

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

Time: 3 Hours

M.M: 80 marks

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
 2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
 3. Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.
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Section A (Reading)

Q1. Read the passage given below and write the option that you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet: (10 marks)

- (1) Meditation has become a mainstream activity in many parts of the world. Though the main reason to meditate is for spiritual awareness, there are additional benefits from learning to focus our attention within. One of these is the healing it brings about in our physical bodies. Over the past few decades, doctors and scientists have been studying the body-mind connection and its relationship to physical health. Medical research has indicated a link between certain illnesses and our state of mind and emotional condition.
- (2) It has been found that when we undergo mental stress, emotional pain or depression, our physical resistance to disease drops. We become more susceptible to catching a disease because our ability to keep our immune system in top working order decreases.
- (3) Science has pinpointed that certain diseases such as digestive problems, breathing problems, heart disease, and migraine headaches, to name a few, may sometimes be caused due to stress. Thus, we arrive at the possibility that by reducing stress in our lives, we can improve our physical health and well-being.
- (4) To begin to explore this possibility, it is imperative to understand the root cause of stress in our lives. In this hectic and fast-paced world, we are constantly being bombarded with information, and stimuli.
- (5) Life has become increasingly complicated. With competing priorities, family and social obligations, increasing responsibilities, and looming deadlines, people seem to have too much to do and not enough time to do it. We hold jobs that require long hours and too much responsibility.
- (6) Medical research has shown that meditation, the process of taking our attention away from the stresses and strains of the outer world, and focusing it within ourselves, can help reduce stress in our lives. In doing so, it can reduce our chances of developing a stress-related illness.
- (7) When we meditate on the inner light and sound of God, we come in contact with God's love within us, which fills us with inner peace, joy, bliss and happiness. This experience takes our attention away from the stresses and pains of the outer world. As we spend time in meditation, we create a calm haven in which we restore equilibrium and peace to our mental functioning.
- (8) Researchers have recorded that the brain activity in people who meditate reflects a state of deep relaxation. Their mind becomes calmer. The tranquil effect of meditation lasts beyond the time spent in meditation. The carry-over effect helps us maintain peace of mind as we continue our activities throughout the day.
- (9) We become more in control of our reactions and maintain an even keel in the face of

conflict, or in the midst of turmoil and strife. It also gives us a private retreat of bliss and peace within us that we can retreat to anytime we wish. This refuge helps take our attention away from the pains of the world and gives us another mechanism by which we can reduce stress in our lives.

(i) Why has meditation become a mainstream activity in many parts of the world?

- (a) Because it helps us maintain peace of mind
- (b) Because it gives us a private retreat of bliss and peace
- (c) Because it reduces our chances of developing a stress-related illness
- (d) All of these

(ii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following:

Researchers have recorded that the brain activity in people who meditate reflects a state of deep relaxation. (Paragraph 8)

- (a) Reflection
- (b) Meditation
- (c) Vexation
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

(iii) Discuss the main objectives of meditation.

(iv) Based on your reading of the passage, list two reasons why the writer says that:

We become more in control of our reactions and maintain an even keel in the face of conflict, or in the midst of turmoil and strife. (Paragraph 9)

(v) What are the findings of doctors and scientists about meditation?

(vi) What are the ill-effects of stress according to the passage you have read above?

(vii) Supply 1 point to justify the following:

We become more susceptible to catching a disease because our ability to keep our immune system in top working order decreases.

(viii) How does meditation relieve us from stress? Answer the question with reference to paragraph 6.

(ix) Select the option that displays what happens when we come in contact with God's love.

- (a) It fills us with the feeling of resurrection.
- (b) It fills us with the feeling of pessimism.
- (c) It fills us with inner peace, joy, bliss and happiness.
- (d) It fills us with the feeling of prejudice and parochialism.

(x) How are the people who meditate significantly different from others?

II. Read the passage given below:

(10 marks)

(1) Call it a blessing or curse of Mother Nature, we have to breathe in over 10,000 litres of air in a day (more than four million litres in a year) to remain alive. By making it essential for life, God has wished that we try to keep the air we breathe clean. Everyone can see the food that is not clean and perhaps, refrain from eating it but one cannot stop breathing even if one can feel the air to be polluted. Several harmful and noxious substances can contaminate the air we breathe. Generally, much is said and written about outdoor air pollution, most of which is due to vehicular and industrial exhausts. Given the fact that most of us spend over 90% of our time indoors, it is most important to recognise that the air we breathe in at home or in offices can be polluted. It can be a cause of ill-health. Air pollutants that are generally present in very low concentrations can assume significance in closed ill-ventilated places.

(2) The indoor air pollution can lead to allergic reactions and cause irritation to the skin, the eyes and the nose. But as is logical to assume, the brunt of insult by pollutants is borne by the lungs. It can lead to development of fresh breathing problems, especially in those who have allergic tendencies, or it can worsen the existing respiratory illnesses like asthma and bronchitis.

(3) There can be several sources of indoor air pollution. Tobacco smoke is one of the most important air pollutants in closed places. "Passive smoking" or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) can lead to all harmful effects of tobacco smoking seen in smokers in their non-smoking companions. ETS as a health hazard has been unequivocally proven and is also getting social recognition now. One can occasionally

see signs displaying the all-important message: “Your smoking is injurious to my health” in offices and homes. The children of smoking parents are among the worst affected persons.

(4) The exposure of young children to ETS leads to increased respiratory problems and hospital admissions as compared to non-exposed children, several studies, including those done at the PGI, have shown an increased risk of lung cancer among women exposed to passive smoking. ETS also worsens existing lung diseases like asthma and bronchitis, it may be reaped later in the development of asthma in children.

(5) The next most important source of indoor air pollution is allergens. House dust mites (HDM) are very small insects not visible to the naked eye and are the commonest source of allergy in the house. They are ubiquitous and thrive in a warm and moist atmosphere. They breed very fast and are very difficult to eradicate. Modern houses present ample breeding spaces for them in the form of carpet, curtains, mattresses, pillows, etc.

(6) Exposure to HDM can be prevented by the frequent washing of linen and by encasing the mattresses and pillows in a non-permeable cover. Pets form an important part of life for some of us. But they can add plenty of allergens to our indoor atmosphere. Cats are notorious for doing this. Fine particles from feline fur can remain stuck to the upholstery and carpets for a long time even after the removal of the animal and lead to the worsening of asthma and skin allergies. Fortunately, owing to religious and social customs, cats are not very popular pets in India. Dogs, however, are quite popular and can be as troublesome. Pets should be kept out of the bedrooms and washed frequently. To remove the fur particles, one has to use vacuum cleaners as the ordinary broom and mop are not effective.

(7) Moulds, fungi and several other microorganisms thrive in damp conditions and can lead to allergies as well as infections. Humidifiers in the air-conditioning plants provide an ideal environment for certain types of bacteria and have led to major outbreaks of pneumonia. It is important to clean regularly the coolers, air-conditioners and damp areas of the house regularly, such as cupboards, lofts, etc., to minimize this risk.

(8) Toxic gases can also pollute the indoor environment. Biomass fuels (wood, cow dung, dried plants) and coal, if burned inside, can lead to severe contamination by carbon monoxide (CO). The poor quality of stoves and other cooking or heating appliances that cause incomplete combustion of LPG can also lead to the emission of CO or nitrogen dioxide. Formaldehyde (a gas) can be released from adhesives that are used for fixing carpets, upholstery and also in making plywood and particle board.

(9) The gases are very toxic in high concentrations as may be encountered during industrial accidents, but even in very minimal amounts as may be prevalent in homes and offices can cause irritation to the skin or the eyes, rashes, headache, dizziness and nausea. Improving ventilation is an important preventive measure besides trying to eliminate the source that may not be always feasible.

(10) Other indoor pollutants are toxic chemicals like cleansing agents, pesticides, paints, solvents and inferior-quality personal care products, especially aerosols. Very old crumbling pipes, boilers, insulation or false roofing can also be important sources. Asbestos is a hazardous product that can cause cancer in humans. Thus, it is important to realise that the air we breathe at home may not be clean always and we must try to eliminate the source of pollution. We should give due consideration to ventilation.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (1×10=10)

1. God wished to keep the air we breathe clean because:

- (a) we breathe 10,000 litres of air every year
- (b) we breathe four million litres of air in a day
- (c) we breathe 10,000 litres of air per day
- (d) one cannot stop breathing even if the air is polluted

2. The air in offices and indoors can be polluted because _____.

3. Allergy is caused by:

- (a) dust mites
- (b) modern houses
- (c) mattresses
- (d) pillows

4. ETS refers to _____.

5. Pets should be kept out of bedrooms because _____.
6. Moulds, fungi and bacteria _____.
- (a) thrive in damp conditions
 (b) can be controlled by using air conditioners
 (c) do not cause pneumonia
 (d) thrive in dry conditions
7. Burning of biomass fuel inside homes pollutes the indoor environment _____.
- (a) because of the emission of toxic gases
 (b) because of incomplete combustion
 (c) because of the emission of formaldehyde
 (d) none of these
8. Cancer can be caused in humans due to:
- (a) old crumbling pipes
 (b) old boilers
 (c) insulation and false roofing
 (d) asbestos sheet
9. The antonym of 'safe' as used in para 10 is _____.
10. The synonym of 'omnipresent' as used in para 5 is _____.

Section B (Writing and Grammar)

III.1. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions:

(10 marks)

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

The hospital board clearly mentioned that you _____ smoke in the hospital as it is a health hazard for all.

- A. cannot
 B. must not
 C. need not
 D. might not

ii. The dog _____ under the chair before the children arrived.

- A. has been hiding
 B. was hid
 C. have hid
 D. had hidden

iii. I am taking driving lessons now. Hopefully, I _____ my driving test by November.

- A. will take
 B. would pass
 C. will have taken
 D. will be taking

iv. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Subject: Request for Approval

Dear Sir

This is to respectfully submit that I _____ (seek) approval for organising a tree plantation drive to be undertaken by the club.

v. Identify the error in the given sentence, from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

In order to balancing the sentiments of the Eagles and the Hawks, the Student Council

suggested a rematch between the teams.
Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

vi. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report:

Last week a child was not allowed to board the plane at Ranchi airport.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	child	children
B	last	previous
C	the	a
D	at	in

vii. The calves were grazing in the field with..... mothers in the morning. (that, their)

viii. Not everyone (want/ wants) to learn more and more.

ix. Read the following sentences and write their correct form.

- The show are at six.
- Either of the boys are coming today.

x. There's never _____ petrol left after Rahul uses the car.

- much
- little
- many
- a little

xi. He is the..... boy who has joined this gym. (first, whose)

xii. She will have been going to school tomorrow. (Identify the tense)

IV. SECTION B –CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)

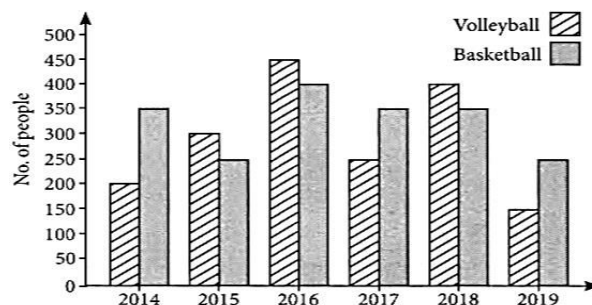
1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5 marks)

A. You are Vishesh / Vaishali living in C-5, Shalimar Garden, Ghaziabad. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi, highlighting 'School children's growing addiction to the T.V'. Your letter should not exceed 120 words.

Or

B. You are Vishesh / Vaishali living in C-5, Shalimar Garden, Ghaziabad. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi, highlighting the importance of education.

2. The given double bar graph shows the preferences of children in a school in playing different games over the span of six years. Write an analytical paragraph about the given information. (5 marks)



SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 marks)

V. Reference to the Context

(10 marks)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(5 marks)

A. I get along pretty well with all my teachers. There are nine of them, seven men and two women. Mr Keesing, the old fogey who teaches math's, was annoyed with me for ages because I talked so much. After several warnings, he assigned me extra homework. An essay on the subject, 'A Chatterbox'. A chatterbox — what can you write about that? I'd worry about that later, I decided. I jotted down the title in my notebook, tucked it in my bag and tried to keep quiet.

1. What was the subject on which she had to write?
2. What was topic of the essay written by Anne?
3. On which date did Anne record the incident in MrKeesing's class in her diary?
4. Why was MrKeesing annoyed with her?
5. How many teachers does Anne have?

Or

B. "We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations if the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity."

1. The guests at the spectacular ceremony are being called distinguished because they
 - a) They have been invited as guests to attend it.
 - b) They are eminent world leaders witnessing it.
 - c) They are visiting the country for this purpose.
 - d) They have resumed diplomatic relations with the country.
2. It is a victory for 'human dignity'. Pick the option that lists the correct answer for what 'human dignity' would include.
 - a) i) equality ii) liberty iii) indecency
 - b) i) liberty ii) indecency iii) self-respect
 - c) i) immorality ii) self-respect iii) equality
 - d) i) equality ii) liberty iii) self-respect
3. How do you think the speaker feels? Choose the option that best fits his state of mind.
 - a) i) emotional ii) elated iii) unmindful
 - b) i) elated ii) unmindful iii) overwhelmed
 - c) i) overwhelmed ii) elated iii) honoured
 - d) i) elated ii) honoured iii) unmindful
4. Why does the speaker say that it is a 'rare privilege'?
5. Name the author of this chapter.

9. Read the following extracts and answer any one of the following questions: (5 marks)

He should be lurking in shadow
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

1. According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be 'sliding' through the foliage as this would _____.

- a) assist in keeping the prey unsuspecting of the predator's sound.
- b) aid in camouflaging the presence of the predator before it rushes in.
- c) help the predator pounce on the prey comfortably without getting tired.
- d) Support the predator's vision as it eyes its prey.

2. Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger?

- a) Many tigers chase prey into the water and holds the victim's head under water until it drowns.
- b) Prey feed in the water on water-lilies, and often wander into the middle of the water hole, where they are vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill.
- c) Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.
- d) Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.

3. Pick the option that DOES NOT use 'lurking' correctly to fill in the blank.

- a) The thug was _____ in the alley late evening, for unsuspecting passers-by.
- b) The hyena was _____ in its den after a good meal.
- c) The detective cautioned her team about the _____ dangers likely to impact the case.
- d) The prejudices _____ beneath the surface create misunderstandings.

4. What does 'shadow' here, refers to?

5. Name the Poet of this poem.

Or

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over- there it is in the water!

1. The extract suggests that the poet is _____.

- a) an onlooker observing
- b) a parent recounting the incident
- c) the boy talking about himself
- d) imagining the incident

2. The poet seems to have indicated the merry bouncing of the ball to

- a) create a sense of rhythm in these lines
- b) support the happiness of the experience of playing
- c) contrast with the dejected feeling of the boy.
- d) indicate the cheerful mood of the boy.

3. The poem begins with a question. Based on your reading of the poem, the speaker

- a) wants the boy to answer the question.
- b) expects the passers-by to respond.
- c) is looking for answers in a self-help book.
- d) is thinking to himself.

4. Name the poet.

5. Name the poem.

10. Answer any 4 of the following questions in 40-50 words:

(4 x 3 = 12 marks)

- 1. When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?
- 2. Why did the postmaster send a reply to Lencho's first letter addressed to God?
- 3. What did Mandela think about the oppressor and the oppressed?
- 4. Why was the young seagull left alone in the ledge by his family?
- 5. Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?

11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40 - 50 words

(2x3=6 marks)

- 1. How did the lady in red convince Horace Danby to open the lock?
- 2. Why did Max Jump out of the window of Ausable's room?
- 3. Why was it difficult for Hari Singh to rob Anil?

12. Answer any one of the following questions:

(6 marks)

1. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions “an extraordinary human disaster”. What does he mean by this? What is the “glorious human achievement” he speaks of at the end?
2. How did Anne justify her habit of talking in her first essay on ‘A Chatterbox’?

13. Answer any one of the following questions:

(6 marks)

1. “Over-pampering is not only bad for human but also for animals”. Explain this statement in the light of the story ‘A Triumph of Surgery’.
2. “Griffin could use his theory for the welfare of people but misuses it to take revenge.” Discuss with the reference to the story ‘Footprint without Feet’.