

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR
Half Yearly Examination (2019 – 2020)

Class : XI
Subject: English Core

MM : 80
Time: 03 Hrs.

(Fifteen Minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)

General Instructions:

- (1) This Question Paper is divided into three sections – A, B and C. All the questions are compulsory.
 - (2) Separate instructions are given with every section and question wherever necessary. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
 - (3) Do not exceed the word limit while answering the questions.
 - (4) You may attempt any section at one time but try to attempt the questions of a section together.
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SECTION – A (READING SKILLS) (20 MARKS)

Q. 1 - Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Modern English is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. Language becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts and so on indefinitely. Below are various means by which the work of good prose construction is habitually dodged.

Dying metaphors are used because they save people from the trouble of inventing phrases for themselves. However, they have lost all evocative power. Examples are 'toe the line' and 'ride roughshod over'. Many of these are used without knowledge of their meaning and incompatible metaphors are frequently mixed. Some metaphors have been twisted out of their original meaning without those who use them even being aware of the fact.

Verbal false limbs save the trouble of picking out appropriate verbs and nouns. Characteristic phrases are 'render inoperative' and 'militate against'. In addition, noun constructions are used instead of gerunds (e.g., 'by examination of' instead of 'by examining').

Pretentious diction is used to dress up a simple statement and give an air of scientific impartiality to biased judgments. Foreign words and expressions such as '*mutatis mutandis*', '*status quo*' and '*weltanschauung*' are used to give an air of culture and elegance. There is no real need for any of the hundreds of foreign phrases now current in the English language. The result, in general, is an increase in slovenliness and vagueness.

Meaningless words are abundant. The word 'fascism' has now no meaning except in so far as it signifies 'something not desirable'. The words 'democracy', 'freedom' and 'justice' have each of them several different meanings which cannot be reconciled with one another. In the case of a word like 'democracy'. Not only is there no agreed definition, but the attempt to make one is resisted from all sides. It is almost universally felt that when we call a country democratic we are praising it.

Consequently, the defenders of every kind of regime claim that it is democracy and fear that they might have to stop using that word if it were tied down to any one meaning. Words of this kind are often used in a consciously dishonest way. The person who uses them has his own private definition, but allows his hearer to think he means something quite different.

1.1 - On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions briefly: **(1x6 = 6)**

- (i) What makes language disagreeable and incorrect?
- (ii) What factors lend ambiguity to prose construction?
- (iii) Why is there a tendency towards using pretentious or showy diction and foreign words in modern English?
- (iv) Why does the author consider a large number of words in the English language meaningless?
- (v) Which word in the paragraph 5 is a synonym of 'plentiful'?
- (vi) Which word in paragraph 6 is an antonym of 'accidentally'?

1.2 - On the basis of your reading of the passage, complete the statements given below by choosing the correct options from those given below: **(1x6 = 6)**

- (i) The use of showy words makes the language
(a) influential (b) unclear (c) expressive (d) easy
- (ii) People use obsolete or old metaphors because
(a) They like using classical themes (c) It is considered fashionable
(b) They do not want to devise new metaphors (d) It reflects their learning
- (iii) 'Verbal false limbs' are expressions that
(a) Are vague (c) Appear more important sounding
(b) Do not give correct information (d) None of the above
- (iv) A problem observed in people using dying metaphors is that
(a) The user does not know its meaning (c) The metaphors are mixed
(b) Their meaning is changed from the original meaning (d) All of the above
- (v) The word used in paragraph 1 is an antonym of 'tidiness'.
(a) Slovenliness (b) Habits (c) Ugliness (d) Smartness
- (vi) The word used in paragraph 4 is a synonym of 'contemporary'.
(a) Modern (b) Current (c) Pretentious (d) Elegant

Q. 2 – Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Depression is a common problem of modern times. Both the rich and poor suffer from it. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), by the year 2020 depression will become the second leading cause of disease in the world. Many solutions have been prescribed for the problem of

depression, but most have proved to be ineffective as a complete cure. They may offer temporary relief, but fail to resolve the problem permanently.

Meditation is often advised to treat the problem of depression. But meditation focuses on the heart and modern science has established that the heart is merely an organ that pumps blood, whereas many kinds of depression stem from the mind. It is the mind that controls the heart and not *vice-versa*. In many cases, depression is non-physical and the heart is physical. How can a physical organ resolve a non-physical problem?

We also often hear about physical techniques to counter depression. But the reach of physical techniques is confined to the body and does not extend to the mind.

Many kinds of depression are the result of non-acceptance of reality. The real solution to this problem is the acceptance of reality. While non-acceptance creates the problem, acceptance of reality will solve it.

Our world is one of freedom, competition, challenge and clash of interests. This nature of human life is bound to create problems. No one is exempted from this process. This being so, to de-stress, learn the art of stress management rather than trying to eliminate the stress.

A person may become sad upon facing a loss in business or feeling discriminated against at work. He may give in to anxiety and frustration, if he suffers a loss in an election, if his love marriage turns into a problem marriage or if he is offended by criticism. In all such cases, a person becomes negative because of being unaware of the real cause. He attributes the cause to another person and holds this person responsible for his difficulties. He fails to realise that all these are due to the law of nature.

If you attribute the cause of the problem to the divine law of nature, it will arouse no negativity, but when you attribute it to a person, it brings on negative thinking. This is because the law of nature is not your rival, whereas you see a person as your competitor. When you attribute the cause of your problem to a rival, it will invariably arouse negative thoughts and cause anger. But when you attribute the cause to the law of nature, because it is not your rival and is equal in its treatment of all, it will lead to introspection.

When you follow nature-based thinking instead of man-based thinking, you will try to discover its wisdom and will realise that whatever has happened is for your betterment. It was to activate your mind and enhance its creativity. It was a means of developing a realistic approach, fostering incentive, making you realize your mistake and helping you to re-plan practically. When this thought comes to you, your mind will automatically change from negative to positive. You will be grateful towards the law of nature for bestowing this blessing in disguise. This thought will eliminate your stress and you will be able to live normally. This is a good way to de-stress the mind.

Questions:

2.1 – On the basis of your reading of the given passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four). Supply an appropriate title to it. (4)

2.2 – Write a summary of the given passage in about 80 words. (4)

SECTION: B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS) (30 MARKS)

Q. 3 – Write a notice for the '10th All India Poster Making Competition' to be held in your school on 112th November, 2019. Provide the other necessary details. (4)

You have found a briefcase in a bus to Ajmer. Write an advertisement for the 'Lost and Found' column of the newspaper.

Q. 4 – Write a letter to Lightways Sports, Amrapalli, Raipur, placing an order for sports articles (minimum 5) to be supplied to your school. Sign as Rajni/ Rajesh, Sports Secretary. (6)

OR

You plan to join an advanced course in English Speaking offered by the Vocational Training College, New Delhi. You are Anil/ Shobha of Dhruva Apartments, Shahid Nagar, Patiala. Write a letter to the Director, English Language Teaching Division of the college, requesting to send you the information on the courses offered, fees and duration of the courses etc.

Q. 5 – Write a letter to the Editor of an English daily, appealing for help for the victims of flood. You are Rohit/ Reena. (6)

OR

As the Head Boy of your school, write a letter to the Principal requesting him to arrange programme of career counseling for the students of class XI and XII. Request him to invite experts from several professions to speak to the students to give insights and information.

Q. 6 – You are concerned about the ongoing controversy regarding the media's role in sensationalizing news, moulding public opinion and moral policing. Write an article for a newspaper in 150-200 words on the topic 'Role of Media – What Should it be?'. You are Sakshya/ Sakshi. (8)

OR

You are Ajeet/ Meeta, studying in Class XI. You have been asked by your Principal to speak in the morning assembly on 'The Importance of English'. Draft the speech in 150-200 words.

Q. 7 – Read the following questions carefully and rewrite them correcting the errors they contain: (1x2 = 2)

- (i) Do your deodorant leave your skin cold and dry?
- (ii) Kejriwal puts 18 conditions before Sonia and Rajnath.

Q. 8 – Transform the following sentences as directed: (1x2 = 2)

- (i) Do good and be good. (Use modal verb 'will')
- (ii) Life and hope are inseparable. (Use modal verb 'can')

Q. 9 – Rearrange the following words and sentences to form meaningful sentences: (1x2 = 2)

- (i) the witness/ bribed/ suspected that/ had been/ the judge
- (ii) be forgotten/ how will/ by me/ those/ happy/ days

SECTION 'C' (LITERATURE) (30 MARKS)

Q. 10 – Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow (Any Two): (1x2 = 2)

*I descend to lave the droughts, atomies,
Dust layers of globe,
And all that in them without me were seeds
Only, latent, unborn.*

Questions:

- (i) With what purpose does the rain descend from the sky?
 - (ii) What will happen if 'I' was not there?
 - (iii) What are latent and unborn and why?
- Q. 11** – Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each (Any Five): (2x5 = 10)
- (i) "We protested but she ignored our protest." Who protested and why? (The Portrait of a Lady)
 - (ii) "Curse of the pharaoh", joked the guard nervously. What is the curse and why did the guard say so?
 - (iii) What is 'Middle Void'? (Landscape of the Soul)
 - (iv) "You only notice when something is missing" What human trait has been brought by the narrator through these lines?
 - (v) At the end, do you think that Ranga stuck to his views on marriage?
 - (vi) "A man could be the father of his son's flesh, but that did not mean that he was the father of his spirit." Do you agree with this statement? Why/ Why not?

Q. 12 - Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)
People like Mrs Dorling forget the ultimate end of man. For some earthly gain, people discard their values. Elucidate.

OR

The narrator is very proud of his village Hoshahalli. In the context of the chapter 'Ranga's Marriage'. Relate some of the advantages of village life. Why should we never forget our roots?

Q. 13 - Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)
'We're Not Afraid to Die' is a saga of patience and bravery. Comment.

OR

Briefly recount what happened to the painter Wu Daoji in the chapter 'Landscape of the Soul'.

Q. 14 - Answer the following question in 120-150 words: (6)
What quality do you learn from the goldfinch in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?

OR

A life of dedication and integrity can be lived even without college or university level education, as the grandmother demonstrates. Elaborate. (The Portrait of a Lady)
