

Half Yearly Examination - 2018-19

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Class : XII

Time : 3 Hrs. + 15 min

Full Marks : 100

(You are advised to spend not more than 50 minutes on Question 1, 40 minutes on Question 2, 30 minutes on Question 3 and 1 hour on Question 4.)

Question 1

Write a composition in 400 - 450 words on anyone of the following subjects. (You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.) (25)

- (a) If you had the opportunity to bring any person - past or present, fictional or nonfictional to a place that is special to you (your hometown or country, a favourite location, etc.), who would you bring and why? Tell us what you would share and how you would like to spend time with that person.
- (b) Rains, which bring the much needed relief from the sweltering heat, can also cause havoc in our lives. Describe how seven days of incessant rain brought indefinite tribulations to the people in your town/city.
- (c) Life
- (d) Arguments between parents and their children take place often in India. Does a 'generation gap' necessarily cause disagreements? Bring out the issues that cause differences of opinion between parents and children.

(e) 'Online shopping is a boon. 'Write for or against this proposition.

(f) Write an original story with the following ending:
" ... It was exactly as he had said it would be."

Question 2

(a) Write an article to be published in local newspaper expressing your views about global terrorism. Base your article on the points given below.

Terrorism has become a global menace- it has assumed alarming proportions from what it was a decade ago- reason for the spread of terrorism like easy availability of weapons and explosive- communication devices and state support-consequences for the entire world- measures to be taken globally to ward off this danger- value education in school to be made mandatory. (20)

(b) As a member of the Eco Club of your school you have been given the responsibility to set up a Recycling Plant. Write a proposal in not more than 150 words, stating the steps you would take to successfully establish the plant. (10)

3. Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, while sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar as possible to sentence A. Write sentence B in each case. (10)

Example : (0) (A) Though it was a cloudy day, the temperature was 45C.

(B) Despite.....

Answer : (0) : Despite it being a cloudy day, the temperature was 45C.

(a) i. Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage. (4)

1. sleep 2. merry making

3. the state of being alone

4. existing for a short period

ii. For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage. (4)

1. rest 2. round 3. leave 4. trace

(b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible.

i. What do different types of people do after midnight? (2)

ii. What does the narrator mean when he says, "an hour like this may well display the emptiness of human vanity"? (2)

iii. What according to the narrator, causes destruction of the cities? (2)

iv. Who are the people who roam about in the streets and why? (3)

(c) Describe the narrator's view about the emptiness of human pride as seen by him in the city in the dead of night in not more than 100 words (paragraphs 1 to 11). Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. You will be required to write your points in the form of a connected passage in about 100 words.

invaders, who, though at first repulsed, returned a conquered by perseverance, and at last swept the defendants into undistinguished destruction.

9. How few appear in those streets which but some few hours ago were crowded those who appear, now no longer wear their daily mask, nor attempt to hide their lewdness or other misery.
10. But who are those who make the streets their couch, and find a short repose from wretchedness at the doors of the opulent?
11. These are strangers, wanderers, and orphans, whose circumstances are too humble to expect redress, and their distresses are too great ever for pity. Their wretchedness excites rather horror.
12. Some are without the covering ever of rags, and other emaciated with disease, the world has disclaimed them, society turns its back upon their distress, and has given them up to nakedness and hunger.
13. These poor shivering females have once seen happier days, and been flattered into beauty. They have been sacrificed to the gay luxurious villain, and are now turned out to meet the severity of winter. Perhaps, now lying at the doors of their betrayers, they sue to wretches whose hearts are insensible, or debauchees who may curse, but will not relieve them.
14. Why, why was I born a man, and yet see the sufferings of wretches I cannot relieve! Poor houseless creatures! the world will give you reproaches, but will not give you relief.
15. The slightest misfortunes of the great, the most imaginary uneasiness of the rich, are aggravated with all the power of eloquence, and held up to engage our attention and sympathetic sorrow. The poor weep unheeded, persecuted by every subordinate species of tyranny; and every law which gives other security, becomes an enemy to them.

- (1) A. Sachin is an outstanding sportsman and a good artist.
B. Besides
- (2) A. Mother said to Paul, "(A courier came for you yesterday."
B. Mother told Paul that.....
- (3) A. As soon as the minister had taken the oath, the spectators started applauding.
B. No sooner
- (4) A. He is so short that he cannot be a soldier.
B. He is too
- (5) A. The lawyer examined the document with utmost care.
B. The documents
- (6) A. I will buy the horse if it is quite sound.
B. Unless
- (7) A. Only Shakespeare could write such a tragedy.
B. No one
- (8) A. We will go out for meal if the cook is absent.
B. Should
- (9) A. Although Lakshmi worked very hard, she failed in the examination.
B. Notwithstanding
- (10) A. None would deny that he was totally fit before his death.
B. Everyone

(b) Fill in each blank with suitable words. [5]

- (1) Do you want to take ___ every single object from the box?
- (2) The plane must take ___ before dark.
- (3) The children spoke ___ a whisper as they were scared.
- (4) We must not speak ill about a person ___ his back.
- (5) He disliked the play so much that he walked ___ in the middle of the first act.
- (6) Walking barefoot ___ the grass is very good for health.
- (7) This rule does not apply ___ you as you are less than eighteen years old.
- (8) You must apply ___ the job immediately.
- (9) They have been living in Delhi ___ ten years.
- (10) Mrs. Kapoor has been living in Chennai ___ 2000.

c) Fill in the blanks in the passage with appropriate form of the verb given in the bracket (5)

I am against all you ___(1) (plan) to do. Your parents through the year ___ (2) (care) for you and have done everything for your welfare, why are you being cruel to them by ___ (3) (express) your dislike for them? Remember it ___ (4) (be) a sin to torture parents. Remember it is on their blessing that your tomorrow (5)___ (rest). Besides this, your tomorrow also ___(6) (depend) upon all the values they ___(7) (teach) you yesterday. You should immediately make a resolution and tell them you ___(8) (be) loyal to them, now and always. God is best___(9) (serve) by serving your parents. Recall the good old days of your childhood and you ___ (10) (acknowledge) the truth of what I have told you.

Q4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow :

1. The clock has just struck two, the expiring taper rises and sinks in the socket watchman forgets the hour in slumber, the laborious and the happy are at rest and nothing wakes but meditation, guilt, revelry, and despair. The drunkard once more fills the destroying bowl, the robber walks his midnight round and the suicide lifts his guilty arm against his own sacred person.
2. What a gloom hangs all around! The dying lamp feebly emits a yellow gleam sound is heard but of the chiming clock, or of the distant watch-dog.
3. All the bustle of human pride is forgotten: an hour like this may well display the emptiness of human vanity.
4. There will come a time, when this temporary solitude may be made continual, the city itself, like its inhabitants, fade away, and leave a desert in its room.
5. Cities, as great as this, have once triumphed in existence, had their victories as great, joy as just and as unbounded; and with short-sighted presumption, promised themselves immortality.
6. Prosperity can hardly trace the situation of some; the sorrowful traveller wanders over the awful ruins of others, and, as he beholds, he learns wisdom, and feels the transience of every possession.
7. "Here," he cried, "stood their citadel, now grown over with weeds; there their senate-house, but not the haunt of every noxious reptile; temples and theatres stood here, now only an undistinguished heap of ruin.
8. They are fallen, for luxury and avarice first made them feeble. The rewards of the state were conferred on amusing, and not on useful, members of society. Their riches and opulence invited the