

NORTH-EX PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Senior Secondary, Affiliated To CBSE)
School Block, Jain Nagar, Sector-38, Rohini, Delhi – 81
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2023-2024
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
CLASS: XI

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

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)
(26 MARKS)

1. Read the passage carefully. (10)

1. Reading Comprehension (RC, as it is normally called) is the most peculiar section in almost all scholastic, entrance and employment tests. The skills in RC make a lot of difference to one's chances of good grades/selection.
2. Most students find it difficult to tackle topics that are diverse from the field they are in or they are comfortable with. So one needs to develop a taste for even the most obscure and boring topic on this planet. For success in RC one should be able to understand. And even with an average speed one can succeed if one implements the strategies.
3. Broadly speaking, RC passages can be classified in a few categories. Fact based RC is the simplest form of RC. These types of passages have lot of information in the form of names, numbers etc. In this type of passages one should read very fast.
4. Don't try to memorize any facts, numbers or names etc. In fact there is no need to even remember them. Just make yourself familiar with the structure of the passage. Just see in which paragraph author is talking about what. Mark it. Then when you go to the questions, identify in which paragraph information regarding that question is mentioned. Go to that paragraph, read the numbers, names etc. and mark the answer.
5. Inference based RC is the toughest form of RC. Here the passage is fairly tough to understand. This includes passages on topics like Religion, Spirituality, Philosophy, etc. Most of the students will be comfortable attempting these passages at least in RC. The reading speed is fairly slow in this type of passages. The way to master this type of passages is to read them again and again while practicing.
6. Topic based RC includes passages on any particular topic like economics, astrology, medical science, etc. Generally what makes -these passages tough is usage of technical terms. If a topic is new to us then presence of technical term scares us even if they are defined in the passage. For success in this type of passages we need to have a fan-

understanding of the definition of the term if it is defined in the passage. Read that definition twice if you need to. But don't worry about technical terms if they are not defined in the passage. Assume them to be non-existent and proceed. Key principle in these passages is that don't go to the next line unless the previous line is clear.

7. Reading passage first and then questions is the most popular strategy for RC. While answering the question you may come back to the passage to find answer as you have just read the passage initially and not crammed it. But you should not come back for each and every question. If you come back for majority of questions then you haven't read the passage properly. The key to success for this strategy is that you should understand the passage very well. We will suggest students to follow this technique from the beginning and work upon this.
8. Reading questions first and then passage is the strategy followed by a few students. They just look at the questions and not options. The objective is that after seeing the questions when you read the passage then you read only that part carefully where the answer is given. The flaw with this is that you will not be able to remember all the questions. Besides this, this strategy fails when there are questions that require understanding of the passage.

A. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

1. **Most students find Reading Comprehension difficult because.....**
 - (a) the language is tough
 - (b) the vocabulary is difficult
 - (c) the style is too involved
 - (d) the topics are unrelated to their interest
2. **Fact based RC is the easiest because.....**
 - (a) it is written in simple language
 - (b) there are no allusions
 - (c) it contains information
 - (d) it can be memorised easily
3. **For answering a question on RC, one should.....**
 - (a) memorise the facts, figures, etc.
 - (b) mark what the author is talking about in the para
 - (c) mark the essential details of the passage
 - (d) remember the names, numbers, etc.
4. **Topic based RC is tough as.....**
 - (a) it contains technical terms
 - (b) it is based on different topics
 - (c) it demands instant understanding
 - (d) one can't read them fast enough
5. **Careful reading of the passage is essential for.....**
 - (a) answering difficult questions
 - (b) saving time and effort
 - (c) proper understanding and answering correctly
 - (d) selective identification of relevant parts

6. The word 'diverse' in para 2 means.....
- (a) similar
 - (b) same
 - (c) variety
 - (d) different

B. Answer the following questions in brief: 6

7. What should one do for finding the right answers?
8. Which step is considered more essential for finding right answers? Why?
9. What is the most popular strategy for solving Reading Comprehension (RC)?
10. Find the words similar in the meaning from passage.
 - (a) Different (para 2)
 - (b) Accept as true (para 6)

2. Read the passage carefully.

(8)

1. Floods are not new to India and this sub-continent, but in recent years the problem has received much greater attention perhaps largely because it has led to much greater damage than in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimized. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessively heavy rain.
2. In the case of India flooding is very much a function of the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. But, flooding is not confined only to the main rivers of the country, often smaller tributaries and streams can cause heavy damage as well. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams particularly in mountain areas do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.
3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration, but far more intensive. In other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.
4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of flood through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In the case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. This leads to deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spillover of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the river beds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures, symbolized, for instance, by the

stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, which is merely a trickle most of the year, but bursting its banks during the monsoons as has been the case this year.

5. Flood forecasting is critical to minimizing the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood prone interstate rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

A. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

(6)

1. The problem of floods has been considered important recently because.....

- (a) there are flash floods (b) floods are unpredictable
(c) the rivers change their courses (d) these cause much greater damage

2. The danger of floods is not minimised as.....

- (a) flood forecasting is inaccurate (b) there is little time available for safety measures
(c) people are scared and act in panic (d) support infrastructure is poor

3. India suffers from floods during monsoons because.....

- (a) it rains very heavily and continually (b) the embankments of the rivers are weak
(c) the streams and rivers spill over (d) the streams are full of silt

4. Climate change is the direct result of.....

- (a) increased concentration of green house gases (b) explosion of nuclear devices
(c) fire in oil wells in the gulf region (d) significantly changed pattern of monsoons

5. The worst hit people are slum dwellers because.....

- (a) they are stubborn and helpless (b) they do not have means to move away quickly
(c) they have concentrated in large numbers (d) they have settled on the banks of the rivers

6. The word 'precipitation' in para 3 means.....

- (a) forming a precipitate (b) separation of solid material from liquid
(c) falling of rain in an area (d) the quality of being exact or accurate

B. Answer the following questions in brief:

(2)

- a. Why does India suffer from floods during monsoons?
b. Which human action have heightened the danger of flood?

3. Read the following passages carefully:

1. A good business letter is one that gets results. The best way to get results is to develop a letter that, in its appearance, style and content, conveys information efficiently. To perform this function, a business letter should be concise, clear and courteous.

2. The business letter must be concise: don't waste words. Little introduction or preliminary chat is necessary. Get to the point, make the point, and leave it. It is safe to assume that your letter is being read by a very busy person with all kinds of papers to deal with. Re-read and revise your message until the words and sentences you have used are precise. This takes time, but is a necessary part of a good business letter. A short business letter that makes its point quickly has much more impact on a reader than a long-winded, rambling exercise in creative writing. This does not mean that there is no place for style and even, on occasion, humour in the business letter. While it conveys a message in its contents, the letter also provides the reader with an impression of you, its author: the medium is part of the message.

3. The business letter must be clear. You should have a very firm idea of what you want to say, and you should let the reader know it. Use the structure of the letter—the paragraphs, topic sentences, introduction and conclusion—to guide the reader point by point from your thesis, through your reasoning, to your conclusion. Paragraph often, to break up the page and to lend an air of organisation to the letter. Use an accepted business-letter format. Re-read what you have written from the point of view of someone who is seeing it for the first time, and be sure that all explanations are adequate, all information provided (including reference numbers, dates, and other identification). A clear message, clearly delivered, is the essence of business communication.

4. The business letter must be courteous. Sarcasm and insults are ineffective and can often work against you. If you are sure you are right, point that out as politely as possible, explain why you are right, and outline what the reader is expected to do about it. Another form of courtesy is taking care in your writing and typing of the business letter. Grammatical and spelling errors (even if you call them typing errors) tell a reader that you don't think enough of him or can lower the reader's opinion of your personality faster than anything you say, no matter how idiotic. There are excuses for ignorance; there are no excuses for sloppiness.

5. The business letter is your custom-made representative. It speaks for you and is a permanent record of your message. It can pay big dividends on the time you invest in giving it a concise message, a clear structure, and a courteous tone.

A. Make notes on the passage using recognisable abbreviations in any suitable format. Give a title to the passage. (5)

B. Make a summary of the passage. (3)

**SECTION B (WRITING AND GRAMMAR)
(23 MARKS)**

4. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line against which a blank is given. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. (4)

	Incorrect	Correct
Yesterday when we was driving through	(a)
a forest we saw a deer on a right side of the road.	(b)
My friend brings out his Camera	(c)
but the deer quickly jumped at	(d)
a pit. We stopped to help the		
deer get into of the pit.	(e)

5. Re-arrange the following words to make meaningful sentences . (3)

1. please/ the/ us/ how/ know/ let/ interview went
2. been/ Ambassador/ has/ Tendulkar/ named as the Rio Olympics' Brand/ Sachin
3. from/ apple market/ I/ the/ brought/ some/ juice

6. You plan to sell your Honda motor cycle. Write a suitable classified advertisement in not more than 50 words for a local daily giving the necessary details. (3)

Or

You want to sell your flat in Ashok Vihar. Write out an advertisement giving necessary details in about 50 words.

7. Design a poster for promoting cleanliness in the surroundings of your colony. (3)

Or

Design a poster in not more than 50 words for your school library on the value of books and good reading habits. You may use slogans.

8. You are distressed by the fact that the students of today undergo a lot of stress and pressure in life. You have found peace and relaxation by practicing yoga. You wish to share your experience with the students of your school. Prepare a speech to be given in the morning assembly on 'The Benefits of Yoga'. You are Sunil / Sonal. (5)

9. 'Our large population is not a cause of poverty but an asset, a resource.' Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion. (5)

Section – C Literature. (31 marks)

10. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow: (3)

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 trilling
 The whole tree trembles and thrills.

i. Identify the poetic device used in the first line?

- ii. What does 'machine' refer to in the extract?
- iii. Find a word from the extract which is the synonym of 'warble'

Or

“All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.”

- i. What does the poet mean by 'smile through their hair'?
- ii. Which poetic device has been used in 'transient feet'?
- iii. Find a word from the extract which means "lasting only for a short time"?

11. Read the following extracts and answer any one of the following questions: (3)

The roar increased to a thunder as the stern moved up the face of the wave, and for a moment I thought we might ride over it. But then a tremendous explosion shook the deck. A torrent of green and white water broke over the ship, my head smashed into the wheel and I was aware of flying overboard and sinking below the waves. I accepted my approaching death, and as I was losing consciousness, I felt quite peaceful.

- a) What happened when the author's head smashed into the wheel?
- b) What did the narrator think before the wave hit the ship?
- c) Why did the author accept his approaching death?

Or

The next morning she was taken ill. It was a mild fever and the doctor told us that it would go. But my grandmother thought differently. She told us that her end was near. She said that, since only a few hours before the close of the last chapter of her life she had omitted to pray, she was not going to waste any more time talking to us.

- a) What did the grandmother do in her final hours?
- b) What happened when the grandmother didn't pray for the first time?
- c) What happened when the author returned from abroad after five years?

11. Read the extract given below and answer any two of the questions that follow: (4)

“Good morning, son of my friends, he said. What is the name of your horse? My Heart, my cousin Mourad said in Armenian. A lovely name, John Byro said, for a lovely horse. I could swear it is the horse that was stolen from me many weeks ago. May I look into his mouth? Of course, Mourad said. The farmer looked into the mouth of the horse. Tooth for tooth, he said. I would swear it is my horse if I didn't know your parents. The fame of your family for honesty is well known to me. Yet the horse is the twin of my horse. A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart.

- i. 'May I look into his mouth?' What is the context of this statement?
- ii. What was special in the mouth of the horse?
- iii. How could Byro not doubt the boys?
- iv. Write the synonym of 'wary' from the extract.

Or

She kept staring at me in silence. Perhaps I was mistaken, I thought, perhaps it isn't her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly, and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right.

- a) Who is the author of the Address?
- b) Who opened the door for the narrator?
- c) Who is 'she' refers to in this extract?

12. Answer any 2 of the following questions in 30-40 words:

(3 x 2 = 6)

1. How can you say that Suzanne's injuries were serious?
2. Who was King Tut? Why was a CT scan done on him?
3. How does the poet describe the laburnum tree?
4. How does the rain justify its claim: "I am the Poem of Earth"?

13. Answer any one of the following questions in 30-40 words:

(3)

1. How does Mrs Fitzgerald plan to deal with the family of Mrs Pearson?
2. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

14. Answer any one of the following questions:

(6)

1. What difference did you noticed between the reaction of the adults and the children when faced with danger?
2. Describe how the common bond of friendship was broken when the narrator's parents called them in the city.

15. Answer any one of the following questions:

(6)

1. What problem does Mrs. Pearson face? Who do you think is responsible for this state of affairs?
2. Describe narrator's first visit to Mrs. Dorling's house in Marconi Street.