



HALF YEARLY (2020 - 21)					
Student's Name:		Grade	X	Roll No.	
Date:	08/09/2020 (Tuesday)	Time	3 hrs.	Subject	English
Teacher's Sign.				Total Marks	80

GENERAL INSTRUCTION:

The question paper is divided into three sections

Section A : Reading 20 Marks

Section B : Grammar and Writing Skills 30 Marks

Section C : Literature and long Reading Text 30 Marks

Section A : Reading 20 Marks

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions/complete the statements that follow: (12 marks)

Long, long ago, in a big forest, there were many trees. Among the cluster of trees, there was a very tall pine tree. He was so tall that he could talk to the stars in the sky. He could easily look over the heads of the other trees. One day late in the evening, the pine tree saw a ragged, skinny girl approaching him. He could see her only because of his height. The little girl was in tears. The pine tree bent as much as he could and asked her : "What is the matter ? Why are you dying ?"

The little girl, still sobbing, replied, "I was gathering flowers for a garland for goddess Durga, who I believe, would help my parents to overcome their poverty and I have lost my way".

The pine tree said to the little girl, "It is late in the evening. It will not be possible for you to return to your house, which is at the other end of the forest. Sleep for the night at this place."

The pine tree pointed out to an open cave-like place under him. The little girl was frightened of wild animals. The girl quickly crept into the cave-like place. The pine tree was happy and pleased with himself. He stood like a soldier guarding the place. The little girl woke up in the morning and was amazed to see the pine tree standing guard outside the cave. Then her gaze travelled to the heap of flowers that she had gathered the previous night. The flowers lay withering on the ground. The pine tree understood what was going on in the girl's mind. He wrapped his branches around the nearby flower trees and shook them gently. The little girl's eyes brightened. But a great surprise awaited her. The pine tree brought out a bag full of gold coins which had been lying for years in the hole in its trunk and gave it to the girl. With teary eyes she thanked her benefactor and went away.

(A) Answer the following questions : (2 x 4 = 8 marks)

- Why was the girl crying ?
- Where did the pine tree want the little girl to sleep for the night ?
- Why was the little girl disappointed when she looked at the flowers and what did the tree do to make her happy ?
- What lesson does this short story teach us ?

B) Do as directed : (4 marks))

- What is meant by the word 'cluster' ? (Para 1)
 - group
 - team
 - class
 - party
- What is meant by the word 'approaching' ? (Para 1)

- (i) calling (ii) touching (iii) coming close (iv) running towards
- (g) What is meant by the word 'wild' ? (Para 2)
 - (i) cunning (ii) dirty (iii) unpolished (iv) dangerous
- (h) What is meant by the word 'withering' ? (Para 2)
 - (i) dead (ii) shrunk (iii) colourless (iv) unhappy

2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:

A sparrow is a small bird which is found throughout the world. There are many different species of sparrows. Sparrows are only about four to six inches in length. Many people appreciate their beautiful song. Sparrows prefer to build their nests in low places-usually on the ground, clumps of grass, low trees and low bushes. In cities they build their nests in building nooks or holes. They rarely build their nests in high places. They build their nests out of twigs, grasses and plant fibres. Their nests are usually small and well-built structures.

Female sparrows lay four to six eggs at a time. The eggs are white with reddish brown spots. They hatch between eleven to fourteen days. Both the male and female parents care for the young. Insects are fed to the young after hatching. The large feet of the sparrows are used for scratching seeds. Adult sparrows mainly eat seeds. Sparrows can be found almost everywhere, where there are humans. Many people throughout the world enjoy these delightful birds.

The sparrows are some of the few birds that engage in dust bathing. Sparrows first scratch a hole in the ground with their feet, then lie in it and fling dirt or sand over their bodies with flicks of their wings. They also bathe in water, or in dry or melting snow. Water bathing is similar to dust bathing, with the sparrow standing in shallow water and flicking water over its back with its wings, also ducking its head under the water. Both activities are social, with up to a hundred birds participating at once, and is followed by preening and sometimes group singing.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, fill in the statements:

[8 Marks]

- (a) The chief food for the adult sparrow is _____
- (b) Sparrows live wherever _____
- (c) The word, 'species' means _____
- (d) Sparrows in high places. _____
- (e) _____ take care of the young sparrows.
- (f) Sparrows take bathe in _____
- (g) Bathing for the sparrows is a _____
- (h) Bathing is followed by _____ and _____

Section B Grammar and writing

[30 Marks]

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3 Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, expressing your opinion and [8 Marks] views on the increased human dependence on technology. Right from a small child to an adult, or even an old man, everyone wants gadgets only-cell phone, I-pod, laptop, etc. This also has a negative effect on social relationships. Using your own ideas write the letter in 100-120 words.

4 You are Sumitra / Smit. You have seen the following news item in a newspaper. [6 Marks]
Video games, Internet, cell phones and other high-tech gear are just part of growing up in a digital world. But parents are concerned about the amount of time their children spend with these and worry that it might be distracting to them and cramping their academic and social development
Using your own ideas **write an article** in about 150 words describing both the benefits and drawbacks of using these high-tech devices

5 The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. [3Marks]
Identify any 3 the error and write the correct word against the correct blank number.

Vijender Singh of Bhiwani, be the (a) [Error: _____; Correction: _____;]
first Indian boxer as bring an Olympic (b) [Error: _____; Correction: _____;]
medal to India at 2008. (c) [Error: _____; Correction: _____;]
Vijender was encouraged from his coach (d) [Error: _____; Correction: _____;]

6 Rearrange the following words or phrases into meaningful Sentences [3 Marks]

- (a) inside/grandeur/the palace hall/it was/all
- (b) interwoven/pearls/were/flower garlands/sparkling/with
- (c) wooden stage/painted backcloth/the/decorated/with a/was

7 Write a story in 200 – 250 words, with the help of the clues given below. [10 marks]
Give suitable title to the story

‘Enjoying a cup of tea while sitting on my balcony on a Sunday morning, suddenly I felt a deep pain in my chest. I thought that this was the last moment of my life. I wanted to call my daughter, my husband and everybody to say the final Good Bye, but couldn’t do so

Section C Language and Literature [30 Marks]

8 Read the following lines and answer the questions that follows: [8 Marks]

“She worked her arithmetic problems absent mindedly “ Eight times
Eight let’s see” she wished she had the nerve to write Peggy a note.
, because she knew she never would have the courage to speak right out to Peggy
To say “ Hey, Peg, let’s stop asking Wanda how many dresses she has.”

A1) Who does she refer to?

- a) Peggy
- b) Maddie
- c) Wanda
- d) Ruby

- 2) In what way was she doing her work?
 a) Attentively b) actively c) happily d) absent-mindedly
- 3) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'nerve'.
 a) Courage b) problems c) arithmetic d) wished
- 4) What quality was required by Maddie?
 a) Strength b) determination c) courage d) self-confidence

**B) "They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
 They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
 They do not make me sick discussing their duty God".**

- a) Why do humans lie awake in the dark?
 1. Do not feel sleepy 2. Feel guilty 3. Worried 4. Cry for their sins
- b) What does the word "whine" mean here?
 1. Pleased 2. Angry 3. High complaining 4. Utter softly
- c) Who are 'they' referred to here?
 1. Animals 2. Human beings 3. Small children 4. Birds
- d) Why does the poet feel sick?
 1. Humans running after money 3. Always criticizing others
 2. Always complaining 4. Sermonizing themselves

9) Answer any 5 of the following questions in 30 to 40 words. [10 Marks]

- a) What does the poet Robert Frost want to convey through the poem 'Dust of Snow' ?
- b) How much money did Lencho need? How much did he get?
- c) Why was Mr. Herriot tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest?
- d) How does Robert Frost caution the common man ?
- e) What freedom meant to Mandela in childhood ?
- f) Does the title 'Amanda' suit the poem?
- g) 'Paper has more patience than people'. Elucidate.

10) Answer any one of the following questions in 120- 150 words. [6 Marks]

- a) . Give the character sketch of Maddie.
- b) Do you agree that wild animals should be caged? Comment 'yes' or 'no' giving reasons.

11) Answer any one of the following questions in 120- 150 words. [6 Marks]

- a))** Richard's mother had a great influence on him. Discuss
- b)** Griffin is talented scientist but he misused his invention. The lesson we learn from his example is that the misuse of a scientist discovery can play havoc with humanity. Explain.