



BAL BHARTI SCHOOL BAHADURGARH
ACADEMIC SESSION 2019-20
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
CLASS - VIII

Time: 3.00 Hrs

DATE: 16.09.19

M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- **This question paper contains three sections. Sec.-A(2), Sec.-B(12), Sec.-C(6), and 05 pages.**
- **Marks are indicated against the questions.**

Section – A (Reading)

A.1 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions:

- 1) Srinagar brings about a distinct flavour of the glorious past with centuries-old buildings adorning the city. As you approach the majestic Dal Lake, thousands of houseboats made of ornately carved cedar wood welcome you. In order to reach one, you have to hire a shikaara, a cane like boat unique to Kashmir.
- 2) Although there are a number of hotels for tourists, yet the temptation to live in a houseboat is hard to resist, because of the unique experience of the Kashmiri way of life and culture it offers. The appeal of staying in a houseboat also lies in the fact that it provides an unobtrusive view of the mountains enhanced by the calm of the beautiful lake. These architectural wonders may have three to four bedrooms, attached bathrooms, drawing and dining rooms with all gadgets and amenities.
- 3) Made famous by scores of Hollywood songs sequences, a ride in a shikaara is once in a life time experience in its own right with the shimmering and serene lake with a row of Chinars on an island and the pristine sky providing a perfectly romantic setting. Depending upon the scenic spots you would like to visit in it, a ride can cost you anything between 300 and 500 rupees. While you laze around taking in the beauty of the lake, you can try your hand at shopping for knick-knacks. There are a number of vendors selling local handicrafts and papier-mâché products.
- 4) Among the spots where a shikaarwallah could take you is the Charchinari, small island on the lake named after its four chinar trees. These trees on the vast stretch of water look as if they are guarding the lake. The celebrated chinar trees here and all around Srinagar were brought from Persia. To this day, these trees are found only in these two places.
- 5) Besides the Dal lake, the Mughal garden is a prime attraction. Of the two gardens, Shalimar sits serenely shaded by the giant Chinars. It is believed that these trees were planted by Emperor Jahangir himself. Nishant Garden is built on steps cut into the hillside. Another must visit is the Cheshmashahi which is located at a height. The water of the spring is famous for its curative power. The tourists make it a point to take some of this water.
- 6) Close by is the Hazratbal mosque in pure white marble. The mosque enshrines a hair of Prophet Mohammad kept as a relic. At the other end of the lake is the Adi Shankaracharya hill with its historic Shiva temple on the top. The site is believed to date back to 2,500 B.C.

A.1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

(8)

(a) The temptation to live in a houseboat is hard to resist because:

- (i) Houseboats are cheaper than hotels.**
- (ii) It offers the unique experience of the kashmiri way of life.**
- (iii) The number of hotels are very less in Srinagar.**
- (iv) It provides more comfort than hotels.**

- (b) The Cheshmashahi is famous because:
- (i) It is on a small island.
 - (ii) There are number of vendors selling local handicrafts.
 - (iii) The water of the spring is famous for its curative powers.
 - (iv) It is the main attraction of Mughal gardens.
- (c) What is so unique about the Chinar trees in Srinagar?
- (d) Srinagar has something to offer to every kind of tourist. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer?
- (e) What is the special characteristics of Shalimar garden?
- (f) A ride in a shikaara is once in a life time experience. Why?

A.1.2 (a) Which of the following word means the same as 'adorning' (para-1)?

- (i) filling (ii) identifying (iii) marking (iv) beautifying

(b) Which of the following words means the same as 'curative' (para-5)?

- (i) painful (ii) energetic (iii) medicinal (iv) preservative

A.2 Read the following poem carefully:

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| <p>1. I dreamt I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.</p> <p>2. One was a teacher-the tools she used,
Were books and music, and art.
The other, a parent-working with a guiding hand,
And a gentle loving heart..</p> <p>3. Day after day, the teacher toiled,
With a touch that was deft and sure.
While the parent laboured by her side,
And polished and smoothed it over.</p> | <p>4. And when at last, their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had moulded into the child,
Could never be sold nor bought.</p> <p>5. And each agreed they would have failed,
if each had worked alone.
For behind the teacher stood the school,
And behind the parent, the home.</p> |
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A.2.1 Complete the summary of the poem by filling the gaps with appropriate word: (4)

Each child is a masterpiece created by two (a) _____ a teacher and a parent. They work together with utmost (b) _____ and from the raw clay create a raw masterpiece with qualities that cannot be sold or (c) _____. while the teacher uses such tools as (d) _____, music and art, the parent uses a (e)_____ hand and a gentle (f) _____ full of love. When the masterpiece, that is a fine child, is ready both feel very (g) _____of their creation. Both of them feel that they could not have accomplished the task if they had worked (h) _____. Thus, in a school system, teachers provide support at school and the parents create a support system at home. The school, the teachers and the parents – all are united in the process of educating a child.

A.2.2. On the basis of your reading of the poem answer the following questions briefly: (3)

- (i) What is a child's role in building his/her career apart from the help of the teacher and the parents?
- (ii) Find two examples of 'Alliteration'.
- (iii) Write an example of a 'Metaphor' of the first stanza.

Section-B (Writing & Grammar)

- B.1** You are Ronak/Rakhi of Model Town, Delhi. Your school is organizing a classical dance workshop in which students will be taught Bharatnatyam and Kathak. You wish to join that dance workshop. Write a letter to your father/mother seeking his/her permission to join the dance workshop. Write in about in 120 words.

OR

You are living as a tenant in a house. The landlord lives in another town. Your house needs some repair and white-wash. Write a letter to the landlord expressing the urgent need of repair and the white-wash. Sign yourself as Vikas Sharma living at 40B, Sector-22, R.K. Puram, New Delhi. Write in about 120 words. (5)

- B.2** You are Rahul/Rani. Write a short article in about 150 words for your school magazine on the 'Importance of Reading Newspaper'. (6)

OR

You are Soham/ Sakshi of 'Modern Public School', Panipat. Write a speech in about 150 words for your school assembly on the topic 'Hazards of The Addiction to Electronic Gadgets.'

- B.3** Apex-Adventure and Inner line Treks and Travels is organizing a 5 day trekking expedition for the students of class VIII of your school. You are Revathi/Revansh, secretary of the Adventure Club of Jindal School, Rohtak. Draft a notice in about 50 words announcing the expedition and inviting the students to join it. (4)

- B.4** Fill in the blanks with the suitable 'Modals': (2)

Unless you work hard, you _____(a) not be able to pass the exams. Have you decided to repeat the class? Do let me know so that I _____(b) relax. All the teachers have been advising that you _____(c) work very hard. When _____(d) you listen to their advice.

- B.5** Change the voice: (2)

- The principal runs the school well.
- He has not stolen my pen.
- Open the window.
- Did you not shut the door?

- B.6** Insert the Prepositions : (2.5)

Weaver ants are found (a) _____ the tropical forests (b) _____ Africa and India as well as (c) _____ Australia. These ants build their nests (d) _____ the top (e) _____ trees using fresh leaves.

- B.7** Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct form of the verb given in brackets: (3)

Yesterday, I (a) _____ (travel) by a bus. The bus (b) _____ (run) from Red Fort to Mandi House. When the bus (c) _____ (reach) ITO, it (d) _____ (get) overcrowded. Many commuters (e) _____ (block) the entrance and some (f) _____ (stand) on the footboard. Suddenly, the bus stopped with a jerk.

B.8 Re-arrange the following words to form meaningful sentences: (2)

- a) he decided / Jaisalmer had ever seen / a grand Haveli, / in 1805, / the best / to build
- b) and many craftsmen / the five storied Haveli / it took 50 years / it is said that / to build

B.9 The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line against which a blank is given . Write the incorrect word and the correction in you answer sheet: (3)

- You must have observe that (a) _____
iron articles are shinny when newer, (b) _____
and get coated with a reddish (c) _____
brown powder when left for little (d) _____
time. These process is commonly (e) _____
known like rusting of iron. (f) _____

B.10 Identify the tense: (1.5)

- (a) Have we been making mistakes?
- (b) He had hurt his back in an accident at his workplace.
- (c) Did he read the map properly?

B.11 Fill in the blanks with the suitable ‘Conjunctions’: (2)

- a) The teacher punished him _____ he had broken the window panes.
- b) You will fail _____ you work hard.
- c) _____ he is rich, _____ he is not happy.

B.12 Fill in the blanks with suitable ‘Determiners’: (2)

- (i) a) _____ day you will regret your decision. You are heartless. You don’t have b) _____ pity for a poor man with a family to support.
- (ii) Is it a) _____ same fellow who runs b) _____ chain of Indian restaurants.

Section-C (Literature)

C.1 Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(A) (3)

“The celebration of course, had to match expectation!
A banquet was good but why not make it a gala affair
by having every sort of entertainment for the varying
ages present?”

- (a) What was the special celebration for?
- (b) How did Ravikant make sure everyone enjoyed the evening?
- (c) Why did he invite the special guest?

(B) (3)

“She said those that do that are unhappy,
they are very angry deep down inside,
but they just don’t know how to fix that,
so they pick on kids smaller in size.”

- a) Name the poem and the poet?
- b) Why do they not know how to fix it?
- c) What advice did the mother give to the child?

C.2 Write the meaning of any five of the following words and make sentences: (5)

- a) astound b) hare-brained c) dismay d) gridlocked e) sojourn
- f) poised g) captivated

C.3 Answer any six of the following questions in about 30-40 words: (12)

- a) The two medical students were still in a frightening state. How do you know this?
- b) How did Jimmy get information about Annabel and the town?
- c) What shows that the young tribals were more concerned about their environment than traditions?
- d) How did the family come to have a dog and how did the people respond to Rumm?
- e) Why was the writer still uneasy even though he was in a park?
- f) Where were the three friends and what time of day was it? What was the precious moment?
- g) What do you think the poet means by saying 'Despite the human race'?

C.4 'Preservation and protection of the environment is not a spectator's sport' What does this mean? Write your views on how should each of us be involved in the preservation of the environment? Write in about 80-100 words. (3)

C.5 Write the meaning of the following idioms: (2)

- (a) To have a green thumb
- (b) To be black and blue

C.6 Replace the underlined Adjective phrases with suitable Adjectives: (2)

- (a) She likes wearing dresses made of silk.
- (b) An author from America has written this book.

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