

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRINAGAR**Half Yearly Examination (2025-26)****Class/ Section: VIII.....****MM:80****Subject: English****Time-3 Hrs****Name-.....****Roll No.....***Fifteen minutes extra time will be given for reading the question paper.***General Instructions:**

1. This question paper is divided into three parts: A, B and 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.

SECTION-A (READING - 20 MARKS)**Q1. Read the passage Carefully.****(1x10=10 marks)**

The Bermuda Triangle, often referred to as the Devil's Triangle, is a loosely defined region in the North Atlantic Ocean, where a number of ships and aircraft are reported to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances. The points of the triangle are usually said to be Miami (Florida), San Juan (Puerto Rico), and Bermuda.

Stories surrounding the Bermuda Triangle date back to the early 20th century, with one of the earliest reports involving the mysterious disappearance of Flight 19, a group of five U.S. Navy bombers on a training mission in 1945. Despite extensive search efforts, neither the planes nor the crew were found. Since then, the area has become associated with many unexplained disappearances.

However, scientific investigations have offered more rational explanations. The region is known for sudden weather changes, strong ocean currents, and navigational challenges, which could explain many of the reported incidents. Some experts suggest that human error, equipment malfunction, or even methane gas eruptions from the ocean floor might be responsible.

Interestingly, the U.S. government and official maritime agencies do not recognize the Bermuda Triangle as an especially dangerous area. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the number of incidents is not significantly higher than in other heavily travelled parts of the ocean.

Despite these logical explanations, the Bermuda Triangle continues to be a topic of fascination. Its mystery is often exaggerated by the media, books, and films, keeping public interest alive. While many theories—from alien abductions to time warps—have been proposed, most lack scientific explanation.

On the basis of reading of the above passage answer the following questions.

I Choose the most correct option. (Any Six)

1. Which event is often cited as the beginning of the Bermuda Triangle mystery?
 - A. The sinking of the Titanic
 - B. The disappearance of Flight 19 in 1945
 - C. The discovery of Bermuda by explorers
 - D. The first report by the U.S. Coast Guard

2. What is the most scientifically supported reason for the disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle?

- A. Alien abductions and time warps
- B. Ocean floor swallowing ships
- C. Human error, bad weather, and natural ocean conditions
- D. Secret military experiments

3. Why do many people still believe in mysterious causes behind Bermuda Triangle incidents?

- A. The U.S. Navy confirmed supernatural activity.
- B. There are officially restricted areas in the region.
- C. Media and entertainment often dramatize the stories.
- D. Scientists have stopped researching the area.

4. What is the stance of the U.S. Coast Guard regarding the Bermuda Triangle?

- A. It warns all ships to avoid the area.
- B. It considers the area unusually dangerous.
- C. It reports significantly higher incidents in that region.
- D. It does not recognize the area as especially dangerous.

5. What is the most likely reason for the enduring mystery surrounding the Bermuda Triangle?

- A. Lack of modern navigation tools
- B. Unexplored areas within the triangle
- C. Popular culture keeping the mystery alive
- D. Consistent government cover-ups

6. Which of the following best summarizes the overall message of the passage?

- A. The Bermuda Triangle is a proven supernatural zone.
- B. All disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle have been solved.
- C. While mysterious stories exist, rational explanations account for most incidents.
- D. Scientists now avoid discussing the Bermuda Triangle.

7. Which word in the passage means 'the act of taking someone away by force'?

- A. Exaggeration
- B. Despite
- C. Investigation
- D. Abduction

II Answer the following in short.

1. What are the three commonly accepted points that form the Bermuda Triangle?

2. What happened to Flight 19, and why is it significant?

3. List two scientific explanations given for the incidents in the Bermuda Triangle.

4. Why do people continue to be fascinated by the Bermuda Triangle despite logical explanations?

Q2. Read the following passage carefully.

(1x10=10 marks)

A major cause of electoral corruption today is the lust for power that drives politicians to such an extent that they have no qualms of conscience about resorting to underhanded methods to succeed. The Watergate scandal in the United States is an eloquent example testifying to the fact that even politicians at the highest levels can stoop to the lowest levels to perpetuate themselves in power.

In India too, the record of various political parties is not clean. Corruption in elections increases because those in the field play with the psychology of the voters. Voters are swayed by the tall promises of candidates whose tricks they easily fall prey to. They are also susceptible to being ridiculed by politicians because of their illiteracy. Also, constituencies in representative democracies today, and especially in large countries, are quite broad, which makes it unlikely that corrupt practices will be discovered.

Anti-corruption laws are more honoured in their violation than in their observance. Even the code of conduct to be observed by the parties contesting the elections becomes a dead letter before it ceases to exist and is thrown out as illegal by unscrupulous politicians whose only aim is to perpetuate themselves.

On the basis of reading of the passage answer the following questions.

I Choose the most suitable option. (ANY SIX)

1. What is a major cause of electoral corruption today?

- A) Lack of voter education
- B) Lack of anti-corruption laws
- C) Lust for power among politicians
- D) Limited access to information

2. What is the Watergate scandal an example of?

- A) Voter suppression
- B) Election tampering
- C) Campaign finance violations
- D) Politicians resorting to underhanded methods to succeed

3. Which country has a record of various political parties engaging in electoral corruption?

- A) Canada
- B) India
- C) Australia
- D) Germany

4. What is one way in which voters can be swayed by candidates?

- A) Through voter education programs
- B) Through the candidate's professional background
- C) Through the candidate's tall promises
- D) Through the candidate's political party affiliation

5. Why are constituencies in representative democracies quite broad?

- A) To make it easier to identify corrupt practices
- B) To ensure equal representation for all citizens
- C) To reduce the likelihood of discovering corrupt practices
- D) To promote more competitive elections

6. What is the problem with anti-corruption laws?

- A. They are too strict.
- B. They are too weak.
- C. They are not enforced.
- D. They are too complex.

7. Which word in the extract has the same meaning 'easily influenced'?

- A. Susceptible
- B. Conduct
- C. Scandal
- D. None of these

II Answer the following questions.

1. What happens to the code of conduct for parties contesting elections?
2. Where did Watergate Scandal take place?
3. How are anti- corruption laws more honoured?
4. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'strong desire to get something'.

SECTION-B (GRAMMAR & WRITING) (20 MARKS)

Q3. Do as directed (ANY TEN)

(1x10=10 marks)

1. 'He has finished his homework'. (Identify the tense of the given sentence.)

- A) Present Continuous
- B) Past Perfect
- C) Present Perfect
- D) None of these

2. What is the passive voice of the sentence "The Minister is delivering the speech."

- A) The speech is being delivered by the Minister.
- B) The speech is delivered by the Minister.
- C) The speech are delivered by the Minister.
- D) The speech has been delivered by the Minister.

3. Which idiom means 'something easy to do'?

- A) Eager beaver
- B) Piece of cake
- C) Skate on thin ice
- D) Once in a blue moon

4. What is the passive voice of the sentence "Mr. Sinha teaches us Physics"?

- A) We are taught Physics by Mr. Sinha.
- B) We teach Physics by Mr. Sinha.
- C) We have been taught Physics by Mr. Sinha.
- D) We has been taught Physics by Mr. Sinha.

5. Change the given sentence into passive voice.

Can we solve this problem?

6. 'Neither the ministers nor the secretary on time' (Fill in the blank with correct verb.)

- A) were
- B) was
- C) have
- D) none of these

7. Which idiom has the meaning 'something very precious or dear'?

- A) bed of roses
- B) Apple of my eye
- C) Once in a blue moon
- D) None of the above

8. Which phrasal verb means 'Someone who has quit a school, college or course of study'?

- A) Blackout
- B) Getaway
- C) Dropout
- D) Letdown

9. Raveena one of Geeta's best friends in class. (Choose the correct verb to fill in the blank.)

- A) was
- B) were
- C) had
- D) am

10. The children above the age of ten are not allowed. What is the part of speech of 'above' in the given sentence?

- A) Noun
- B) Adjective
- C) Adverb
- D) Preposition

11.'Are there any witnesses present'? What is the part of speech of word 'Any' in the given sentence?

- A) Pronoun
- B) Verb
- C) Adjective
- D) Conjunction

Q4. Write a paragraph on 'Importance of Library' using the given hints. (60-70 words)

(4 marks)

Storehouse of books.....destination for knowledge seekers.... Importance for students

OR

Write a paragraph on the topic 'Investiture Ceremony In My School' using the given hints.(60-70 words)

Its meaning ... how and why it was conducted..... different houses....

Q5. Write an application to the Principal of your school requesting him to make regular arrangements for evening games . (100-120 words)

(6 marks)

OR

Write a diary entry describing your feelings when you were scolded by your parents for failing in examination.(100-120 words)

SECTION-C(LITERATURE)(40 Marks)

Q6. Read the given extract and answer the following questions.

(1x5=5 marks)

She was quite concerned. If the mop count did not tally, the surgeon could not stitch up the patient's abdomen. The surgeon was concerned too. He insisted that if the missing mop was not found, then there must have been an error in the initial count. But the sister was very confident of her count and was quite firm that she had not gone wrong.

1. Why was the mop count important in the operation theatre?

- A. It was part of hospital housekeeping records.
- B. It ensured all surgical tools were sterilized.
- C. It was critical to confirm that no mop was left inside the patient.
- D. It helped in estimating the blood loss during surgery.

2. What does the surgeon believe about the missing mop?

- A. The sister deliberately hid it.
- B. It was not actually missing.
- C. There must have been a mistake in the initial count.
- D. It had already been disposed of properly.

3. How did the sister respond to the surgeon's concern?

- A. She apologized for the mistake.
- B. She rechecked and found the missing mop.
- C. She blamed another nurse.
- D. She insisted her count was correct.

4. What can be inferred about the mood in the operation theatre at that moment?

- A. Relaxed and casual.
- B. Tense and anxious.
- C. Joyful and relieved.
- D. Indifferent and uninterested.

5. Which word in the extract means 'happening at the beginning'?

- A. Abdomen
- B. Concern
- C. Firm
- D. Initial

OR

They crawled back a bit farther, and Neel tried mewing, but that didn't work either. The cub didn't budge. He tried a combination of whimpering, mewing and growling, stopping every now and then to listen. Complete silence from the cub- it was almost as if she were holding her breath until they left her alone.

1. What was Neel trying to do in the passage?

- A. Scare the cub away
- B. Communicate with the cub to make her come out.
- C. Signal for help from other animals
- D. Imitate the sounds of the jungle

2. What does the cub's silence suggest?

- A. She was asleep and didn't hear them
- B. She was injured and couldn't respond
- C. She was afraid and wanted them to go away
- D. She was playing a game with them

3. Which of the following best describes Neel's actions?

- A. Aggressive and threatening
- B. Playful and careless
- C. Patient and cautious
- D. Indifferent and lazy

4. Which of these words means 'to move' in the extract?

- A. Mewing
- B. Growling
- C. Crawled
- D. Budge

5. Why did Neel stop every now and then while making sounds?

- A. To catch his breath
- B. To listen for the cub's response
- C. To let the cub approach him
- D. To avoid waking other animals

Q7. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

(1x5=5 marks)

I have you fast in my fortress,
And will not let you depart,
But put you down into the dungeon
In the round tower of my heart

1. Which of the following best captures a central theme of the poem?

- A. Celebration of freedom
- B. The power of imagination
- C. Emotional imprisonment and attachment
- D. Loss of identity

2. What does the speaker's refusal to "let you depart" suggest about their emotional state?

- A. Indifference
- B. Desire to protect someone
- C. An inability to let go emotionally
- D. Confidence in their love

3. What does the word "dungeon" most likely symbolize in this context?

- A. A place for meditation
- B. A literal underground jail
- C. A historical site
- D. A place of emotional confinement or unexpressed feelings

4. Which poet has written the poem from which the excerpt is taken?

- A. William Wordsworth
- B. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- C. John Keats
- D. Jane Austin

5. Find the word in the extract which is opposite in meaning to 'arrive'.

- A. Tower
- B. Depart
- C. Dungeon
- D. None of the above

OR

I load my little boats with shiuli flowers from our
garden, and hope that these blooms of the dawn
Will be carried safely to land in the night.

1. Which of the following themes is best represented in the lines?

- A. Conflict and resolution
- B. Journey and transformation
- C. Hope and fragility
- D. Betrayal and revenge

2. In the context of the poem, what do the "shiuli flowers" most likely symbolize?

- A. Decay and loss
- B. Dreams and ambitions
- C. Innocence and purity
- D. Festivity and noise

3. What does the phrase "blooms of the dawn" most likely symbolize?

- A. Events that happen at night
- B. Early and pure expressions of love, hope, or beginnings
- C. Dangerous storms in the morning
- D. Fruits harvested before sunrise

4. Which poet has written the poem from which the excerpt is taken?

- A. Rabindranath Tagore
- B. William Wordsworth
- C. Robert Frost
- D. William Shakespeare

5. Which word in the extract is opposite in meaning to 'insecurely'?

- A. Blooms
- B. Shiuli
- C. Loaded
- D. Safely

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following questions in 30 to 40 words.

(3x4=12 marks)

1. Where was hiding place of the tiger cub?
2. Describe Mrs March's appearance as given in the lesson 'Planning A Surprise'.
3. What kind of life Mr March had in his workplace?
4. Why did the nurse refuse to handover the needle and catgut to the surgeon?
5. What activities did the girls get busy with when the clock struck six?

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 30 to 40 words.

(3x2=6 marks)

1. Why does the poet write his name on his paper boat?

2. How do the three daughters enter their father's room?

3. Where and how long does the poet want to keep his daughters in the poem 'Children's Hour'?

Q10. Write a paragraph describing Mr March's emotions in his letter that he wrote to his family in the lesson 'Planning A Surprise'. (100-120 words)

(6 marks)

OR

Justify your opinion about the senior surgeon who appreciates the inexperienced nurse for not changing her decision under the doctor's anger and holding on to her belief. (100-120 words)

Q11. How do the three daughters and their father show their love for each other in the poem 'Children's Hour'? (100-120 words)

(6 marks)

OR

Write a paragraph describing the theme of the poem 'Paper Boats' (100-120 words)
