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MG-300+280=580

No. of Printed Pages : 13

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2024-25

ENGLISH

Time : 3 hrs.]

Class X

[M.M. : 80

General Instructions—

- (i) The question paper contains three sections – Reading, Grammar and Writing and Literature.
- (ii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION-A: READING SKILLS

20

1. Read the passage given below—

- (1) Peer pressure is a phenomenon wherein we tend to get influenced by the lifestyle and the ways of thinking of our peers. Peer pressure can prove beneficial but it is most often observed to have negative effects.
- (2) The thought, behaviour and taste in fashion, music, television and other walks of life of the masses are often seen to have a deep impact on society. We tend to get influenced by the lifestyle of our peer group. The changing ways of life of our peers often force us to change our ways of looking at life and leading it. It's a human tendency to do what the crowd does. Few have the courage to resist peer pressure and be their own selves rather than being one among the lot. *Peer pressure is bound to affect most of us positively.*
- (3) Peer bound to affect most of us both and negatively. The distinction between positive and pressure is positively negative peer pressure lies in a thoughtful analysis of the views of the masses. (Following your peers blindly leaves a negative impact on life while an analytical approach to looking at behaviour can help act your peer you positively.) *peer*
- (4) Peer pressure is not always bad. It can help you analyse yourself and

P. T. O.

contemplate your ways of life. Some of the practices that the masses follow may actually teach you the way of living. You may be able to change yourself for the better. Looking at what others do, can help you bring about a positive change in your way of thinking. If you can pick selectively, peer pressure can actually result in a positive change in your way of life.

- (5) Teenage is that phase of life when you are exposed to the world outside. These are the years when you spend most of your time with your friends. Teenage is the phase of beginning to become independent in life; the years of forming your ideals and principles, the years that shape your personality and the years that introduce you to your own self. As adolescents you often spend most of your daily time with friends and owing to this, you tend to imitate your friends. The people around you are bound to influence you. However the effect of the influences of the masses is greater during your teen years. Parents have a vital role to play during this phase of your life.
- (6) Parents and teachers need to be careful while dealing with teenagers. as they are most susceptible to succumbing to peer pressure during these years of their life. Teenage individuals need to be taught to distinguish between the good and the bad, the right and the wrong and should be taught to be thoughtful in life.

(7) A strong support from family, an ability to differentiate between the positive and the negative and a skill to choose friends from among peers this three-pronged strategy is the best way to keep away from negative peer pressure. **Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below—**

- (1) Which of the following is the reason for the effect of peer pressure in teenage years. 10
- (a) Teen years are always unmanageable. 1
- (b) Teenagers spend more time with their peers and friends.

(c) Teenagers spend more time with their parents and old people.

(d) It is impossible to convince them. 1

(2) Complete the sentence appropriately—
Changing ways of life of our peers can affect us because _____ 1

(3) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'Vulnerable'. 1

(4) State whether the following statement is True or False with reference to the given extract— 1

By 'the way of living' the writer means our behaviour towards others, our views, ideas and preferences.

(5) Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below— 1
Peer pressure can prove beneficial but it is most often observed to have negative effects.

- (a) Beginnings and ends are easier to remember than middles.
- (b) Sleep is good for memory but too much sleep can also be linked to health problems.
- (c) Food tastes better when someone else makes it.
- (d) Some people enjoy seeing anger in others.

(6) Find a word from the passage whose antonym is the same as disregard / neglect. 1

(7) The writer mentions 'The people around you are bound to influence you.' (Paragraph 5) 2

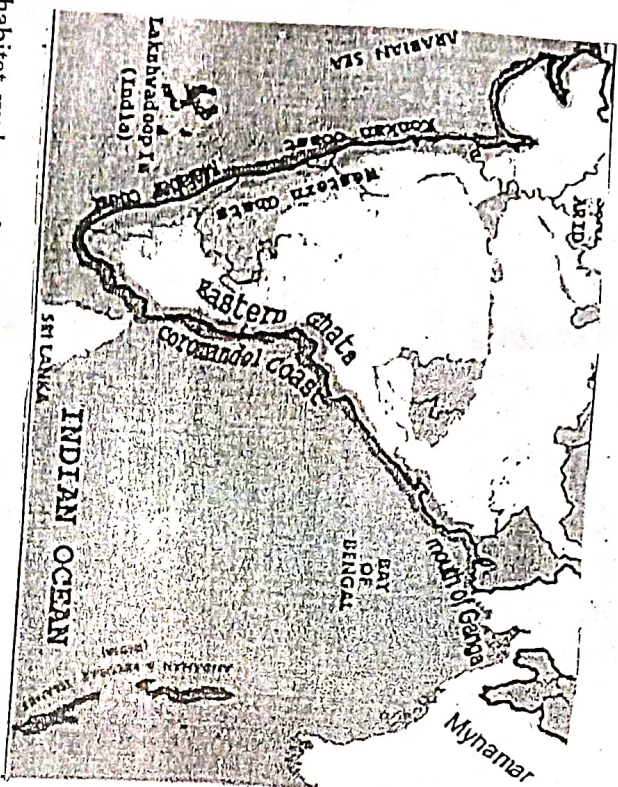
Mention one reason from the passage that supports the above statement.

(8) What is the best way to keep away from negative peer pressure? 2

2. Read the passage given below— 10

Rain and vegetation are intimately connected. The monsoon and the natural habitats ^{says Cornelia Rowe a geographer} of the have of The huge that subcontinent—a relationship created over millions years. winds come from the Arabian Sea, to crash into the Himalayas and then return, are a massive weather system, shaping forests across the country and in

places like Wayanad. Equally, according to research, these forests behave like a pump that draws the winds in from the ocean. The mountains of the Western Ghats are partly responsible for condensing the rain out of the air. Forests release organic chemicals and create a vapour deficit area above them, a low-pressure zone that pulls in air from the ocean. Therefore, any kind of forest loss has a negative effect on the monsoon.



In our habitat, we are seeing visible changes in the rain now. (Until 2018, average rainfall had been reducing, but in the last three years, it increased again. The pattern of rain has changed — the Onset; duration and course of the monsoon are becoming unpredictable.) Along with delays in the monsoon, it can also just disappear after arrival. There can be clouds but no rain. You can get drought-like conditions with sunshine and heat after its onset or short deluges of high intensity. That's extremely worrying in terms of the impact on vegetation and small life forms. To name just one, the amphibians of the Western Ghats are dependent on

these moisture patterns — the monsoon signifies steady downpours, filling up lakes, ponds and paddy fields, and keeping the ground wet for months, which they need to spawn and tadpoles to form. (In Wayanad, previously, there was 100% humidity for several months — it was like living underwater through this time. We now get varying humidity, sometimes less than 90%. Water dependent creatures like amphibians are very sensitive to that.) Trees are also very vulnerable because their flowering and fruiting are timed to the monsoon. Entire cycles of life get affected by changes in the rain. In the wild, small, tender plants literally anticipate the monsoon, from pre-monsoon showers with heavy electrical activity to the arrival of the southwest monsoon, an adaptation which has taken ^{now after the monsoon} ~~thousands~~ ^{hundreds} of years. ^{grow up but} ~~put out~~ new leaves, risk being deprived of the nutrition and moisture they need to grow and create flowers and seeds.

Adapted from : Times Evoke : Article 'From ferns frogs to and flowers, every species is affected by changes in the monsoon' by Suprabha Seshan, conservationist.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage—

- (1) What are the changes that one may observe in the pattern of monsoon over the past few years? 2
- (2) Why has changed monsoon pattern affected amphibians in Wayanad? 2
- (3) Complete the sentence appropriately— 1
Average rainfall after 2018 has seen an _____ trend.
- (4) How do plants ^{see} ~~feel~~ the monsoon? 1
 - (a) because of humidity
 - (b) because of winds
 - (c) because of moisture
 - (d) because of electrical activity

(5) What is the risk involved for tuberous plants in case of improper monsoon arrival ?

- (a) They put out energy-intensive new tubers.
- (b) They adapt according to the monsoon.
- (c) They will land die.
- (d) They may be deprived of the nutrition and moisture needed to grow and create flowers.

(6) What does the term 'vegetation' refer to ?

(7) Complete the following statement—
There have been _____ observed over the past three years.

(8) Complete the following table—

Reason	Outcome
_____	_____
_____	_____

amphibians are dependent on moisture patterns for survival

SECTION-B : GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS

20

1 × 10 = 10

3. Attempt any ten of the following—

- (a) Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option—
Neither John nor Jasmine _____ available.
(i) are (ii) were (iii) is (iv) have been
- (b) Ravi _____ daily for more than a year now.
(i) exercises (ii) was exercising (iii) has been exercising (iv) have been exercising
- (c) I'm sure it's going to rain cats and dogs. It's time we _____ leave.
(i) might (ii) should (iii) might have (iv) could have
- (d) You _____ report this matter to your boss immediately. (will ; shall ; could ; must)

(e) Report the dialogue between a vendor and his customer, by completing the sentence—

Vendor : You seem quite refreshed today, sir ?
Customer : Yes, I just returned from a vacation.

The vendor, noticing a change in his customer's demeanor, pointed out that he appeared refreshed. The customer confirmed that _____.

(f) Identify the error and supply the correction—
Our restaurant serves authentic Indian foods celebrating the diversity of Indian cuisine.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

(g) Marie and Peter had a conversation about volunteer work. Report Marie's question. What kind of skills have you imbibed from this volunteer work ?

(h) Identify the error and supply the correction—
The salad, prepare with fresh and crisp ingredients, is truly a summer delight.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

(i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option—
It's a victorious day !

Our school's chess team _____ the inter school chess championship.
(i) has been won (ii) will winning (iii) was winning (iv) has won

(j) Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option—
The opportunity to volunteer at the local food bank made me _____ the challenges faced by unprivileged communities.

- (i) realising (ii) to realise
- (iii) realised (iv) realise

(k) He is learning German. (Into past perfect continuous tense)
(i) He has been learning German.

- (ii) He had been learning German.
 - (iii) He has been learning German.
 - (iv) He was being learned German.
- (1) Rohan said, 'I was searching for the T.V. Remote.' (into indirect speech)
- (i) Rohan said that he had been searching for the T.V. remote.
 - (ii) Rohan said that he was searching for the T.V. remote.
 - (iii) Rohan said that he have been searching for the T.V. remote.
 - (iv) Rohan said that he had searched for the T.V. remote.

WRITING SKILLS

4. Attempt any one from A and B given below—

(A) There has been a spate of chain and mobile snatching incidents in your locality. Masked youths come on motorbikes, commit the crime and run away without being caught or traced causing a lot of insecurity and fear among the residents. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of a local newspaper drawing attention of the concerned authorities to the problem. You are Sumit/Shweta, secretary, RWA Anand Niketan, Agra.

OR

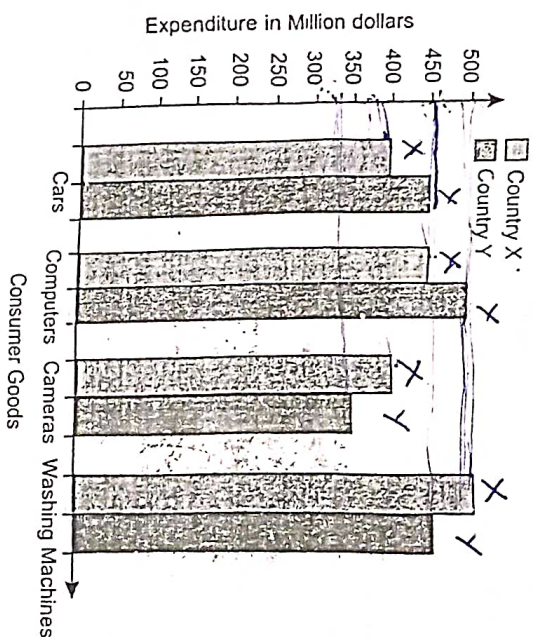
(B) You have come across the following bill board—

To experience the Heritage and Hospitality of the state that has vibrance, vigour and vitality
 Come and Experience – A Trip to Rajasthan
 Contact – Go World Travels
 9850004090

You intend to undertake the trip to Rajasthan, but you have a few questions. Write a letter of inquiry in about 120 words addressed to the Manager, 'Goworld Travels', seeking information about the duration, boarding, lodging, transport, sight seeing, expenditure and other necessary details for the trip, you are Ranjan/Ranjana Awasthi of 54, M.G. Road, Gurgaon.

5. Attempt any one from A and B given below—

(A) The bar graph below illustrates the expenditure two countries make on consumer goods. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words including all the details as per the shared information.



OR

(B) The following data shows global literacy rates of different age groups and gender in a particular year. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words describing and analysing the given data.

Global literacy rate %	People of different age groups			
	12-15 years	15-24 years	25-64 years	65 years and older
Men	88	90	88	80
Women	80	88	79	75

SECTION-C: LITERATURE

6. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the following—

40

(A) All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of god, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at day break, he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail.

(a) Lencho was writing a letter _____

(i) to the government for help

(ii) to the postmaster for help

(iii) to his son for help

(iv) to god for his help

(b) Lencho has been called 'an ox of a man' because he was _____

(c) Which word from the extract would correctly substitute the phrase given below—
'An inner sense of right and wrong'

(d) Describe Lencho in your own words throwing light upon the major traits of his character as an individual.

OR

(B) Anil was watching a wrestling match when I approached him. He was about 25 a tall, lean fellow – and he looked easy going, kind and simple enough for my purpose. I hadn't had much luck of late and thought I might be able to get into the young man's confidence. "You look a bit of a wrestler yourself," I said. A little flattery helps in making friends.

(a) How old is the narrator off the extract? _____
(b) Comment on the narrator's intention behind watching the wrestling match? _____

(c) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The boy 'hadn't had much luck of late' means _____

(d) Anil seemed to be perfect for his purpose because _____

(i) he loved wrestling

(ii) he was ready to hire him without any condition

(iii) he was simpleton

(iv) he couldn't sense what the young boy was up to.

7. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two, given—

(A) The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some past

Of a day I ~~saw~~ saw

(i) The poet has used a hemlock tree because _____

(a) he wants to draw a comparison between his negative thoughts and the hemlock tree which is poisonous.

(b) because he happens to stand under a hemlock tree.

(c) it erased all negative thoughts from his mind.

(d) it is winter season and a hemlock tree is an evergreen tree.

(ii) What kind of transformation does the poet undergo as depicted in the extract and how is it significant? _____

(iii) The poet's mood changed because of _____

(iv) The poet says 'the day I ~~saw~~ saw' because _____

(B) Money is external

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up.

- (i) What does the poet mean by 'money is external' ? 1
 - (ii) The boy is learning how to stand up..... This means that he is learning to be _____ in the face of difficulties. 1
 - (iii) According to the extract, what does the boy learn by losing the ball ? 1
 - (iv) How does life provide people with a learning edge ? Explain. 2
8. Answer any four of the following in about 40-50 words each— 4×3=12
- (a) Describe the seagull's first flight ? (His first flight)
 - (b) Why does the tiger express his rage quietly ? (A Tiger in the zoo)
 - (c) What does Anne Frank write about her family in her diary ? (From the diary of Anne Frank)
 - (d) According to the poet, what do 'Fire And Ice' represent ? Do you agree with him.
 - (e) "If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.'
Briefly explain the paradox in the above lines. (How to tell wild animals)
9. Answer any two of the following in 40-50 words— 2×3=6
- (a) Who was Henry ? What role did he play in Ausable's plan ? (The Midnight visitor)
 - (b) Did Mrs. Pumphrey heed Mr. Herriot's strict advice ? What excuses did she make ? (A Triumph of surgery)
 - (c) Why did Hari Singh think that Anil's job was *queer* ? (The Thief's story)
10. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words— 1×6=6
- (A) The pilot was lost in the storm clouds. How did he land safely. Explain in detail.

OR

(B) What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student ? How does he

contrast these "transitory freedoms" with "the basic and honourable freedoms."

Answer any one of the following questions in 120 words—

11. (A) What is the significance of the balcony in "The Midnight visitor". 1×6=6

OR

(B) Honesty and simplicity of mind are the two virtues of life. What do you have to say about Horace Danby's simplicity for getting convinced with the lady in red ? How should he have responded to the lady's claim for being the mistress of the house ?