O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRINAGAR

Half Yearly Examination (2026-27)

Class/ Section: VIII…….. **MM:50**

Subject: English **Time-2 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) (10 MARKS)

Q1. Read the passage carefully. **(5x1=5 marks)**

Women empowerment means enabling women to make independent decisions, exercise their rights, and participate equally in social, economic, educational, and political life. It does not mean giving women power that they never had; rather, it involves removing barriers that prevent them from using their abilities and enjoying equal opportunities. Education is one of the strongest tools of empowerment. An educated woman is more likely to understand her rights, secure employment, make informed health decisions, and contribute to her family and community. When girls remain in school, rates of early marriage often decline, family health improves, and future generations become better educated. Therefore, investing in girls' education benefits society as a whole.

Economic independence is equally important. Women who earn and control their income generally have a stronger voice in household and professional decisions. Equal pay, safe workplaces, access to property, financial services, and entrepreneurship can help women become self-reliant. However, unpaid domestic work often limits women's time and career opportunities. Sharing household responsibilities is essential for achieving genuine equality. Laws can protect women from discrimination, violence, and exploitation, but laws alone cannot transform society. Deep-rooted stereotypes may discourage women from becoming scientists, political leaders, athletes, or business owners. Families, schools, workplaces, the media, and governments must challenge such attitudes. Men and boys also have an important role in supporting equality and rejecting harmful behaviour.

Empowerment is not limited to individual success. It includes creating conditions in which women from different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds can speak, lead, and live with dignity. A society progresses when women Are safe, respected, educated financially independent represented in decision making. Thus women empowerment is not merely a women's issue; it is essential for justice, democracy, and sustainable development.

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

I Choose the most appropriate option. (ANY THREE)

1. Why does the passage describe education as a strong tool of empowerment?

a) It guarantees political leadership.
b) It helps women understand their rights and make informed decisions.

c) It removes the need for employment.
d) It reduces household responsibilities completely.

2. Which situation best reflects economic empowerment?

a) A woman earns money but cannot decide how it is spent.
b) A woman receives education but is prevented from working.
c) A woman earns and controls her income.
d) A woman performs all domestic work without assistance.

3. Why are laws alone insufficient to achieve empowerment?

a) Laws cannot support education.
b) Social stereotypes and attitudes must also change.
c) Women do not require legal protection.
d) Governments have no role in equality.

4. Which word in the passage has the same meaning as ' something that stops progress'?

a) Stereotype
b) Decline
c) Exploitation
d) Barrier

II. Answer the following questions in short.

1.Mention any two conditions necessary for women's economic independence.

2.Why should household responsibilities be shared?

Q2. Read the following passage carefully. **(5x1=5 marks)**

Ajanta and Ellora Caves

The Ajanta and Ellora Caves are among India's most famous historical monuments. They are located in the state of Maharashtra and attract visitors from all over the world. These caves are excellent examples of ancient Indian art, architecture, and religious harmony. They have been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites because of their cultural and historical importance. The Ajanta Caves were built between the 2nd century BCE and the 6th century CE. They are mainly Buddhist caves containing beautiful paintings and sculptures that depict the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. The wall paintings are admired for their rich colours, fine details, and artistic beauty. These caves were used as monasteries and prayer halls by Buddhist monks.

The Ellora Caves were built between the 6th and 10th centuries CE. Unlike Ajanta, Ellora represents three major religions—Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. There are 34 caves in total, each carved out of solid rock. The most famous structure is the Kailasa Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is one of the largest monolithic rock-cut temples in the world and demonstrates the remarkable skill of ancient craftsmen.

Both cave complexes provide valuable information about the history, beliefs, and lifestyles of ancient India. They show how different religions coexisted peacefully and inspired magnificent works of art. Today, the Ajanta and Ellora Caves continue to attract historians, archaeologists, artists, and tourists. They remind us of India's rich cultural heritage and the importance of preserving historical monuments for future generations. Visiting these caves is not only an educational experience but also an opportunity to appreciate the creativity and dedication of ancient Indian artisans.

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

I Choose the most appropriate option. (ANY THREE)

1. Why were the Ajanta Caves mainly built?

a) As royal palaces for kings
b) As monasteries and prayer halls for Buddhist monks
c) As forts to fight enemies
d) As markets

2. Which statement best shows religious harmony at Ellora?

a) Only Buddhist caves are found there.
b) Only Hindus temples are present.
c) Caves of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism exist together.
d) No religious structures are found.

3. Why are Ajanta and Ellora caves considered as UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

a) They are modern tourist attractions.
b) They are located in a capital city.
c) They are the tallest caves.
d) They have outstanding cultural and historical value.

4. Which word in the passage has the same meaning as 'grand and very beautiful'?

a) Artisan b) Opportunity c) Appreciate d) Magnificent

II. Answer these questions in Short

1. Why is Kailasa Temple famous in Ajanta and Ellora Caves?
2. Why is visiting Ajanta and Ellora caves important?

SECTION-B (GRAMMAR & WRITING) (22 MARKS)

Q3. Do as directed.

I. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. **(3x1=3 marks)**

	Error	**Correction**
Last Sunday our school organized a cleanliness drive from our neighbourhood.	(a) ……	……
All the students gathered toward the school gate at 8 am. Our teacher told us that	(b)……	……
We might work together and keep the area clean.	(c) ……	……

II. Rearrange the words to make meaningful sentences. **(3x1=3 marks)**

a) a/strong/has/animals/affinity/he/with

b) have/never/such/beautiful/I/seen/a/place

c) important/time/is/than/money/more

III. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option given at the end of the passage. **(4x1=4 marks)**

By the time we (1)..... (arrive) at the railway station, the train (2) .....

(already leave). We (3) ..... (wait) for the next train when my father suddenly

(4) ..... . (receive) a message.

1. a) arrive	b) arrived	c) was arriving	d) will arrive
2. a) has already left	b) had already left	c) will have already left	d) none of these
3. a) was waiting	b) is waiting	c) were waiting	d) had waited
4. a) received	b) will receive	c) has received	d) was receiving

Q4. You are Rohan Sharma/ Rachna Sharma. You have lost your geometry box in the school library. Write a notice for the school notice board in not more than 50 words. **(4 marks)**

OR

You are Meenakshi Goyal/Mohit Goyal, the sports captain of your school. Write a notice informing all the students of classes VI to XII to submit their names for upcoming sports day. Give all the necessary details like last date of giving names, number of events etc. (not more than 50 words)

Q5. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Indian Express' highlighting the importance of cleanliness and the need for public participation in the cleanliness drive in your city. You are Rohit Agrawal /Risha Agrawal of 117, Kailash Colony, Raipur. (100-120 words) **(8 marks)**

OR

Write a letter to the editor of 'The Times of India' drawing attention of the concerned authorities towards rash or careless driving by the school bus drivers which puts children's lives at risk. You are Komal Sharma /Kamesh Patel of 88, Jai Vihar, Jamnagar, Chhattisgarh.

SECTION-C(LITERATURE)(18 Marks)

Q6. Read the given extract and answer the following questions. **(4x1=4 marks)**

'Whenever I have received any recognition for my contributions towards the progress of our country, I always emphasised that it is a recognition of the achievements of many people with whom I had a privilege to be associated with.'

1. Who is the speaker of the given lines?

a) Dr. Verghese Kurien b) Tribhuvan das Patel
c) Grandson of Dr. Verghese Kurien. d) None of these

2. Which quality of the speaker is best reflected in the statement?

a) Humility b) Ambition c) Competitiveness d) Self-reliance

3. Which word in the extract has same meaning as 'having special advantage'?

a) Contribution b) Privilege c) Achievement d) Associated

4. What can be inferred from the speaker's use of the phrase 'many people with whom I had a privilege to be associated'?

a) The speaker believes achievements are rarely individual efforts.
b) The speaker regrets working with others.
c) The speaker considers recognition meaningless.
d) The speaker wants to claim sole responsibility for success.

OR

'Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father. He didn't want to seem different from other boys. But there was nothing he could do about his nickname. He was stuck with it.'

1. Why did Encyclopedia not talk about the help he gave his father?

a) He was ashamed of his father.
b) He wanted to appear like other boys.
c) He had forgotten about it.
d) His father told him not to.

2. What does "He was stuck with it" suggest about Encyclopedia's nickname?

a) He liked his nickname very much.
b) He had chosen the nickname himself.
c) He could not easily get rid of the nickname
d) He wanted everyone to use it.

3. What can we infer about Encyclopedia from the passage?

a) He wanted special attention.
b) He cared about not being different from other boys.
c) He disliked helping his father.
d) He enjoyed being different from others.

4. Which word in the extract is opposite of 'movable'?

a) Never
b) Nickname
c) Stuck
d) None of these

Q7. Read the extract and answer the following questions. **(4x1=4 marks)**

'She's somebody's mother, boys, you know
For all she's aged , poor and slow

And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand'

1. Who is the woman referred to in the poem?

a) A young girl
b) Somebody's mother
c) A teacher
d) A queen

2. What condition is the woman in?

a) Young and energetic
b) Rich and powerful
c) Aged, poor and slow
d) Healthy and strong

3. What does the poet hope someone will do?

a) Give her a house
b) Lend a hand to help his mother
c) Take her to school
d) Give her money

4. What feeling does the poet express towards the old woman?

a) Anger and irritation
b) Hatred and contempt
c) Sympathy and concern
d) Fear

OR

'My next door neighbour Mrs. Jones,
Puts little plants between the stones
They are so delicate and small,
They don't mean anything at all.'

1. Who is the poet of the poem from which this extract has been taken?

a) Rabindranath Tagore
b) Reginald Arkell
c) Chief Brown
d) None of these

2. Why are the plants described as 'delicate and small'?

a) To show that they are difficult to grow.
b) To show that they are weak and useless.
c) To emphasize their gentle and fragile appearance.
d) To suggest that they will soon become trees.

3. What can you infer about Mrs. Jones from the lines?

a) She is careless about nature.
b) She enjoys bringing a touch of nature into her surroundings.
c) She does not like gardening.
d) She prefers large and colourful plants.

4. What does the statement 'They don't mean anything at all' suggest about the plants?

a) They have no special purpose or importance.
b) They are poisonous to people.
c) They cannot grow properly.
d) They belong to Mrs. Jones's neighbour.

Q8. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in 20 to 30 words. **(3x2=6 marks)**

1. Why did Chief Brown not tell others about his son's detective skills?
2. What did the old woman pray for the boy that night in her home?
3. Which major civilian honour did Dr. Kurien receive in 1999 and why?
4. What career choice did Dr. Kurien make ?

Q9. What role do imagination and creativity play in Mrs Jones' garden? (70 to 80 words) **(4 marks)**

OR

Write character sketch of Dr. Verghese Kurien based on his values and dispositions reflected in the lesson. (70 to 80 words)

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