

FAS / ENGLISH / X / HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2024-25

Time : 3 Hrs.]

[M.M. : 80

General instructions :

- (1) Please check that the paper contains 9 printed pages.
- (2) The paper has a total of 11 questions,
- (3) 15 minutes reading time has been allotted before you start attempting the paper.
- (4) Do not write anything on the question paper.
- (5) The paper is divided into three sections—Section A, B and C, which is Reading, Grammar and Writing, and Literature respectively.
- (6) Please follow the instructions given for each question separately.

SECTION-(A)

(READING)

20

I. (UNSEEN PASSAGES)

1. Read the following passage carefully : 10
- (1) In the small town of Willowbrook, there was a peculiar tradition that took place every autumn: the Great Pumpkin Festival. The festival was not just a celebration of harvest but a time when the town's residents showcased their creativity through elaborate pumpkin designs. From spooky faces to intricate patterns, pumpkins of all sizes were transformed into artistic masterpieces.
 - (2) Emma, a high school student, had always admired the festival from a distance but never participated herself. This year, however, she decided it was time to join in the fun. She was determined to create a pumpkin that would stand out and perhaps even win the coveted "Best in Show"

ribbon. Emma started by brainstorming ideas and sketching designs. She wanted her pumpkin to be unique, so she decided to carve a scene from her favourite book—a whimsical forest with fantastical creatures. She spent hours preparing her pumpkin, meticulously carving each detail, and using special paint to add vibrant colours.

- (3) As the festival approached, Emma faced challenges. Her pumpkin's skin was thicker than expected, making carving difficult. She had to use specialized tools and took extra care to avoid mistakes. Despite the difficulties, Emma remained focused, and dedicated to her project. On the day of the festival, Emma proudly displayed her pumpkin at the town square. The festival was bustling with families, friends, and neighbours admiring the various creation. Emma's pumpkin drew a crowd, with many people stopping to appreciate the detailed scene she had crafted.
- (4) When the judges announced the winners, Emma was thrilled to hear her name called for "Best in Show." Her hard work had paid off, and she felt a great sense of accomplishment. The festival was a success not just for Emma but for the entire community, as it brought people together to celebrate creativity and tradition.
- (5) Emma's pumpkin remained a highlight of the festival for years to come, and she continued to participate every autumn. The Great Pumpkin festival had become more than just an event—It was a cherished part of her life and a reminder of the joy of pursuing one's passions.

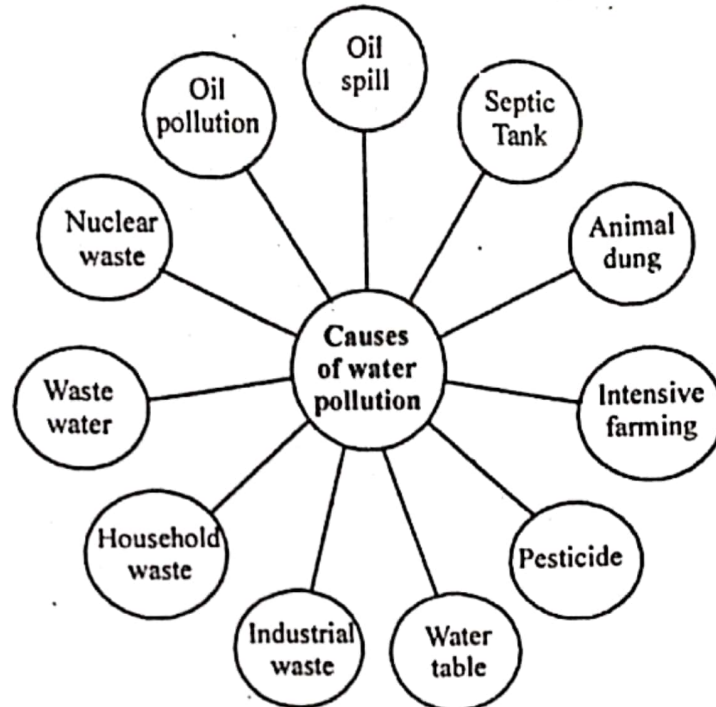
Attempt the following questions :

- (i) What do you learn from Emma ? 1
- (ii) Why was Emma ^{troubled} ~~doubled~~ as the festival advanced ? 1
- (iii) The meaning of 'paid off' is _____. 1

- (a) to be successful
- (b) to be Successfully defensive
- (c) to intimidate with success
- (d) to pay off on or before time
- (iv) The Pumpkin Festival was not mere festival, It rather had other major connotations. Mention any two. 2
- (v) A word in the passage which is the synonym of 'accurate and precise' is _____. 1
- (a) carving (b) meticulous
- (c) scrupulous (d) peculiar
- (vi) Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option : 1
- Statement 1 : Emma was initially hesitant to participate in the festival.
- Statement 2 : Emma won because of her hard-work and dedication.
- (a) Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 cannot be delineated
- (b) Statement 1 and 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the reason of Statement 1
- (c) Both the statements are subjective, hence, may or may not be correct
- (d) Statement 1 and 2 are correct but not connected
- (vii) Frame a sentence with the word 'brainstorming.' 1
- (viii) "Emma's pumpkin drew a crowd." What had Emma done to her pumpkin ? What does 'drew a crowd' mean ? 2

II. (UNSEEN PASSAGE)

2. Analyse the given visual and read the passage that follows : 10



- (1) Unsafe water kills more people each year than do war and other forms of violence combined. Meanwhile, our drinkable water sources are finite, less than 1% of the Earth's freshwater is accessible to us. Without action, the challenges will only increase by 2050, when global demand for fresh water is expected to be 1/3 greater than it is now.
- (2) Water is uniquely vulnerable to pollution. Known as a 'universal solvent', water is able to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on Earth. Water pollution is the release of substances into subsurface groundwater or into lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries and oceans to the point where the substances interfere with beneficial use of water or with natural functioning of ecosystem. In addition to the release of substances, such as chemicals, trash or microorganisms, water pollution may also include the release of energy in the form of radioactivity or heat into bodies of

water. The key causatives of water pollution in India are urbanization, deforestation, industrial effluents and agricultural runoffs with the use of insecticides and pesticides. The other causes are social and religious offerings in water bodies and the use of detergents and fertilizers.

- (3) Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on the ecosystem. Furthermore, toxic chemicals can travel through the food chain and get into our bodies, causing diseases and deaths.
- (4) There is no single or simple answer to stop the water pollution crisis. However, there are many solutions to prevent water pollution both in our daily lives and within industries: They are wastewater treatment, reducing plastic waste and water conservation, In addition to this, we must have water-efficient toilets, Storm water management and ozone wastewater treatment.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above :

- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. 1
 Less than 1 percent of the Earth's freshwater is actually accessible to us.
- (ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank : 1
 Water is uniquely susceptible to _____.
 (a) season (b) pollution
 (c) water bodies (d) extreme weather conditions
- (iii) Complete the analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 1 : 1
 VULNERABLE : RESILIENT :: ARTIFICIAL : _____.
- (iv) Mention any two major causes of water pollution. 2

- (v) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option : 1
 One of the solutions of preventing water pollution is _____.
- (a) building few industries near water bodies
 (b) water conservation and reducing plastic waste
 (c) avoiding swimming
 (d) reducing farming
- (vi) Substitute the word 'causative' with one word similar in meaning 1
 in the following sentence :
 The key causative of water pollution in India must be addressed.
- (vii) What is water pollution as per the writer ? 2
- (viii) Select the most suitable title for the passage from the 1
 following :
 (a) Water Pollution : A Concern
 (b) Unsafe Water : A Chaos
 (c) Universal Solvent : Water
 (d) Global concern : An Urgency and Emergency

SECTION-(B)

(GRAMMAR AND WRITING)

20

III. (GRAMMAR)

3. Read the following sentences carefully and do as instructed in the 1
 bracket. Attempt ANY TEN out of the twelve questions : 1×10=10
- (i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket,
 for the given portion of a letter :
- Dear Sir,
- As per our telephonic conversation, it is _____ (agree) that the event
 commences in the coming month.

- (ii) Read the following sentence, identify the error, and supply the correction :

As per this news channel, and UFO was seen yesterday.

Use the given format for your response :

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (iii) Read the following conversation and complete the narration in indirect Speech : Teacher-Why did you miss your exam ? Student (Riya) : I was down with fever.

The teacher asked the student _____. The student said that she was down with fever.

- (iv) Read the following conversation and complete the narration in Indirect Speech. Choose the correct option from the four given choices :

Doctor : Take this medicine twice.

Patient : I will, for sure,

The doctor _____. The patient said that he would, for sure.

- (a) advised the patient to take that medicine twice
 - (b) ordered the patient to take the medicine twice
 - (c) told the patient that take that medicine twice
 - (d) said that take that medicine twice
- (v) Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct option from the bracket :
- The misunderstanding will stay _____(unless/if/though/although) you clear the air.

- (vi) Read the following sentence, identify the error, and supply the correction :
I want to grow up as a smart young person through a beautiful mind.

Use the given format for your response :

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (vii) Read the following sentence, identify the error, and supply the correction by selecting the correct option from the given four choices :

We must be individual who are critical thinkers and have hearts that care and have concern for the other.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	and	or
(b)	individual	individuals
(c)	that	which
(d)	the	an

- (viii) The society's President _____ opt for this scheme as maximum residents are in favour of it.

- (a) might (b) could
(c) will (d) may

- (ix) Read the following conversation and complete the narration in Indirect Speech :

News Reporter—The episode was shell-shocking for all of us.

Viewers—Why is he exaggerating ?

The dramatic reporter invited viewers' comments. The viewers asked.

- (x) The big muscular man _____ bullying this tiny little fellow since hours!

- (a) have been (b) has been
(c) will have been (d) would have been

- (xi) Select the correct option to complete the following prayer :

God will make a way

Where there _____ to be no way

He works in ways we cannot see

He will make a way for me



- (a) seems (b) seem
(c) is (d) are
- (xii) Read the following extract of a poem, identify the error, and supply the correction :

“I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth

And spoke the following date with tears,

But he said what mattered most of all is the dash between those years.”

Use the given format for your response :

ERROR	CORRECTION

IV. (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Read both the questions and attempt ANY ONE from A and B : $1 \times 5 = 5$
You are Roshan Garg/Roshni Garg, a resident of B 43, Hapoy Apartments, Prashant Lok, New Delhi, 24. You recently bought a new car and you desire to modify its interiors completely. Write a letter placing an order to the Manager of The Car Makeovers. Car Market, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, putting forth your requirements.

OR

You are Sohum Garg/Sonia Garg, a concerned citizen of the society and an avid humanitarian. You are deeply concerned about the increasing impatience in human beings and how so many try to ^{belittle} ~~be-little~~ the other without batting an eyelid. You strongly feel that people have crossed all bounds of humanity and the bar is in hell. Think about the scenario and

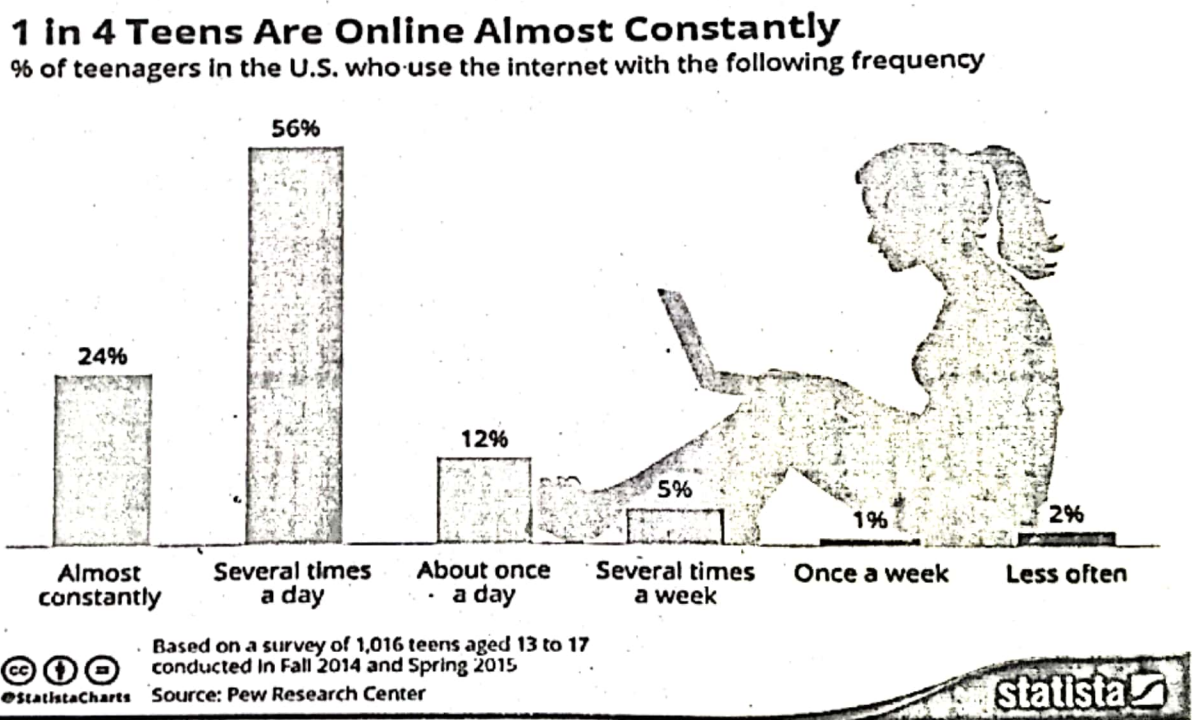
write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times, showcasing a rising concern towards 'endangered humanity.'

5. Read both the questions and attempt ANY ONE of the following : 1×5=5

(i) The following bar graph is an interesting study of how much time teenagers spend online. Be it for studies or extracting readymade articles from ChatGPT, be it instagram or any other socialising stint, teenagers today are (almost) always online. Analyse the given bar graph and write a paragraph on it, presenting your analysis.

1 in 4 Teens Are Online Almost Constantly

% of teenagers in the U.S. who use the internet with the following frequency.

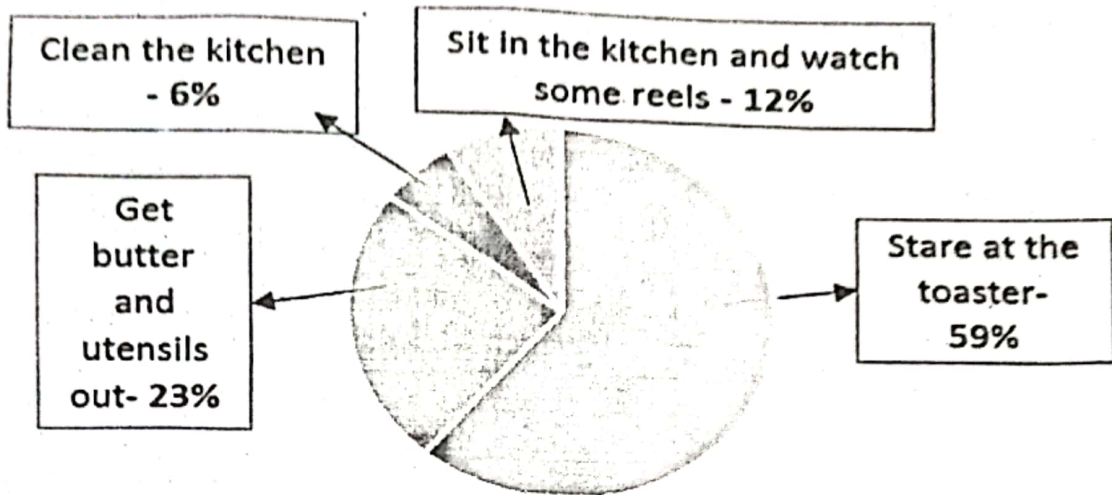


OR

(ii) The following pie-chart is a humorous study of what people do while waiting for their toast to pop-up. The pie-chart is sure to bring a smile on your face. Analyse it and write a paragraph on it, sharing your views.



WHAT PEOPLE DO WHILE WAITING FOR THEIR TOAST TO POP-UP



SECTION-(C) (LITERATURE)

40

Reference to Context

10

6.

Read both the extracts and attempt ANY ONE out of the two :

5

(i)

Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits, and the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture. "My poor mother used to sit in that chair," she moaned. "To think it would rise up against me now!"

Footprints Without Feet

Answer the questions which follow :

- (a) Who is the stranger being talked about in the above context ?
Mention his/her name and designation. 1
- (b) State whether the following statement is True or False : 1
The furniture was haunted by spirits
- (c) In which ways was the furniture behaving unusually ?
Mention briefly. 2
- (d) Supply the meaning of the word 'hysterics.' 1

OR

- (ii) She was silent, watching him closely. Then she said, "You are really afraid of going to prison, aren't you?" She came over to him shaking her head. "I have always liked the wrong kind of people." She picked up a silver box from the table and took a cigarette from it. Horace, eager to please her and seeing that she might help him, took off his gloves and gave her his cigarette lighter. "You'll let me go?" He held the lighter towards her. "Yes, but only if you'll do something for me."

*A Question of Trust***Answer the questions which follow :**

- (a) "I have always liked the wrong kind of people." Why does the lady say so? 1
- (b) The lady's tone is very _____ throughout her conversation with Horace. 1
- (c) What was Horace Danby's mistake? Why do you think so? 2
- (d) Read the statements carefully and pick the correct option : 1

Statement 1 : Horace Danby hates going to the prison

Statement 2 : The lady in red had also done her homework well

- (a) Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is incorrect
- (b) Statement 1 is incorrect but statement 2 is correct
- (c) Both the statements are correct and they can be proven through textual evidences
- (d) Both the statements are incorrect as there are no textual evidences to prove the same

7. Read both the extracts and attempt ANY ONE out of the two : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (A) "A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy. And no one buys a ball back."

Answer the questions which follow :

- (a) Identify the poetic device in the last line of the given extract. 1
- (b) What is the responsibility that the boy realises ? 1
- (c) What is the speaker trying to teach through the given lines ? 2
- (d) 'In a world of possessions' is suggestive of the fact that _____. 1
- (i) in life, we will all own things, and gain and lose things as well
- (ii) the world is all about possessions and owing up to them
- (iii) life is all about possessions and we are answer able for them
- (iv) in life will possess things and they will be ours along

OR

- (B) "Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire."

Answer the questions which follow :

- (i) Identify the figure of speech in the first two lines. 2
- (ii) 'tasted' in the above context means _____. 1
- (a) remembered and recovered from
- (b) felt or experienced
- (c) forgiven and forgotten
- (d) a deed done
- (iii) Explain the Metaphor behind the idea of 'fire'. 2
- (iv) Read the following sentences carefully and pick the sentence which uses the word 'hold' exactly like it is used in the above mentioned context : 1
- (a) Out of all the shared ideas, I hold the lattermost as the most practical and sensible

- (b) I must ^{handhold} half-hold this heavy dumbbell till my friend learns to lift weights properly
- (c) I suggest you to hold on to this thought till I come back
- (d) Most of the things you hold in your mind are untrue

VI. (Short and long answer type questions)

8. Attempt any four out of the five questions in 40-50 words : $3 \times 4 = 12$
- (i) There are various metaphorical comparisons that Amanda makes of herself. Mention and explain any one in detail. (Amanda)
 - (ii) The postmaster restores our faith in humanity. Do you agree? Explain (A Letter to God)
 - (iii) Who was Mrs. Kuperus? What kind of bond did she share with Ann Frank? (From the Diary of Anne Frank)
 - (iv) A mother is indeed the most affectionate member of every household. Prove the statement correct through the seagull family. (First Flight)
 - (v) "Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such height of character." Explain the statement. (Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)
9. Attempt any two out of the three questions in 40-50 words : $3 \times 2 = 6$
- (i) Give textual evidences to prove that Max was underconfident and hassled (The Midnight Visitor)
 - (ii) Write a character-sketch of Mr. Herriot. (A triumph of Surgery)
 - (iii) You do not have to earn big to live a happy life. Anil is a prime example of the given statement. Prove the same as per your understanding of the story. (The Thief's Story)
10. Attempt any one out of the two in 100-120 words.
- A Tiger in the Zoo beautifully draw a sharp contrast between cage

animals and animals living in the wild. Prove the statement correct and substantiate your answer through textual examples.

OR

Imagine the following scenario between the two Teenagers Amanda and Anne Frank, and draft a dialogue exchange based on it :

Amanda and Anne are friends and they meet after five years. A lot has happened in their lives over these years. Where Anne is a holocaust survivor, Amanda is still contemplating on the strained relation she shares with her mother. However, Anne is her usual witty self with great presence of mind, and she, despite having her own problems, decides to help Amanda.

11. Attempt any one out of the two in 100-120 word ? 6

"Footprints Without Feet" proves evidently that knowledge, power, familiarity, and intelligence can be used egotistically and insignificantly if one is unethical, lawless, and quick-tempered. Justify the statement through a detailed explanation.

OR

Imagine the following scenario to be true. Read it carefully and write a letter to your best friend sharing your experience :

Recently, the lady in red had her game over because the refined detective Ausable found out her reality. Ausable and the lady in red came face-to-face in court and as he presented evidences against the lady, there was an exchange of wit and sarcasm. You were audience to this court scene. Write a letter to your friend Ruby, sharing this once-in-a-lifetime experience. (*A Question of Trust and The Midnight Visitor*)