

HALF YEARLY EXAM - 2021

Class: 12th

Subject: English

Time: 3:00 Hrs.

M. M. 80

Instructions :

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. Marks of questions are given against them.

SECTION A : READING

Q. 1. Read the following two passages and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

(1×5=5)

The victory of the small Greek democracy of Athens over the mighty Persian Empire in 490 B.C. is one of the most famous events in history. Darius, King of the Persian Empire, was furious because Athens had interceded for the other Greek city-states in revolt against Persian domination. In anger the King sent an enormous army to defeat Athens. He thought it would take drastic steps to pacify the rebellious part of the Empire. Persia was ruled by one man. In Athens, however, all citizens helped to rule. Ennobled by this participation, Athenians were prepared to die for their city-state. Perhaps this was the secret of the remarkable victory at Marathon, which freed them from Persian rule. On their way to Marathon, the Persians tried to fool some Greek city-states by claiming to have come in peace. The frightened citizens of Delos refused to believe this. Not wanting to abet the conquest of Greece, they fled from their city and did not return until the Persians had left. They were wise, for the Persians next conquered the city of Etria and captured its people. Tiny Athens stood alone against Persia. The Athenian people went to their sanctuaries. There they prayed for deliverance. They asked their Gods to expedite their victory. The Athenians refurbished their weapons and moved to the plain of Marathon, where their little band would meet the Persians. At the last moment, soldiers from Plataea reinforced the Athenian troops. The Athenian army attacked, and Greek citizens fought bravely. The power of the mighty Persians was offset by the love that the Athenians had for their city. Athenians defeated the Persians in archery and hand combat. Greek soldiers seized Persian ships and burned them, and the Persians fled in terror. Herodotus, a famous historian, reports that 6400 Persians died, compared with only 192 Athenians.

i. Who has given an account of the battle between Greece and Persia?

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Herodotus | (b) Darius            |
| (c) Plataea   | (d) None of the above |

ii. What did the Athenians do to expedite victory?

- |                                                        |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| (a) They prayed for assistance of neighbouring states. | (b) They fooled the Persians by retreating. |
| (c) They equipped their army with better weapons.      | (d) They sought divine assistance.          |

iii. Marathon was the place where \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Athenians achieved victory | (b) Darius ruled                |
| (c) people went to sanctuaries | (d) Greeks seized Persian ships |

iv. In the passage 'intercede' means to

- (a) support without any conditions  
 (c) argue in favour of
- (b) justify with examples  
 (d) intervene on behalf of
7. This is a passage about  
 (a) committed patriotism  
 (c) military strategy
- (b) social harmony  
 (d) historical record.

**Passage 2**

(1×5=5)

Suppose your son misbehaves with you, or your father one day in his anger is unduly severe to you, it is no great virtue to forgive them. Suppose a brother or yours does you some harm, and you say, "Never mind, you are my brother, I let you go," there is no great virtue in that. The difficulty is when you have to forget the sins of your enemies. If your adversary who has always hated you, does you some fresh injury and you forgive that, then it is a real act of forgiveness. It is that which the Mahatma preaches. He says, "Forgive thine enemies," which is one of the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is a mistake to think Christianity alone preaches the virtue. Other religions also teach it. Now Gandhi is preeminently a Hindu, and he says he is living the best part of Hinduism when he himself forgives the sins of enemies, and asks people to love them as their friends.

- vi. Whom should we forgive?  
 (a) Father (b) Adversary (c) Son (d) Brother
- vii. What is difficult to forget?  
 (a) Sins of brothers. (b) Sins of enemies.  
 (c) Sins of friends. (d) Sins of parents.
- viii. "Forgive thine enemies"— is one of the teachings of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Mahaveer (b) Jesus Christ (c) Mohammed (d) Gandhiji
- ix. What virtue of Gandhiji is the author talking about?  
 (a) Courage (b) Selflessness (a) Piety (b) Forgiveness
- x. The antonym for 'adversary' is  
 (a) antagonist (b) assistant (c) assailant (d) opponent

**Q. 2. Make notes on the following passage and give a suitable title to it. (4)**

Women's education in India is one of the foremost concerns of the Government of India as well as of the society at large. It is due to the fact that at the present time, the educated women play a very significant role in overall development and progress of the country. Women hold a prominent position in Indian society and all over the world. However, since the prehistoric times women were denied opportunities and had to suffer for the hegemonic masculine ideology. This unjustifiable and unwarrantable oppression had resulted into a movement that was fought to achieve the equal status of women all over the world. Women's education in India is the consequence of such progress and this led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world. Nevertheless, eradication of female illiteracy is considered as a major concern today. In the present era, Indian society has established a number of institutions for the educational development of women and girls. These educational institutions aim for immense help and are concerned with the development of women. In modern society, women in India have come a long way. Indian women are at par with men in all kinds of tasks like reaching the moon, conquering Mount Everest, and participating in all fields. All this is possible just because of education and the profound impact it has had on women.

## SECTION B : WRITING

Q. 3. Design a poster to urge the public to avoid plastics. (4)

Or

You want to let a 3-bedroom flat in Shalimar Apartments. Write a notice to announce it.

Q. 4. Write a letter to your friend advising him to celebrate Diwali without crackers. (4)

Or

Write an application to your principal requesting him to allow you to opt for Humanities subjects instead of science subjects. <https://www.mpboardonline.com>

Q. 5. Write an article on any one of the following topics in about 150-200 words. (4)

- Corruption in everyday life
- Importance of newspapers in Democracy
- Value of games and sports
- Online education: advantages and disadvantages
- The importance of English for getting a good job

## SECTION C : GRAMMAR

Q. 6. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct answer from the given options. (any five) (1×5=5)

(i) We keep our food in the fridge \_\_\_ it does not go bad. (after, so that, since, although)

(ii) You \_\_\_ not feel sorry for this petty mistake. (are, need, do, have)

(iii) \_\_\_ room of this hotel has an AC. (each, every, some)

(iv) He is good \_\_\_ English. (in, of, at, on)

(v) \_\_\_ I do that sum for you? (shall, will, can, may)

(vi) No sooner did the boy see the cobra \_\_\_ he ran away. (as soon, than, as, so)

Q. 7. Do as directed. (any five)

(1×5=5)

(i) The hotel was quite cheap.

The hotel was very comfortable. (Combine the sentences using 'not only \_\_\_ but also')

(ii) They did not come to the party.

They did not apologize for it. (Combine the sentences using 'neither \_\_\_ nor')

(iii) He saves money so that he may buy a car.

(Change the above sentence into a non-finite clause)

(iv) I failed to understand what I had done to arouse his fury.

The above sentence is a -

a. nominal clause

b. adjective clause

c. adverb clause

(v) Who are they?

I don't know.

(Combine the sentences using a noun clause)

(vi) The apple is too sour to eat. (Rewrite using 'so \_ that' instead of 'too \_ to')

...innocence; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep"

**Questions:**

- (i). Name the poem and the poet?
- (ii). How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?
- (iii). What do you understand by a 'bower'?

**Q.9.(B)-Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (1×4=4)**

"Early this year, I found myself aboard a Russian research vessel — the Akademik Shokalskiy — heading towards the coldest, driest, windiest continent in the world 'Antarctica'. My journey began 13.09 degrees north of the Equator in Madras, and involved crossing nine time zones, six checkpoints, three bodies of water, and at least as many ecospheres".

- (i). What is "Akademik Shokalskiy"?
- (ii). Which is the coldest continent in the world?
- (iii). Where did the author begin his journey from?
- (iv). What was involved in his journey?

**Q.10-Answer these questions in about 30 words.**

- (i) Who, in today's world, is our chief source of information about personalities?
- (ii) Why do you think the servants thought Gandhiji to be another peasant?
- (iii) How did the peddler look?
- (iv) When did Douglas join the Y.M.C.A. pool and why?

(2×5=10)

- (v) What is Saheb looking for in the garbage?

**Q.11-Answer the following questions in brief.**

(2×3=6)

- (i) Why are young trees described as sprinting?
- (ii) What does a thing of beauty do for us?
- (iii) Why does the poet ask us to keep still?

**Q.12-Answer the following questions in brief.**

(2×2=4)

- (i) Who is the Tiger king? Why does he get this name?
- (ii) Will Dr. Sadao be arrested on the charge of harbouring an enemy?

**Q.13-Answer the following questions in about 75 words each.**

(3×2=6)

- (i) How did M. Hamel display his love for the French Language?
- (ii) Do you think Umberto Eco likes being interviewed? Give reasons for your opinion.

**Q.14-Answer the following question in about 75 words.**

(3)

What does the poet want for the children of the slums? How can their lives be made to change?

**Q.15- Answer the following question in about 75 words.**

(3)

Who is Jo? How does she respond to her father's story telling?

Or

"The world's geological history is trapped in Antarctica". How is the study of this region useful to us?