



Delhi Public School, Howrah

Half-Yearly Exam (2024-25)

CLASS- VIII

SUBJECT- ENGLISH

TIME- 3hrs

F.M- 80

General Instructions:

The paper consists of 3 sections: Section A (Reading and Writing), Section B (Grammar) and Section C (Literature). All questions are compulsory.

SECTION A- Reading & Writing (8+8=16 marks)

I. Read the following passage:

Mr. Oliver, an Anglo-Indian teacher, was returning to his school late one night, on the outskirts of the hill station of Shimla. Before Kipling's time, the school had been run on English public school lines and the boys, mostly from wealthy Indian families, wore blazers, caps and ties. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called it the 'Eton of the East'. Mr. Oliver had been teaching in the school for several years.

The Shimla bazaar, with its cinemas and restaurants, was about three miles from the school and Mr. Oliver, a bachelor, usually strolled into the town in the evening, returning after dark, when he would take a shortcut through the pine forest.

When there was a strong wind the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people on the main road. But Mr. Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man. He carried a torch and its gleam—the batteries were running down—moved fitfully down the narrow forest path. When its flickering light fell on the figure of a boy, who was sitting alone on a rock, Mr. Oliver stopped. The boys were not supposed to be out after dark.

'What are you doing out here, boy?' asked Mr. Oliver sharply, moving closer so that he could recognize the miscreant. But even as he approached the boy, Mr. Oliver sensed that something was wrong. The boy appeared to be crying. His head hung down, he held his face in his hands and his body shook convulsively. It was a strange, soundless weeping and Mr. Oliver felt distinctly uneasy.

'Well, what's the matter?' he asked, his anger giving way to concern. 'What are you crying for?' The boy would not answer or look up. His body continued to be racked with silent sobbing. 'Come on, boy, you shouldn't be out here at this hour. Tell me the trouble. Look up!' The boy looked up. He took his hands from his face and looked up at his teacher. The light from Mr. Oliver's torch fell on the boy's face—if you could call it a face. It had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth. It was just a round smooth head—with a school cap on top of it! And that's where the story should end. But for Mr. Oliver, it did not end here. The torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help. He was still running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the

path. Mr. Oliver stumbled up to the watchman, gasping for breath. 'What is it, sahib?' asked the watchman. 'Has there been an accident? Why are you running?'

'I saw something—something horrible—a boy weeping in the forest—and he had no face!'

'No face, sahib?'

'No eyes, nose, mouth—nothing!'

'Do you mean it was like this, sahib?' asked the watchman and raised the lamp to his own face. The watchman had no eyes, no ears, and no features at all—not even an eyebrow! And that's when the wind blew the lamp out.

Answer the questions based on the given passage: (0.5+0.5+0.5+0.5+0.5+0.5+1+1+1+1+1=8)

1. What happened to the lantern when the watchman revealed his face?

- A) It flickered and brightened
- B) It was blown out by the wind
- C) It fell to the ground and broke
- D) It illuminated the path ahead

2. Which of the following sentences from the text is a complex sentence?

- A) "Mr. Oliver had been teaching in the school for several years."
- B) "But Mr. Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man."
- C) "He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help."
- D) "When there was a strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people on the main road."

3. Identify the kind of the sentence given below.

Before Kipling's time, the school had been run on English public school lines and the boys, mostly from wealthy Indian families, wore blazers, caps and ties."

- A) Compound
- B) Complex
- C) Simple
- D) None of the above

4. How did Mr. Oliver usually navigate the forest path?

- A) By following the moonlight
- B) With a torch, despite its dying batteries

C) Using a map of the forest

D) By walking quickly without stopping

5. What does the term "miscreant" mean in the context of the passage?

A) A teacher

B) A lost person

C) A wrongdoer

D) A friend

6. What does "convulsively" suggest about the boy's weeping?

A) It was gentle and soft

B) It was uncontrollable and violent

C) It was quiet and unnoticed

D) It was staged and fake

7. Write any two adjectives to describe Mr. Oliver's personality.

8. What does the term "featureless" mean when referring to the boy's face?

9. What do you think the story's ending signifies about the watchman's true nature?

10. What might the featureless face of the boy symbolize in the story?

11. Find the antonyms of the given words from the above passage:

a. run-

b. steady-

II. **Writing:**

(8)

Write a diary within 120 words describing the feelings, you had when you got an opportunity to represent your country in an International event and sing the National anthem of your country away from your mother land.

Or

Write a letter within 120 words to the Principal of your school with a proposal for a Community Awareness Campaign against Child Labor so that a better educational opportunity can be given to these vulnerable children.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR (24)

III. **Choose the correct options:**

(1X7=7)

1. She taught herself how to play the guitar.

The underlined word is:

a. Emphatic Pronoun

b. Reflexive Pronoun

c. Possessive Pronoun

d. Distributive Pronoun

2. The children fought with one another for a piece of cake.

The underlined word is:

a. Indefinite Pronoun

b. Reciprocal Pronoun

c. Personal Pronoun

d. Possessive Pronoun

3. Being sick, Adarsh decided to take a day off.

Identify the underlined word of the sentence.

a. Infinite

b. Gerund

c. Participle

d. Finite verb

4. When we arrived at the airport, we found out that our flight had already left.

The above sentence is:

a. Compound sentence

b. Complex sentence

c. Simple Sentence

d. none of the above

5. The plural form of 'Index' is-

a. indices

b. indexes

c. Both a and b

d. none of the above

6. The abstract noun of 'revere' is-

a. reverent

- b. reverence
- c. both a and b
- d. revered

7. Indore is cleaner than any other city in India.

Identify the Superlative degree of the above sentence.

- a. Indore is the cleanest of all city in India
- b. Indore was the cleanest of all cities in India.
- c. Very few cities in India are as clean as Indore
- d. Indore is the cleanest of all cities in India.

IV. Transform the given sentences as directed:

(1X7=7)

- a. In the event of you not reaching in time, we will postpone the operation. (Change to a compound sentence)
- b. The little boy saw his mom and at once ran to her. (Change to a simple sentence)
- c. Very few students in the class are as diligent as Rena. (Superlative degree)
- d. Ramesh is the most athletic of all the boys. (Positive degree)
- e. Following the trail, we reached our destination. (Change to a complex sentence)
- f. He is a cheerful boy. Everybody loves him. (Join with a relative pronoun)
- g. The boy didn't do his homework. The teacher punished him. (Join with a relative pronoun)

V. Do as directed:

(1X10=10)

- a. She is so weak that she cannot get up. (Use infinitive to rewrite the sentence)
- b. Form the abstract noun of the given verb: persevere.
- c. Write the collective noun of "magistrate".
- d. Getting down from his caravan, A. R. Rahman waved to his fans. (Identify the non-finite verb from this sentence and mention its type)
- e. Driven by rain he took shelter in a deserted house. (Identify the type of verb that is underlined)
- f. Whose pencil box is this? (Identify the adjective and state its kind)
- g. Emily Bronte was a Victorian novelist. (Identify the adjective and state its kind)
- h. Ravi and Mridu accused one another. (Correct the sentence based on pronouns)

i. As soon as he got the letter he decided to help him. (Identify the dependent clause from the given sentence and state its kind)

j. The city is destroyed because of the calamity. (Identify the underlined part of the sentence)

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40)

V. Read the extracts given below and answer the following questions:

1. If I spend you today, then how shall I show my face to Master Ghulam Mohammed in school tomorrow and after that to Allah miyan at Qayamat? **(1+2+1)**

a. What is the primary concern expressed in the line?

b. How does the line reflect the speaker's values?

c. Why is the speaker concerned about showing his face to Master Ghulam Mohammed and Allah miyan?

2. "She wiped her tears and sat up" **(1+2+1)**

a. Who is 'she' referred to in the above line?

b. Why did 'she' cry?

c. What made her wipe her tears and sit up?

3. "No need to stare stupidly. What's your name?" **(1+2+1)**

a. Who is the speaker of the above line? Whom did the speaker speak to?

b. Where is the listener and why did the listener come there?

c. What does the speaker do?

VI. Choose the correct option:

(0.5X10=5)

1. The philosophical idea that is reflected in Princess September's decision to free her bird is _____

a. the futility of attachment

b. the nature of true happiness

c. the conflict between duty and desire

d. the importance of family loyalty

2. What lesson does the story 'The Princess September' impart regarding the concept of ownership?

a. Ownership is a burden that leads to heartache.

b. True love means allowing freedom to those you cherish.

c. Material possessions define one's status.

d. Emotional attachments should be minimized.

3. The coins urge the protagonist of the story "Jalebis" _____

a. to return home immediately.

b. to spend them on jalebis.

c. to hide them from others.

d. to give them to a poor child

4. The protagonist of the story "Jalebis" experiences an internal struggle while considering the coins' advice. Identify the most appropriate option from the following.

a. The desire to impress his friends versus his family's expectations.

b. The conflict between enjoying immediate pleasure and fulfilling his obligations.

c. The choice between spending money on himself or others.

d. The urge to rebel against school rules versus his respect for authority.

5. A tone of a poem allows the reader to understand, and even relate to the speaker's attitude toward the subject of a poem. Which of the following best describes the tone of the poem "The School Boy"?

a. Melancholic and reflective

b. Joyful and carefree

c. Angry and rebellious

d. Confused and uncertain.

6. In the poem "The School Boy" the speaker's attitude towards the school environment is-

a. he finds it nurturing and supportive.

b. he views it as a place of creativity and inspiration.

c. he perceives it as stifling and oppressive.

d. he sees it as a necessary step for growth

7. The tone of the poem "The Ant and The Cricket" is:

a. Humorous and light-hearted

b. Serious and didactic

c. Sad and melancholic

d. Joyful and celebratory.

8. One of the important features of a fable is that it imparts a valuable moral to the readers. What moral does the fable "The Ant and the Cricket" convey?

a. It is important to have fun and enjoy life.

b. Hard work and preparation are essential for survival.

c. Singing brings happiness to everyone.

d. Friends should always help each other.

9. The feeling, the narrator had about the letter that he uncovered in the story "The Best Christmas Present in the World" compelled him to visit Mrs. Macpherson. According to you how should the narrator have felt when he read the letter?

a. Indifferent and uninterested

b. Angry at the soldiers' actions

c. Nostalgic and reflective

d. Excited and hopeful for the future

10. Identify the emotional tone that the story "The Best Christmas Present in the World" conveys?

a. Light-hearted and humorous

b. Sombre and serious

c. Bittersweet and reflective

d. Optimistic and cheerful

VII. Answer the questions based on the given picture:

(1+1+2=4)



a. Identify both the characters in the given picture.

b. Why has the character on the right met the character on the left?

c. What sort of life has the character on the left been leading so far?

VIII. Answer the following questions within 30-40 words:

(6X2=12)

- a. What does the bird symbolize in the story "The Princess September"?
- b. How does the author portray jalebis to convey deeper meanings in the story?
- c. The story "The Children at Work" highlights many serious issues in our society. Besides child labour what other social issues have been highlighted in the story? Elucidate your answer.
- d. State the different emotions that the protagonist of the story "Jalebi" experiences after his indulgence?
- e. What does the author notice about scarlet minivets and the dragons in the story "A Short Monsoon Diary"?
- f. Why are human beings being compared with the four-legged Cricket? Validate your answer.

IX. **Complete the given sentences:**

(4X1=4)

- a. I promise, if I ever eat sweets with my fees money again, _____.
- b. But the little Princess burst into tears; for it is very difficult to put the happiness of someone you love _____.
- c. A school boy asked me to describe the hill station and valley in one sentence, _____.
- d. You cannot imagine, dearest Connie, my feelings as I looked into the _____.

X. **Make sentences with the following phrases:**

(2X1=2)

- a. menace of loneliness-
- b. anxious hour-

XI. **Give meanings of the following words:**

(0.5X2=1)

- a. tender-
- b. heralded-