

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2017-18

ENGLISH

Time : 3 hrs.

Class XI

M.M. : 100

Date – 12.09.2017 (Tuesday)

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.
- Do not exceed the word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A (Reading – 20 marks)

Q.1 Read the passage given below -

[12]

1. Right from childhood, a human being starts enjoying the pleasure of reading. As a child, he learns the ways of life through reading and writing. He is thrilled by going through new little things and learning through them.
2. The pleasure one derives from reading, is indeed recreative as well as instructive. The mental effects of reading create a strange sense of pleasure. Reading provides an ecstasy and intellectual exertion. Reading of novels or interesting literature makes a person forget the worries and cares of life. The reading of a newspaper, periodical, journal, etc. which is light reading, gives the reader knowledge about human life around and solves his curiosity for knowledge about the world. Newspapers and journals give information about the events taking place in the world and happenings in the state and the locality a person lives in. The newspapers also publish important news and views in the fields of economics, politics and science. Reading of newspaper is indispensable for even a little educated citizen in modern society.
3. The reading of novels is the most popular pastime of a large number of people. The attraction of novel lies in its ability to create interest, to sustain it and take the reader to the heights of imagination and luxurious fiction. All fiction is somewhat connected with life and gives in words the pictures drawn from real life or from imagination.
4. Next, we come to the books of travel and adventure. The spirit of adventure is in the very blood of man. A man wants glamour and romantic life, full of adventure and the material spirit. Books of travel and adventure infuse a spirit of fearlessness which the travellers, who are heroes of the books, may inspire in us.
5. Whatever type of books one reads, reading is always a source of pleasure and enjoyment. The habit of reading is a sign of good culture. It is a source of knowledge and the best means of making use of one's leisure. Books are, after all a gold mine of knowledge, art, literature and science. Books are not only useful, instructive but also entertaining and recreative.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices. [6]

- (a) How does a child learn the ways of his life?
(i) by imitating his elders
(ii) by observing
(iii) through reading and writing
(iv) through school education
- (b) What are the two salient features of reading?
(i) recreative and instructive
(ii) pleasure and intellectual exertion
(iii) information and views
(iv) all the above
- (c) Which kind of reading can be called 'recreative'?
(i) newspaper ii) journals iii) novels iv) periodicals
- (d) Reading of newspaper is absolutely essential for the common man because -
(i) it gives local news ii) it gives news of economics and science
(iii) it gives political news iv) all the above
- (e) 'Exertion' in paragraph 2 means -
(i) interest (ii) exercise (iii) stimulation (iv) physical effort
- (f) 'Indispensable' in para 2 means -
(i) important (ii) primary (iii) necessary (iv) principal

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly. [6]

- (a) How does the reading of a novel capture the interest of the reader?
- (b) Why is the reading of books of travel and adventure a source of immense pleasure and thrill?
- (c) Why is the habit of reading regarded as sign of good culture?
- (d) How does the reading of newspapers and journals help us?
- (e) Find the antonym of 'rest' in para 2.
- (f) Find the antonym of 'repulsion' in para 3.

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : [8]

The day the child is born, the parents dream of making it a doctor, an engineer, an architect, or an IAS. As the child develops, the hopes and aspirations of parents also develop. They want to see their children earning a handsome amount of money.

Having an ideal career is a dream for all and as parents of a teenager, thoughts of your child's career may not be very far from your mind. Most youngsters at that age, however, wrongly believe that they are at the beginning of their career path. But they have been on that road for years - their school studies, recreational activities and hobbies help a child gravitate towards its interests. These interests must drive their ambitions.

Gone are the days when one began and ended one's professional career at the same job. Getting a job is no longer as important as choosing the right career path - one that promises more personal satisfaction and growth, and, of course, earnings that will let them live a good life. So making a wise choice becomes all the more important. Developing a keen self-knowledge is essential in making the right career decisions. But all youngsters are not so self-aware. In fact many of them admit that they need help in planning their careers. Inexperienced, unsure and ill-informed, young people must turn to others for help. And though career counsellors at school are helpful, experts agree that parents are the number one influence on a child's choice of career. Sadly many parents are not themselves very sure about how best they can help. Many parents mistakenly try to "tell" kids - directly or indirectly - about the kind of expectations they have with regard to the child's choice of career. The chances are that the child ends up following its parents' dream, not its own, will not be a happy, satisfied professional in its adult life. "A child relies on information from peers when it comes to career options. But a parent has many options to get and pass on details about various career options. Parents must guide their wards and allow them to make an informed decision," says S.C. Moha, Executive Director of the All India Management Association (AIMA).

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using heading and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviation, wherever necessary (min. 4). Use a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.** (5)
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words.** (3)

Section B (Writing & Grammar – 30 marks)

- Q.3** You are Prateek/Pranitha, Cultural Secretary in SK Public School, Vidya Vihar. **Write a notice** for your school notice board informing the students about the Annual Fest in about **50 words**. [4]

OR

National Book Trust is organizing a 'Book Fair on Mahatma Gandhi' on his birthday this year. **Design a poster** highlighting the advantages of developing the habit of reading books for the occasion.

- Q.4** Lack of job opportunities in the rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has several slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. **Write a letter in 120-150 words** to the Editor of a national newspaper on how we can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Karan/Karuna, M-114, Mall Road, Delhi. [6]

OR

As the resident of 16 Shivpuri, Modinagar, **write a letter** to the Editor of a local daily regarding the long power cuts that your colony has to face every day and the resultant problems being faced by the residents (**120-150 words**). You can use the following clues -

Clues:

- * Long power cuts
- * Disrupts working hours (manpower)
- * Suffering heat and humidity
- * Electrical appliances cannot be used
- * Disrupts study hours
- * Harmful for health (heat stroke)

Q.5 Increase in the number of private vehicles has caused problems like rising air pollution, traffic jams, lack of parking space, road rage etc. The solution lies in the use of public transport. **Write an article in 150-200 words** on “The Importance of Public Transport”. You are Karan/Karuna. **[10]**

OR

Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic, 'Discipline shapes the future of a student'. It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Karuna/Karan.

Q.6 The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. **Write the incorrect word** and the correction against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the correction that you have made. **[1/2×6=3]**

- (a) It's an wet Sunday afternoon. _____
- (b) A pitter-patter of tiny droplets _____
- (c) has turned into the downpour. _____
- (d) I'm in bed listening to a rhythm of falling rain. It's the perfect _____
- (e) day to curl up with the book. _____
- (f) I reach out for its copy of Jhumpa Lahiri's 'The Lowland'. _____

Q.7 **Rewrite the following sentences after correcting the errors they contain.** **[1×4=4]**

- (a) Much stories were written by them.
- (b) Would you like any more biscuits?
- (c) This is my and that is yours.
- (d) Please bring me other pen.

Q.8 **Rearrange the following words / phrases to form meaningful sentences.** **[1×3=3]**

- a) flying about / with delight / the / birds / and twittering / were
- b) there was / in every tree / little child / that he / a / could see
- c) the / saw / wonderful / he / sight / most

Section – C (Literature and Long Reading Text) 30 marks

Q.9 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [1×3=3]

The cardboard shows me how it was,
When the two girl cousins went paddling.
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,
And she the big girl-some twelve years or so

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) What does the word 'paddling' convey?
- (c) What does the cardboard stand for?

OR

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) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) How does rain affect the earth?
- (c) Explain 'make pure and beautify it'.

Q.10 Answer any three of the following questions briefly : [3×3=9]

- (a) In the story 'The Address', when did the author realise that she was at the correct address?
- (b) Why did Ranga's homecoming create a commotion in the city?
- (c) What were the funerary treasures found in the pharaoh's tomb?
- (d) What happens when rain descends on earth?

Q.11 Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words. [6]

The lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady' suggests a growing distance between the younger and older generation. Comment.

OR

"Knowledge of the past is useful to complete our knowledge of the world we live in." Discuss with reference to the chapter 'Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues'.

Q.12 Why did the ghost want to frighten the Otis family? [6]

OR

What changes came at Tuskegee school after 20 years from its start?

Q.13 The Twins are an epitome of laughter, pranks and fearlessness. Elaborate their character sketch on this basis. [6]

OR

Give a character sketch of Mr. Lewis Adams.

NB - ASSESSMENT OF LISTENING & SPEAKING SKILLS. [20]

