

Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 2 Hrs. + 15 mins.

Std. : X

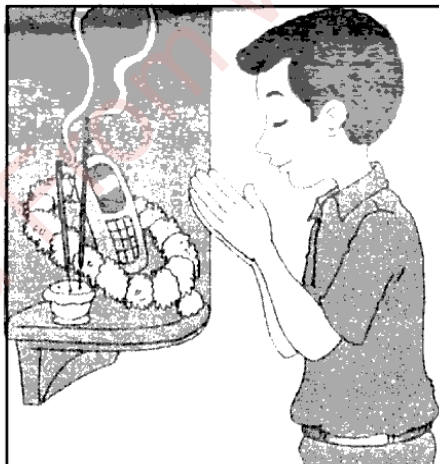
F. M. : 80

Q1. (Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question)

(25)

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following :

- Write a short story in which a little girl, her twin brother and the school bully are the main characters.
- “No other subject taught in school is as important as Moral Science.” Express your views either for or against the statement.
- Elements of Western Culture have had a very influential role on cultures of the world. How are these elements different from those of Indian culture? What according to you, should we as Indians adopt from the West to make life more meaningful?
- A village fair is very different from a city one. It is usually held annually and is connected with a religious festival or harvest. The purpose of such fairs is usually trade and to exhibit and sell village handicrafts. Describe one such fair.
- Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Q2. (Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question).

Select one of the following :

(10)

- You will soon have to make a decision about the subjects that you wish to study in classes XI and XII.

Write a letter to your Grandfather telling him about the subjects that you plan to take up. Be sure to explain the reason for your choice and how you think these subjects would help you in the future.

- The children in your neighbourhood are forced to play on the street for want of proper play area. Write a letter to the Editor of a popular newspaper, pointing out the need for a playground in your neighbourhood.

Q3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

(25)

At school everybody seemed to be overwhelmed by the thought of the examinations. It was weeks since anybody had seen a smile on Shankar's face. Somu had become brisk and businesslike. The Pea took time to grasp jokes and seldom made any either. And as for Rajam, he came to school at the stroke of the first bell, took down everything the teacher said, and left at the stroke of the last bell, hardly uttering a dozen words to anybody. Mani was beginning to look worried and took every opportunity to take Shankar aside and have his doubts (that arose from time to time as he plodded through his texts) cleared. He dogged the steps of the school clerk. There was a general belief in the school that the clerk was omniscient and knew all the question papers of all the classes.

One day Mani went to the clerk's house and laid a neat bundle containing fresh brinjals at his feet. The clerk was pleased and took Mani in and seated him on a stool.

The clerk looked extremely amiable and Mani felt that he could ask anything at that moment and get it. The clerk was murmuring something about his car, a lank ill-fed thing, that was nestling close to him. Most of what he was saying did not enter Mani's head. He was waiting feverishly to open the topic of question paper. The clerk had meanwhile passed from cats to eye-flies; but it made little difference to Mani, who was waiting for the other to pause for breath to launch his attack. "You must never let these eye-flies buzz near your eyes. All cases of eyesore can be traced on it. When you get eyesore the only thing you can do is to take a slice of raw onion..."

Mani realized that the other would not stop, and butted in, 'There is only a week more for the examinations, sir...'

The clerk was slightly puzzled : 'Yes. Indeed, a week more... You must take care to choose only the juicy variety, the large juicy variety, not the small onion...'

'Sir', Mani interrupted, ignoring the juicy variety, 'I am much worried about my examination.' He tried to look pathetic.

'I am glad. If you read well, you will pass,' said the Oracle.

'You see, Sir, I am so worried, I don't sleep at night, thinking of the examination... If you could possibly tell me something important... I have such a lot to study – I don't want to study unnecessary things that may not be necessary for the examination.' He meandered thus. The clerk understood what he was driving at, but said, 'Just read all your portions and you will pass.' Mani realized that diplomacy was not his line. He asked bluntly, 'Please tell me, sir, what questions are we getting for our examination?'

The clerk denied having any knowledge of the question papers. Mani flattered him by asking, if he did not know the questions, who else would. By just a little more of the same judicious flattery the clerk was moved to give what Mani believed to be valuable hints'. In spite of the fact that he did not know what he first form tests were the clerk ventured to advise, 'You must pay particular attention to Geography. Maybe you will have to practise map-drawing a lot. And in Arithmetic make it a point to solve at least five problems every day, and you will be able to tackle Arithmetic as easily as you swallow plaintains.'

'And what about English?'

'Oh, don't worry about that. Have you read all your lessons?'

'Yes, sir.' Mani replied without conviction

It is all right then. You must read all the important lessons again, and if you have time, yet again, and that will be ample.'

These answers satisfied Mani greatly. On his way home, he smiled to himself and said that the four annas he had invested on brinjals was not after all a waste.

- a. Give the meanings of the following words as used in the passage. One-word answers or short phrases will be accepted. (3)
- i. plodded ii. amiable iii. conviction
- b. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- i. What effect did the coming examinations have on :
Shankar, Somu, The Pea and Rajam? (4)
- ii. Which word in the passage describes the clerk as all-knowing? (1)
- iii. Why did Mani give the clerk fresh brinjals? (2)
- iv. What did the clerk believe was the reason for eyesore? What was the remedy? (2)
- v. Why did Mani try to look pathetic? (1)
- vi. Why did Mani ask the question bluntly? (2)
- c. What did Mani really want to know? What variable hints was he given. Write your answer in not more than 60 words. (8)
- d. Give a title to your summary in 3(c). State a reason to justify your choice. (2)

- Q4. a. In the following passage, fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets. (Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space). (4)

As she (0) _____ (speak) I (i) _____ (rise) and (ii) _____ (go) to the centre blackboard, I (iii) _____ (find) the chalk, (iv) _____ (write) in block letters the title of the book. Then I (v) _____ (put) the chalk down and went to (vi) _____ (sit), beside her, to (vii) _____ (hold) her hand.

The day had barely (viii) _____ (begin)

- b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words ; (4)
1. I saw Rita last summer, but _____ then I haven't seen her.
 2. A good leader must be _____ such mean considerations.
 3. There were old magazines lying _____ in his room.
 4. The doctor gave her an effective injection _____ Hepatitis
 5. They do not work carefully _____ the festival week.
 6. Their office functioned in this premises _____ twenty years.
 7. The three friends quarrelled _____ sharing the award money.

8. We walked on _____ we reached the shrine.
- c. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. (4)
- i. Swarna asked me a question. I was unable to answer it.
 - ii. You helped Tania. She will always be grateful.
 - iii. I heard you won a prize. I am extremely delighted.
 - iv. There was heavy traffic. We reached the stadium on time.
- d. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. (8)
1. He said, 'It must be my file as it looks like it.' (Begin : He said....)
 2. If the test is cancelled, I'll let you know. (Begin : Should....)
 3. Parking on this road is forbidden. (Begin : It.....)
 4. My brother spends as much as he earns. (Begin : The more....)
 5. The scheme was abandoned due to several protests. (Begin : In view of....)
 6. Apparently there has been an accident. (Begin : It....)
 7. Neither of her sons ever help her in morning. (Begin : Both)
 8. For all his intelligence, he is still not confident. (Use : Although)