

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR****Periodic Test – I (Round – I) 2025 – 2026****Class: X****Subject: English****MM: 20****Time: 1 Hr.****General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING & GRAMMAR and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A- READING****Q1. Read the following passage carefully:**

(1) Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.

(2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.

(3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice, seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.

(4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

(5) Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.

(6) The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram — equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour

are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production. Afghanistan comes second, and Spain is the third largest producer, while the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Indian subcontinent and Morocco are among minor producers.

(7) Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika.

**Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: (4 marks)**

(i) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines ? 1

Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

“Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.” Paragraph (1)

(ii) Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence? 1

“Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices.”

(A) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.

(B) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.

(C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

(D) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.

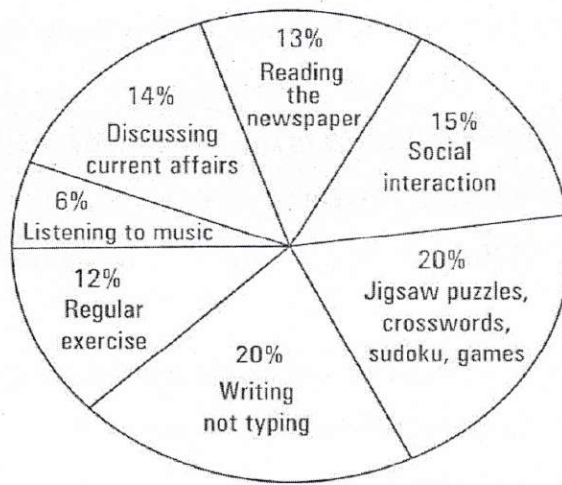
(iii) List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. Paragraphs (2) and (3) 2

## **SECTION B - WRITING AND GRAMMAR**

**Q2. Answer any one in 100 - 120 words: (5 marks)**

Internet provides every information one seeks at the click of a button. As a result, children today are living in a comfort zone. According to research, this will result in long-term consequences which will affect their brain. Based on the following chart, write an analytical paragraph in not more than 120 words on activities to improve brain power:



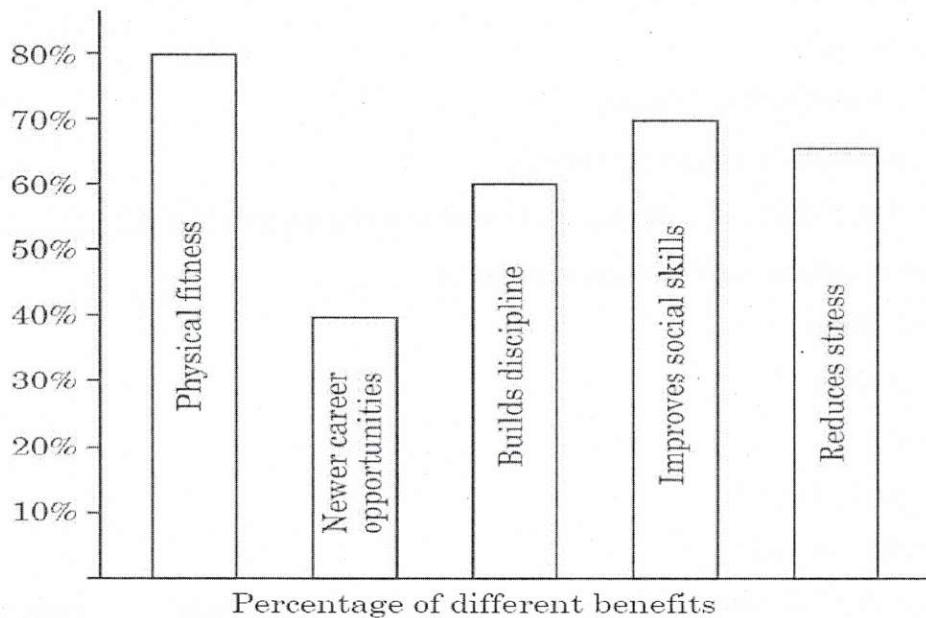


Activities to stimulate Brain Power

OR

School authorities and parents have realized the benefits of encouraging their children to play and participate in sports. The age-old myth that academics is the only foundation for a successful career has been replaced. Write a paragraph in not more than 120 words analyzing the given information:

Benefits of playing sports



Q3. Do as directed:

(3 marks)

(i) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

As I was standing on the dock, looking out at the lake for the last time, a feeling of emptiness \_\_\_\_\_ over me like darkness.

A. will wash B. had washed C. will have washed D. washed

(ii) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

In order to balancing the sentiments of the Eagles and the Hawks, the Student Council suggested a rematch between the teams.

Error	Correction

(iii) Identify the error in the given newspaper headline and supply the correction.

Athletics Star Helps State Stays Ahead of Competition

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

#### SECTION C- LITERATURE

**Q4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (1x2 = 2 marks)**

The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

A change of mood (Dust of Snow)

(i) Fill the blank to complete the sentence.

Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) The crow and the hemlock tree represent \_\_\_\_\_.

1. sorrow 2. elation

3. hope 4. anxiety

5. enthusiasm

(A) 1 only (B) 2, 3 and 5

(C) 4 only (D) 1, 4 and 5

**Q5. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40- 50 words each: (3x2 = 6 marks)**

I. According to the poet, what does 'fire' and 'ice' represent?.

II. Analyze how Herriot uses Tricki and Mrs. Pumphrey's relationship to comment on societal attitudes towards pets and the responsibilities associated with their care.

III. Faith is like a ray of hope in a distressful situation. Discuss a letter to God in reference to Lencho's unflinching faith in God?