

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2017 - '18

Class : IX

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

ENGLISH

General Instructions :

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
2. All the sections are compulsory..
3. Read the instructions given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.
4. Write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.
5. Strictly adhere to the word limit prescribed.

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the following passage carefully.

1. Our earth has a fine layer of soil at the surface. All plants grow in this soil only. Under the soil, there are rocks of various kinds. Nature takes millions of years to form an inch of soil in thickness. But sometimes a single heavy shower can wash it off. Such a thing doesn't happen in places where we have forests or lots of trees. The roots of trees hold the soil together and protect it from being washed off.

2. We value trees not only for their usefulness, but also for their beauty. They refresh the eyes and bring peace to the mind. That is why our ancient *rishis* were attracted to the forests. They lived in their forest homes or *ashramas* in the company of nature. It was in these *ashramas* that they taught their pupils. When Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore started a school, he also chose a place full of trees. He called it *Shantiniketan* or the Home of Peace.

3. There was a time when our hills, mountains and even plains were covered with huge forests. As the population grew, trees were cut down to meet the demand for fuel and timber. Thus our wonderful forests came to be destroyed. Now we don't have enough trees to give us firewood even. So people are forced to burn cattle-dung which ought to be saved for use as manure. Cattle-dung is very necessary to maintain the fertility of soil. Chemical fertilizers alone can't help. In many areas where only chemical fertilizers are used, the crop yields have started falling.

4. There is another grave danger. Now we don't have enough trees to treat all the carbon dioxide that is being produced in our homes, factories and by our autos. The air remains polluted and it can give us a number of serious diseases.

5. Trees are man's best friends. They are God's greatest gift to man. They are the invaluable wealth of a nation. It is our sacred duty to protect them and look after them well. For every tree that is cut down, we must plant at least two new trees and take care of them. If we don't care for trees, they too will stop caring for us. And then, imagine what will happen!

1.1. Answer the following questions briefly.

8

- a) What does the earth have at its surface?
- b) What does the earth have beneath its surface?
- c) How is the soil washed off?
- d) What can prevent the soil from being washed off?
- e) What was it that attracted ancient *rishis* to the forests?
- f) What was it that destroyed our wonderful forests?

- g) Why do we have to burn cattle-dung?
- h) What should be done for every tree that we cut down?

2. Read the passage carefully.

1. Our Vedas consist of ancient theories, observations and principles about the mind and body connection which is now being proven by modern medicine. There are several reasons for headache. Physical, emotional and mental factors, anxiety and tension are a few. Sometimes, headache can be a signal of an underlying disease. More than medicines, yoga therapy eminently suits any need. Yoga is a comprehensive mode of culturing the body and the mind, using an “Integrated Approach of Yoga”, the Yoga Research Centres have been able to cure some tough headaches. The integrated approach includes breathing asanas, pranayama, meditation and devotional sessions.
2. Yoga, is aimed to unite the mind, the body and the spirit. Yogis view that the mind and the body are one and that if it is given the right yoga kit and tools and taken to the right environment, it can find harmony and heal itself. Yoga, therefore, is considered therapeutic. It helps you become more aware of your body’s posture, alignment and patterns of movement. It makes the body more flexible and helps you relax even in the midst of a stress stricken environment.
3. Yoga asanas, especially the ones imitating the natural postures of animals, have a tremendous tranquilising effect without having to depend on common drugs. Pranayama inhibits random agitations in Pranic (energy) flows in Pranamaya kosa, stabilizing the autonomic nervous system. By Dhyana and Samadhi the reaction of an individual to headache can be managed. By interrupting the vicious circle of pain-agony-pain, yoga prevents headache from becoming a crippling problem.
4. Through asanas that calm you, the Pranayama exercises inhibit random energy flows, the meditation that cultivates and relaxes your mind Yoga offers a holistic form of pain releif. It stops you from becoming locked in the vicious circle of pain-anxiety-pain.

2.1. Answer the following questions briefly.

8

- a) How does Pranayama help the body?
- b) How can one stay away from medicines?
- c) What does integrated approach include?
- d) Why is yoga considered therapeutic?

2.2. Answer the following.

4

- a) What is meant by ‘inhibit’? (Para 4)
- b) What is meant by ‘eminently’? (Para 1)
- c) Find the word opposite to ‘discord’. (Para 2)
- d) Find the word opposite to ‘stiff’. (Para 2)

SECTION B - WRITING

- 3.** You are worried about the future of the nation by seeing children picking up rags and roaming about the streets etc. Write an article with a suitable title in about 100 - 120 words. Take ideas from unit ‘Children’ in MCB.

8

- 4. Write a short story based on the following hints in about 200 - 250 words. Give a suitable title to your story.**

12

Once upon a time - boy lived with mother - boy hated mother - had only one eye - always embarrassed - wished mother would disappear-few years later - boy left his mother - came to the city and got settled - forgot about his one-eyed mother - received a letter - school alumni reunion - after reunion, visited his old house - saw his mother on the cold ground with a letter - boy during childhood met with an accident - lost his eye - mother donated her eye - boy cried.

5. Complete the following passage by choosing the correct word from the given options. 3

Swami Vivekananda once speaking in America told a) _____ a young man who came to a religious conference and said that he wanted to find God. The sage smiled and said b) _____. The young man, turned time after time, ever repeating c) _____ his longing to find God. After d) _____ days, the sage told him to accompany him as he went to the river e) _____ take his morning bath and when f) _____ were in the river, the sage took hold of the young man, plunged him under the surface of water and held him there.

The sage meant to convey to him that his longing to find God should be as intense as his longing for a breath under the water.

- a) (i) off (ii) on (iii) about (iv) in
b) (i) nothing (ii) anything (iii) more (iv) much
c) (i) his (ii) her (iii) their (iv) our
d) (i) many (ii) each (iii) some (iv) all
e) (i) off (ii) in (iii) on (iv) to
f) (i) how (ii) both (iii) on (iv) to

6. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined. 4

Vegetarianism promoted a natural way of life. a) _____
But despite implicit message of universal love b) _____
and non-violence, it has not spread, it should have c) _____
This because it usually is an inward looking habit d) _____

7. Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences. 3

- a) I / read / paper / in / the / burglar / been / caught / had / the / that
b) nightfall / began / crickets / the / at / their / piercing / calls
c) wore / a / hat / he / of / coconut / made / fiber / his / on / head

SECTION C - LITERATURE AND NOVEL

8. Read the following extract and answer the following questions. 4

Till last by Philip's farm I flow
To join the brimming river
For men may come and men may go
But I go on forever

- a) Where is Philip's farm situated?
b) What does the phrase 'brimming river' mean?
c) What poetic device is used here?
d) Explain 'men may come and men may go'.

OR

A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring time from the cuckoo bird
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides

- a) Why does the poet compares the reaper's voice to the song of the cuckoo bird?
b) What does the poet mean by 'farthest Hebrides'?
c) What breaks the silence of the sea?
d) Name the literary device used in the third line.

9. Answer the following in 30 - 40 words. **8**

- a) Why was the grandmother in tears?
 - b) What significant role had been played by Duke in Chuck Hooper's life?
 - c) Do you think Private Quelch learnt a lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties? Give reasons for your answer.
 - d) What is the theme of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?
- 10.** When a person loses something, he is shocked and gets into a state of denial leading to anger. In such a situation coping leads to acceptance and a changed way of life. Do you agree with this statement in connection with 'A Dog Named Duke'? Why? **8**

OR

'Some people thrive on cheating which they call shrewd business sense.' How can you save yourself from the people like Gaston?

11. Write a character sketch of Jerome. **10**

OR

Justify the title 'Three Men in a Boat'.