

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

Class: VIII

MM: 80

Subject: English

Time: 3 Hrs.

Name: _____ Class / Section: _____

Roll No.: _____

Fifteen Minutes Extra will be for reading the Question Paper.

General Instructions:

- I. The question paper is divided into three sections :
SECTION A: Reading 20 MARKS
SECTION B: Writing and Grammar 30 MARKS
SECTION C: Literature 30 MARKS
- II. All questions are compulsory.
- III. You may attempt any section at a time.
- IV. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION – A READING

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

1. A noble purpose gives meaning to one's own life and benefit to other. I realised this when researching on and writing about the life of Jamsetji Tata. What gave one man living in a colonised country the vision to advance it in the community of nations? He not only gave India the power of steel and hydroelectric energy, but also an institute of research.
2. He sent an educationist to Europe and the United States to report on what should be the best Model for India. The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore was recommended as the Model. But Jamsetji made it a point to see that his name was not associated with the university. After his death, his dream came true with the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. It was to be the fountainhead of Science in the decades to come.
3. There are others too whose purpose in life has made a difference to society. Mother Teresa had a comfortable life at Loretto Convert, Kolkata. On a train journey to Darjeeling, she felt her 'calling' and wanted to give up her comfortable life in the convent and serve the poor and the needy.
4. After that, she took a three-month nursing course and returned to Kolkata. She devoted her time to the sick and the homeless. Touched by her sacrifice, some of her students joined her and work began. Not everyone has such a strong calling. When I asked her how one could be sure of one's calling, she replied, "Deep down in our hearts we know exactly what our calling is, if we are sincere."
5. One's purpose is shaped over a period of time, but every noble purpose is based on a feeling for the suffering of others and a desire for alleviating that condition. Some years ago, in Kerala, a young man saw his father join Gandhiji and fight for opening temples to the Harijans. When he grew up, the boy decided to take up agricultural studies, because he had seen the havoc caused by the Bengal Famine. He went to Europe and studied agriculture. On his return to India, he spearheaded the Green Revolution. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan demonstrates hot purpose intensifies with time.

Read the given questions and write the answer in a sentence.

(1x8=8 marks)

- a. What are the major contributions of Jamsetji Tata?
- b. Why did Jamsetji Tata send an educationist to Europe and the USA?

- c. Mention two things about Indian Institute of Science?
- d. How did Mother Teresa start working for the poverty-stricken people?
- e. What was the first step that Mother Teresa took?
- f. How can we find our calling (according to Mother Teresa)?
- g. What gives meaning to one's life and benefit to others?
- h. What do we learn from the life of people like M.S. Swaminathan?

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

1. Science and technology not only dominate the psyche of humanity but also the whole biosphere. How does science influence civilization and how is it related to human happiness.
2. The Original, cosmic evolution of the biosphere was one that promoted, supported, nourished, sustained and enhanced life. Life went on adding to the evolution with newer species and ecosystems, even more beautiful and vibrant than the ones before. Our biosphere accommodated a pleasant weather cycle and climate system to support these newer species, keeping everything in dynamic equilibrium.
3. Now the biosphere is overburdened and ailing. Some of our ecosystems have already collapsed, while others are at death's door. Ever increasing pollution coupled with over exploitation of natural resources and greenhouse gas emission is driving several species towards extinction. This is not a phenomenon that has occurred by itself, and neither has it been caused by, human beings alone. But it definitely has been spurred by so-called advances in technology.
4. In this millennium, we no longer live in a, biosphere – we are inhabitants of a techno sphere. A techno sphere is an impaired biosphere that has no affinity with values of life nor with sustainability and evaluation of life. Although technology had empowered civilization, it has also reduced it to being a mere toll of science and technology. And when the whole civilization turns technocratic, science and technology are bound to dominate, causing life to shrink. The intensifying climate crisis is but a symptom of the biosphere's illness and life's gradual collapse.
5. We've reached a point where we are intolerant of anything remotely "unscientific" in our contemporary world. Scientists look for alternatives, but even these solutions are sought in the same domain that has caused these problem. In short, we are stewing in a soup of our own making.
6. So, what would be meaningful for the welfare of humans?
7. Naturally something that would enhance life, serve to integrate ecosystems and cleanse our environment.
8. Enhancement of life includes betterment of human life and vice versa. If life shrinks, we cannot blossom.
9. Science and technology by themselves are neutral; it is the way we use them that has either a positive or negative impact on our lives and environment. And when we use science in a manner that increases unsustainability and unhappiness in our lives, how can we rely blindly on science for our happiness.

2.1. Read the given questions and answer in about 30-40 words.

(4x2 = 8 marks)

- a. How did the biosphere evolve over a period of time?
- b. How has this equilibrium got disturbed now?
- c. What is the difference between biosphere and techno sphere?
- d. Man needs to use 'science and technology' in a sensible manner. Explain.

2.2. Choose the correct option that is closest in meaning to the words given.

(1x1 = 4 marks)

- a. Psyche
 - (i) Mind (ii) Thinking (iii) wisdom (iv) mental
- b. enhance
 - (i) prove (ii) increase (iii) remove (iv) lower
- c. collapsed
 - (i) broken (ii) disappeared (iii) removed (iv) taken away
- d. Affinity
 - (i) dislike (ii) care (iii) support (iv) natural liking

SECTION - B WRITING & GRAMMAR

Q3. Using information from the dialogue given below, write the message which Amrita left for her brother, Sourajit. Do not leave out any vital information or add any new information. (4 marks)

Shekhar: Is this 28473892?

Amrita: Yes. May I know who is speaking?

Shekhar: I am Shekhar. I want to speak to Sourajit. I am his friend from IHM, Goa.

Amrita: I am his sister. Sourajit is not at home at the moment. Can you ring up a little later?

Shekhar: I shall be a little busy. Actually, I have got a placement at the Taj, Mumbai, and

will have to join with immediate effect. So right now I am trying to get all the formalities completed. This is the news that I wanted to give Sourajit. Will you do that for me? Also tell him that I will let him know my new cell phone number as soon as I get one.

Amrita: I'll do that. Bye and all the best.

Amrita had to leave for office. So she wrote a note for Sourajit. Write her message in not more than 50 words.

Q4. Write a letter to the in-charge of text-books section of NCERT, New Delhi complaining about the non-availability of text books even one month after beginning of new session. You are Rohit Rana reading in St. Xavier's school, Delhi. (10marks)

OR

Gandhinagar is a thickly populated locality inhabited mainly by the working class people. Unfortunately, there is no Amul milk booth in the locality. Write a letter in 100 - 120 words to the editor of a local daily drawing the attention of the authorities to the problem faced by the people, requesting them to open a milk booth. You are Sham / Shobha, 4, Gandhinagar, Mumbai. (10marks)

Q5. Choose the most appropriate to complete the following passage. (any four) (1 x 4 = 4 marks)

Since the beginning of human existence, people (a) _____ over the world have expressed their emotions and ideas (b) _____ the medium of dance. The word 'folk' means people. Folk dances express the moods and feelings of common people. Different regions (c) _____ India have (d) _____ own dances. (e) _____ dance is accompanied by music and songs of the region to which it belongs.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| (a) i) all | ii) whole | iii) much | iv) more |
| (b) i) in | ii) into | iii) through | iv) of |
| (c) i) at | ii) of | iii) for | iv) from |
| (d) i) there | ii) their | iii) them | iv) thers |
| (e) i) Each | ii) All | iii) Whole | iv) Many |

Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and correction in your answer. (1 x 4 = 4 marks)

	Error	Correction
Adults needs five to nine hours of sleep every day.	Eg: needs	need
Our health flourishes on the consistent sleep pattern.	a)	
One should get up at the same time each day. Too much	b)	
sleep make you feel less alert and reduces the number of hours you	c)	
are awake so that it's harder to fell asleep the following night.	d)	

Q7. Do as directed:

(1 x 4 = 4 marks)

- A lot of work _____ (has/have) to be completed. (Choose the correct option)
- He hid himself under the ridge. He wanted to escape from police. (combine by using an infinitive)
- Meena is very strong. She carries a bundle of sticks. (Combine by using a participle)
- No other season is as pleasant as spring. (Write the superlative degree of the given sentence)

Q8. Rearrange the following sentences to make meaningful sentences:

(1 x 4 = 4 marks)

- (a) never / alone / that / power / comes / said / is / it

- (b) by / followed / it / is / arrogance / generally
- (c) daughter / with / friendly / her / tried / never / to be / Girija
- (d) set / own / had / of / friends / she / her
- (e) busy / own activities / always / was / her / she / with

SECTION – C LITERATURE

Q9. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

(1 x 4 = 4 marks)

“If you are not careful, you will soon be counting bars there,” the girl said. ”

- a) Who is the speaker here?
- b) What is she referring to ?
- c) To whom is this sentence addressed?
- d) What does the phrase mean 'counting bars'?

OR

A silly young cricket, accustomed to sing

Through the warm, sunny months of gay summer and spring,

Began to complain when he found that, at home,

His cupboard was empty, and winter was come.

Not a crumb to be found

On the snow-covered ground;

Not a flower could he see,

Not a leaf on a tree.

“Oh! What will become,” says the cricket, “of me?”

- a) Which season is being spoken here?
- b) Who speaks 'what will become of me'?
- c) Which word in the stanza means ' a piece of bread'?
- d) What difficulty or crisis is talked about in the above stanza?

Q10. Answer any five in 30 to 40 words:

(2 x 5 = 10 marks)

- a) What does the title of the lesson ' Treasure with in' mean & highlight?
- b) Describe Connie of the lesson 'The best Christmas Present in the world' and what was her reaction when the author spoke to her?
- c) In the lesson 'Glimpses of the Past', what did Macaulay suggest in 1835?
- d) In the poem 'Macavity the Mystery Cat' how does Macavity outwits the world's top investigating agencies?
- e) In the lesson 'Children at work' what sort of girl was Jaya? How did she help Velu?
- f) In the poem 'Last Bargain' how did the poet feel after talking to the child on the beach?

Q11. Answer the following in about 100-150 words each:

[8 marks]

In the lesson 'How the Camel got his hump' how did the Camel get his hump?

OR

In the lesson 'The Selfish Giant' what evidence do you find in the story about Giant's selfishness and wicked nature? Did he stick to this? How do you know?

Q12. Answer the following in about 100-150 words each:

[8 marks]

In the lesson 'Bepin Choudhury's Lapse of Memory', what was Bepin Choudhury's ailment or problem? Was it real or deliberate?

OR

Who is Tilly Smith? How did the geography lesson of Tilly Smith help her to understand the impending Tsunami?