

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL DAMMAM

Term II examination, Dec 2017

CLASS – VIII

TIME – 3 Hours

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

MAX. MARKS: 80

SET – A

The question paper is divided into four sections:

Section A Literature (25 marks)

Section B Grammar (15 marks)

Section C Reading (20 marks)

Section D Writing (20 marks)

SECTION A – LITERATURE (25 marks)

I. Choose the correct option.

(1 x 3 = 3)

1. The autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi is _____.
a) My Experiments with Freedom b) My Experiments with Truth
c) My Experiments with Non-Violence d) My Experiments with Peace
2. The poem 'Mother to Son' has been written by _____.
a) Sonali Kumar b) Ramchandra Guha c) Langston Hughes
3. The poem 'Hero' is set in the _____ at a lonely place.
a) morning b) afternoon c) evening

II. Answer with reference to the context.

(3 x 3 = 9)

(a) '..... and it was the golden opportunity for me to learn to read and write'

1. It was a golden opportunity for the speaker who suffered a lot because of being
a) paralysed b) blind c) illiterate d) none of the above
2. Who provided this golden opportunity to the speaker?
a) National Literacy Mission b) Mission for blind c) speaker's family
3. The above line has been taken from the lesson
a) Mother to son b) The Mahatma's Marksheets c) From Darkness to Light

(b) 'I later tried to improve mine, but it was too late.'

1. What did the speaker try to improve later?
2. When did the speaker become aware of his neglect?
3. What advice does the speaker want to give to every young man and woman?

(c) 'I'se been a-climbin' on,
 And reachin' landin's,
 And turnin' corners,
 And sometimes goin' in the dark
 Where there ain't been no light.'

1. What do the words 'landings' and 'stairs' stand for in these lines?
2. What does the line 'And sometimes goin' in the dark' refer to?
3. Pick out the figure of speech used in the lines above.
 - a) personification b) simile c) metaphor d) alliteration

III. Answer the following questions briefly. (ANY THREE) (2 x 3 = 6)

1. Give the two reasons for Gandhi's poor attendance during his later years in school.
2. Why did the louse, at first, not want the mosquito to bite the king?
3. What was the result of the clash between Khoka and the attacking party?
4. What were the problems Kong Cecilia had with studies? Write one way you can help to educate a poor illiterate child in your neighbourhood.

IV. Quote the lines from the poem 'The Louse and The Mosquito'. (3 marks)

She and her enormous

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... and drank away.

Name of the poet: _____

V. Answer the following in detail. (4 marks)

Explain how did literacy change Kong Cecilia's life for better.

OR

Creep was a tender-hearted louse. Explain how her over-generosity and hospitality led to the death of the louse and her family.

SECTION B - GRAMMAR (15 marks)

I. Read the given conversation and complete the paragraph that follows. (4 marks)

- Father : Ali, where are you going now?
- Ali : I am going to the park to meet my friend.
- Father : You did not complete your homework yesterday. Complete your work first.
- Ali : okay, I will complete it.

Father asked Ali (a) _____. Ali replied that he (b) _____.

Father reminded Ali that (c) _____ and commanded him (d) _____. Ali replied that he would complete that.

II. Choose the best options to complete the paragraph with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets. (½ x 6 = 3 marks)

Have you ever (a) _____ (forget) something? A few weeks ago, my friends and I (b) _____ (wait) on the railway platform for an hour when I suddenly (c) _____ (realise) that I (d) _____ (leave) my ticket at home. My mother keeps complaining that I always (e) _____ (do) my things in a hurry. I have promised her now that I (f) _____ (change) for better and will try to do my things at the proper time.

- a) (i) forgot (ii) forgotten (iii) forget (iv) forgetting
- b) (i) waited (ii) were waiting (iii) wait (iv) had been waiting
- c) (i) had realised (ii) realised (iii) realise (iv) had been realising
- d) (i) left (ii) leave (iii) had left (iv) will leave
- e) (i) do (ii) did (iii) was doing (iv) will do
- f) (i) change (ii) had changed (iii) will change (iv) changed

III. Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options to make the proper conditional clauses. (½ x 4 = 2 marks)

1. You will not be fined _____ you follow the traffic rules. (so long as/ had/ should)
2. If I were a baby, I _____ the whole day. (will cry/ would cry/ would have cried)
3. _____ I eaten that pie, I would surely have died. (should/ only if/ had)
4. If it rains, you _____ wet. (will get/ would get/ would have got)

IV. Choose the correct option and make changes wherever necessary. (½ x 8 = 4)

1. She showed great _____ in the face of pain. (endurance/ endurence)
2. Mary keeps _____ about her problems but there is no need _____ about them to everyone. (to talk/ talking)
3. The prefects have to _____ ((keep an eye/ lose face) on the students otherwise they will _____ (catch your breath/catch it) from the teachers.
4. He had to prepare a _____ (write off/ write up) for the assembly but he _____ (sleep on/ sleep over) it till next morning.
5. The company has _____ his contract after six years. (renovate/ repair/ renew)

V. Complete the sentence using the structure 'get/have something done'. (½ mark)
 My father called the plumber home _____ to.....

VI. Add the appropriate question tag. (½ mark)
 He won't be there today, _____?

VII. Add the sentence in the past perfect continuous tense using the given hint. (1 mark)
 Mike wanted to sit down. He _____ (stand, a long time)

SECTION C - READING (20 marks)

I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I was driving my car on a deserted street in some little beach town. It was the middle of the night. A storm was blowing, and wind and rain ripped at the palm trees along the sidewalk. Pink and yellow buildings lined the street, their windows boarded up. A block away, past a line of hibiscus bushes, the ocean churned.

Seeing a strange deserted house made me obsessed to explore it. My senses told me not to enter, but I overcame my fears and drove to its drive-way, not knowing what the house comprised of. There was a haunting atmosphere. I was curious to know what was inside the house, so I got out of my car. The gravel path crunched under my boots and the wind made the windows rattle like the snare drums. I went up the staircase and through the portal-like doorway, it felt like I was in another but horrifying dimension. As I proceeded, I heard strange noises. I saw writings on the walls and even heard children's laughter and footsteps throughout the living rooms. Doors were slamming shut by themselves and even the music player, which I thought hadn't played for years, was playing a strange spine-chilling music like the opera of ancient Germany. The house was haunted as I deduced; I saw webs all over the place and even saw shadows moving.

There was a knock on the door behind me. I could feel cold sweat trickle down my back as the knock became a bang and suddenly the door crashed open. All I could see was the silhouette of some huge strange creature approaching me. I was terror-stricken and felt my mouth drier than the Sahara Desert.

What if you were there? What if you saw a strange deserted house? What would you do? Because I think you're next.

Now answer the following questions.

(1x7= 7 marks)

- 1) Where and when did the narrator find the deserted house?
- 2) The deserted house was near the
a) ocean b) Sahara desert c) Germany d) none of the above
- 3) Write any two things that show that the house was haunted.
- 4) Why did the narrator feel sweat trickle down his back?
- 5) What would you do if you see such a strange deserted house? Write in one or two sentences.
- 6) Find the synonyms of the following words from the passage.
a) lonely b) concluded
- 7) Find the antonyms of the following words from the passage.
a) exit b) modern

II. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Sherlock Holmes, a creation of the famous author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is a fictional detective famous for his skill at using logic and sharp observation to solve criminal cases. Sherlock is a very unique individual and he is so realistic that many people believed that this fictional character was a real man who existed in the late 19th century. In fact, Sherlock possesses a very interesting set of personality and his distinctive characteristics

play a big role in captivating the heart of the readers. So, who is Sherlock? What kind of person could draw many people's attention?

The narrator of the Sherlock Holmes story is another character, Dr. Watson, a good friend of Sherlock Holmes. As a talented detective, Sherlock is very observant and he cares about every detail around him. In a short story by Conan Doyle named "A Scandal in Bohemia", this character easily deduces that Dr. Watson goes into harness and has a clumsy maid by just looking at his appearance and shoes. Sherlock sees things that other wouldn't see because they don't look as closely as he does. For example, Sherlock remembers how many steps there are from the hall to his room while Dr. Watson doesn't, although he has used it hundreds of times. In the story "The Five Orange Pips", Sherlock pays attention to slight details such as date when people were dead and places from which the threat letters were sent. Sherlock can often be quite cold and dispassionate. However, he does have capacities for human emotion and friendship. He has a remarkable capacity to gently soothe and reassure people suffering from extreme distress, by offering cup of coffee to shivering people, drying clothes for soaked clients and making them feel safe. Sherlock also has emotions, however, he decides to suppress them since they can be disturbing factors in his capability to think logically.

By creating Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle created a permanent place for himself in the world literature with his master plots. What makes it best is the story within the story that goes deeper and deeper as the characters travel down the maze.

Choose the correct options to answer the questions given below. (1x 6 = 6 marks)

- 1) Who is the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories?
a) Sir Conan Doyle b) Dr. Watson c) Sherlock Holmes
- 2) Success of Sherlock Holmes in solving the cases depends mainly on his _____.
a) emotions b) cold and dispassionate nature c) logic and sharp observation
- 3) Sherlock Holmes suppresses his emotions so that they don't affect his _____.
a) friendship b) appearance c) logic skills
- 4) Which of the following statements is not true?
a) Sherlock Holmes stories have a story within a story.
b) The character Sherlock Holmes came into being in the early nineteenth century.
c) Sherlock Holmes takes good care of his clients.
- 5) In the short story 'A Scandal in Bohemia', _____
a) Dr. Watson goes into harness.
b) Dr. Watson has a clumsy maid.
c) Dr. Watson doesn't remember the number of steps from the hall to his room.
d) all of the above
- 6) Who is the narrator of the Sherlock Holmes stories?
a) Dr. Watson b) Sherlock Holmes c) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

III. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

A mighty wind blew night and day.
It stole the oak tree's leaves away.
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark.

But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke:
How can you still be standing Oak?

The oak tree said, ' I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two;
Carry every leaf away;
Shake my limbs, and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched in the earth
Growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see
They are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure.
But now I've found, with thanks to you
I'm stronger than I ever knew.'

Now answer the questions given below.

(1x7= 7)

1. What happened to the oak tree when the mighty wind blew?
a) It died b) It lost its leaves c) It fell to the ground
- 2) The oak tree at last accepted defeat at the hands of the mighty wind. (true/ false)
- 3) What did the tired wind ask the oak tree?
- 4) How did the roots prove to be the most important part of the oak tree?
- 5) What did the oak tree realise at the end of the poem?
- 6) Give any suitable title to the poem.
- 7) Find any two pairs of rhyming words from the poem.

Section D - Writing (20 marks)

I. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Dammam Times' highlighting the ill effects of smoking.

II. Write a letter to the superintendent of police complaining about the frequent thefts and burglary in your locality. **(7 marks)**

OR

II. Write a letter to the principal of your school requesting him to provide better sports facilities in school. **(7 marks)**

III. Write a speech on the topic 'Respecting Parents'. Use your own ideas while you may also include the hints given below. (word limit-150 words) **(6 marks)**

Parents- priceless gift from God-but parents complain- children do not listen- respecting parents- a duty-all religions teach- respect your parents- parents are expert on their children-they know them more- nurse them from birth-take care and affection- fulfil every need-teach good and bad- education- achievement in life- ask those who do not have parents-deprived of care, affection and love-parents are assets-make them happy-give due respect