O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR

Half Yearly Examination - (2026 – 2027)

Class: XII **MM: 50**

Subject: English Core **Time: 2:00 Hrs.**

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

i. ***All questions are compulsory.***

ii. ***This question paper contains three sections:***

Section A: Reading Skills

Section B: Creative Writing Skills

Section C: Literature

iii. ***Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.***

iv. ***Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.***

v. ***Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.***

SECTION A - READING SKILLS (12 MARKS)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully: **(12 marks)**

1. It is hard to think of an Indian snack that is not fried. However, we need to be aware of what happens to oil when it is heated. When oil begins to smoke, it is a good indicator that it has been heated too much. At this temperature, chemical changes begin to take place, which has many health risks. Of course, this tricky. It the oil is not hot enough, then more of it is absorbed, and the resultant product is quite soggy and unfit to eat.
2. Further, prolonged heating of oil at high temperature, i.e. at its smoking point, leads to it degradation. A substance called acrolein is formed which can irritate the stomach lining. The oil that has decomposed to acrolein to dark and viscous. Normally this does not happen when food is fried at home. But as oil is expensive we are not willing to put it down the drain after having used it only once. The common tendency is to set aside any oil that is left over to use another time. And repeated use of the same oil guarantees the formation of acrolein with all its undesirable effects.
3. In fact, some experts suggest that oil should not be held at its smoking temperature for more than 15 minutes at a time. This time span, as everyone knows, is hardly sufficient to prepare poor is for even a small family of four. Sadly, olive and corn oils are not widely available in our markets. Both these oils can be heated to higher temperatures before they start smoking.
4. Even heart-friendly oils, like those made from sunflower, are also not spared from these effects. Another problem arises when oil is stored under less than satisfactory conditions. If the oil is not stored in an airtight container which, additionally, allows light to pass through, then it will deteriorate further because of the effect of oxygen and light on the oil.
5. By and large, these undesirable effects result when food is deep-fried. So, eat deep-fried food occasionally. This does not mean we can no longer enjoy the flavour and palatability of fried foods. Some food like tikkis land themselves to both deep and shallow frying. Since every batch of frying requires fresh oil, there is no problem with leftover oil.
6. The practice of heating small amounts of mustard, black grams chillies and the like in a little oil, before they are added to vegetables and curries, is called tempering. Tempering is not meant solely for flavour but has a nutritional benefit as well.

Answer the following questions based on the passage:

I. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1

_____ is a substance that irritates the stomach lining.

i. Acrolein ii. Sunflower oil iii. Acetic acid iv. Corn oil

II. Comment on the degradation of oil due to prolonged heating as referred to in paragraph two. 1

III. List any two ways one can opt to delish the flavours of deep-fried foods. 2
(Clue: Think about the alternatives to curb its harmful effects)

IV. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'undesirable', from words used in paragraph five. 1
i. flavour ii. tempering iii. palatability iv. occasional

V. What is the other consequence of improper storage of oil? 1
i. Oxidisation of Oil when left in open/improperly stored
ii. Not storing it in air-tight container reduces freshness
iii. Oil used for Deep-frying is super unhealthy
iv. Light passes through it as Oil is transparent

VI. Based on your understanding of paragraph six, list one major reason as to why tempering is done. 1

VII. Why do we have a tendency of reusing the oil once used? 2

VIII. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: 1
According to the writer, a few healthy oils that can be heated to higher temperatures before they start smoking are not widely available in our markets. These oils are _____.

IX. What happens to oil when it is heated? 1
i. It begins to smoke
ii. Chemical Changes start taking place
iii. If not heated enough, more of it is absorbed
iv. Over-heating leads to its degradation

X. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1
i. Fried Food and its effects
ii. Effect of Oil in Indian Snacks
iii. Indian snack - A Story Fried Food
iv. Junk Food – A Disguised Poison

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING (13 MARKS)

Q2. Answer ANY ONE of the two questions in 50 words: **(4 marks)**

A. Due to a sudden landslide and inclement weather, St Francis School, Vasco has to be closed for a week. As the Principal of that school, draft a notice in not more than 50 words to be displayed at the school main gate notice board.

OR

B. You are Rani/Raj, Secretary Health Club, National Public School, Ramnagar. You find that after the lunch break the school playground and verandahs are littered with wrappers, paper/polythene bags, etc. Write a notice in about 50 words advising students to refrain from doing so.

Q3. Answer ANY ONE of the two questions in 50 words: **(4 marks)**

A. You are Faiz/Falak Mazumdar living at 39, Udampur, Colony, Shimla. You decide to hold a dinner party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand dinner at home.

OR

B. You are Anusha. You friend Anuj has been selected as a College lecturer. You have been invited to the post-selection party of your friend. Write a reply accepting the invitation you got.

Q4. Answer ANY ONE of the two questions in 120 - 150 words: **(5 marks)**

A. You are Bina / Brijesh Mathur from A-45, Johari Market Road, Jaipur. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write a job application along with your bio-data.

Jeevan Mala Hospital
Requires
2 full-time Physiotherapists for its Jaipur branch.

Qualifications: Certified physiotherapists from reputed institutions
Minimum 5 years experience
- *Strong communication skills desirable*
- *Package includes competitive salary, performance bonus, and professional development*

Apply to : hrjeevanmala@jmhospital.com

OR

B. You are Rohan/Riya, a resident of Shanti Vihar, Lucknow. You have observed a growing problem of excessive screen time among school-going children, which is affecting their academic performance, physical activity and social interaction. Write a letter to the Editor of a leading national daily expressing your views on the need to promote healthier and more balanced use of digital devices among children.

You may use the following cues along with your own ideas:
- *excessive dependence on smart phones and digital entertainment*
- *impact on concentration, sleep and outdoor activities*
- *importance of parental guidance and digital discipline*
- *encouraging sports, reading and face-to-face interaction*
- *schools and communities promoting awareness about responsible screen use*

SECTION C- LITERATURE (25 MARKS)

Q5. Answer ANY ONE of the following: **(4X1=4 marks)**

A. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing."
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth

(A Thing of Beauty)

I. How does a thing of beauty give us everlasting joy?
a. It gives sound sleep. b. It increases in loveliness.
c. It never fades. d. It provides shady place.

II. Which of the following is an example of the beauty of nature the poet has suggested in these lines?
a. A sound sleep b. Trees and gardens
c. A shady place d. Eternal peace

III. What does the expression pass into nothingness imply?

IV. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
(1) We are surrounded by beautiful things.

(2) Beautiful things provide us joy.
a. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
b. (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.
c. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
d. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.

OR

B. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

For once on the face of the
Earth let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

I. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.
(1) The poet urges to observe complete silence in words & actions
(2) The poet believes that it would be a rare moment.
a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
b. (2) is true but (1) is false.
c. (2) is the reason for (1).
d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

II. *Margaret Atwood said, Language divides us into fragments, I wanted to be whole.* Choose the option that correctly comments on the relationship between Margaret Atwood's words and the line from the above extract – let's not speak in any language
a. Atwood interrogates Neruda's call to not speak in any language.
b. Atwood justifies Neruda's request to not engage in any speaking.
c. Atwood undermines Neruda's intent to stop and not speak in any language.
d. Atwood advocates to Neruda's desire for silence and not speak in any language.

III. Why do you think the poet employs words like exotic and strangeness?
a. To highlight the importance of everyone being together suddenly for once.
b. To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually envelops human life.
c. To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
d. To direct us towards keeping quiet and how we would all be together in that silence.

IV. The poetic device in '*in a sudden strangeness*' is_____

Q6. Answer ANY ONE of the following: **(4X1=4 marks)**

A. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Sometimes I think grand central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There's probably like a tree, pushing out new corridors way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central Park. And maybe - because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea.

(The Third Level)

I. How does the author convey the idea that Grand Central Station serves as a metaphor for escape and transition in urban life?

II. Complete the following with a correct option based on the context in the extract.
The narrator not telling his psychiatrist friend about his idea suggests .....
(a) he was embarrassed or unsure about sharing it
(b) he didn't consider it important
(c) he wanted to be secretive with his friend
(d) he had forgotten the idea completely

III. Complete the sentence suitably.
The Grand Central Station was 'an exit and an escape' for many people through the years. This is because .....

IV. What does the narrator imply by comparing Grand Central to a tree with 'corridors and staircases like roots'?

OR

B. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I went to a pool and practiced five days a week, an hour each day. The instructor put a belt around me. A rope attached to the belt went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held on to the end of the rope, and we went back and forth, back and forth across the pool, hour after hour, day after day, week after week. On each trip across the pool a bit of the panic seized me. (Deep Water)

I. The given lines show that the author overcame his fear with
(a) courage, guidance and determination.
(b) with love and care.
(c) with motivation derived from mother's words.
(d) with fear and panic.

II. The panic that seized Douglas was a result of_____.
(a) His fear of water
(b) His timid nature
(c) His previous experience of swimming
(d) Both (a) and (b)

III. Why did Douglas hire an instructor?

IV. Find the word from the above passage which means the opposite of 'let go of something'.

Q7. Answer ANY SIX of the following in about 40- 50 words each: **(6X2=12 marks)**

I. '*Antarctica is the place to go to, to understand the earth's present, past and future.*' Do you agree? Justify. (Journey to the End of the Earth)
II. What was the trouble with the people of Alsace according to M. Hamel? Now what, he thought, would give the Germans to mock at them? (The Last Lesson)
III. Survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Comment. (The Lost Spring)
IV. Bangle making industry is a boon and also bane for the people of Firozabad. Reason the statement. (The Lost Spring)
V. Which two incidents in Douglas' early life made him scared of water? (Deep Water)
VI. In the poem *"My Mother at Sixty-Six"*, explain the significance of the images "the trees sprinting past" and "the merry children spilling out of their homes." How do these contrasting images highlight the poet's emotions and the central theme of the poem? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)
VII. Franz thinks, "*Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?*" what does this mean? (The Last Lesson)

Q8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120- 150 words: **(5X1=5 marks)**

A. Describe how the story, The Rattrap' shows that basic human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love. (The Rattrap)

OR

B. The poem *A Roadside Stand* presents the plight of rural people who aspire to improve their lives but remain neglected and exploited by the urban society and the government. Discuss how Robert Frost uses the roadside stand to highlight the rural–urban divide, false promises of development, and the helplessness of the rural poor. (A Roadside Stand)