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HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2017 - '18

Class : VIII

Marks : 80

Time : 2½ hrs

ENGLISH

General Instructions :

This paper consists of four sections -

Section A - Reading - 20 marks

Section B - Writing - 20 marks

Section C - Grammar - 20 marks

Section D - Literature - 20 marks

1. Attempt all questions.

2. Do not write anything on the question paper.

3. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.

4. Attempt all questions in each section before going on to the next section.

5. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.

6. Strictly adhere to the word limit prescribed.

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions.

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A lot of people are involved with nature conservation, taking care of the plants and animals which share the planet. Until the beginning of the 20th century, people thought we could conserve nature by looking after individual species by putting wild animals in zoos, or plants in botanical gardens. Now we understand that we need to conserve whole habitats, the places where these plants and animals live.

Polar bears may be able to survive as individual animals in concrete pools in zoos. But to conserve the species properly they each need hundreds of square kilometers of Arctic landscape where they can hunt in seas free from pollution and roam across snow fields that are not disturbed by people.

We can grow primroses in plant pots but to conserve these wild flowers properly, we need to conserve the woodlands where they grow naturally. Nature reserves are important for providing a safe environment for wild life but nature conservation can take place anywhere. In fact many starlings thrive best in very special artificial habitats.

- We need to conserve the living place of animals and plants to _____.
- Polar bears need hundreds of square kilometers of arctic landscape _____.
- The species that survive successfully in artificial habitat is _____.
- Some of the nature reserves like zoo, botanical garden are _____.
- A word which means 'the plants' or 'animals' natural living place is _____.

2. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

THE GUEST HOUSE – RUMI

This being human is a guest house.

Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,

Same momentary awareness comes

As an unexpected visitor
 Welcome and entertain them all!
 Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
 who violently sweep your house
 empty of its furniture,
 Still treat each guest honorably,
 He may be clearing you out
 For some new delight
 The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
 Meet them at the door laughing,
 and invite them in.
 Be grateful for whoever comes
 Because each has been sent
 as a guide from beyond.

2.1. Choose the correct options.

5

- a) A human body is described as a _____.
 (i) guest (ii) visitor (iii) guest house (iv) none of these
- b) The visitors of the guest house are _____.
 (i) invited (ii) expected (iii) guest (iv) none of the above
- c) We should _____ all the visitors.
 (i) refuse entry to (ii) turn away (iii) none of these (iv) welcome and entertain
- d) When dark thoughts come as visitors, we should _____.
 (i) turn our faces away (ii) shut the door on them
 (iii) meet them laughing (iv) send them
- e) No matter what kind of guest comes to our doors we should _____.
 (i) treat them badly (ii) ignore them
 (iii) show our hatred to them (iv) treat them well

2.2. Fill in the blanks with words from the poem which mean the same as the following.

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- a) gloomy b) pettiness c) lasting for a short time d) knowing e) spite

SECTION B - WRITING

3. The Hindu Young World is organizing an interschool painting contest for students from VI - XII on the occasion of the World Environment Day. You are Rohit / Arathi, Cultural Secretary of Hill Top International School, Mumbai. Draft a notice for your school notice board requesting students to participate in the contest. Do not exceed 50 words. 5
4. Sports and fitness play an important role in everybody's life but majority of students who do not value it are becoming lazy and glued to televisions or computers. Write a letter to the editor highlighting the importance of fitness and playing sports. Also suggest ways to lead a healthy life style. Write your letter in 120 - 150 words. 7
5. Many children feel tempted to break rules in school. They find pleasure in doing so. Write an article in 100 - 120 words discussing reasons for it. Suggest measure to make children respect rules. You are Arun / Aruna. 8

SECTION C - GRAMMAR

6. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the brackets. Then pick out the adjective clauses in the following sentences.

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(god mother, fantasy, parable)

- a) A _____ can be referred to as someone who is very close to the family.

- b) A _____ is a short story that teaches a moral lesson.
- 7. Write C for clause and P for phrase for the parts underlined.** 3
- a) I can buy the books if you give the money.
- b) We are all going to the library.
- c) Did you look under the bed ?
- 8. Rewrite each pair of simple sentences as a compound sentence. Use the correct conjunctions from the brackets.** 4
- a) The traffic police man knew where the hall was. He gave us directions. (yet / though / and)
- b) Padmini went to bed around midnight. She was awake at 5 am as usual. (yet / therefore / so)
- c) Ranjith is not awake. His younger brother has already left for his morning jog. (yet / so / that)
- d) The boy had no money to pay his school fees. The principal helped him. (yet / though / so)
- 9. Underline the adjective clauses in the following sentences.** 3
- a) The boy whom you met today is the head boy.
- b) The book that I was reading is missing.
- c) The train which we were supposed to travel by has been cancelled.
- 10. Correct and rewrite the following sentences.** 3
- a) I gave the big scream and ran away.
- b) It was most the scary look.
- c) They have strangest of the pets.
- 11. Fill in blanks with the correct options.** 2
- a) Sara would have taken the test today, if she _____ fallen ill.
(had not, was not, would not have)
- b) If you do not return your library book on time, you _____ to pay a fine.
(would have, will have, had)
- 12. Re-arrange the following words to form meaningful sentences.** 3
- a) Camel / the oldest / the / is / of / domestic animals
- b) is / means / as / a / of / transport / in / deserts / it / used
- c) is / useful / animal / this / to life / adapted / well / land / in harsh

SECTION D - LITERATURE

- 13. Choose the right answer.** 3
- a) For these happy little neighbours always seem at peace to be _____.
- (i) the poet's neighbours (ii) the children of the poet's neighbours
(iii) the doves in the neighbourhood (iv) the doves that sit on the neighbour's roof
- b) The phrase 'hooked hands' refers to _____.
- (i) long nails (ii) bent hands (iii) clawed feet (iv) deformed hands
- c) 'Acre on acre of light means that the _____.
- (i) fields are on fire (ii) fields are reflecting sunlight (iii) fields are covered with light bulbs
(iv) yellow mustard flowers are making the fields look bright
- 14. Answer the following questions.**
- a) Where does the eagle usually rest? 1
- b) What does the mustard do to the kikar tree? 1
- c) What is the poem 'Everybody's doing it' really about? What does the poet want to convey? 2
- d) What will the combination of the new science and old science result in? 3
- e) How did Nehru fall? What saved his life? 3
- f) Nehru and the others had to leave their expedition half way. Why? 3
- g) Describe in detail how Essie helped Cinderella. 4