

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2017 - '18

Class : X

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

ENGLISH

General Instructions :

1. *This paper is divided into three sections : A, B and C.*
2. *All the questions are compulsory.*
3. *Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.*
4. *All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.*
5. *Strictly adhere to the word limit prescribed.*

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the following passage carefully.

1. 'The Buddha' is a title, not a name. It means 'The Enlightened One' or 'the One who knows'. The Buddha's real name was Siddhartha. He was the son of a Sakya king in northern India. He and his family were all Hindus and belonged to the Gautama clan.

2. Gautama Siddhartha was brought up in luxury. He lived in his father's palace and saw nothing of the outside world until he was a young man. Then one day, accompanied by his charioteer Channa, Prince Siddhartha went round the city. On his way, he saw sights that he had never seen before. First, he saw a man who was very old and was bent with age. Then he saw a man who was suffering from a terrible disease, possibly leprosy. And then he saw a dead man who was being taken to the cremation ground. These sights made the Prince very sad.

3. Now a complete change came in Gautama Siddhartha's life. He was filled with a longing to find the cause and cure of human suffering. He wanted to find the true meaning of life and help his fellow men. Although he was married and had a baby son, he left his home in search of truth. He was then only 28.

4. First of all, Gautama went to two Hindu priests. He wanted to know from them the cause of human suffering. But the priests could not give him any satisfactory answers. Now Gautama tried to live the life of an ascetic. For six years, he tortured himself so that he could become indifferent to any kind of pain. He was reduced to a mere skeleton. But eventually, he realized that all this was foolish and useless. Now he sat in deep meditation under a bo tree near Gaya (in Bihar). Here at last he attained Enlightenment and found the answers to his questions. He was then 35 years old.

1.1. Answer the following questions.

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- a) What was the real name of the Buddha? What does 'the Buddha' mean?
- b) How did Gautama Siddhartha spend his childhood?
- c) Who was Channa? Where did he accompany the Prince?
- d) Where was the dead man being taken?
- e) Why did the Prince leave his home? How old was he then?
- f) Where did the Prince go after leaving his home?
- g) What was Gautama's experience as an ascetic?
- h) How did Gautama attain Enlightenment? How old was he then?

- d) Remorse
 (i) regret (ii) fear (iii) pity (iv) satisfaction

SECTION B - WRITING AND GRAMMAR

3. Consider you are Rakesh / Rakhi. You wish to join the Topper’s Coaching, Ernakulam after appearing in your Board exams. Write a letter to the Manager enquiring about the coaching classes for the next session. (100 - 200 words) **8**
4. **Write a story in about 200 - 250 words based on the inputs given below.** **10**

It was late night. Saket was about to switch off the light and go to bed when he saw the light outside the window. On close observation he realized that it was a fire

5. **Complete the paragraph given below by filling in the blanks with the help of options that follow.** **4**

The rapid changes that India a) _____ over the last few decades have been welcomed by b) _____. It is c) _____ enthusiasm which d) _____.

- a) (i) is enduring (ii) was endured (iii) has been enduring (iv) will endure
 b) (i) most of us (ii) many of us (iii) few of people (iv) the lot of people
 c) (i) a (ii) the (iii) an (iv) that
 d) (i) should be kept alive (ii) have been kept alive
 (iii) will be keeping alive (iv) will be enlivened

6. **In the passage given below there is an error in each line. Write the error and correction in your answer sheet.** **4**

	error	correction
You recently ask me to submit a short report	a) _____	_____
in the progress made so far in the	b) _____	_____
Literacy Project. Initially adults were reluctance	c) _____	_____
to learn. Gradually they overcome their inhibition.	d) _____	_____

7. **Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences.** **4**

- a) more than / are child workers / the Indian population / five percent of
 b) engaged / in agriculture / tens of thousands / are chiefly
 c) work / in urban areas / many / of industries / in a variety
 d) deprived / children / education / of / this / many / has

SECTION C - LITERATURE AND NOVEL

8. **Read the extract given below and answer the following questions that follow.** **4**

Now the frog puffed up with rage.
 “Brainless bird- you’re on the stage
 Use your wits and fellow fashion.
 Puff your lungs out with your passion.”

- a) Why was the frog puffed up with rage?
 b) Give the opposite of ‘Brainless’.
 c) What happened when the nightingale puffed up her lungs?
 d) The figure of speech used in line 2 is _____.

OR

Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
 Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;

But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time.

- a) The poet's friend will outlive _____.
- b) What will outshine the other?
- c) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is _____.
- d) The poet of the given lines is _____.

9. Answer the following questions in 30 - 40 words.

8

- a) Why didn't the two boys disclose their problems to the author?
- b) How did the villagers help Mrs. Packletide in killing the tiger?
- c) What message is conveyed through the poem 'Ozymandias'?
- d) What do you think of the 'terrible fish' in the poem, 'Mirror' symbolizes? What is the poetic device used here?

10. Answer any one of the following in 100 - 200 words.

8

- a) Life is often a reflection of one's own deeds. God renders us according to our needs. Do you think Ali and the postmaster are examples of this philosophical thought? Discuss.

OR

"Henry, I've been thinking about the bureau of grandfather's that's in his bedroom. You know I always wanted to have it after he died". Victoria is deeply anguished at her mother's remark. As Victoria, write a letter to your close friend expressing your feelings on how your mother is behaving in a greedy manner highlighting the value the mother should have possessed.

11. Answer any one of the following in 200 - 250 words.

10

- a) Helen was very close to nature. She could understand nature through touch and smell. Describe the role of nature in Helen's life.

OR

- b) Miss Anne Sullivan played a very important part in Helen's life. Discuss with reference to the novel "The Story of My Life".