

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR**  
**Annual Examination (2023 – 2024)**

**Class: VIII**  
**Subject: English**

**MM: 80**  
**Time: 3 Hrs.**

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

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three parts: Section A, B & C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

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**Section A - Reading Skills [20 Marks]**

**Q1. Read the passage given below:**

(1) Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing on your mind?

(2) If your answer is yes, then you should understand that you are not a robot. Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow despite our circumstances and limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true feels great when life goes our way. But what happens when it does not? What happens when you fail despite all your hard work? Do you stay down and accept defeat or do you get up again? If you tend to persevere and keep going, you have what experts call 'grit'.

(3) Falling down or failing is one of the most agonising, embarrassing, and scary human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential part of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that has been described as the key to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are curiosity, gratitude, optimism, selfcontrol, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is an example of grit for trying more than 1,000 times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you will realise the importance of his success. When asked why he kept going despite hundreds of failures, he merely stated that they had not been failures, they were hundreds of attempts towards creating the light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side.

(4) Grit can be learnt to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that help is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that makes an individual stay at the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgement. This practice has been used to quieten the noise of fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair and frustration.

(5) What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:**

**(6 Marks)**

- I. The reason why you are not a robot is that \_\_\_\_\_
- A. You fail miserably at tasks    B. Failure and success can affect your emotions  
C. You work hard                      C. You have limitations
- II. By practicing \_\_\_\_\_ we can learn grit.
- A. Optimism                              B. Mindfulness                      C. Self control    D. Curiosity
- III. What is the tone of the following context: "Falling down or failing is one of the most... educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life."?
- A. Humorous    B. Optimistic    C. Horrifying    D. Comic
- IV. Which of the following is relevant for the title of the passage?
- A. Dreams Always Come True                      B. Failure and Grit Don't Go Hand in Hand  
C. Humans vs Robots                                  D. Falling Down and Getting Up
- V. .... was created after many attempts.
- A. Electricity                      B. Light bulb                      C. Current                      D. Tube light
- VI. Which of the following sentences makes the correct use of "grit", as used in the passage?
- A. Get rid of that grit in your shoes.                      B. She had a bit of grit in her eye.  
C. The road had been covered with grit.                      D. Her grit never made her give up.

**Answer the following in 30 to 40 words:**

**(4 Marks)**

VII. What are the key qualities to achieve personal success and betterment in society?

VIII. What is mindfulness?

**Q2. Read the passage given below.**

Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.

Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000-3,500 metres above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt unlike the rest of river/monsoon fed India. But over the years with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the severe winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.

It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April/May, the crucial sowing season. Further layers of ice above melt with increasing temperature thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Thus, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about 1,50,000 and above to create one. Fondly called the "glacier man", Mr. Norphel has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by President Pranab Mukherjee, in 2015.

There are a few basic steps followed in creating the artificial glacier. River or stream water at higher altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter/November, the diverted water is made to flow onto sloping hill face through distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools and freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an "artificial glacier".

Number of Tourists who visited Leh :-

Month/ Year	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
2010	3410	16518	22889	22415	5575	3041
2011	3001	26310	33908	46843	37756	20833

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (6 Marks)

I. For how many months does the ice formation continue?

- A. 2 months B. 3-4 months C. 5 months D. None of these

II. Mr. Norphel designed 15 artificial glaciers in \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Kashmir B. Ladakh C. Leh D. A Village

III. What kind of landform is Ladakh?

- A. Hot desert B. Cold desert C. Dry desert D. Hot and Dry desert

IV. Who was Chewang Norphel?

- A. a retired principal B. a retired activist C. a retired social worker D. a retired civil engineer

V. In which year did Mr. Norphel get Padma Shri award?

- A. 2007 B. 2015 C. 2009 D. 2005

VI. Ladakh is at an altitude of \_\_\_\_\_metres above the sea level.

- A. 2000-2500 B. 1500-2000 C. 3000-3500 D. 2500-3000

Answer the following in 30 to 40 words: (4 Marks)

VII. On which does agriculture in Ladakh depend? & Why?

VIII. For which pioneering effort Mr. Norphel was conferred with the Padma Shri ?

### Section B – Grammar & Writing Skills – [20 Marks]

Q3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks as directed: (10 marks)

I. Nancy said, "I may leave tomorrow." Select the most appropriate option to change the given sentence from Direct Speech to Reported Speech.

- A. Nancy said that she might leave the next day.  
 B. Nancy said that she might leave tomorrow.  
 C. Nancy asked if she should leave the next day.  
 D. Nancy informed me to leave tomorrow.

II. Keshav said, "Rita is busy right now." Select the most appropriate option to change the given sentence from Direct Speech to Reported Speech.

- A. Keshav said Rita was busy.
- B. Keshav informed that Rita was busy then.
- C. Keshav said Rita had been busy.
- D. Keshav informed that Rita is busy.

III. The dog chased the cat around the street. Identify the kind of sentence.

IV. Please raise your hand to answer the question. Identify the kind of sentence

V. Combine the following pairs of sentences into a compound sentence.

The way was long. The wind was cold.

VI. He bought his uncle's factory. Change this simple sentences into complex sentence.

VII. Combine following pairs of simple sentences into one complex sentence containing an adjective clause.

The theft was committed last night. The police have caught the man.

VIII. Children \_\_\_eat a lot of candy often get bad teeth. Choose the correct relative pronoun.

- A. which
- B. who
- C. where
- D. whose

IX. \_\_\_\_\_, you would have got wet.

Choose the correct if clause and complete the above conditional sentence.

- A. If it had rained
- B. If it rains
- C. If it rained
- D. If it was raining

X. If you really loved me, \_\_\_\_\_. Complete this unreal conditional sentence

- A. you are buying me a diamond ring.
- B. you buy me a diamond ring.
- C. you would buy me a diamond ring.
- D. you would have bought me a diamond ring.

XI. Shreya Ghoshal sings beautiful songs. Rewrite into passive voice.

XII. He gave me a red pen. Rewrite into passive voice.

**Q4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.**

**(5 marks)**

**A.** It was the happiest day of your life when your class teacher informed you that you have been selected as the 'Best Sportsman of the year'. You are thrilled as now you will receive the award at the Annual Day celebrations. Make a diary entry recording your feelings in it. (Within 120 words)

**OR**

**B.** You were a member of a team of students campaigning against the spread of smoking in your city. Make a diary entry describing your participation and success achieved in your mission. (Within 120 words)

**Q5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.**

**(5 marks)**

**A. Write the bio-sketch of the following famous personality. (120 words)**

Full Name: Albert Einstein

Born: 14 March 1879, Ulm, Wurttemberg, Germany.

Died: 18 April 1955 (aged 76)

Ethnicity: German Jewish

Citizenship: United States (from 1940 onwards)

Known for: Theory of Relativity, Unified Field Theory

Awards: Nobel Prize in Physics (1921), Person of the Century by Time Magazine.

**OR**

**B. Using the information given, write a biographical sketch of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India in about 120 words.**

Born: 1884, Bihar

Died: 1963

Education: Master's in Law in 1915

Did teaching: Greatly influenced by Gandhi: joined the freedom struggle

Achievements: First President of independent India in 1950, President of Congress in 1934 and 1939, served as a cabinet minister in the first government of the Indian republic.

Awards: Bharat Ratna in 1962

### **Section C – Literature – [40 Marks]**

**Q6. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given:**

**(5marks)**

**A.** "The rains have heralded the arrival of some seasonal visitors- a leopard and several thousand leeches. Yesterday afternoon the leopard lifted a dog from near the servant's quarter below the school. In the evening it attacked one of Bijju's cows but fled at the approach of Bijju's mother, who came screaming imprecations. As for the leeches, I shall soon get used to a little bloodletting everyday".

I. Who are the obnoxious visitors that arrive at the hill station?

A. Leopards and leeches

B. Drongos and minivets

C. Drongos and leopards

D. Leopards and minivets

II. Whom does the leopard attack?

A. Dog

B. Minivet

C. Leeches

D. Crows

III. Fearing whom does the leopard run away?

A. Bijju

B. Bijju's sister

C. Bijju's grandmother

D. Bijju's mother

IV. What does the writer mean by 'bloodletting'?

V. Why do the leopards and leeches come to the hills during the monsoon?

OR

"What fawn? The fawn belonging to the doe we killed. We used the doe's liver to draw out the poison and save Pa." She gasped. 'Well for pity's sake- "Pa said it would be ungrateful to leave it to starve." Doc Wilson said, "That's right, Ma' am Nothing in the world comes quite free. The boy's right and his daddy's right."

I. Who is 'she' in the above mentioned lines?

- A. The doe                      B. Ma Baxter                      C. Hawthorne                      D. Jody

II. Who is the main speaker?

- A. The doe                      B. Ma Baxter                      C. Hawthorne                      D. Jody

III. Doe's liver was used to \_\_\_\_\_

- A. draw out the poison                      B. save Pa                      C. Both A & B                      D. None of the mentioned

IV. What was the argument of the main speaker?

V. What does Doc Wilson mean by "Nothing in the world comes quite free"?

**Q7. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, of the two given:**

**(5marks)**

On a lone winter evening when the frost  
Has wrought a silence, from the stone there shrills  
The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever  
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost;  
The grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

I. Whose voice is heard from the stones?

- A. The grasshopper                      B. The cricket                      C. The poet                      D. The nature

II. Who has wrought silence?

- A. Winter                      B. Frost                      C. Silence                      D. Cricket

III. When does the cricket sing?

- A. Evening                      B. Winter Evening                      C. Lone Winter Evening                      D. None of the mentioned

IV. What happens during winter?

V. Find the word which means 'feeling more sleepy than normal'.

OR

"Good gracious!  
How you hop!  
Over the fields and the water too,  
As if you never would stop!  
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,  
And I long to go out in the world beyond!  
I wish I could hop like you!  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

I. Who is the speaker of the above lines?

- A. The Duck                      B. The Kangaroo                      C. The Poet                      D. None of the mentioned

II. Why is the Kangaroo been appreciated?

A. He could hop.

B. He could not hop. C. He could fly.

D. He could dance.

III. What is the desire of the speaker?

A. to go out in the world

B. to swim

C. to fly around the world

D. no desire at all

IV. The word which means 'unpleasant' is \_\_\_\_\_.

V. The life of the speaker is \_\_\_\_\_ in the nasty pond.

**Q8. Answer any four of the following questions in 40 - 50 words each:**

**(4x3=12 marks)**

I. Why did the grandmother ask the children not to kill the chuchundar? (A Short Monsoon Diary)

II. "Only very few animals were killed in Tsunami." Give reasons.

III. What does the title mean, "The Summit Within"?

IV. What is the meaning of the line: "The poetry of earth is never dead"?

V. How many times did the Duck and the Kangaroo go round the world together? & Who was happy after the ride?

**Q9. Answer any two of the following questions in 40 - 50 words each:**

**(2x3=6 marks)**

I. Between Ranji and the other boy, who is trying to start a quarrel? Give a reason for your answer.

II. Describe in brief the Giant's garden.

III. How did the Maids of Honour come to know that the princess and the bird had become intimate friends?

**Q10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 - 120 words:**

**(6 marks)**

How did Tilly Smith save her family and many other tourists from Tsunami?

**OR**

Do you think Jody was compassionate and conscience-stricken? Why do you think so?

**Q11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100 - 120 words:**

**(6 marks)**

What evidence do you find in the story about the Giant's selfishness and wicked nature? Did he stick to this? How do you know?

**OR**

Compare and contrast the characters of Princess September and her other eight sisters.

10

Bhys 2/2