

Half Yearly Examination - 2018-19

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Class : VIII

Time : 2 Hrs. 15 Mins.

Full Marks : 80

Answer five questions in all

Section A

Question 1

During the 1950's, Mandela qualified as a lawyer and dealt with cases of discrimination that other lawyers would not touch.

- a. Briefly describe Mandela's early life and education. (3)
- b. Why is the period before the arrival of 'White Man' referred to as "good old days"? (3)
- c. What were the grounds of discrimination in South Africa at the time? (3)
- d. What happened after Mandela was released from the prison? (3)
- e. What opinion do you form about Nelson Mandela from your reading of the chapter? (4)

Question 2

As I passed the Mayor's office, I saw that there were people gathered about the little board on which notices were posted.

- a. Who passed the Mayor's office? What was he worried about as he hurried to school? (3)
- b. What was the school normally like at the start of the day? What was it like that day? (3)
- c. What surprising things did the speaker notice after settling down at his desk? (3)
- d. When Monsieur Hamel broke the news that it was the last class in French. What thoughts came to the speaker's mind? (3)

- e. Did you like the way the story ends? Why? (4)

Question 3

- a. Describe the encounter between Framton and Vera. (4)
- b. Who walked in through the open window. Describe their appearance in detail. What was Framton's reaction to this? (8)
- c. Which character in the story, according to you is the most strange? Why? What would you do if you met a person who was like that? (4)

SECTION B

Question 4

I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bare
long after it was heard no more.

- a. Who is 'I'? What was she doing in the field? (3)
- b. To what has the poet compared the girl's song? (3)
- c. What kind of a song is she singing? What could be the content of the song? (3)
- d. What effect did the song have on the poet? (3)
- e. What is the theme of the poem? (4)

Question 5

Where the mind is without fear
and the Head is held high;
Where knowledge is free

- a. What does the poet mean by 'Head is held high'? When can this happen? (3)
- b. How can we attain perfection? (3)

- c. Explain the lines :

Where the world has not been broken up into
fragments by narrow domestic walls? (3)

- d. Who is 'my father'? Where will he lead us? (3)
- e. What dreams does the poet have for his country? (4)

Question 6

Macavity's a mystery cat: he's called the Hidden Paw -
For he's the master criminal who can defy the law.

- a. Why has Macavity been called the master criminal? Why does he baffle the Scotland Yard? (3)
- b. Describe Macavity in your own words. (3)
- c. Why does the poet call Macavity a friend and monster? (3)
- d. Why is there 'no one like Macavity'? (3)
- e. Do you like Macavity? Why? (4)