

O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL, SAVITRI NAGAR
Half Yearly Examination (2023 – 2024)

Class: XII
Subject: English Core (Code No. 301)

MM: 80
Time: 03 Hrs.

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
 2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

Section A – READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Q. 1 – Read the passage given below:

1. Nuclear capability gives a status to the country in the community of nations. No nation can afford to make destructive use of the nuclear energy without risking a World War. That is why America did not make use of nuclear weapon in the Vietnam War though it had become a matter of prestige for her. Similarly Russia preferred to pull out her missile bases from Cuba instead of coming in direct conflict with a nuclear power, America. But India, since she started adopting nuclear technology, had decided to make only peaceful use of nuclear energy. The fear expressed by Pakistan and the comments made in the Chinese press are more for the sake of propaganda than for the projection of truth.
2. India needs nuclear energy in order to meet her power shortage. She has been depending upon hydroelectric power which is undependable because of the uncertainty of rainfall. Good quality of coal which is another source of energy cannot be extracted commercially because it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high. India is not producing much of oil, rather she has to import nearly 74 per cent of her total consumption. So the only alternative with India is to have a cheaper and more dependable source of energy. The known reserves of thorium in India are sufficient to last many hundred years. That is why India has already commissioned two nuclear power stations, one at Tarapur and the other at Rana Pratap Sagar. Each one has the installed capacity of producing 420 M.W. of electricity. Two other at Kalpakkam, are operational. This energy will be able to meet the power shortage throughout the country. If industries work at their full capacity, production will be higher and so per capita income will increase and inflation will be neutralized.
3. With the help of controlled nuclear explosions, artificial dams can be made. In fact, for building a dam there should be two huge mountain walls enclosing a deep valley just near the course of a river. These conditions are not available at all the places. So with the help of controlled nuclear explosions mountains can be blown up. This can also help in laying roads in the mountainous areas. In fact, some of the borders of India have mountainous terrain and the movement of the army is quite difficult. So even for the sake of national security it is necessary to have roads in those areas.
4. With the help of radiation the shelf life of vegetables and fruits can be increased. In the tropical countries like India, it is necessary that the perishable fruit stuffs are preserved for a long time. Radiation can check the sprouting of onions and potatoes which are much in demand in foreign countries. Similarly fruits like bananas and mangoes which have much export potential can be preserved for a very long time. The texture and taste of the fruit do not undergo any change.
5. Nuclear technology can also be harnessed for medical purposes. It is said that radioactive iodine is used for detecting the disease of the thyroid glands. Similarly, 'India of U.N. experts, radiated

vaccine which can immunize sheep from lungworm disease, which used to take a heavy toll of sheep every year.

6. Properly processed nuclear fuel is also used for artificial satellite in space. Weather satellites can predict cyclones and the rainfall with extreme accuracy. Communication satellites can help in conveying the messages to very long distances. In a huge country like India, communication satellites are necessary.
7. Radiation is also used for preparing the mutant seeds. Many varieties of rice and some cereals have been prepared at Tarapur laboratory. This will increase our agricultural production and help India to become economically better off. So for India it is necessary to make peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

(A) Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (1x6 = 6)

- i. India needs nuclear energy in order to__.
 - (a) gain status in community of nations
 - (b) meet her power shortage
 - (c) increase her might
 - (d) frighten the hostile countries
- ii. Coal, another source of energy, cannot be extracted commercially because_____.
 - (a) it lies very deep
 - (b) the cost of extraction is very high
 - (c) it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high
 - (d) it is risky for the miners to extract it
- iii. In India_____are sufficient to last many years.
 - (a) nuclear power stations
 - (b) reserves of thorium
 - (c) vegetables and fruits
 - (d) radioactive iodine
- iv. _____ is also used for preparing mutant seeds.
 - (a) Nuclear energy
 - (b) Artificial satellites
 - (c) Radiation
 - (d) None of these
- v. India is making_____use of nuclear energy.
 - (a) peaceful
 - (b) satellite
 - (c) medical
 - (d) explosive
- vi. Hydroelectric power is not dependable because_____.

(B) Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions in short. (2x3 = 6)

- vii. How can radiation be helpful?
- viii. How does nuclear technology help in the field of medicine?

ix. In what way can nuclear energy boost our communication?

10

Q. 2 - Read the passage given below.

1. We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimages we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfil our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful-it works to find shortcuts in simple and easy ways.
2. Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead, we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the Supreme.
3. All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on Vedic treatises, assists in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.
4. The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude they have allowed themselves to sink to. Nature is everyone's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later come us and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.
5. Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead, creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates.
6. This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with environment. What is worse is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!
7. We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals - this is what translates into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.
8. A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance, and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts.
9. This is the truth !

(A) Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (1x6 = 6)

i. Pick out the option that is not true according to the passage.

A pilgrim can keep his body healthy

1. by travelling a lot of places

2. by travelling light
 3. by keeping free from attachment
 4. by eating small amount of food
 5. by eating snacks and rich food
- (a) Both 1 and 2
 - (b) only 2
 - (c) 1, 3, 4, and 5
 - (d) only 4

- ii. As given in the passage, it states that most of the time, people prefer to do_____.
- iii. Pick out the option that means the same as 'render' given in paragraph 3.
- (a) withhold
 - (b) suppress
 - (c) return
 - (d) conceal
- iv. Pick out the option that is TRUE about the pilgrimages, as discussed in the above passage.
- (a) Pilgrimages have been converted into tourism nowadays.
 - (b) Pilgrimages should be performed at the young age only.
 - (c) One should avoid eating food while on a pilgrimage.
 - (d) Pilgrimages should be done for the purpose of fun only.
- v. As per your understanding of the passage, choose the words that best describe the response of nature against cleverness shown by us.
1. Catastrophic
 2. Gratifying
 3. Buoyant
 4. Detrimental
- (a) 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 4
 - (c) 1 and 2 (d) 3 and 4
- vi. As the word 'Brotherhood' can be replaced with 'fraternity, the word 'sisterhood' can be replaced with _____.

(B) Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions in short. (2x2 = 4)

- vii. What does the word 'Amma' used by the writer signify?
- viii. According to passage, how do we satisfy our ego?

SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

[Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose]

Q. 3 - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in about 50 words:

4

A. You lost your wallet in the school playground. Write a notice for your school notice board giving all the necessary details.

OR

B. As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of ABC School, Pune, draft a notice in not more than

50 words informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week.

Q.4 - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in about 50 words:

4

- A. You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.

OR

- B. Draft a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr & Mrs Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raja Ki Mandi, Agra.

Q.5 - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in about 120-150 words:

5

- A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

OR

- B. You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data addressing the Chief Manager.

Q. 6 - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below in about 120-150 words:

5

- A. You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of your school attended a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of your state. Write a report for your school magazine on the events of the camp and your participation and performance.

OR

- B. Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure'. You are Gopal/Govindi.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

Q. 7 – Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

(6)

[A] *Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall*

From our dark spirits.

- i) Pick the option that is NOT an example of 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways':
- a) a person who is egoistic and looks down upon others
 - b) a person who is harmless and inoffensive towards others
 - c) a person who uses evil ways to deceive others.
 - d) a person who is corrupt and manipulative.
- ii) How does shape of beauty move away the pall from our dark spirits?
- iii) Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
Statement 1: The earth without beautiful things is a place full of despair and unpleasantness.
Statement 2: The complicated band created by human beings; ushers hope in their lives.
- a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false
 - b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true
 - c) both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred
 - d) both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred
- iv) Pick the option that matches the words / phrases with the literary device. Word/phrase Literary device
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. band to bind us | A) imagery |
| 2. a flowery band | B) transferred Epithet |
| 3. gloomy day | C) hyperbole |
| | D) alliteration |
- a) 1. C, 2. A, 3. B b) 1. D, 2. B, 3. A
c) 1. A, 2. C, 3. B d) 1. D, 2. A, 3. B
- v) The meaning of 'despondence' as used in the stanza by the poet is _____.
a) feeling hopeless b) shortage c) distinguish d) glut
- vi. What does 'inhuman dearth' mean?

[B] *Perhaps the Earth can teach us
As when everything seems dead
And later proves to be alive
Now I will count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go.*

- i) Pick out the option that is NOT correct with reference to the poem.
- a) silence teaches us to live in harmony
 - b) by remaining silent, we can spread peace and be productive at the same time
 - c) the Earth nurtures life and ensures that the cycle of life goes on unhampered
 - d) the poet appeals to be chaotic and create noises and have fun
- ii) Which poetic device has been used by the poet in the line - "Perhaps the Earth can teach us?"
- a) metaphor b) alliteration c) personification d) antithesis

iii) The poem discusses the need to-

- a) have conversation with each other
- c) maintain social relations

- b) maintain peace and silence
- d) fulfill the generation gap

iv) The name of the poem is _____

v) The poem is written by _____

vi) According to the poet, what can we learn from the earth?

Q. 8 - Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given: (4)

[A] The Maharaja's anxiety reached a fever pitch when there remained just one tiger to achieve his tally of a hundred. He had this one thought during the day and the same dream at night. By this time the tiger farms had run dry even in his father-in-law's kingdom. It became impossible to locate tigers anywhere. Yet only one more was needed. If he could kill just that one single beast, the Maharaja would have no fears left. He could give up tiger hunting altogether.

i) Which of the following does not imply the same meaning as implied by 'fever pitch' in the extract?

- a) extreme impatience
- b) extreme excitement
- c) extreme fever
- d) extreme Magnitude

ii) By this time the tiger farms had run dry even in his father-in-law's kingdom. Which of the following sentences carry the same meaning as conveyed by this sentence?

- a) tigers in his father in law's kingdom had no water to drink
- b) tigers in his father in law's kingdom were living in dry land
- c) tigers in his father in law's kingdom did not want to bathe
- d) his father in law's kingdom did not have any tiger

iii) Which of the following words as used in the extract imply 'forever'?

- a) tally
- b) altogether
- c) even
- d) single

iv) Which of the following options is correct in respect to the statements given below?

Statement 1: By killing tigers the Maharaja wanted to be without fear.

Statement 2: Maharaja wanted to stop hunting the tigers.

- a) Statement 1 can be inferred and statement 2 cannot be inferred
- b) Statement 2 can be inferred and statement 1 cannot be inferred
- c) Both statements are false
- d) Both statements can be inferred

[B] Of course the money was old-style bills, half again as big as the money we use nowadays, and different-looking. I turned away and got out fast. There's nothing nice about jail, even in 1894.

i) From where did Charley get out fast?

- a) psychiatrist's consulting room
- b) Roosevelt Hotel
- c) Second Level
- d) Third Level

ii) What made Charley think about jail?

- a) for trespassing into the third level
- b) clerk's threat that he can't escape

c) his failure to get tickets

d) his failure to keep change

iii) Why was Charley unable to get tickets from the Third Level to go to Galesburg?

a) didn't have enough money b) didn't have new style currency

c) didn't have old style currency d) couldn't communicate to the clerk

iv) Why did Charley turn away and get out fast?

a) clerk refused to give tickets for he was looking strange

b) clerk refused to give tickets for he did not have change

c) clerk refused to give tickets for there were no trains to Galesburg

d) clerk refused to give tickets because he did not know him

Q. 9 - Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

(6)

[A] "I will learn to drive a car," he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looks like a mirage amidst the bangles. Every other family in Firozabad, famous for its making bangles. It is the center of India's glass-blowing industry where families have sent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

i) The expression, "families have sent generations working around furnaces" signifies that-

a) families were bound to do the same work because of their interest

b) all members of the family were into same profession since generations

c) they do not know anything except bangle-making

d) bangle making is a profitable business for them

ii) The word 'mirage' means the same as

a) reality b) certainty c) illusion d) credence

iii) What function does the glass-blowing industry of Firozabad do?

a) It moulds iron to make windows

b) It moulds metal to make crockery items

c) It works to mould glass only

d) It works to mould glass and make colourful bangles of it

iv) Who is the author of 'Lost Spring'?

a) Sarojini Naidu b) Kamala Das c) Maha Devi Verma d) Anees Jung

v) 'I will learn to drive a car': What does this statement imply?

vi) Which city is the center of India's glass making industry?

[B] It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it.

i) Why did the nine feet deep pool seemed ninety to Douglas?

- a) because he was afraid of the water and didn't know swimming
- b) because he didn't know that the pool is so deep inside
- c) because he didn't know the calculation
- d) because the pool's water is so dirty

ii) The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that-

- a) Douglas was afraid to die
- b) Douglas accepted his failure and ultimate death
- c) though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits
- d) frightened, Douglas was not able to shout for help

iii) Choose the word from the given options which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down.'

- a) burst b) tinge c) bob d) summoned

iv) The above extract has been taken from _____

- a) The Last Lesson b) Indigo c) The Rattrap d) Deep Water

v) Where did the given event take place?

vi) 'It seemed a long way down: What was the author referring to?

Q. 10 - Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words each.

(2x5 = 10)

- i) How is the bangle industry of Firozabad a curse for the bangle makers?
- ii) What did the gift of the rattrap signify?
- iii) What will counting up to twelve and keeping quiet help us to achieve?
- iv) What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?
- v) What was the mood in the classroom when M Hamel gave his last French lesson?
- vi) How did his experience at the YMCA swimming pool affect Douglas?

Q. 11 - Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each.

(2x2 = 4)

- i) Why did the Maharaja decide to get married?
- ii) How was the narrator convinced that he had come to the Third Level?
- iii) What was Geoff Green's reason for including High School students in the 'Students on Ice Expedition'?

Q. 12 - Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

(5)

[A] The Champaran episode was a turning point in Gandhiji's life. Elucidate.

[B] Asokamitran has used humour and satire effectively in 'Poets and Pancakes'. Discuss.

Q. 13 - Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 word.

(5)

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

[B] In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has ...
