

**Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Time : 2 Hrs. + 15 mins.

F. M. : 80

Std. : VIII

- I. Write a composition on any one of the following : (25)
- A railway station
  - Choose any two films, one that you liked and the other that you disliked. Explain why you liked the first and disliked the second.
  - You had to stay in bed for a week because you were injured. Write a real or imaginary account of your experience.
  - Write a short story to support the proverb. "Pride goes before a fall"

- II. Write a letter on any one of the following : (10)
- Your neighbour's cat often enters your home and creates a nuisance. Write a letter to your neighbour complaining about this and request him to ensure that the cat is not allowed to stray.

OR

- A registered parcel sent from abroad has been delivered to you in a damaged condition and with items missing. Write a letter of complaint to the Post-Master General giving full details of your loss.

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

On 29th May, 1953, two men reached the top of Everest, the highest mountain in the world. One was Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander and the other was Tenzing, who is a sherpa, a native of the Himalayas mountains. These two men of different races shared the honour of the historic climb. But that climb, in itself, is not the only reason why I have put Tenzing in this book. I have put him in because he is the only man I can think of, in modern times, who was born in a poor and primitive tribe, far away from civilization, and yet has won world wide fame. Tenzing's mother and father were the very simplest of peasant farmers. He never went to school. When he was a small boy his job was to help to look after his father's animals, which were sheep and goats and yaks, and he never had to learn to read or write. Yet now, the name of Tenzing is known all over the world; and he has won his fame not just through luck, but because of his own skill and character, and because when he was a boy he had a single great ambition and has stuck to it all his life. His ambition was to climb the mountains round his home; and his home was near Everest and Everest was the highest mountain he could see, so his special ambition was to climb to the top of that mountain.

When Tenzing was a very small boy, his father used to send him out with the herds of yaks while they were grazing. In summer, the yaks went high up the mountain sides above the following forests, to crop the grass which grows just below the snow and glaciers and the vast rock walls of the high peaks. Many of Tenzing's people believed that the mountain peaks were the homes of gods and demons, and Tenzing was half afraid of them; yet even then, out alone with the herds, he used to dream day-dreams, and imagine that one day he could climb to the highest summit and see what

was on the other side, and perhaps even visit holy cities of Tibet, which his parents had told him lay beyond the mountains. The whole of Tenzing's life is the story of how he made this dream come true.

He was forty when he got to the top of Everest, and after the age of forty-five his climbing days were over, but he still loved the mountains more than anything, and the Indian Government made him the head of a mountaineering school where he can teach young Indians to love the mountain. The boy who herded yaks has gone a long way, and any one can learn this lesson from his life : that if one has one great ambition and never loses sight of it, one is well on the way to achieving it in the end.

- a. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. One word answer or short phrases will be accepted : (3)
- i. historic    ii. summit    iii. primitive
- b. Answer the following questions in your own words :
- i. Who is Sherpa? (1)
- ii. For which two reasons was Tenzing included in the book referred to in the extract? (2)
- iii. State two reasons why, despite hardships, Tenzing achieved fame? (2)
- iv. When Tenzing was a small boy what particular task was he asked to undertake? Where, as a result, he had to go? (2)
- v. Why was Tenzing, as a small boy, afraid? State the two day-dreams which Tenzing had in spite of his fear. (3)
- vi. How did the Indian Government honour him? What lesson one can learn from Tenzing's life? (2)
- c. In not more than 60 words, summarise the life history of Tenzing. Give a title to the passage and justify. (8+2)

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

Mid afternoon while (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) my report to Mrs. Biggs. I (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) a loud thumping (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from the direction of her store room.

"What (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) all that noise downstairs?" I asked.

"Probably a rat. I don't hear anything," she replied.

I ran downstairs and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the storeroom door. There was Mr. Biggs (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (look) very dusty and very disgruntled; he wanted to know why Mrs. Biggs (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (shut) him up for hours. He had gone into the storeroom in search of a walking stick and Mrs. Biggs (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the door open, had promptly (8) \_\_\_\_\_ bolt it.

- b. Fill in the blanks in a single appropriate word. (4)
- i. You must take the help \_\_\_\_\_ Internet for your project.
- ii. Have you realised that all religions teach us the virtue \_\_\_\_\_ truth?
- iii. My son gave me a rare gift \_\_\_\_\_ my birthday.

- iv. It has been a long time \_\_\_\_\_ I played a cricket match.
- v. One should never try to live \_\_\_\_\_ one's means.
- vi. I go jogging \_\_\_\_\_ the beach every morning.
- vii. The four neighbours always argued \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
- viii. She ran \_\_\_\_\_ the road to catch a three wheeler.
- c. Combine the following sentences without using and, but or so. (4)
- i. Keep on walking. You will finally come to a gate.
- ii. Hari does not write fast. He writes very neatly.
- iii. We fled from the scene. We could be killed.
- iv. I would go with you. I have no money.
- d. Rewrite the following sentences according to the given instructions : (8)
- i. The thief ran so fast that the police could not catch him. (Rewrite using 'too')
- ii. The child disappeared as soon as the bus stopped. (Begin ..... Hardly .....)
- iii. "Please teach me to cycle," she said to Raj. (Begin : She requested)
- iv. The peasants regarded him as a thief and called him a villain. (End ..... the peasants)
- v. Everybody has heard of Gandhiji. (Begin : Who.....)
- vi. As soon as the Chief Guest had seated himself, the play began. (Begin: No sooner.....)
- vii. Kolkata is the busiest city in India. (Begin : No other.....)
- viii. Megha is too tall to crawl under the table. (Begin : Megha is so.....)