

(Harsh Yadav)

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR**  
**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2017-18**

**SUBJECT – ENGLISH (SET 1)**

**CLASS - X**

**M. M.: – 80**

**TIME – 3 HRS**

**Instructions:**

- 1) The question paper is divided into three sections.  
**Section A – Reading**  
**Section B – Writing Skills and Grammar**  
**Section C- Literature and Long Reading Text**
- 2) All questions are compulsory
- 3) You may attempt any one section at a time.
- 4) All questions of a particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

**SECTION A: READING**

**1. Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow- (8)**

(Spices bring to mind images of tempting culinary art, fascinating travels and the bitter struggle for supremacy. Expressions like 'variety is the spice of life' and 'sugar and spice and all that is nice' show how spellbound were men of letters about the fascination of spices)

To Orientals, spices are indeed the soul of food. In the western world, it evokes dreams of exotic tropical islands, exciting expeditions to find routes to the source and the rise and fall of empires. (Columbus went westwards in 1492 from Europe to find a sea route to the land of spices but found the New World. Eight years later, Vasco da Gama went round Africa and touched Kozhikode on the south west coast of India.) Long before that, Arabs started trading with the Orient through land routes. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Marco Polo experienced the attraction of spices in his travels. Even the European conquests and trade arrangements in India and East Indies have a lot to do with spices.

(Thousands of years ago, great masters of Ayurveda (the Indian system of medicine) notably Susruta and Charaka discussed in detail the uses of spices for culinary and medicinal purposes.) Enterprising soldiers of fortune took the knowledge of spices to Egypt. (There they used these spices and aromatic herbs in food medicine, cosmetics and for embalming. The conquest of Egypt and Asia by Alexander the Great, made spices an article of commerce in Mediterranean countries and later to central and northern Europe.) (There are reports of pepper being used in meat, both to aid preservation, and to mask the unwelcome odour of deterioration of quality during the long winter storage)

Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, and Theophrastus, a Greek scholar and botanist, wrote treatises on medicinal plants, including spices.

**Answer the following questions in brief-**

**(1X8=8)**

- a) Why do spices fascinate people?
- b) What do you understand by the phrase, 'men of letters'?
- c) Where did Columbus want to reach?
- d) What is meant by 'culinary skills'?
- e) What did Susruta and Charaka discuss in detail?
- f) What made spices an article of commerce in Mediterranean countries?
- g) What was pepper used for in ancient days?
- h) A word in the passage that has the same meaning as 'enchanted' is (Para1).....

**2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow- (12)**

(Demonetization is the withdrawal of a particular form of currency from circulation.) Through demonetisation, the old currency is replaced by the new currency or a currency circulation is blocked. There are multiple reasons why a country demonetizes its currency, some reasons include to check the inflation, to curb corruption and to promote cashless transactions.)

(Recently the Indian government decided to demonetize the biggest denomination notes i.e. 500-1000 rupee notes. This step has been declared as a master stroke for the Indian economy by various experts. This is not the first time that India has demonetized its currency, earlier it was done in 1946 with the complete ban of the Rs. 1000 and Rs.10000 notes to deal with the unaccounted money i.e. black money. The second time it was done in 1978 by the government headed by Morarji Desai, when Rs. 1000, 5000 & 10000 notes were demonetised.)

(The main objective this time is to unearth the black money, to curb corruption, counterfeit currency as well as terror financing. This step is considered as the biggest cleanliness drive against black money in the history of the Indian economy.) As per RBI guidelines, 87% transactions in India are cash transactions and this loophole is used by corrupted people to build a parallel economy with unaccounted money. This parallel economy helps in terror financing which in turn hampers the growth and development of the country. Currently, high value notes account for a total value of 86% of the notes in circulation in India. It is expected that this step

will help in reducing the fiscal deficit of India and promote the cashless economy in India which can be easily monitored. There are many cons of demonetisation also, for instance, it creates panic among the common man. Local traders and shopkeepers face a problem too. It has also affected the SME sector in India.

Demonetization step of central government will surely result into something good and help in reducing the black money. (It will surely bring the clear view of every transaction within the country and promote cashless transactions.) This step will affect general people to some extent but for the benefit of future generation such decisions are inevitable. We should welcome such brave step of Indian government which will curb black money to some extent.

Answer the following questions-

- a) What is demonetization? (2)
- b) Why do countries demonetize their currency? (2)
- c) What does black money promote? (2)
- d) What are the disadvantages of demonetization? (2)
- e) Pick out a synonym of the word 'exposed' from the passage. (para3) (1)
- f) Pick out an antonym 'avoidable' from the passage. (para4) (1)
- g) What is the drawback of cash transactions? (1)
- h) What do you understand by 'cashless transactions'? (1)

**SECTION B : WRITING & GRAMMAR**

3. You are Nandan/Nidhi Das, a resident of 45, Taj Enclave, New Delhi. Last week, you came across an advertisement pertaining to a Yoga & Meditation course and wish to join the same. Write a letter to the Director, Art of Living, 13/4 Amrit Nagar, New Delhi, enquiring about the details of the course.

OR

You are deeply concerned about the focus in India on Cricket and the sad neglect of other sports. Write a letter to the editor of a leading daily in 100-120 words, expressing your views on the same. You are Arun/Aarti Jain, a resident of 112 Bank Street, Agra. (8)

4. Write a story in not more than 250 words on the basis of the hint given below. You may start the story like this- (10)

It was 8p.m. and dark clouds loomed large over the horizon. Yatin was alone at home. Suddenly the phone rang.....

5. Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones given below. Write your answers in the answer sheet against the correct blank numbers. Do not copy the entire passage. (4)

There is (a) \_\_\_\_\_ special about the Delhi University special buses that transport students (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the corners of the capital to their colleges. One of the 'special' factors is the very charm of college students travelling daily in the same bus (c) \_\_\_\_\_ long distances, giving them an opportunity to know each other better. For some commuters, DU Specials (d) \_\_\_\_\_ them their best friends for life.

- |                  |                 |                  |                |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| a) (i) anything  | (ii) nothing    | (iii) all things | (iv) something |
| b) (i) from      | (ii) to         | (iii) along      | (iv) before    |
| c) (i) along     | (ii) over       | (iii) for        | (iv) by        |
| d) (i) had given | (ii) have given | (iii) are given  | (iv) give      |

6. The following paragraph has not been edited. One word is missing from each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it. Underline the missing word. The first one has been done for you. (4)

The television has always very controversial.

e.g. always been very

While the positive aspects the  
electronic media innumerable,  
their negative impact children  
cannot denied.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences - (4)

- a) the watermelon/ thirst quenchers/ in summers/ is/ one of the best.
- b) around/ it is/ 96 countries/ cultivated in/ the world.
- c) in Africa/ about 5000 years/ grown/ ago/ it was/ first.
- d) say that/ at the/ it was grown/ some researchers/ same time/ in India.

**SECTION C: LITERATURE**

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow-

(1X4=4)

*"Tortured by doubt and remorse, he sat down in the glow of the charcoal sigri to wait."*

- a) Who is tortured by doubt and remorse?
- b) Why was he in doubt?
- c) What was he waiting for?
- d) What is the meaning of the word 'remorse'?

OR

*"Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,  
Searching my reaches for what she really is."*

- a) Who is 'I' in the above given lines?
- b) Why does 'I' call itself a lake?
- c) Name the poetic devices used in the first line of this extract.
- d) What is the woman searching for in the lake?

9. Answer the following questions in brief-

(2X4=8)

- a) Why did Loona Bimberton refuse to look at any Illustrated Weekly?
- b) Why did Helen want people to stop using Ouija boards?
- c) What were the three things that Able Merryweather planned to do the coming Monday?
- d) Explain- 'And the frog observed them glitter, With a joy both sweet and bitter'.

10. Answer any one of the following in about 125-150 words-

(8)

After reading the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona', you greatly admire the sincerity and devotion of the two young boys, but also regret that these very values are missing in the children today. Based on your understanding of the story, write an article on 'Loss of Values among Youngsters'.

OR

Time spares none. The people are remembered not for their vanity but for their kindness and good deeds. Elucidate with reference to the poem 'Ozymandias'.

11. Answer any one of the following in about 200 words-

(10)

Write a detailed character sketch of Arthur H. Keller.

OR

The arrival of Anne Mansfield Sullivan was the most important day in Helen Keller's life. Elaborate.