

**O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR**  
**Half Yearly Examination (2018 – 2019)**

Class: XI

MM: 80

Subject: English

Time: 3 Hrs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class / Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fifteen Minutes Extra will be for reading the Question Paper.

General Instructions:

- i) The question paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
- ii) Read all the instructions carefully.
- iii) Do not exceed the word limit.

**SECTION – A READING**

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully:**

1. In India as elsewhere every girl or boy has fond and warm memories of his childhood, from the day he begins to talk to his mother and father in broken syllables. Invariably a child learns and recognizes the faces of his mother and father, of sisters and brothers who play with him constantly or the servants who prepare his meals or watch him play in the nursery. He must also remember the rich colours of the butterflies and birds which children everywhere always love to watch with open eyes. I say must, because when I was three and a half, all these memories were expunged, and with the prolonged sickness I started living in a world of four senses-that is, a world in which colours and faces and light and darkness are unknown.

2. If my age and the length of the sickness deprived me of the treasured memories of sight, they also reduced things which are valued so much in the sighted world to nothing more than mere words, empty of meaning. I started living in a universe where it was not the flood of sunshine streaming through the nursery window or the colours of the rainbow, a sunset or a full moon that mattered, but the feel of the sun against the skin, the slow drizzling sound of rain, the feel of the air just before the coming of the quiet night, the smell of the grass on a warm morning. It was a universe where at first – but only at first – I made my way fumbling and faltering.

3. It was good that I lost my sight when I did, because having no memories of seeing there was nothing to look back to, nothing to miss. I went blind in November 1937. At that time we were living in Gujarat, in the province of Punjab in northern India. After my sickness we moved to Lahore, a few miles away, but the procession of relatives who came to sympathize made my father ask for another transfer, this time to Karnal, where we had neither friends nor relatives. There we got a cottage on the canal bank, built in very peaceful and quiet surroundings.

4. As might be expected, in the beginning it was tough for all of us – for my mother and my father, for my three sisters and my brother and for me, too. The illness had left me weak. The servants shirked me as though I was an evil eye personified. My sister treated me with care, as though I were a fragile doll, and my mother wept. My father, who was a doctor in the public health service, was grateful that my spine had been tapped in time, for a delay in the lumber puncture would have affected my mind or endangered my life. But he, like that rest, despaired.

5. A state of complete inaction therefore followed my blindness. In part this was due to the immediate shock of the illness, but more important still, the impasse was caused by ignorance of the potentialities of a blind child, since the only blind persons my parents saw were beggars.

**On the basis of reading the passage answer the following questions:**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a. What are some of the things children every where learn and recognise?  | [1 mark]  |
| b. Why did the family move form Lahore to Karnal?                         | [1 mark]  |
| c. Why does the author say 'It was good that I lost my sight when I did'? | [1 marks] |
| d. What were the reasons of author's complete inaction?                   | [1marks]  |
| e. Why did the servants shirk the author?                                 | [1marks]  |

- f. Why was the author's childhood different from the others? [1 mark]
- g. When and where did the author become blind? [1 mark]
- h. What made the author to live in a dark world? [1mark]
- g. Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following: [4 marks]
- i. stricken (para 1)
  - ii. Cherished (para 2)
  - iii. Delicate (para 4)
  - iv. Parade (para 3)

**Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself. The ancient Egyptians esteemed gold, which had religious significance to them, and King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid – gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that everything he touched be turned into gold.
2. Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light passes through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver, and it is particularly important in the modern electronics industry.
3. People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in the human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of Indians in their ruthless search for gold. Often the only rule in young California during the days of the gold rush was exercised by the mob with a rope. Even today, the economic running of South Africa's gold mines depends largely on the employment of black labourers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus room and board, and who must work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners are killed in mine accidents in South Africa each year, or one for every two tons of gold produced.
4. Much of gold's value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it could be stored in a vault 60 feet square, or a supertanker.
5. Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Isaac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. But until the big discoveries of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century – starting in California in 1848 and later in Australia and South Africa – there simply wasn't enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal.
6. An out – of – work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa into the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal on a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given a 12 Pounds reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and reportedly was eaten by a lion.
7. One of the big gold – mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex – prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex – guards.
8. Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 per cent of the metal goes into jewellery. Italy is the biggest user of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewelers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold.
9. Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently: "You have to choose between trusting the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government," he said „and with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise you .... to vote for gold."

(From an article in Newsweek)

- a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title. (5 marks)

b) Write a short summary of the passage in 80 words

(3 marks)

**SECTION - B WRITING AND GRAMMAR**

**Q3.** Your company is launching a new range of apparels, shoes, school bags for children next month. Prepare an attractive poster which can be displayed in all the market areas of the city to promote the company's products in about 50-60 words. (4 marks)

**OR**

You are the secretary of the literary club of your school. (J.A.V School, Ghandhinagar, Baroda). Your school is organizing a declamation contest on the topic 'How to stay healthy?'. Draft a notice inviting the students to participate in the competition in about 50-60 words. Sign yourself as Jeet/Jyothi.

**Q4.** You want to surprise your family by taking them abroad during holidays. Write a letter to the Manager of 'Tour the World' 112 Majestic Complex, Mount Road, Chennai - 600 002 asking details of places, hotels, cost, food, places of visit etc. You are Vivek/Viveka living in 3H, West Wind Apartments, Usman Road, Tnagar, Chennai - 600 017. Write the letter in about 120-150 words. (6 marks)

**OR**

Auto rickshaws and vans overcrowded with precariously seated children, is not an uncommon sight in cities today. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper highlighting this dangerous practice and requesting him to publicise the issue and urging the authorities to take steps to curb it, else it may cost the lives of innocent children. Write the letter in about 120-150 words, as Sushant/Sunanda

**Q5.** Your school organized a cleanliness drive on the occasion of independence day. Students took responsibility of keeping clean - the class rooms, corridors, assembly and play grounds, canteen areas etc.....Write a report on how the drive was organized and how successful it was. You should write about 150 -200 words. (10 marks)

**Q6.** The following passage has errors, one in each line. Identify the errors and write them along with the corrections as shown in the example. (4 marks)

To be the champion we need to have  
that stronger urge to be at the top.

eg. the a

(a)-----

A long list of icons has made our country pride in the past and will  
continue to do so. Sports is the integral  
part of our lives or we need to understand

(b)-----

(c)-----

(d)-----

that a game is not justify a hobby

(e)-----

or leisure activity, instead it can be a means of living life. It is the  
platform to checking and better

(f)-----

one's capability and competent.

(g)-----

India is not at a top of the medal tally, but eagerly waiting  
for opportunities to blossom and shine.

(h)-----

**Q7. Rearrange the following sentences to make meaningful sentences.**

(3 marks)

brains/have/dolphins/large/fairly

e.g. Dolphins have fairly large brains.

a. rats/is/more/truth/that/dolphins/are/the/intelligent/no/than

b. sailors/there/about/drowning/many/dolphins/saving/stories/are

c. save/size/which/anything/the/they/is/about/same

**Q8. In the passage given below, some words are missing. Choose the correct word from the given options to complete the passage meaningfully. (½x6=3 marks)**

The first test tube baby turtle (a) \_\_\_\_\_ born last month in California. The story began (b) \_\_\_\_\_ a broken turtle egg (c) \_\_\_\_\_ on the seashore. Scientists have to work carefully bringing up (d) \_\_\_\_\_ baby turtle which has now (e) \_\_\_\_\_. This winter the turtle would be (f) \_\_\_\_\_ to the sea.

- |                    |                |                   |                |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| (a) (i) was born   | (ii) were born | (iii) is born     | (iv) are born  |
| (b) (i) where      | (ii) which     | (iii) when        | (iv) who       |
| (c) (i) is find    | (ii) was found | (iii) are finding | (iv) finding   |
| (d) (i) a          | (ii) an        | (iii) are         | (iv) the       |
| (e) (i) have grown | (ii) is grown  | (iii) grown       | (iv) are grown |
| (f) (i) return     | (ii) returned  | (iii) returning   | (iv) to return |

**SECTION - C LITERATURE**

**Q9. Read the extracts given below and answer the following questions: (1 x 3 = 3 marks)**

*My mother's, that was before I was born.  
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,  
Washed their terribly transient feet.*

- Name the poem and the poet.
- What does 'My mother's' refer to here?
- What does the word 'transient' show here?

**Q10. Answer any three of the following questions. (3 X 3 = 9 marks)**

- How does the Laburnum tree appear in September?
- What preparations did the narrator and his wife make for their round the world voyage in the lesson "We are not Afraid to die .....?"
- Describe the Garoghlanian family. Why and what were the members of the family proud of?
- Justify the title of the short story '*The Address*'.

**Q11. 'Our optimistic attitude helps us to face extremely dangerous situation.' Discuss with reference to the story "We are not afraid to die ....." (120 - 150 words) (6 marks)**

Or

What impression do you form of the poetess and the poetess's mother after reading the poem 'A Photograph'? (120 - 150 words)

**Q12. Comment on the influence of English-the language and the way of life as reflected in the story 'Ranga's Marriage.' (120 - 150 words) (6 marks)**

Or

"The Address" is a story of human predicament that follows war. Comment.(120 -150 words)

**Q13. Describe the friendship between Khushwant Singh and his grandmother mentioning the turning points that affected their relation. (120 - 150 words) (6 marks)**

Or

'Archaeology has changed substantially in the intervening decades.' Explain in the light of the lesson, 'Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues.' (120 - 150 words)

*D/S*  
*29/9/18*