

Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 3 Hrs. + 15 mins.

Std. : XII

F. M. : 100

Attempt all four questions

The intended marks for question or parts of questions are given in brackets ()

(You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4)

Q 1. Write a composition on anyone of the following subjects : (30)

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

- a. You have been contacted by a computer software company to come up with an idea for a computer game that is fun yet teaches important skills. Describe the game that you would design. Include details about how the game would be played, what it would look like and what the players would learn along the way.
- b. Narrate a situation when you felt that you should not have gone alone to the deserted place.
- c. 'The social net working sites are responsible for making us more unsocial'. Argue for or against this statement.
- d. The joy and challenges of adolescence.' Explore the theme by referring to your own experiences.
- e. Inspiration
- f. Write a short story beginning with ' I have a confession to make'

Question 2

Write a personal profile, to be submitted to the Principal of your school, telling why you should be one of the awardees for the 'Principal's Award'. Base your profile on the following hints: (20)

Personality traits - academic track -co-curricular/sports achievements -team spirit- leadership qualities-social involvement- any other convincing reason.

Question 3

- a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete but sentence B is not .Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning to sentence A. (10)
 1. A : The result surprised everybody in the country.
B : The result took .
 2. A : No sooner had I told them what I would do than they began to protest.
B : Hardly .
 3. A : Robin said, "Sai showed keen inquisitiveness to learn throughout the workshop".
B : Robin said that .

4. A : Yanki is too inexperienced to be given the job now.
B : Yanki is so
5. A : They said that Misha was a trained intelligence officer.
B : That Misha was
6. A : As soon as the President announced the news of victory, there was an outburst of cheering.
B : No sooner
7. A : There was never a more ambitious man than Alexander in the history of the world.
B : Alexander was
8. A : There are eleven players in a football team.
B : A football team comprises
9. A : Anjali worked very meticulously but did not get the required result.
B : Notwithstanding
10. A : Didn't I see you at the market yesterday?
B : I saw.....

b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate word) (5)

- i. This plan will remain a secret _____ you and me.
- ii. It was a difficult task to get permission to go on an excursion, but Ram finally won _____ his parents.
- iii. Most quarrels can be resolved _____ negotiation ..
- iv. The mother hen watched _____ her chickens with a lot of fuss.
- v. Rana was completely taken _____ when he learnt that his colleague had been arrested.
- vi. It is time you decide _____ yourself.
- vii. He executed the responsibility with the confidence _____ his experience.
- viii. The CBI leveled charges _____ the official for corruption.
- ix. The new student decided to fall _____ with our plans.
- x. Riki dived _____ the deep well to recover the puppy.

(c) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets (5)

I looked up and saw Salim _____ (1) (stand) in front of me. He was _____ (2) (clench) his fists and his face was slowly _____ (3) (turn) red. I was afraid. I didn't know what was wrong. Salim had never _____ (4) (behave) in this manner. "Was he going to hit me?" I _____ (5) (wonder). Holding on to my courage, I asked him why he seemed disturbed. His expression became fiercer and he _____ (6) (stride) towards my table. I jumped out of my chair, _____ (7) (keep) the table between him and me. Quietly and slowly, so that Salim wouldn't notice, I _____ (8) (stretch) out my hand and grabbed the heavy paperweight from my desk. Salim reached the table and let out a sigh. Slowly the redness (9) (recede) from his face and he smiled. "Let me get back my breath," said Salim. I remained mystified. _____ (10) (See) my confusion, Salim said that he was practicing holding his breath as a part of his yoga practice.

Question 4

Vallance was sitting in a park. Then he felt in every pocket and found not a single penny. He had given up his apartment that morning. His furniture had gone toward certain debts. His clothes, save what were upon him, had descended to his man-servant for back wages. Therefore he had chosen the park. And all this was because an uncle had disinherited him, and cut down his allowance from liberality to nothing. The hour was nearly ten. Not many loungers were on the benches. Then arose one from a seat and came and sat himself at Vallance's side. (5)

The stranger said, "My name's Ides. One of the millionaires on Riverside Drive, is my uncle. I lived in his house once, and had all the money I wanted. Now my uncle, wants me to come back and be his heir again and blow in his money. I'm to call at the lawyer's office at ten tomorrow. I'm afraid something will happen to me before morning. I don't know what-something to keep me from coming into that money. I'm afraid a tree will fall on me – I'm afraid a cab will run over me, or a stone drop on me from a housetop, or something. I never was afraid before. I've sat in this park a hundred nights as calm as a graven image without knowing where my breakfast was to come from. But now it's different. I love money." (10)

Ides leaped to his feet and moaned hysterically. Vallance seized his arm and forced him back to the bench. "Be quiet!" He commanded, with something like disgust in his tone. "One would think you had lost a fortune, instead of being about to acquire one." (15)

Vallance and Ides slept on a bench in the park. At ten o'clock on the next day the two stood at the door of Lawyer Mead's office. Ides' nerves fluttered worse than ever when the hour approached; and Vallance could not decide to leave him a possible prey to the dangers he dreaded. When they entered the office, Lawyer Mead looked at them surprisingly. He and Vallance were old friends. (20)

"I sent a second letter to your address last night, Mr. Ides," he said. "It was to inform you that your uncle has reconsidered his offer to take you back into favour. He has now decided not to do so, and desires you to understand that no change will be made in the relations existing between you and him."

Ides' trembling suddenly ceased. The colour came back to his face, and he straightened his back. He took a long breath and then laughed sardonically. "Tell my uncle he may go to the devil," he said, loudly and turned and walked out of the office with a firm and lively step. Lawyer Mead turned on his heel to Vallance and smiled. (25)

"I am glad you came in," he said. "Your uncle wants you to return home at once. He is reconciled to the situation that led to his hasty action, and desires to say that all will be as...." (30)

"Hey, Adams!" cried Lawyer Mead, calling to his clerk. "Bring a glass of water – Mr. Vallance has fainted."

(a) i. Given below are four words or phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage (4)

1. generosity 2. statue 3. victim 4. mockingly

ii. For each of the words given below write a sentence of at least 10 words, using the same word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage : (4)

1. blow (line 9) 2. feet (line 15) 3. change (24) 4. firm (line 28)

- b. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible in your own words
- i. As per the first paragraph of the extract, enumerate the unfortunate incidents in Vallance's life. (2)
 - ii. What did Ides say about his imaginary fears? (2)
 - iii. How did Vallance show that he was concerned about Ides? (3)
 - iv. State the circumstances that led Vallance to faint. (3)
- c. In not more than 100 words, compare the fortunes of Vallance with that of Ides.
- i. List your ideas and points. (6)
 - ii. Write your points in the form of a connected passage. (6)

Downloaded From www.icseboard.org