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**St. Paul's School**  
**Class IX Half Yearly Exam (2024-25)**  
**English Language & Literature (Code 184)**

**Time: 3 hrs.**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

- (i) This paper is divided into three sections A, B, & C. All sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Each section has separate instructions. Read and follow them carefully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**Section A - (Reading)**

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. 1x10

1. Mistakes, as we call them, are learning experiences which teach a lesson to the person who makes them. Whenever someone attempts to venture out, there's a possibility that some mistake will be made in the process. Why should one feel disappointed if a wrong decision is taken? That single mistake will teach us many wise lessons for future.

2. Life is a learning experience. There's no such stage in human life where one can just sit and relax thinking that the learning part is over. Let's take an example of children who try something new every day for themselves. They make many mistakes while learning to achieve something new - be it riding a bike or to read and write, solving mathematical problems for the first time. Elders don't object at that time and don't scare them by saying "I will make you skip watching your favourite cartoon if you make a mistake." Why do elders react positively to their children's mistakes? Because they know that mistakes would be made but they will result into teaching some lessons benefitting the child for the rest of his/her life. So why do adults become misers on trying something new? We must think "To err is human....." We all make mistakes, and if we don't make any then we are stagnant and we are not moving ahead in life. Playing safe should not be the aim of life. We, as adults, have the freedom to make our own choices, and the freedom to make mistakes too. Mistakes trouble us, they give us pain, they make us feel worthless. But they can be our best teachers, if we decide to learn from them. The pain borne by us would be meaningless if at the end no learning takes place. So the motto should be "to stand, act, and commit mistakes; own them, embrace them and learn where you went wrong". Ensure that the same mistake doesn't hurt you repeatedly. That will be the real learning when one doesn't repeat the same mistake time and again.

3. Humans are gifted with brains, brains that help them think, act, and analyse. The power to do analysis is our prized possession. It must be used prudently. We must have a sense of gratitude and gratification that we have the capability to 'err and edit'. The next step after editing an error is very significant in the journey of learning, retaining and applying. Rectify your mistakes and turn them into assets as they are the guiding pillars of life.

4. Remember "every cloud has a silver lining", so never get disappointed of your mistakes. Rather show up and challenge the world as you would never resist to act because mistakes are the blessings that keep you going!

**On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer the following questions :**

(a) When do we make mistakes?

- (i) When we are not alert.
- (ii) When we are not inclined to achieve success.
- (iii) When we do not try to do something innovative.
- (iv) When we are not ready to take risk.

(b) Choose the option that states people holding others responsible for their own mistakes:

- (i) Gratitude to mentors for achieving success.
- (ii) Commenting about people's driving skills for receiving a penalty ticket for speeding.
- (iii) Doubting own efforts on scoring less in one's favourite subject.
- (iv) Parents raising eyebrows on their child's misbehaviour.

(c) Which of the following proverb is most relevant for 'not being scared to make mistakes' to achieve something productive?

- (i) When you fall, leap to your feet and try again.
- (ii) Always be prepared for a rainy day.
- (iii) A bad workman always blames his tools.
- (iv) As you sow, so shall you reap.

(d) By trying time and again, one would \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) be tired of trying.
- (ii) lose hope.
- (iii) eventually master what he/she is trying to do.
- (iv) be considered a fool.

(e) 'Stagnation' is a state that refers to

- (i) moving ahead in life.
- (ii) heading towards one's downfall.
- (iii) not moving ahead in life.
- (iv) reaching great heights in life.

(f) A synonym of 'wisely' from paragraph 3 is \_\_\_\_\_.

(g) What is the most beautiful thing about human life?

- (i) To never learn from mistakes.
- (ii) To be perfect.
- (iii) To err and correct.
- (iv) To err and never correct.

(h) How can mistakes be our assets ?

(i) Complete the following sentence :  
"Every cloud has a silver lining" means \_\_\_\_\_.

(j) The best title for the passage would be '

(i) Humans and Mistakes

(ii) Mistake - the disguised Blessings

(iii) Make More Mistakes

(iv) Humans and their Efforts

2. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

1x10

1. The white tiger is an offspring of the Bengal tiger, which has the necessary gene for white colouring. It has beautiful black stripes on a white coat. This species of animal has blue eyes and a pink nose.

2. A pure white tiger is totally white without any stripes, which is due to the presence of double recessive allele in the genetic code. It happens only in the Bengal tiger subspecies, and only one in 10,000 births can have it naturally. White tigers are rarely seen in the wild, and only twelve of them have been spotted in India since last one hundred years. Tigers have a life-span of 10-15 years. They are solitary animals, and are fond of hunting at night. Their diet consists of any animal that they can catch, and can eat up to 40 pounds of meat at one time. After such a big meal, they usually remain away for several days from food.

3. They are slow runners, but good swimmers. They are poor climbers and cannot climb a tree easily. They live in an area ranging from 10 to 30 square miles depending upon the availability of prey, water and shelter. Habitat loss, poaching and expansion of human population have together contributed to their becoming endangered. They are widely hunted for their body-parts, which are used in traditional Chinese medicines.

4. Genetic inbreeding is another reason for their endangerment. Due to shortage in their number, this species of animal has been subjected to inbreeding. It has resulted in high mortality rates and severe disabilities. About 80 percent of the white tiger cubs are born with serious birth-defects related to inbreeding, and they soon die-off.

5. The critical condition of this animal has attracted the attention of conservationists worldwide. World Wildlife Federation (WWF), defenders of wildlife, and many other wildlife organizations are working with the support of the government for the cause of protecting them from becoming extinct. Once they become extinct, it will not be possible to bring them back to life.

**Answer the following.**

(a). Complete the following hypothetical situation appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.

1

We can say that while on a safari in Sunderban, the possibility of getting a view of a pure white tiger is next to nothing because \_\_\_\_\_.



(b). Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. The statement that, the presence of double recessive allele genes does not allow the tigers to have any stripes, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (fact/ opinion) because it is a \_\_\_\_\_ (subjective judgement/ objective detail). 1x2

(c). Justify the following, in about 40 words. While the given data suggest that the number of tigers is increasing but processes like genetic inbreeding involved in the process of restoring their numbers have less effectiveness and more potential drawbacks. 2

(d). What condition has spurred worldwide conservationists to act for protecting the tigers? 1

(e). Select the option that correctly displays the natural habitat of the tigers. (Reference - Paragraph 3) 1



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- (a) (i) and (iii)
- (b) (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (iii)
- (d) Only (ii)

(f). Which of the following is NOT one of the reasons for tigers' endangerment? (i.) Habitat loss (ii) Poaching (iii) Inbreeding (iv) Outbreeding 1

(g). A synonym of the word 'scarcity' from paragraph 4 is \_\_\_\_\_. 1

(h). Point out a trait which might hinder the white tiger during its hunts. (Refer to paragraph 3) 1

### SECTION B - (Grammar & Writing Skills)

3. Attempt ANY TEN out of the following twelve questions. Do NOT over attempt. 10

- (a) Read the dialogue between Rita and her mother. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to report Rita's reply. 1  
 "Rita, you have to finish your food", said mother. "I don't want to have this. You never give me a pizza or a burger", replied Rita.

Mother told Rita that she had to finish her food. To which, Rita told her mother \_\_\_\_\_ as her mother had never given her a pizza or a burger.

- (i) that she doesn't want to have this  
 (ii) that she wouldn't have that  
 (iii) that she didn't want to have that  
 (iv) that I didn't want to have that

- (b) Find the error in the given sentence from the options given below. 1  
 Red beans and rice are my favourite meal that costs five dollars at the Mexican restaurant near my house.

Option	Error	Correction
(i)	and	or
(ii)	are	is
(iii)	costs	cost
(iv)	No error	_____

- (c) Report the given dialogue by completing the sentence. 1  
 Sangeeta said to me, "Are you going to the market to get some groceries."  
 Sangeeta asked me \_\_\_\_\_ groceries.

- (d) Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options: 1x4  
 Kalari is a traditional art practiced (i) \_\_\_\_\_ Kerala. Though claims of its heavenly origin (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ disputable, foreign travellers (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned about Kalari being practiced in Kerala since as early as the 13th century, (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ makes it the oldest martial art to be in existence. However it is losing its popularity today.

- (i) (a) at (b) from (c) into (d) in  
 (ii) (a) is (b) being (c) are (d) have  
 (iii) (a) is (b) are (c) have (d) had  
 (iv) (a) who (b) which (c) this (d) it

- (e) My cousin is married \_\_\_\_\_ a famous American. 1  
 (i) with (ii) for (iii) to (iv) from

- (f) I bought many things \_\_\_\_\_ my stay in New York. 1  
 (i) since (ii) at (iii) during (iv) from

- (g) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: 1

The roads develop potholes due to heavy rains recently.

Option no.	Error	Correction
(i)	develop	have developed
(ii)	rains	rain
(iii)	recently	lately
(iv)	due to	because of

(h) Ramneek told Shefali about his unavailability for her party. Report Ramneek's inability to attend Shefali's party.

"I can't join your party. I have an appointment with a dentist."

(i) Find an error in the following sentence and follow the given format for your response.

The new Chairman along with his family have arrived for the event.

error	correction
_____	_____

### Writing

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 120 words.

(a) Recently you got an opportunity to visit a village fair. Write a paragraph describing what you saw and experienced at the fair.

1x5

OR

(b) You are Ranjit/Reshma Bhawani, a resident of Manak Appartments Sangam Vihar New Delhi. The condition of the public park in your locality is miserable. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper with the help of the points given below.

- Poorly managed parks
- Heaps of garbage everywhere
- Boundary wall is broken
- Resting ground for stray animals

5. Attempt ANY ONE in 120 words.

(a) Write a short story on the basis of the given clues.

Some friends at a party talked about ghosts. One of them was particularly loud in his scorn of such things. The rest decided to play a joke on him. They went to a nearby tree in the evening and ...

OR

(b) Develop a story based on the given picture. Also, supply a suitable title.

1x5





Section C - (Literature)

6. Attempt ANY ONE from the following extracts.  
Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1x5

- (a) "They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to on a screen, you know. And then when they turned back to the page before, it had the same words on it that it had had when they read it the first time.

"Gee," said Tommy, "what a waste. When you're through with the book, you just throw it away, I guess. Our television screen must have had a million books on it and it's good for plenty more. I wouldn't throw it away."

"Same with mine," said Margie. She was eleven and hadn't seen as many telebooks as Tommy had."

- (i) The word 'crinkly means' \_\_\_\_\_

a. old and torn                      b. with folds and lines  
c. uneven and untidy              d. tarnished

- (ii) The book appeared funny to children because

a. it was an old book              b. they had not seen books on paper  
c. it was about school              d. the letter on the book were moving

- (iii) 'They' in the extract refers to \_\_\_\_\_

a. Margie and her grandfather      b. Tommy and his father  
c. Margie and Tommy              d. None of the above

- (iv) They found the book \_\_\_\_\_

a. interesting                      b. handy  
c. difficult                          d. impractical

- (v) Why hadn't Margie seen as many telebooks as Tommy had?

a. Margie was homeschooled.  
b. Margie was not allowed to read extra books.  
c. Margie was younger than Tommy.  
d. Margie couldn't read by herself.

OR

(b) "I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world," he says with emphasis. Award and recognition came thick and fast. Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America."

- (i) Who is 'I' in the first statement in the given extract?  
(a) Ustad Bismillah Khan (b) Jawaharlal Nehru  
(c) Paigambar Bux (d) Ustad Faiyaz Khan

- (ii) Which trait of Bismillah's character is highlighted through this statement?  
a. His patriotism  
b. His uniqueness  
c. Simplicity and originality of character  
d. His belief in secularism

- (iii) Choose the statement where 'thick and fast' is used most appropriately:  
(a) The plant grew thick and fast.  
(b) Suggestions for the contest came in thick and fast.  
(c) We need to meet thick and fast.  
(d) Could you lend me some money thick and fast?

iv) Why does Bismillah Khan refuse to move to the USA? (Answer within 20 words)

- (v) How could Bismillah earn name and fame thick and fast?  
(a) He was a great artist, so became popular all over.  
(b) He took to music quite early in life, hence came name and fame too.  
(c) He played Shehnai to earn name and fame for himself.  
(d) He belonged to the family of musicians, so name and fame was inevitable.

7. Attempt ANY ONE from the following extracts.  
Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1x5

(a) "The wind blows out weak fires.  
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.  
His friendship is good.  
We praise him every day."

- i) What does it do with strong fires?  
a) It makes them roar (b) It makes them flourish  
c) It makes them rise higher (d) All of these
- ii) Whose friendship is termed to be good in the given lines?  
a) Fire (b) Water  
c) Wind (d) Sun



- iii) Choose the word opposite in meaning to the word friendship.
- a) Hatred
  - b) Acquaintance
  - c) Rivals
  - d) Enemies

- iv) What is the wind symbolic of?
- a) Adversities
  - (b) Challenges
  - c) Obstacles
  - (d) All of the above

- v) Name the poet.
- a) Subramania Bharati
  - b. Robert Frost
  - c) Gieve Patel
  - d. Sarojini Naidu

OR

(b) "Now in memory comes my mother,  
As she used in years ago,  
To regard the darling dreamers  
Ere she left them till the dawn :  
O! I feel her fond look on me  
As I list to this refrain  
Which is played upon the shingles  
By the patter of the rain."

- (i) Choose the correct statement:
- (a) Poet's mother also enjoys the patter of the rain.
  - (b) Poet's mother looks at him fondly while he's sleeping.
  - (c) The sound of the raindrops brings his mother's memories alive to the poet.
  - (d) All of the above.

- (ii) Thoughts about the mother are a part of
- (a) poet's dreams.
  - (b) poet's recollection of memories.
  - (c) his imagination for future.
  - (d) poet's desires.

(iii) The most significant memory that gets refreshed due to sound of raindrops is \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) What does 'darling dreamers' refer to ?(Within 20-25 words)

- (v) The word 'shingles' mean \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) the roof
  - (b) the tiles to make roof
  - (c) the metal used on the roof
  - (d) the beam for the roof

8. Attempt ANY FOUR out of the given five questions in about 40 - 50 words. 3x4

- (a) Did Margie like the old kind of schools? Why?
- (b) How is Evelyn a 'shining inspiration' for differently abled children?

- (c) Who was Kalam's science teacher? How did he influence Kalam?
- (d) Explain the central idea expressed in the poem *The Road Not Taken*.
- (e) What does the poet intend to do in Innisfree?

9. Attempt ANY TWO out of the given three questions in about 40 - 50 words. 2x3

- (a) In the lesson *The Lost Child*, what difference can be noticed in the child's behaviour before and after he gets lost?
- (b) What did the grandfather realise by the end of the story *The Adventures of Toto*? What did he do?
- (c) The swallow knew he would not be able to survive the bitter cold of the city but still he stayed back. Why?

10. Answer any one out of the following in 100-120 words. 1x6

- (a) "'Oh," said the little girl, "my head's on your heart. I can hear it going. What a big heart you've got, Father dear.'" How did Kezia view her father earlier? What makes Kezia change her opinion about her father?

OR

- (b) As Sivasubramania Iyer write a diary entry about how you reformed your wife today. You can also mention about how your actions might have influenced Kalam.

11. Answer any one out of the following in 100-120 words. 1x6

- (a) Do you think Iswaran is a good storyteller? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- (b) 'Fools can indeed be dangerous.' How does the story prove it?