



PERIODIC ASSIGNMENT – 1 2021-22

Grade – 8

Subject- ENGLISH

Syllabus – CH- 1,2 [PROSE & POEM] FROM TEXTBOOK (HONEYDEW) CH 1 (IT SO HAPPENED) MESSAGE WRITING GRAMMAR CH 1 and 2

[READING]

Q1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his family. He would miss the pay cheque, but he needed to retire. The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said ‘yes’, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior material. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer handed over the key of the house to the carpenter— “This is your house, my gift to you.”

What a shock! What a shame ! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently! Now he had to live in a poorly built house. So it is with us. We build our lives, a day

at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we would do it much differently. But, you cannot go back. You are the carpenter, and every day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Someone once said, your attitude, and the choices you make today, help build the “house” you will live in tomorrow. Therefore, build wisely!

Questions:

1. What did the carpenter tell his employer?
2. What favour did his employer ask from the carpenter ?
3. What surprise did the employer have for the carpenter ?
4. Why was the surprise a ‘shame’ for the carpenter?
5. Which word in the first paragraph means the same as ‘art of skill of a workman’ ?

ii. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

JK Rowling is a British author who was born on 31st July 1965. She is best known as writer of the **Harry Potter** fantasy series, the idea for which was conceived on a train from Manchester to London in 1990. The Potter books have gained worldwide attention, won multiple awards, sold more than 400 million copies and been the basis for a popular series of films, in which Rowling had overall approval on the scripts. Rowling is perhaps equally famous for her ‘**rags to riches**’ life story, in which she progressed from living on welfare to multi-millionaire status within five years. Time Magazine named her as a runner-up for its

2007 **Person of the Year**, noting the social, moral and political inspiration she has given her fans. In October 2010, JK Rowling was named the ‘most influential woman in Britain’ by leading magazine editors. She is involved in social work and supports charities as Comic Relief, One Parent Families, Multiple Sclerosis of Great Britain and Lumos.

A. Answer these questions.

- i. Who is JK Rowling and when was she born?
- ii. Which fantasy series she has written?
- iii. Name any two charities that are supported by JK Rowling.

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the passage. i. JK Rowling is famous for her ‘rags to riches’ life story.

ii. She was named as the first runner-up for Person of the year award in 2007 by Time magazine.

iii. Find the opposites of these words from the passage – reality – fantasy , immoral - moral .

3 Read the poems given below and answer the questions/complete the statements that follow:

Be the Best

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley—but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill,
Be a bush if you can't be a tree
If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass
But be the liveliest bass in the lake!
We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here
There's big work to do and there's lesser to do,
And the task we must do is the near.
If you can't be a highway then just be a trail
If you can't be the sun, be a star,
It isn't by size that you win or you fail
Be the best of whatever you are!

i) Questions:

a) What is the poet's tone in the poem ?

- b) What should be our attitude towards our work ?
- c) What is the message of the poem ?
- d) Winning does not depend on.....
- e) Which word in the poem means the same as “piece of work is difficult”.

ii) fill in the blanks

- a) Opposite of happier is
- b) Opposite of smaller is.....

iii) What is the rhyming word of :

- a) rill b) bass

4. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions complete the statements given below:

Oh! Defenders of borders
 You are great sons of my land
 When we are all asleep
 You still hold on to your deed.
 Windy season or snowy days
 Or scorching sun’s sweltering rays
 You are there guarding all the time awake
 Treading the lonely expanses as Yogis.
 Climbing the heights or striding the valleys
 Defending the deserts and guarding the marshes
 Surveillance in seas and by securing the air
 Prime of your youth given to the nation!!
 Wind chimes of my land vibrate your feat
 We pray for you brave men!!
 May the Lord bless you all!!

– **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**

i) Questions:

- The poem is dedicated to.....
- What do they sacrifice for the nation?
- Which figure of speech is used in the last line of the second stanza ?
- What does Dr. Kalam express through the last two lines ?
- ”Scorching’ in the poem means.....

ii) What is the rhyming word of :

- a) rays

iii) Fill in the blanks

- a) the lonely expanses as Yogis

b) Or scorching sun'srays

WRITING

5 Read the following telephonic conversation between Neerja and Soham. Soham is about to leave home and will not be able to meet Rohit .She leaves a message for him.

Write the message ,using not more than 50 words:

Neerja: : It is Neerja here. Soham , Do you know India International Trade Fair has 2021 has started. I plan to visit it today.

Soham: : Oh! It is a wonderful idea. But why not make it tomorrow?

Neerja: : No. Tomorrow I am busy. Let's make it today. Surinder is coming with me .
You bring Rohit with you.

Soham : : He is not present at home at present. But rest assured that he will be happy with us.
He had expressed a desire to visit it earlier.

Neerja: : Then it is settled. Please wait for us at Gate No. 3 at 1:30 pm today . In case you reach earlier then wait for us. If we reach earlier then we shall look for you.

Soham: : Fine it shall be all right. We shall reach in time.

Neerja: : All right bye till then.

Soham: : Bye

MESSAGE

15-4-21

Rohit ,

We are visiting India International Trade Fair 2021 today. Neerja and Surinder shall wait for us at 1.30 pm at Gate No.3. I shall be back from office at 12 noon to go there. Please wait tillthen. I shall tell you everything.

-Sonam

6 You are Sonakshi. Your father is on tour. Today morning he called upon your mother. As your mother was not at home, you received the call and had the following conversation with him:

Father : Hello! Who is speaking?

Yourself: Sonakshi here.

Father : Well Sonakshi, I am here now in Chennai. Where is your Mom?

Yourself: Papa, she has gone to the market and will be back in an hour. Have you any message for her?

Father : Oh, yes. Please tell her that my meeting may prolong for two more days. In that case I may be back on the 5th. Otherwise I'll return as per scheduled programme. After coming back we will go to Kashmir. So be ready for that.

Yourself: Thank you Papa. I'll convey it to Mom and all.

As you are leaving for your dance class, leave a message for your mother in not more than 50 words. Put your message in a box.

MESSAGE

25 -5-21

9:00 AM

Dear Mom,

Father had called upon you when you were in the market. He had left a message that his meeting may be extended by two days more. In that case he will be back by 5th otherwise he will be back as per schedule. After he returns, he has a programme to

Take us to Kashmir. So be ready for that

-Sonakshi

GRAMMAR

7 A. Underline the noun phrases in the sentences –

1. The big bright full moon adorned the sky.
2. The big black dog is very friendly.
3. My piano lessons are progressing well.
4. The paperback edition of this book is not available anywhere.
- 5 Chemical pesticides and fertilizers are poisoning water bodies too.
- 6 Beth dreamt she was all alone on a lonely planet.

8 B Underline the adjective phrases in this description

It was a **cold and bleak** wintry evening. The **gentle murmuring** breeze tapped the window blinds

Outside , the wind lifted the **yellow fallen leaves** and dropped them at another **lonely place**. Soon **white feathery flakes** covered the earth, preparing us for a **chilly white** morning

9 Underline the verb phrases in these sentences –

1. The lunar mission Chandrayaan -1 was launched by India.
2. Widespread water has been detected on the surface of moon.
3. This could make a manned base on the moon possible.
4. It will not be surprising if people start travelling to the moon.
5. International space missions have found evidence of ice on Mars.
6. None of us expected such discoveries ten years ago.

10 **Underline the adverb phrase in these sentences –**

1. The train moved quite slowly as it neared the station.
2. He spoke surprisingly well though it was his debut.
3. We dine out only occasionally.
4. The firefighters got into action without any delay.
5. You should have submitted the report much earlier.
6. My grandmother looked after me with loving care.

11 **Fill in the blanks with the suitable prepositions . Then underline the prepositional phrases formed.**

1. The tall tree swayed from side to side during the storm.
2. They have ordered for some furniture online.
3. They sat by the river with their fishing rods dipped in.
4. Please bear with a temporary disruption in your network.
5. If you take pride in your work , you will always give your best.
6. Sheeba is slow in the game and may not move to the next level

NOUN PHRASE

12 **Add a suitable *pre modifier* to expand each noun phrase.**

1. My brother studies in a small primary school.
2. The confident little girl was awarded a scholarship.
3. My brother solved an extraordinarily complex puzzle.
4. Dedicated citizens actively participate in a democracy.
5. I am reading the best award winning novel of J K Rowling.
6. Most young people exercise regularly to stay fit.

7. We cannot see the **distant** stars without a telescope.
8. This **beautiful** city is located on the banks of the Danube River.
9. Gagan has been **areal** hero in saving the child from the house on fire.
10. We went to see the **brightly lit** RashtrapatiBhavan on Republic Day

13 Underline the postmodifier(s) in each sentence.

4. Boys sitting **in that corner** helped me fill the form.
5. Mangoes **from India** are famous in the world.
6. Vansh has paid back the money **borrowed from his friends**.
7. Lenny loves vegetables **with a lot of cheese**.
8. Someone daily visits the orphans **in the night shelter**.
9. Newspapers **reporting the incident** have already been circulated.
10. Cottages **built on the hilltop** are centrally heated for winter.
11. The jar **of peanut butter** slipped from my hand.
12. Children **cheering the team** were asked not to make noise.
13. Villagers are often awed by the traffic **on city roads**.

14 Rewrite the sentences changing the highlighted premodifiers into postmodifiers.

- 1 This is an interesting topic for me.
This is a topic of interest for me.
- 2 The teak table is an antique.
The table of teak is an antique
- 3 We bought the world-famous Persian carpets.
We bought the world-famous carpets from Persia.
- 4A government officer helped us.
An officer from the government helped us.
- 5 That is our recreation room.
That is our room for recreation
- 6Grandpa is a very patient man.
Grandpa is a man of great patience.
- 7 We enjoyed the summer vacation.

We enjoyed the vacation during summer.

8 The expiry date is printed on the flap.

The date of expiry is printed on the flap.

9 He has been a successful man.

He has been a man of success

10 We should aim to live a contented life.

We should aim to live a life of content.

15 Underline the noun complements and cross out the post modifiers in these sentences.

1. The road ~~to Pune~~ is very well-laid.
2. The plant ~~with red leaves~~ is very delicate.
3. The girl ~~with curly hair~~ is a good dancer.
4. Look at the picture ~~of the man wanted for embezzlement~~.
5. The bottle ~~with medicine~~ has been labelled.
6. *No postmodifier*
7. The advice ~~to the winners~~ is to stay humble.
8. A gift ~~of ten thousand~~ rupees was given to each player.

16 Underline the *noun phrase complements* in these sentences.

9. The sound of this alarm is very pleasant.
10. A fear of water is deeply rooted in me.
11. The smoke from burning leaves is harmful.
12. I appreciate the way you serve the poor.

17 Complete the noun phrases in these sentences by adding *noun complements*

1. The beauty of the Taj Mahal at night is an attraction.
2. My bag is the one with a red tag.
3. What is your reason for such long absence?
4. Our hope for winning the trophy is fading now.
5. Their need for more funds is quite reasonable.
6. I am looking for information on ancient civilisations.
7. The staff was in awe of the new manager.

8. The joy **of having helped someone** is the greatest joy.
9. Education has the power **to change one's thinking**.
10. My passion **for classical music** has been there since my childhood.

LITERATURE

18 Word Meanings

1. Spotted it – saw it , found it
2. Scorch marks – burn marks
3. Restore – repair
4. Stuck fast – shut tight
5. Scruples – feelings that make you hesitate to do something wrong
6. Trenches – long deep ditches in the ground where soldiers hide from the enemy
7. Cello – A musical instrument like a large violin
8. Marzipan – A sweet covering on a cake made from sugar, eggs and almonds
9. Dugout – A shelter for soldiers made by digging a hole in the ground and covering it
Boarded up - Covered with wooden boards
11. Muddle headed – Confused
12. Suffused with – Spread all over her face
13. Djinn – a Spirit that has supreme powers
14. Plough - a large farming implement with one or more blades fixed in a frame
15. Whistling – high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small hole between one's
.
- 16 Dusk-cloak - A loose outfit garment
- 17 Remonstrated – Protested
- 18 Humph – now called as ‘hump’; a rounded raised mass of earth or land ; a rounded protuberance found on the back of a camel
- 19 Reflection - the throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing
- 20 Stroke – an act of hitting or striking someone or something
- 21 Prickles - a small thorn
- 22 Tremor - a slight earth quake
- 23 Chaos – a complete disorder

- 24 Recede – Move back from where it was
- 25 Resort – A place where people go on a holiday
- 26 Triggered – Caused
- 27 - Hysterical – without any control over yourself
- 28 Withstood - endured without collapsing

19 Answer the following questions in short :

Q 1. What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans - The author found an old roll-top desk in a junk shop in Bridport. It was made in early 19th century of oak wood.

Q 2. Who had written the letter, to whom and when?

Ans - Jim had written the letter to his wife, Connie, dated Dec. 26, 1914.

Q 3. Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans - Most likely, it was put there by Mrs. Jim Macpherson, who was Jim's wife. Her name and address were on the envelope inside the box.

Q 4. How old was Mrs Macpherson now? Where was she?

Ans - Mrs. Macpherson was a hundred and one years old. She was admitted to Burlington House Nursing Home after her house had caught fire.

Q5 . Why did the author go to Bridport?

Ans - The author went to Bridport because that was the address where Mrs. Macpherson lived. He wanted to give that letter back to her.

Q6 .Who did Connie Macpherson think her visitor was?

Ans - Connie Macpherson thought that her visitor was her husband, Jim Macpherson.

. Why did the camel live in the middle of the desert?

Ans- The camel lived in the middle of the desert because he did not want to work.

Q7. What tasks , do you think , were assigned to the dog and the ox?

Ans - The dog was given the task of fetching and carrying things in its mouth while the ox had a yoke around its neck and was required to plough the fields for agriculture.

Q8. What made the dog, the horse and the ox very angry?

Ans - As the camel was not working, the man thought that it is incapable of doing any work and thus asked the other three animals to work double to make up for the idleness of the camel. This made the three very angry.

Q9. How did the Djinn know the horse was complaining against the camel?

Ans-The horse described the physical appearance of the camel and also told the djinn that the thing (camel) has not done any work since Monday morning. This made the djinn realise that the horse was talking about the djinn's camel.

Q 10. The camel said, "Humph" repeatedly. How did it affect him?

Ans- The camel was used to saying 'Humph' to everyone when he was asked to work; he did the same with the djinn as well which enraged the djinn and he gave the camel a hump in response to his ill behaviour.

Q 11. What, according to the Djinn, was the use of the 'humph'?

Ans-The djinn told the camel that as he had missed the first three days of work, he would be able to live and work without eating for three days. This meant that the camel could live off the nutrition stored in his hump for three days.

Q 12 Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Ans- Tilly's family came to Thailand because it was a part of their plan to celebrate Christmas.

Q13. How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Ans - As many as sixty people and only two water buffaloes died in Yala National Park.

Q 14 How do you think her geography teacher felt when he had heard what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Ans - Tilly had used what she had learnt in class. The teacher felt satisfied and pleased and was very proud of her.

Q 15. Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Ans- Yes, such an odd thing as sudden excessive swelling of the sea alarmed Tilly's mother Penny Smith but she had absolutely no idea whatsoever, of what was happening, what to do .

Q 16 Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Ans- Before coming on vacation, Tilly saw the video of Tsunami in one of her geography classes.

Q 20 Answer in detail

Q 1. Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?

Ans - The desk must have been sold when the house in which Connie Macpherson lived had caught fire. She was taken to a nursing home. All the burnt up things must have been sold by the neighbours after that.

Q 2. What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it "the best Christmas present in the world"?

Ans - When the narrator came to see Connie and gave her the box, she mistook him for her husband Jim. She thought that Jim had come home for Christmas. This was Connie's Christmas present. It was the best Christmas present in the world for her because Jim had written in the letter that he would come home on Christmas. She had read that letter several times everyday to feel that he was near her. Now that he was finally there with her, she was extremely happy.

Q3 . Why was the letter written--what was the wonderful thing that had happened?

Ans - Jim wrote the letter to tell his wife about a wonderful thing that had happened on Christmas day. The British and the Germans were engaged in a war, yet on this day, both the troops met in no man's land. It was a thing of wonder because right in the middle of a war, the warring soldiers were making peace.