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Class: X

Sec: A

MATA GUJRI PUBLIC SCHOOL
HALF - YEARLY EXAMINATION (2017- 18)
ENGLISH (SET A)

M.M. 80
Time : 3 hrs.
Date : 21.9.17

General Instructions :

This question paper is divided into three sections :

- Section A - Reading (20 marks)
- Section B - Writing and Grammar (30 marks)
- Section C - Literature & Extended Reading Text (30 marks)

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. You may attempt any section at a time.
3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A : READING

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

(8 marks)

1. The Samjhauta Express, commonly called the Friendship Express, is a twice a week train - Tuesdays and Fridays - that runs between Delhi and Attari in India and Lahore in Pakistan. The word 'Samjhauta' means 'agreement', 'accord' and 'compromise' in both Hindi and Urdu.
2. Until the reopening of the Thar Express, this was the only rail connection between the two countries. The train was started on July 22, 1976 following the Shimla Agreement and ran between Amritsar and Lahore, a distance of about 42 kms. Following disturbance in Punjab, in the late eighties, due to security reasons, Indian Railways decided to terminate the service at Attari, where customs and immigration clearances take place. On April 14, 2000, in an agreement between Indian Railways and Pakistan Railways (PR), the distance was revised to cover just under three kms.
3. It was a daily train when the service started and changed to a bi - weekly schedule in 1994. Earlier, people were returned to the home country the same day, but later in 2000, they were made to remain overnight at the same location.
4. Its terminals are at Lahore in Pakistan and Delhi in India. The border crossing takes place between Wagah in Pakistan and Attari in India. The train service was set up with an agreement between Indian Railways (IR) and Pakistan Railways (PR) to alternatively use an Indian and a Pakistani locomotive for the train, six months at a time.
5. The Indian Railways has facilitated the Pakistani travellers travelling from Lahore to Delhi to make reservations fifteen days in advance as a beneficial substitute for booking on the day of journey. From July 17, 2010, the travellers from Pakistan can go for online booking of tickets to travel to India. They will require their passports and computerized national identification cards for this purpose. Selected counters at Allahabad, Kanpur, Amritsar, Saharanpur and Moradabad in India provide two tickets to the travellers from India for their trip. One ticket is meant for their journey until the station of Attari and the other one for travelling in the areas of Pakistan, in addition to Lahore. The coaches of the train normally range from four to eight in number.

Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions briefly.

1. What is the other name of the 'Samjhauta Express'?
2. What is the literal meaning of the word 'Samjhauta'?
3. Which two countries are joined together by this train?
4. Which train ran between these two countries before the 'Samjhauta Express'?
5. What is the booking procedure for Pakistani travellers?

(3)

6. Name the border cities of the two countries?

7. What do the abbreviations IR and PR refer to?

8. What agreement initiated this train between these two countries?

(12 marks)

2. Read the following passage carefully.

1. As India is making way towards development, education plays a vital role. Recently there was a headline in a daily newspaper that read, 'India has exam system, not education system,' which can definitely make one ponder whether India is on the right path as far as education is concerned.

2. Education has always been the prime concern for the country. India has witnessed many changes in many fields like technology, lifestyle, economic growth, finance power of the country and lots more. Among these, education is on the top. It is true that education is a straight road to the development of the country but now, education has become a mere business as it has lost its quality and is depending on its quantity with quota system and politicization, adding fuel to this present day education is totally depending on how to make money and is ignoring all the important aspects attached to it. It is neither imparting true knowledge of life, nor helping students to improve the talent that one has. With growing competition, students have lost the power of learning something new as they are hooked to their different competitive exams. No wonder C.N.R. Rao, once said that, "India is said to have an examination system but not an education system. When will young people stop taking exams and do something worthwhile?"

3. But, we cannot completely blame the government for this, as it is doing its part. The Delhi Government has come up with many new schools and teachers to enhance educational facilities for the effective implementation of the Right to Education Act. The government has upgraded the infrastructure of many schools as part of a project called 'Roopantar.' The law makes it mandatory for the government to provide free and compulsory education to all children between six to fourteen years of age.

4. Education is the joint responsibility of the state as well as the Central government. Many schemes have been launched by the Indian government for developing the literacy rate within the country, such as, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, District Primary Education Program, National Bal Bhavan and many more. Primary education is a must and for this the government of India came up with the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,' the main goal of which was to give complete primary education to all the children between the age group of 6 - 11. This 'abhiyan' emphasised on girl education and education of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) children.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

(8+2+2=12 Marks)

2.1. Short answer questions.

(4x2=8 Marks)

- What does education play a vital role in?
- In what way has education undergone a change in India?
- What are the effects of this change in education?
- What role is the government playing in improving the system of education in India?

2.2. Very short answer questions.

(2x1=2 Marks)

- Which age group of children is to be provided free and compulsory education in India?
- Whose responsibility is education?

2.3. Vocabulary.

- Which word in para 3 of the passage means 'compulsory'?
- Find a word in paragraph 3 of the passage that means the opposite of 'degraded'?

(2x1=2 Marks)

(2)

SECTION B : WRITING AND GRAMMAR

You are Amit / Amrita. Write a letter to the Chief Administrator of the Pollution Control Board of your area, claiming against the pollution being caused by unrestricted chemical discharge by an industrial unit near your area (8)

OR

Write a letter to the Manager, Brajindra Book Company, 110 Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 3, placing an order for 160 copies of BBC English Compacta - X for the students of class X of your school. You are Vikram / Vaishali, the Head Boy / Head Girl.

4. Here is the beginning of a story. Develop and complete it in any suitable way. Make your story interesting by introducing a setting, some characters, some dialogues and a suitable title. Do not use more than 250 words. (10)

We were eager for our annual school outing, longing to be with our buddies for an entire day. But we never imagined that the day had something else in store for us. We heard a loud sound and then.....

5. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with one word each. (1/2x8=4Marks)

(a) At Diwali night, children admitted in the government run B.C. Roy Children Hospital were exposed to deafening sounds (b) from residents of nearby multi-storey buildings burst crackers. The decibel level (c) of crackers exceeded 90 decibels. It (d) was the noisiest Diwali in Kolkata's recent memory. "The sounds were (e) too loud that needles for giving saline drip (f) our children got displaced," complained Tapan Halder (g) his daughter was admitted in the hospital (h) with jaundice.

6. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheets against the correct blank number. (4)

A bicycle gets punctured when thorn or nail runs into its tube. Puncture needs to repaired. First of all the tube taken out of the tyre and inflated. It is then dipped a trough containing water in order locate the puncture. Air escapes the place of the puncture producing bubbles the water.

Before	Word	After
(a) <u>when</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>thorn</u>
(b) <u>tube</u>	<u>the</u>	<u>puncture</u>
(c) <u>to</u>	<u>be</u>	<u>repaired</u>
(d) <u>tube</u>	<u>will be</u>	<u>taken</u>
(e) <u>dipped</u>	<u>into</u>	<u>a</u>
(f) <u>order</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>locate</u>
(g) <u>escapes</u>	<u>all</u>	<u>the</u>
(h) <u>bubbles</u>	<u>in</u>	<u>the</u>

7. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. Write the answers in your answer sheets against the correct blank number. (4 Marks)

- (a) has authored / major / which have / four novels / inspired / movies / Chetan Bhagat
 (b) icon / this / youth / made / a / has / him / his has made him a youth icon
 (c) termed / novelist / language / New York Times / the / highest / selling / English / the biggest

(d) enjoyable and / educative / hobby / is / his / bird watching

(30 Marks)

SECTION C : LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXT

(4 Marks)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines only.

And immediately I regretted it,
I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!
I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human education
And so I missed my chance with one of the lords of life.
And I have something to expiate.....a pettiness.

- (a) What does the poet regret?
(b) How does the poet assess his own action?
(c) What does the poet compare the snake to after he tried to kill it?
(d) What chance did the poet miss?

OR

Were these people pulling his leg? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? A meek, harmless man like him, and they had to drag him into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him. How could anyone be so cruel?

- (a) Who is being referred to as a meek, harmless man?
(b) What is referred to as a gigantic hoax?
(c) Why is this meek, harmless man disappointed?
(d) Where was this man when such feelings went through his mind?

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 30 – 40 words.

(4x2=8Marks)

- (a) Why did Ali give up hunting?
(b) Why does John Hallock hesitate to be a partner to Laura Hinkle during the Ouija Board Party?
(c) Why does Patol Babu walk away before he can be paid for his role? What does this reveal about his character?
(d) What change does Grandfather make in his new will? What effect does it have on his daughters?
(e) Why was the frog's joy both sweet and bitter? How did he become the unrivalled king of the Bog again?

10. Answer one of the following questions in about 100 – 120 words.

(8 marks)

The proud Ozymandias lies forgotten in the desert. Comment on the values derived from the poem.

OR

Hardships and difficult situations can break a person's spirit. It is the wise and strong who make it through such times. How would you apply this thought to the two boys of Verona?

11. Answer the following question in about 200 – 250 words.

(10 Marks)

What changes did Helen's personality undergo in the span of two years that lapsed between her first journey to Baltimore and the next one to Boston?

(4)