

Half Yearly Examinations (2024-2025)

English Core

Class – XII

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

General Instructions:

- Read the question paper thoroughly.
- Attempt all the questions.
- Adhere to the word limit.

Section-A (Reading)

22 marks

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

12

(1) From the moment a baby first opens its eyes, it is learning. Sight and sensation spark off a learning process which will determine in largemeasure, the sort of person it will become. Language stands head and shoulders over all other tools as an instrument of learning. It is the language that gives man his lead in intelligence over all the other creatures. No other creature can assemble a list of ideas, consider them, draw conclusions and then explain his reasoning. Man can do all this because he possesses language. And if thought depends on language, the quality of an individual's thought will depend on that person's language-rudimentary or sophisticated, precise or approximate, stereotyped or original.

(2) Very young babies are soothed by human voice uttering comforting words close to them. This essentiallyemotional response provides early evidence that feeling is an important component of language learning. Children learn to use language in interaction with other human beings and this learning proceeds best against a background of affectionate feedback from the person who is closest to them. This is seen to perfection in the interaction between parent and a baby: eyes locked together, the adult almost physically drawing 'verbal' response from the baby, both engulfed by that unique experience of intimate and joyful 'connecting', which sets the pattern of the relationship between two people.

(3) Thus, long before they can speak, children are involved in a two-way process of communication, which is steadily building a foundation on which their later use of language will be based. Constantly surrounded by language, they are unconsciously building structures in their minds into which their speech and reading will later fit grammatical constructions, tense sequences and so on. The forms of these structures will depend on the amount and complexity of speech they hear. Fortunate are those children who listen to articulate adults, expressing ideas and defending opinions. They will know, long before they can contribute themselves and understand, that relationships are forged through this process of speaking and listening; that warmth and humour have a place in the process, as have all other human emotions.

(4) Using books is the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development. None of us can endlessly initiate and maintain speech with very small children; we run out of ideas or just get plain sick of it. Their lives are confined to a limited circle and they do not have enough experience to provide raw material for constant verbal interaction.

(5) Parents and children who share books share the same frame of reference. Incidents in everyday life constantly remind one or the other of a situation, a character, an action, from a jointly enjoyed book, with all the generation of warmth and well-being that is attendant upon such sharing. All too often, there is a breakdown of communication between parents and children when the problems of adolescence arise. In most cases, this is most acute when the give-and-take of shared opinions and ideas have not been constantly practised throughout childhood. Books can play a major role in the establishment of this verbal give-and-take because they are rooted in language.

(6) Young children's understanding greatly outruns their capacity for expression as their speech strains to encompass their awareness, to represent reality as they see it. Shades of meaning which may be quite unavailable to the child of limited verbal experience are startlingly talked to toddler. All the wonderful modifying words-later, nearly, tomorrow, almost, wait, half, lend, etc. begin to steer the child away from the simple extremes of "Yes" and "No" towards the adult world of compromise from the child's black and white world to the subtle shades and tints of the real world. The range of imaginative experience opened up by books expands the inevitably limited horizons of children's surroundings and allows them to make joyful, intrigued, awestruck acquaintance with countless people, animals, objects and ideas in their first years of life.

(7) Books also open children to new points of view, besides their own as they unconsciously put themselves into other people's places 'if that could happen to him, it could happen to me'. This imaginative self-awareness brings apprehensions and fears as well as heightened hopes and joys.

(8) In-books, children can experience language which is subtle, resourceful, exhilarating and harmonious; languages that provide the human ear (and understanding) with a pointed and precise pleasure, the searing illuminating impact of good and true words.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- i. What makes a man superior over all the other creatures? (1)
A. Their way of observing things B. Their language C. Their body-language D. Their skills
- ii. What is an important component of language learning? (1)
A. Environment B. Education C. Feeling D. Books of literature
- iii. What are the most important means of ensuring a child's adequate language development? (1)
A. Maintaining speech B. Providing raw material for constant verbal interaction C. Two-way process of communication D. Using books

iv. The parents can't rely only on constant verbal interactions because . (1)

v. What are the advantages of books mentioned in the above passage? (1)

A. It creates self awareness in children. B. It enables children to see things from other's point of view. C. Expose children to a wide range of vocabulary. D. All of these

vi. How can language distinguish between human beings and others? (2)

vii. How do children develop language? (2)

viii. What role do books play? (2)

ix. Read the given headlines and identify the option that does not correspond with the message of the passage. (1)

(a) Develop new viewpoints through book. (b) Sight and sensation – The spark of learning. (c) No role played by adults in children's language acquisition. (d) Communication – A two way process.

A. (a) and (b) B. (b), (c) and (d) C. Only (c) D. (a), (b), (c) and (d)

2. Read the following text.

(10 m)

(1) Referred to as 'nature's theatre', auroras have long fascinated the human race. During medieval times, the occurrences of auroral displays were seen as harbingers of war or famine. The Menominee Indians of North America believed that the lights indicated the location of giants who were the spirits of great hunters and fishermen. The Inuit community of Alaska believed that the lights were the spirits of the animals they hunted: the seals, salmon, deer, and beluga whales. Other aboriginal people believed that the lights were the spirits of their ancestors.

(2) The bright dancing lights of the aurora are actually collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere. The lights are seen above the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres. They are known as "aurora borealis" in the North Pole and 'aurora australis' in the South Pole. Scientists have learned that, in most instances, northern and southern auroras are mirror-like images that occur at the same time, with similar shapes and colours.

(3) Auroral displays can also be seen over the southern tip of Greenland and Iceland, the northern coast of Norway, and over the coastal waters north of Siberia. Southern auroras are not often seen as they are concentrated in a ring around Antarctica and the southern Indian Ocean.

(4) Auroral displays appear in many colours, although pale green and pink are the most common. Common sightings of the same in shades of red, yellow, green, blue, and violet have been reported. Variations in colour are due to the type of gas particles in the Earth's atmosphere that is colliding with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere. The most common auroral colour, a pale yellowish-green, is produced by oxygen molecules located about 96 kilometres above the earth. Rare, all-red auroras are produced by high – altitude oxygen, at heights of up to 320 kilometres from the Earth's surface. Nitrogen produces blue or purplish-red aurora.

(5) The lights appear in many forms from patches of scattered clouds of light to streamers, arcs, rippling curtains or shooting rays that light up the sky with an eerie glow.

(6) Auroras are classified as diffuse or discrete. Most aurorae occur in a band known as the auroral zone. Diffuse aurora is a featureless glow in the sky which may not be visible to the naked eye even on a dark night. Discrete aurorae are sharply defined features within the diffuse aurora which vary in brightness from being just barely visible to the naked eye to being bright enough to read a newspaper at night. Discrete aurorae are usually observed only in the night because they are not as bright as the sunlit sky.

(7) Whereas some people still connect various legends with aurorae, the fact remains that it will continue to fascinate people who experience it.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

i. Pick out the option that is correct according to the above passage. (1)

- A. Inuit community of Alaska believed the lights were the spirits of animals they hunted.
- B. Aboriginal believed that the lights indicated the location of giants.
- C. Menominee Indians believed the lights were the spirits of their ancestors.
- D. North Americans believed that the lights were the spirits of fishermen and hunters.

ii. According to the passage the lights are seen above the magnetic poles of the hemispheres. (1)

iii. Pick out the correct option with reference to the above passage. (1)

- A. Red auroras – high - altitude oxygen
- B. North pole – aurora australis
- C. South pole – aurora borealis
- D. Hemispheres-Mirror like images

iv. Pick out the words from the given options that are synonyms of 'eerie'. (1)

- 1. Earthly
- 2. Ordinary
- 3. Bizarre
- 4. Funny
- 5. Uncanny

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 4 and 5
- C. 2 and 4
- D. 3 and 5

v. Pick out the option that is not true about auroras as given in the above passage. (1)

- A. Since very long, auroras have fascinated the human race.
- B. Diffuse aurora can be seen with the naked eyes in the night.
- C. The pale yellowish-green colour of aurora is produced by oxygen molecules.
- D. Auroral displays can also be seen in shades of red, yellow, green, blue and violet.

vi. What are auroras? (2)

vii. Describe about the various colours of auroral displays. (2)

viii. State True or False. (1)

Discrete aurorae are mostly observed in early morning.

SECTION-B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

3 Attempt in about 50 words. (2x4=8)

- A. You are Rahul, Secretary of the Arts Club, Navodaya School, Nagpur. An inter-school cultural competition is being conducted in your school on the 25th of November. Put up a notice informing House Captains and Badge Holders about a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the programme.
- B. Modern Public School, Delhi is organising an Inter School Music Competition. You have decided to invite noted classical musician, Mohan Gandhi as the judge and guest of honour. Draft a formal invitation for him. You are Neeraj/Neetu, Cultural Secretary.
- 4 You are Akshay staying at T. P. Apartments, Kanpur, U.P. Your locality being away from the main city has become the poor garbage disposal which affects the life of residents. Write a letter to the Editor, Daily Chronicle, highlighting the problems faced by the residents. 5 marks

OR

You are Raj/Rati, 115, Ram Nagar, Noida. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter to the advertiser, applying for the job. Also give your detailed resume, which you would send along with your letter of application for the job.

Wanted experienced Post Graduate Teacher in Chemistry to teach Classes XI and XII in a reputed ICSE affiliated residential school. Fluency in English is a must. Working knowledge of computers is preferable; salary commensurate with experience and expertise. Please apply to :Box No. 205,C/O The Hindu, Noida..

5 The Primary wing of Global Public School organized a special assembly to celebrate National Integration Day. As the Head boy/Head girl of the school write a report of the same in about 125-150 words to be published in school magazine. 5marks

SECTION-C LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions. (6)

. It is in the news that all these pitiful kin Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store, Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore, While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey, Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits, And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day, Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

i. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines? (1)

(a) aggressive (b) tolerant (c) sarcastic (d) resigned (e) sentimental

Choose the most appropriate option. A. Only (a) B. (b) and (c) C. (a), (d) and (e) D. Only (c)

ii. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following: (1)

No one bothers to take 'their' consent before pushing the promise of a better life, their way.

iii. What quality of the villagers can be inferred through these lines? (1)

A. gullible B. futuristic C. hypocritical D. ambitious

iv. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example. (1)
greedy good doers: alliteration :: : oxymoron

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below. (1)

1. The city dwellers make promises for the betterment of the villagers.

2. The city dwellers have ulterior motives.

A. 1 is true but 2 is false. B. 2 is true but 1 is false. C. 2 is the reason for 1. D. Both 1 and 2 cannot be inferred from the extract.

vi. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract. (1)

'... calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being -----3

7. Read the extracts and answer the questions given below. (4)

Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the end of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

(1) The writer refers to the educational opportunities as 'inspiring' because.....

ii. Which of the following would NOT be 'a life changing experience'? (1)

Being given the lead role in a play. B. Going on an adventure trip. C. Playing a video game. D. Meeting a great leader, you admire.

iii. Select the most suitable title for the given extract. (1)

A. Adventure with a Mission B. Adventure – The Spice of Life C. The Wanderlust D. Students of the Future

iv. Why does the writer refer to 'act' as more important than 'absorb' or 'learn'? (1)

8. Read the extracts and answer the questions (6)

The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer

able to do day labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary. She could give milk for the creamery every day, and last month, he had received all of thirty kronor in payment.

i. The old man offered to the peddler. (1)

A. money B. water C. porridge and tobacco D. milk

ii. The old man who hosted him had worked as a : (1)

iii. "that bossy was extraordinary." Who was 'bossy'? (1)

The crofter's cow B. The peddler C. The crofter D. The ironmaster

iv. What was 'the guest' doing at the old man's home? (1)

v. What can you infer from the line "The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco"? (1)

vi. Which word means magnanimous? (1)

A. Property B. Labour C. Extraordinary D. Generous

9. Answer the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. (5×2=10)

(i) It is his karam, his destiny," What is Mukesh's family's attitude towards their situation?

(ii) What are the different kinds of war mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda's attitude towards these wars?

(iii) Why did Gandhiji feel that it was useless for the peasants to go to law courts?

(iv) Describe the endless fountain of immortal drink.

(v) Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas.

10. Answer the following questions, in about 40-50 words. (2×2= 4)

i. Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting in the state?

ii How did the Tiger King celebrate his victory over the killing of the 100th tiger?

11. Answer the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (5×2=10)

A. Exploitation of the poor and the downtrodden started a long time ago and 'Indigo' is a proof of that. However, the poor are still being exploited by the rich and it must be stopped. Based on your understanding of the chapter 'Indigo', how do you think exploitation can be defeated in present scenario?

B There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss with reference to the story 'The Enemy'.