

# AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

## HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2018 - '19

Class : IX

Marks : 80

Time : 3 hrs

### ENGLISH

**General Instructions :**

1. This paper is divided into three sections : A, B and C.

Section A : Reading 20 Marks

Section B : Writing and Grammar 30 Marks

Section C : Literature 30 Marks

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. 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.**

- What does the earth have at its surface?
- What does the earth have beneath its surface?

8

- 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 relief. 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 AND GRAMMAR**

- 3. Your parents have warned you not to spend too much time watching T.V. You feel deprived of entertainment. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings. Word limit 100-150 **8**
- 4. Write out a story making use of the given outlines :A house near Ganges – father goes to another village – son in charge of the house – the river in flood – water, water everywhere – mother and sister in danger – a boat near the house –the boy saves the family. word limit 150-200 **10**

5. Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones given below. Do not copy the entire passage. 4

All the great men of Venice a) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Duke's court. The Duke b) \_\_\_\_\_ the case, appealing to Shylock to have mercy upon the unfortunate merchant, Shylock c) \_\_\_\_\_ that the law d) \_\_\_\_\_ on his side.

- a) (i) had gathered (ii) gathered (iii) were gathered (iv) gather  
b) (i) was opening (ii) had opened (iii) opened (iv) opens  
c) (i) was feeling (ii) felt (iii) feels (iv) had felt  
d) (i) is (ii) was (iii) are (iv) were

6. Read the following passage carefully. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank number as given in the example. 4

|                                       | incorrect     | correct |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| We should also developed nice         | eg. developed | develop |
| table manner. Some people             | a) _____      | _____   |
| talk two much while they eat.         | b) _____      | _____   |
| This is a unhealthy practice.         | c) _____      | _____   |
| some people also makes too            | d) _____      | _____   |
| much sound when they take their food. |               |         |

7. Rearrange the following words or phrases into meaningful sentences. 4

- a) is the negative outcome / obesity / changing lifestyle / socio-economic status / of / improving / and / our.  
b) move / ever / than / before / unhealthy food / more / we eat / and / lesser  
c) suffer / physical / obese children / mental / and / problems / both  
d) eating habits / schools / healthy / must provide / that promotes / an environment

### SECTION C - LITERATURE

8. Read one of the following extracts and answer the questions that follow. 4

Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. They called her name and she didn't move.

- a) What was wrong with Evelyn?  
b) Who noticed something wrong with Evelyn?  
c) How was the wrong noticed?  
d) Explain this line: They called her name and she didn't move.

OR

He won't do what you tell him.  
So, come, let's build strong homes.  
Let's joint the doors firmly.  
Practice to firm the body.

- a) Name the poem and the poet.  
b) Who is 'He' in these lines?  
c) What does the poet want us to do with the doors?  
d) Explain this line: Practice to firm the body.

9. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words. 10

- a) Why was Einstein called 'Brother Boring' by his playmates?  
b) What pleasure does one gain from the rain falling on the roof?  
c) How did Tommy describe the old kind of schools and teachers?  
d) When the Swallow died, what unusual thing happened?

e) When does the disciple remember the words of his Guru?

**10. Answer one of the questions in about 120-150 words.**

**8**

A fearful situation makes us lose our senses. Express your views with reference to 'The Snake and the Mirror' on the doctor's reaction.

OR

Kezia slept one night with her father and changed her opinion about him. What was her opinion about her father before? What change did take place?

**11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 120-150 words.**

**8**

The story 'The Lost Child' at every step teaches human being. How can you say so? Write with reference to the lost child.

OR

Describe in brief the adventures of Toto, the Monkey.