O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR

Half Yearly Examination (2026 – 2027)

Class: X **MM: 50**

Subject: English **Time: 2 Hrs.**

(Fifteen minutes extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)

General Instructions:

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

SECTION A: READING SKILL – 7 Marks

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

1. The word 'local' has become synonymous with sustainability, whether it's food, clothes, or the materials used to construct buildings. But what about glass? The raw materials that go into glass - silica sand, soda ash and limestone are natural, but the sources of those materials are rarely known to the buyer.

2. The process by which sand becomes sheets of glass is often far from transparent. The sand, which makes up over 70% of glass, could come from a faraway riverbed, lake shore, or inland limestone outcrop. Sand with at least 95% silica content is called silica sand, and only the purest is suitable for architectural glass production. Such sand is found in limited areas. If the glass is colourless, its potential sources are even more limited, because colourless low iron glass - popularised by Apple's flagship stores and luxury towers around the world - requires 99% pure silica sand.
3. The mysteries of glass production have a historic precedent that can be traced back to the trade secrets of the Venetian Empire. Venice, particularly the island of Murano, became the centre for glass production largely due to its strategic location for importing raw materials, production know-how, and exporting coveted glass objects. From the 11th to the 16th Centuries, the secrets of glass making were protected by the Venetians until three glassmakers were smuggled out by King Louis XIV of France, who applied the technology to create the Palace of Versailles Hall of Mirrors.
4. Neither the primary materials of sand and soda ash (sodium carbonate) nor the firewood for the medieval Venetian glassmakers were found in the city's immediate vicinity. They were transported from the riverbeds of the Ticino River in Switzerland and the Agide River, which flows from the Austria-Switzerland border to the Adriatic Sea south of Venice. Soda ash, which is needed to lower

the melting point of silica sand, was brought from Syria and Egypt. So Venetian glass production was not local: it was dependent on precious resources imported from afar on ships.

5. In the past few decades, low-iron glass, known for its colourlessness, has become the contemporary symbol of high-end architecture. The glass appears to disappear. Low-iron glass is made from ultra-pure sand that is low in iron oxide. Iron causes the green tint seen in ordinary glass. In architecture, low-iron glass doesn't affect the performance - only the appearance. But it is prized.
6. In the U.S, this type of sand is found in a few locations, primarily in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri, where sand as white and fine as sugar – thus called saccharoidal- is mined from St. Peter sandstone. Other locations where it can be found around the world include Queensland in Australia and parts of China. Less pure sand can be purified by methods such as acid washing or magnetic separation. Today, low-iron glass has become the standard for high-profile architecture.
7. Glass walls common in high-rise buildings today have other drawbacks. They help to heat the room during increasingly hot summers and contribute to heat loss in winter, increasing dependence on artificial cooling and heating. To bring Sand to its molten state, the furnace must be heated to over 2,700°F for as long as 50 hours, which requires burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, releasing greenhouse gases. Once heated to that temperature, the furnace runs 24/7 and is rarely shut down.
8. The soda ash and limestone also release carbon dioxide during melting. Moreover, glass production requires mining or producing non-renewable natural resources such as sand, soda ash, lime, and fuel. Transporting those further increases emissions. Production and fabrication of extra-large glass panels rely on specialised equipment and occurs only at a limited number of plants in the world, meaning transportation increases the carbon footprint. Architectural glass is also difficult to recycle, largely due to the labour involved in separating glass from the building assembly.
9. Although glass is touted as infinitely recyclable, only 6% of architectural glass is down cycled into glass products that require less purity and precision, and almost none is recycled into architectural glass. The rest ends up in landfills. The increasing demand for glass that is colourless, extra-large and seamless contributes to glass sustainability problem.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage: **(7 Marks)**

i) Explain why the production of glass is not considered local. 2

ii) The demand for low-iron glass reflects that _____ 1

(a) People prioritize energy efficiency over appearance.

(b) Minimalist, seamless, and transparent aesthetics are highly valued.

(c) Architects prefer tinted glass to reduce heat.

(d) Colourful glass is cheaper and thus more popular.

iii) The Venetian glass industry shows that _____ 1

(a) Glass production always depends on locally available materials.

(b) Venice became famous mainly due to its abundant natural resources.

(c) Strategic trade, secrecy, and skill, not resources, built Venice's glass reputation.

(d) Venetian glassmakers exported sand to other countries.

iv) Justify in about 40 words: "Architectural glass has a hidden environmental cost." 2

v) State whether the following assertion is **true or false.** 1

"Architectural glass is infinitely recycled into new architectural glass."

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS 15 Marks

Q2. You are Anand/Amrita, a student of Class XI at Army Public School, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad. Write an application to the Principal requesting a change of section from XI-A to XI-B due to a change in subject. Give a suitable reason for your request. (50 words) **(3 Marks)**

Q3. Write a factual description of the new laptop that you purchased recently. (100 words) **(4 Marks)**

Q4. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing your opinion and views on the increased human dependence on technology. Right from a small child to an adult, or even an old man, everyone wants gadgets -cell phones, i-pods, laptops, etc. This also has a negative effect on social relationships. Using your own ideas and the unit, 'Science', write the letter in 100-120 words. **(8 Marks)**

OR

Disposal of electronic goods, commonly termed as e-waste, in landfills lead to toxic substances such as lead, mercury etc. contaminating the land, air and water. It's high time that countries take a stock of the situation and protect the environment. Write an article discussing the same. Also, suggest some solutions. You are Neha / Nitin. You may use ideas from the **unit- Environment** besides your own ideas (150 words)

SECTION C: GRAMMAR 6 Marks

Q5. Complete the task from (a) & (b) as directed :

a) Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from the brackets. (3x1=3 Marks)

Therapeutic gardens are a public health measure and key to Singapore's aim of (i) _____ (become/ becoming/ will becoming) one of the world's top wellness destinations. In a tourism sense, wellness often (ii) _____ (had referred / refers / referring) merely to spa treatments, but Singapore's

approach is more scientific. Singapore now (iii) _____ (have view/ has viewed / views) therapeutic gardens as a forward-thinking tourism strategy.

b) Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. (3x1=3 Marks)

Aanya: Hey, Rohan! Did you hear about the new discovery in space announcement yesterday?

Rohan: I heard about finding a planet with water vapour in its atmosphere!

Aanya : The new planet was in the 'habitable zone'

Aanya asked Rohan (i) _____. Rohan said (ii) _____ in its atmosphere. Then, Aanya added (iii) _____ with life-supporting conditions.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK 22 Marks

Q6. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for <u>any two</u> excerpts of the given three,(A),(B) & (C): (2 X 3 =6 Marks)

(A) "Police Superintendent," a voice called sharply. The old man started at the sound, but composed himself again to wait. But for the faith and love, that warmed him, he could not have borne the bitter cold. Name after name rang out from within as the clerk read out the English addresses on the letters and flung them to the waiting postmen. From long practice he had acquired great speed at reading out the titles — Commissioner, Superintendent, Diwan Sahib, Librarian — and in flinging the letters out.

(i) What did the old man do when he heard the voice? 1

(ii) How had the clerk become so fast at reading the titles? 1

(iii) What can we infer about the old man's state of mind as he waited? 1

(B) Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time.
(Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments)

(i) What, according to the poet, will not outlive his rhyme? 1

(ii) What does the phrase "unswept stone" suggest? 1

(iii) How does the poet describe the effect of time on monuments? 1

(C) Mrs. Slater : Henry, why shouldn't we bring that bureau down here now ? We could do it before they come.

Henry (stupefied) : I wouldn't care to.

Mrs. Slater : Don't look so daft. Why not ?

Henry : It doesn't seem delicate, somehow.

Mrs. Slater : We could put that shabby old chest of drawers upstairs where the bureau is now. Elizabeth could have that and welcome. I've always wanted to get rid of it. (She points to the drawers.)

(i) Why does Mrs. Slater want to bring the bureau down? 1

(ii) How does Henry react to Mrs. Slater's suggestion? 1

(iii) What piece of furniture does Mrs. Slater want to move upstairs? 1

Q7. Answer <u>any four</u> of the following questions in 30 to 40 words each: (4 x 2 = 8 Marks)

(i) Why did the nightingale lose her natural charm in singing ? (The Frog and the Nightingale)

(ii) How does the poem highlight the theme of transience of glory and power ? (Ozymandias)

(iii) Analyse how Shakespeare treats the concept of time and decay in his sonnet 'Not Marble, nor The Gilded Monuments'.

(iv) Why did the narrator feel deeply moved by the boy's devotion? (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

(v) Support the view that the villagers were active participants in supporting Mrs. Packletide's ambition in the story 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger'?

Q8. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words (8 Marks)

In both "Coachman Ali" and "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," characters display deep family bonds that underscore the significance of love and responsibility in family relationships. How do these stories highlight the power of love, trust, and sacrifice in family life, particularly through Coachman Ali's longing for his daughter and the parental care exhibited by the orphaned boys towards their sick sister?

OR

Both, the poem "The Frog and the Nightingale" and the story "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger," reflect themes of exploitation of others in pursuit of personal benefit. How, according to you, does each of these literary works manipulate situations to attain their personal desires and with what consequences?
