

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2014  
English Core  
Set 1

Time: 3 hours

Class 11

MM: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three Sections- A B and C. All sections are compulsory
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions

SECTION A

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:-

(12)

Out of the mud two strangers came  
And caught me splitting wood in the yard.  
And one of them put me off my aim  
By hailing cheerily 'Hit them hard!'

I knew pretty well why he dropped behind  
And let the other go on a way.  
I knew pretty well what he had in mind:  
He wanted to take my job for pay.

Good blocks of beech it was I split  
As large around as the chopping block;  
And every piece I squarely hit  
Fell splinter less as a cloven rock.

The blows that a life of self-control  
Spares to strike for the common good  
That day, giving a loose to my soul,  
I spent on the unimportant wood.

The sun was warm but the wind was chill,  
You know how it is with on April day  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,  
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
A wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of March.

A bluebird comes tenderly up to alight  
And fronts the wind to unruffle a plume,  
His song so pitched as not to excite  
A single flower as yet to bloom.

It is snowing a flake; and he half knew  
Winter was only playing possum,  
Except in colour he isn't blue,  
But he wouldn't advise a thing to blossom.

The water for which we may have to look  
In summer time with a witching-wand,  
In every wheel rut's now a brook,  
In every print of a hoof a pond.

Be glad of water, but don't forget  
The lurking frost in the earth beneath  
That will steal forth after the sun is set  
And show on the water its crystal teeth.

The time when most I loved my task  
These two must make me love it more  
By coming with what they came to ask.  
You'd think I never had felt before

The weight of an axe-head poised aloft,  
The grip on earth of outspread feet,  
The life of muscles rocking soft  
And smooth and moist in vernal heat.

Out of the woods two hulking tramps  
(From sleeping God knows where last night,  
But not since in the lumber camps).  
They thought all chopping was theirs of right.

Men of the woods and lumber jacks  
They judged me by their appropriate tool,  
Except as a fellow handled an axe.  
They had no way of knowing a fool.

Nothing on either side was said,  
They knew they had but to stay their stay  
And all their logic would fill my head;  
As that I had no right to play

With what was another man's work for gain,  
My right might be love but theirs was need  
And where the two exist in twain  
Theirs was the better right-agreed

But yield who will to their separation,  
My object in living is to unite  
My avocation and my vocation  
As my two eyes make one in sight.

Only where love and need are one,  
And the work is play for mortal stakes,  
Is the deed ever really done  
For heaven and the future's sakes.

-Robert Frost

A Choose the most appropriate option:

(6)

(a) One of the tramps stayed there because ?

- (i) he wished to cheer the narrator (ii) he enjoyed the narrator's style  
(iii) he liked splitting wood (iv) he wanted to split wood for money

(b) though it was April it seemed like May because \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) the sun was warm but the wind was chill (ii) the cloud covered the sunlit sky  
(iii) the sun was out and the wind was still (iv) the wind came off a frozen peak

(c) the bluebird would not advise a flower to bloom because \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) the winter was only pretending to be dead (ii) the flakes of snow were very small  
(iii) the frost was lurking in the sky (iv) slush and mud were present everywhere

(d) the tramps did not approve of the narrator splitting wood because \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) because the narrator was chopping wood into splinters (ii) they thought all chopping was theirs of right  
(iii) they judged him as a fool (iv) the narrator was mishandling the axe

(e) The narrator's object in life is to \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) consider work as play (ii) make love and need one whole
  - (iii) unite hobby and work (iv) segregate work and enjoyment
- (f) except in colour the bluebird "isn't blue". Here blue stands for
- (i) royal blood (ii) enthusiastic (iii) cheerful (iv) gloomy or depressed

B Answer the following questions briefly:

(6)

- (a) How was the poet distracted by the tramp?
- (b) Why did one of the tramps fall behind?
- (c) How could the weather make you feel back in the middle of March?
- (d) Where have the tramps come from?
- (e) Find words in the passage similar in meaning as these words or phrases
  - (i) trade or profession followed for gain
  - (ii) exactly

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:-

(8)

Fasting is said to bring a host of benefits, provided it's done under medical supervision. Doctors explain how to go about it. Food is to the body what fuel is to a motor vehicle. It provides energy, helps repair and rejuvenation and confers many other benefits. A lot of research has been done and is being done on fasting. When one fasts, the digestive organs get rest and all body mechanisms are cleaned. While fasting, the natural process of toxin excretion continues while influx of new toxins is reduced. The energy usually used for digestion is redirected to immune function and cell growth. Fasting helps you heal with greater speed, cleanses your liver, kidneys and colon, purifies your blood, helps you lose excess weight and water, flushes out toxins, clears the eyes and tongue and cleanses the breath.

Another research says fasting, even occasionally, helps in de-toxification. Through fasting we restrict digestive activity and so energy is utilised to cleanse different systems. Fasting improves metabolism, sharpens the senses, calms the mind, helps lose weight, improves general immunity, improves concentration and mental clarity. Fasting, if understood and done under supervision, has tremendous benefits and impacts one at various planes: mental, emotional, physical and spiritual. Specifically it serves as an aid to effective de-toxification, helps in repair and rejuvenation, offers rest to the gastro-intestinal system and promotes mobilisation of excess fat.

The crucial point to note is the difference between fasting and starvation. Research suggests there are major health benefits to calorie restriction. Among other things it slows down the aging process. According to the US National Academy of Sciences, other benefits include stress resistance, increased insulin sensitivity and increased lifespan. Glucose is the body's primary fuel source and is essential for the brain's functioning. When denied glucose for more than 4 - 8 hours, the body converts glycogen stored in the liver into a usable form of fuel and supplements it with small amounts of protein. This will last for up to 12 hours before the body turns to glycogen stored in muscles. If glucose is still denied at this point, the body continues to use fat for as long as it is available. If the fast is not broken, starvation occurs, as the body begins to use protein for fuel. Death can occur if fasting is pursued to the point of complete starvation.

- (i) Make notes on the above passage using a suitable format and appropriate abbreviations. Give a title also. (5)
- (ii) Write a brief summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)

### SECTION B

Q3 You wish to hire a receptionist for your office. Write a suitable advertisement for the classified column of the newspaper. You are Gauri Rana HR Manager of Appliances India (5)

OR

Mr. and Mrs. S.V Gupta are solemnising the wedding of their daughter and have sent you an invitation. Write a reply declining the invitation.

Q4. Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Hindu', Chennai drawing attention to the plight of old people in your city. You are Anupama Nair of 5 MG Road Chennai (10)

Q5. You are Gopa Roy. Write an article in about 150-200 words for the school magazine under the title Generation Gap. A Myth. (10)

### SECTION C

Q6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:- (4)

The sea holiday  
Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry  
With the laboured ease of loss

(i) What is the sea holiday referred to in the first line? (1)

(ii) Why is her laughter the poet's past? (1)

(iii) Explain the last line. (2)

Q7. Answer the following questions in 40 - 50 words each (12)

(i) How did Suzanne help her parents? (3)

(ii) How did Akhenaten go a little whacky? (3)

(iii) Why did Einstein hate to go to school? (3)

(iv) How is the rain 'Poem of Earth'? (3)

Q8. How was Shyama able to influence Ranga to change his ideas? Answer in about 120-150 words (7)

Q9. Describe the strange events that occurred when the Otis family arrived at Canterville Chase in about 120-150 words (6)

Q10. The Otis family is a typical American family. Discuss in about 120-150 words. (6)

Order - 2  
degree - 1