Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 3 Hrs. + 15 mins.

Std. : XI

F. M. : 100

Attempt all four questions

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

All working, including rough work, should be done on the same sheet as the rest of the answer.

(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)

Q1. Write a composition on any one 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. Write an interesting and real description of yourself – what you look like, your likes and dislikes, your attitude to people, elders, peers, and those younger than you, your religious beliefs and your general philosophy of life.

b. Write for or against the statement : "Only greed brings unhappiness in life."

c. Analyse and show how the study of literature has added to your knowledge and personality.

d. Assess a situation where a closely contested soccer match is in progress in a stadium packed tightly with soccer fans.

e. Love

f. Write an original short story beginning –

There is a sweetness to be found in the sorrow of parting.

Q2. Write a review of a film you have recently watched (in approximately 300 words). Make use of the given points : (20)

Name of the film – director and producer – lead actors – plot – cinematography – insight into some interesting incidents – message – appeal of the film.

Q3. Answer section (a), (b) and (c):

(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete while sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence A. Write down sentence B in each case: [10]

Example:

(0) (A) : Everyone knows that Ram is brave.

(B) : There is no one

Answer: (0) There is no one who does not know that Ram is brave.

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(1) (A) : Those who are honest are trusted by all.

(B) The .....

(2) (A) : Kusum is not as intelligent as her brother Kabir.

(B) : Kabir .

(3) (A) : There were many problems in the beginning, all the same it has been a successful event.

(B) : Notwithstanding the .

(4) (A) : She was in a hurry and I was in a hurry too.

(B) : She was in a hurry and so ..... .

(5) (A) : Mr Kapoor taught us western music in school.

(B) : We were .

(6) (A) : I am sorry I am unable to accompany you.

(B) : I regret my .

(7) (A) : Smoking can cause damage to you health.

(B) : Your health .

(8) (A) : The prices of food grains have increased due to hoarding.

(B) : Hoarding has led .

(9) (A) : Not many people listen to the radio these days.

(B) : Few .

(10) (A) : Arun is fat, yet he runs fast.

(B) : In spite

(b) Fill in each blank with the appropriate word. (Do not write the sentence.) (5)

(1) Anna haggled _____ the vendor over the cost of the fruit.

(2) After haggling _____ the price, Barun finally bought the kurta.

(3) Manju was educated at a university abroad and she graduated _____ Economics.

(4) Most students wish to graduate _____ well-known university rather than a small one.

(5) Sanjeev's mother feared _____ her son who was fighting at the front.

(6) Rani did not bring up the topic for fear _____ upsetting .her father.

(7) As it was late, we checked _____ the first decent hotel we came to .

(8) On the last day of the holiday, we checked _____ of the hotel in the morning.

(9) Isaac stood deep in thought frowning _____ their unpleasantness.

(10) Most parents frown _____ too much play and too little study.

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(c) Fill in each blank in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not rewrite the passage but write down the verbs in the correct order: (5)

From January to March, the deep snow kept us within the school bounds, except when we ..... (1) (take) to church. But every day we had to spend an hour in the open air, and our clothing was insufficient .....(2) (protect) us from severe cold. The snow ..... (3) (get) into our shoes and .....(4) (melt) there. Our feet and hands ..... (5) (cover) with chilblains. The lack of good food was distressing, and besides the big girls would coax or menace the little ones out of their share. Many a time .....(6) (do) I see my precious bit of bread shared between two seniors, and half my mug of coffee ..... (7) (drink) by a third, leaving me ..... (8) (swallow) what was left, with secret tears. Sundays were dreary days in winter. We had to walk two miles to Brocklebridge church, where our patron was the clergyman. We set out .....(9) (feel) cold, arrived at the church colder after walking through the snow and ..... (10) (become) almost paralysed with cold during the long service.

QUESTION 4 (30)

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: William strolled through the village, his hands in his pockets, his lips pursed up to emit a loud untuneful whistle.

He had a whole half-holiday at his disposal, and was inclined to let Fate take it and do what she would with it. He was in the mood for adventure, and he felt that adventure might be waiting for him round any comer. If, however, no adventure waited for him, he meant to go and spend the afternoon in the grounds of the Hall. The Botts, who owned the Hall, had gone away, leaving in charge a caretaker who was partially deaf, partially blind, and more than partially slow-witted. Empty houses always had a strong fascination for William. He felt that anything might happen in them. And, even if it didn't, one could pretend that they were enemies' castles or fortresses, or even desert islands or pirates' ships. In any case, there was little danger on this occasion of the fun being spoilt by gardeners, as it so often was, because Mrs Bott had given all her gardeners, except one, a week's holiday, and that one spent most of his time dozing in a chair in the greenhouse.

As he walked along the road, his thoughts went to Robert, his elder brother, whom he had left at home in a state of extreme nervous tension. For Robert was, not for the first time, in "love. The beloved, who rejoiced in the name of Dahlia Macnamara, was a recent addition to the neighbourhood. Her family had only moved to the village last month. They were smart, sophisticated obviously-moneyed, and, so far, Dahlia' had given Robert little encouragement, She had, however, invited him to her birthday party today, and he had been to Hadley yesterday evening to buy her a present. It was the present that was worrying him. He was afraid that it wasn't good enough. He had noticed that all her things looked expensive, and this present didn't look expensive, for the simple reason that he'd only had three and six left from his allowance to spend on it. He'd bought her a necklace of green and red stones. It had looked very effective in the shop, but it looked less effective now every time he took it out of its box to inspect it. He was beginning, indeed, to have a horrible suspicion that it looked common. The thought that she might find it so and judge him accordingly,' turned him hot and cold all over, and he had a wild temptation to sell his motorbike in order to buy her something really splendid. Common sense, however, prevailed. The saner part of him realised that girls may come and girls may go, but a motor bike remains a motor bike. He was, however, desperately worried about the necklace.

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

1. cultured and refined 2. rich 3. pocket money 4. walked casually

(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 it carries in the passage: (4)

1. charge 2. round 3. moved 4. blind

Answer the following questions as briefly as possible in your own words:

1. Why did William want to go to the Hall? (2)
2. Why did empty houses have a fascination for William? (2)
3. Why was there little danger on this occasion of the fun being spoilt by gardeners? (3)
4. Describe in detail what you come to know about Dahlia Macnamara from the passage? (3)

In about 100 words of your own describe why Robert was desperately worried about the necklace and the thoughts that went through his mind. You will be required to :

(i) list your ideas and points

(ii) write your points in the form of a connected passage. (6+6=12)

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