

**North Ex Public School**  
**Jain Nagar**  
**Half Yearly Examination 2019-2020**  
**Subject: English**  
**Class: XI**

**Time: 3 hours**

**M.M: 80 marks**

**Instructions:**

- **This paper is divided into three sections A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.**
- **Read the instruction very carefully and follow them faithfully.**
- **Do not exceed the prescribed limit while answering the question.**

**SECTION A (Reading)**

**(20 marks)**

**1. Read the passage carefully. (12)**

1. We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, because they contaminate his food, carry diseases or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation; they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps but of quite harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that the industrious ant lives in a highly organized society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch.

2. No matter how much we like honey or how much we have read about the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating, we enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that, like the praying mantis, they lead perfectly horrible lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly or a column of ants triumphantly bearing home an enormous dead beetle?

3. Last summer, I spent days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prize of peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the

house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphids were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large colony of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which, even though it failed to get rid of the ants, kept me fascinated for twenty four hours. I bound the base of the tree with sticky tape, making it impossible for the ants to reach the aphids. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it. For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at midnight with a torch and noted with satisfaction (and surprise) that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning hoping to find that the ants had given up in despair. Instead, I saw that they had discovered a new route. They were climbing up the wall of the house and then on to the leaves of the tree. I then realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly methods!

**1.1. Complete the following sentences: (6)**

1. Insects are regarded unnecessary creatures because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Human beings get a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ when they watch insects.
3. Knowing about the insects helps man \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The attitude of man towards insects as described in the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ants were stopped at the base of the tree so that \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The phrase that has the same meaning as 'drive away' is \_\_\_\_\_. (para 3)

**1.2. Answer the following questions: (6)**

1. When do we find insects fascinating?
2. Describe the peach here in two sentences.
3. What did the writer do to stop the insects from climbing the tree?
4. How did the insects defeat the writer?
5. Which word in para 3 means the same as 'cleverness'?
6. Which word in para 3 means the same as 'crawling'?

**2. Read the poem carefully. (8)**

The sky was perfect, an unblemished blue,  
And the sun shone like a polished gold coin  
For the day of our picnic  
In a meadow dotted with speed well harebells  
We spread a tablecloth and unpacked our food.  
A sumptuous feast!  
Later we walked through a wood,

A still and shady place where we gazed at acres of nodding bluebells.

Then padded in a stream while minnows

Darted nervously. Suddenly a kingfisher's

Electric, sapphire flash!

Usually a 'blue day' denotes sadness,

But our picnic was a memory to store against

The dark days of December.

It was a day abuzz with life

When no one cried and laughter was heard

Under a perfect blue sky.

**2. 2.1. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options: (4)**

1. 'A Blue Day' is \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. a day when everything goes wrong | b. a day when the sky is clear |
| c. a day of sadness                 | d. a day in December           |

2. The poet went with his companion for \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| a. fishing in stream | b. picnic              |
| c. having a feast    | d. a walk in the woods |

3. The woods were \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. dark and sweet | b. bright and sunny |
| c. dark and windy | d. quiet and shady  |

4. The poet and his companions came back \_\_\_\_\_.

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| a. happy      | b. sad     |
| c. frustrated | d. annoyed |

**1.2. Answer the following questions: (4)**

1. Describe the day when the poet went for a picnic?
2. Why was the poet happy at the end of the day?
3. What has the sun been compared to?
4. Which word in these lines means the same as 'grassy area'?

## **SECTION B (Writing and Grammar)**

**(30 marks)**

3. Your school has won All-Round Best Trophy for its achievement in sports, academics, cultural and welfare activities. The students' council has decided to celebrate this occasion. Write a notice informing the students about the proposed celebrations. (4)

Or

Design a poster for promoting cleanliness in the surroundings of your colony.

4. Write a letter to the Editor of National Herald, New Delhi about water scarcity in your locality suggesting ways to improve the position of water supply. You are Ramnath / Reema of Ghaziabad. (6)

Or

You are Rohan Khanna of 149 Circular Road, Panipat. Write an application to the Manager, D.A.V. Senior Secondary School, Panipat in response to an advertisement for the post of a music teacher in that school.

5. You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in The Times of India, inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as sales assistants in a reputed company. Apply for the job to Box No. 8365, c/o The Times of India, New Delhi. (6)

Or

As a Manager, Spring Blossoms School, Dharwar, place an order for (at least 4 items) school furniture. Write a letter to Curson & Co., Furniture Manufacturers, Dharwar.

6. Write an article in 200 words on 'The Role of Youth in National Development' to be published in your school magazine. You are Vishesh / Vidhi. (8)

Or

Write a speech on 'pollution' in a maximum of 200 words to be given at assembly time in your school.

7. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction word in your answer sheet as given below against the correct blank number. (1 x 3=3 marks)

	Correct	Incorrect
a. I want a pen to write on. _____		_____
b. Are you a member in the committee? _____	_____	_____
c. My inquiry for his health was never answered. _____		_____

8. Look at the sentences given below in disorderly form, re-arrange them to form meaningful sentences. (3)

- a. the girl / is weeping / doll / whose / lost / has / been
- b. new / the / medicine / made / difference / any / hasn't
- c. valuables / have / recovered / we / of / some / our.

**SECTION C (TEXTBOOKS)**  
**(30 marks)**

9. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions. (2)

Till the goldfinch comes, with a  
twitching chirrup  
a suddenness, a startlement, at a  
Branch end.

Then sleek as a lizard, and alert,  
And abrupt,  
she enters the thickness, and a

machine starts up

Of chitterings, and a tremor of wings, and trillings.

- 1. How does the goldfinch come?
- 2. What do you mean by trillings?

**Or**

And forever, by day and night, I  
give back life to my own origin.

And make pure and beautify it;

(For song, issuing from its birth place,  
Reck'd or unreck'd duly with love returns)

- 1. What is the impact of rain on earth?
- 2. Write the word which signifies 'cared or uncared' in the poem.

10. Answer any 5 of the following questions: (5x2=10)

- 1. What according to the astrologer was Ranga's cause of worry? How did the name Ratna crop up?
- 2. Why did the narrator feel the urge to see her mother's belongings?
- 3. Which tribe did Aram belong to? What was the image of his tribe?

4. Highlight the ways in which the sparrows expressed their sorrow when the author's grandmother died.
5. Describe the mental condition of the voyagers on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January.
6. Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned-in-death, as in life....."

**11. Answer any of the following questions.**

- a. Why Ranga's homecoming was a great event? What was the reaction of the people when they saw him? **(6)**

**Or**

Describe narrator's second visit to Mrs. Dorling house.

- b. Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view with examples. **(6)**

**Or**

Describe the harrowing experience of the narrator as mighty waves hit 'Wave-Walker' in the Southern Indian Ocean.

- c. The grandmother herself was not formally educated but was serious about the author's education. How does the text support this? **(6)**

**Or**

Did the boys return the horse because they were conscience stricken or because they were afraid?