

**Quarterly Examination - 2017-2018**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Time : 2 hrs. 15 min.  
F. M. : 80

Std. : VIII

**Question 1**

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

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following : (25)

- a. Describe a day at home when an unexpected visitor arrived. Explain what happened and how the day ended.
- b. "Look before you leap." Narrate an incident from your experience which brings out the truth of this statement.
- c. Advertisement lead to wasteful expenditure. Give your views either for or against the statement.
- d. Write a short story with the title : 'A blessing in disguise'.
- e. Study the picture given below. Write a story or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; but there must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition.



**Question 2**

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

(10)

Select one of the following :

- a. You are suffering from chickenpox. Write an application to your Principal requesting him to grant you leave for two weeks.
- b. You are studying in a residential school. Write a letter to your father, explaining how you are spending your time in the hostel.

### Question 3

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions :

(25)

Vicomte inherited a large house from his uncle. He learnt that, populated by tenants, the building was fetching huge revenue. "Too much, too much entirely," thought the generous vicomte "My uncle was too hard to rent out the units at this exorbitant price. I will begin tomorrow to lower my rents and my tenants will bless me."

With this excellent purpose in view, Vicomte notified all the tenants that their rents were lowered by one third thereafter. The unheard of word 'lower' fell like a brick on the head of Bernard ---- the caretaker of the building. "Lower the rents!" He stammered. "Never was such a thing known. Truly..."

Vicomte interrupted Bernard and strictly commanded him to follow orders, without any debate. Staggering, Bernard went out, all his ideas upset, overthrown, confounded

Next morning, Bernard, buttoning himself into his best coat, made the rounds of the lodges to announce the great news. Ten minutes later the whole house was in commotion. People were clustered together and chatted eagerly. A few of them wrote to the proprietor to warn that his caretaker has wholly lost his mind. Vicomte responded, confirming what Bernard had said/ Now began a round of reflections and commentaries.

"An intelligent man would never deprive himself of fat revenue. This kind of conduct is surely forced by powerful or terrible circumstances."

"This man must have committed a great and hidden crime, remorse pushes him to charity."

"The house, perhaps, was badly built?" Some questioned anxiously.

"Perhaps, there is a press for printing counterfeit money in the cellar," added a basement lodger.

Another gentleman suggested that the proprietor proposed to set fire to this house to draw huge sums from the insurance companies.

From worry it had come to fright; from fright it quickly passed to terror. Everybody left the place in a couple of weeks. From top to bottom, from foundation to attic, the house lay empty of lodgers. After a few months, following a more frightful nightmare even Bernard gave up his keys and scampered away.

The accursed house now stands completely abandoned; so dismal is its reputation, that even the neighbouring houses on either side of it have also depreciated in value. Dust thickens upon the closed gates, grass grows in the courtyard. Lower the rent! Who would think of such a thing!

a. Give the meanings of the following words as used in the passage. (3)

- i. confounded      ii. clustered      iii. remorse

b. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words :

i. Why did Vicomte decide to lower the rent? (2)

ii. What was Bernard's reaction to the decision? (2)

- iii. How did the tenants react immediately after Bernard informed them of the decision? (2)
- iv. Mention any four reasons the tenants offered to explain the proprietor's strange action. (4)
- v. What eventually happened to the house? (2)
- c. In not more than sixty words, summarise how a generous gesture by the proprietor was mistaken by the tenants and it had adverse consequence. (8)
- d. Give a title to your summary and give a reason to justify your choice. (2)

**Question 4**

- a. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in the brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write, in the correct serial order, the word or phrases appropriate to the blank spaces. (4)

One day Akbar \_\_1\_\_ (ask) Birbal if he \_\_2\_\_ (can) tell him the difference between the truth and falsehood in three words or less. "Four fingers" said Birbal. "Four fingers?" asked the emperor, \_\_3\_\_ (perplex). "That's the difference between truth and falsehood, your Majesty," said Birbal. That which you \_\_4\_\_ (see) with your own eyes is the truth. That which you have only \_\_5\_\_ (hear) about \_\_6\_\_ (may) not be true. More often than not, it is likely to be false." "That is right," said Akbar, "But what did you mean by \_\_7\_\_ (say) the difference is four fingers? The distance between one's eye's and one's ears is the width of four fingers. Your Majesty," said Birbal. \_\_8\_\_ (grin).

- b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : (4)
  - i. Inflation brought \_\_\_\_\_ our standard of living.
  - ii. The burglars broke \_\_\_\_\_ our shop.
  - iii. There was a dispute \_\_\_\_\_ the father and the son.
  - iv. The child is hard \_\_\_\_\_ hearing.
  - v. Malaria has broken \_\_\_\_\_ in the town.
  - vi. The hunger strike was called \_\_\_\_\_ last night.
  - vii. The old man was run \_\_\_\_\_ by a truck.
  - vii. We shall discuss this matter \_\_\_\_\_ a cup of tea.
- c. Join the sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so : (4)
  - i. He was felicitated. He saved a number of lives.
  - ii. Rabindranath Tagore was a great poet. He composed Gitanjali.
  - iii. This is a small village. My father was born here.
  - iv. The child is carrying a bag. It is filled with water balloons.

- 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.
- i. All the students in our class were promoted. (Use : detained) (8)
  - ii. My cousin is short, yet he is a good basketball player. (Use : in spite of)
  - iii. Avoid taking shortcuts in life. (End :..... be avoided)
  - iv. The result surprised everybody in the country. (Begin : The result took....)
  - v. We entered the hall and the programme began. (Begin : No sooner....)
  - vi. They could not complete the painting as it began to rain. (Use : prevented)
  - vii. The child is so ill that he may not survive. (Use : too...)
  - viii. Few good doctors are to be found in this village : (Use : dearth)