discuss.
- d) Why did the narrator hesitate for a long time to claim her belongings in the story ‘The Address’?

Q.11 Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6)

“Religion was the dominant feature of her life.” Comment on this statement in regard to Khushwant Singh’s grandmother as projected in ‘The Portrait of a Lady’.

OR

Do you feel the chapter ‘Discovering Tut’ is able to mirror the element of mystery that is associated with the Egyptian Pyramids and the mummies inside them? Give reasons.

Q.12 Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6)

The narrator mentions ‘a crazy streak running in his family. Which two characters show this streak in their behaviour and words? Write briefly about them showing how they can be called crazy?’

OR

Betrayal of trust is an evil which may afflict people of any time or any age. Discuss this statement in the context of the chapter ‘The Address’.

Q.13 Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. (6)

Who was the untutored genius who created a paradise and what is his contribution to art?

OR

“We are not afraid to die” is a saga of patience and bravery. Comment.

NB - ASSESSMENT OF LISTENING & SPEAKING SKILLS.

[20]

