

THE MOTHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2017 - 2018)
CLASS - XI
SUBJECT: ENGLISH

Tanishka
18.

TIME: 3 HOURS

M.M.: 80

SECTION - A (20 marks)
READING

Q1. Read the passage carefully:

(12)

DELHI'S TRUNK CALLS

1. Twenty-six-year-old Verhaen Khanna is not your garden variety green crusader. He's on a mission to cure 'tree blindness'- the habit of not looking at trees. "People just walk past them," he complains, at his New Friends Colony residence office, clad in Batman pyjamas and bathroom slippers. Khanna, as part of New Delhi Nature Society which he set up last year, is educating Delhities about trees in a unique way- by teaching them how to climb them.

2. A generation ago, the practice was commonplace but with today's increasingly indoor living, learning to scale the neem next door sounds like a spot of daredevilry. Anuj Wadhwa, a 26 year old garment exporter learnt to shimmy up trees a few months ago. "Spending time with nature and climbing trees become a spiritual exercise for me. Once you're in a tree, you become part of its ecosystem, which includes birds, insects, fruits and flowers, " says Wadhwa who can spend 40-45 minutes hanging out on tree branches, sometimes with a cup of green tea in hand.

3. But it's all about barking up the tree right. "It depends on how and where you sit," Khanna points out. "You have to find a cosy nook, maybe a Y-or a V-shaped branch. Find a hook to rest your arm. Or, you can lie down. It can get so comfortable that I have to warn people from falling off to sleep." A trained commercial pilot, Khanna organizes periodic campouts around Delhi - Jahanpanah city forest near GK-II, Asola Sanctuary, Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, colony parks in New Friends Colony, Maharani Bagh, GK-I etc.- where he not only teaches members how to climb trees, but also to make a fire, count GPS satellites and stars.

4. While Khanna provides tents and other equipment on these free jaunts, participants have to bring their own food. The tree-lover funds his woody ambitions with his day job as business developer, and as a light painting artist at OLE India- a collaborative of professionals and free thinkers. He has also uploaded tree-climbing tutorials on YouTube. When climbing a straight trunk (coconut or palm), ascend using both arms in tandem (like in a hug) instead of alternating them. But banyan trees, with thick, low lying branches and vines offer a relatively easy climb.

5. Anyone can join NDNS and it's free. The year-old society has been attracting Members through word of mouth and sight- the image of men and women sitting atop trees in various city parks. Khanna has organized six outdoor camps in the past year and has taught around 30 people to climb trees. Once up, he briefs participants about the tree and its ecosystem. Details like what kind of fruit and flower it bears, their benefits, the shape and size of leaves, kinds of insects, birds and squirrels living on it, any folk tales associated with it are discussed and shared. Khanna says books, internet and hands-on experience working on farms is the source of his tree knowledge.

6. Tarun Mal, an agriculturist who lives in Gurgaon and runs a farm in Alwar, says the first time he climbed, he was scared of falling. "But once you're inside the canopy, it's a different world and you don't want to come down," he says. For Masrat Khan, a communication expert, the experience brings out the child in her. When not scaling trees, NDNS members are busy doing "guerilla gardening"-planting hardy local tree varieties like neem, babul and jamun wherever possible and often without permission. Their mission to cure tree blindness continues.

- Shobhita Dhar

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options :

(1X

(a) Verhaen Khanna is on a mission to cure

- (i) Night blindness
- (ii) Tree blindness
- (iii) Colour blindness
- (iv) None of the above

(b) Spending time with nature and climbing trees has become a

- (i) spiritual exercise
- (ii) physical exercise
- (iii) aerobic exercise
- (iv) All the above

(c) When climbing a straight trunk use

- (i) both arms in tandem
- (ii) both legs in tandem
- (iii) both arms and legs in tandem
- (iv) None of the above

(d) When not scaling trees, NDNS members are busy doing

- (i) Tree Gardening
- (ii) Flower Gardening
- (iii) Guerrilla Gardening
- (iv) None of the above

Answer the following question briefly:

(1x6=6)

(a) What do you mean by 'tree blindness'?

(b) What education is being imparted to Delhiites by Verhaen Khanna?

(c) What is Anuj Wadhwa's opinion about nature and climbing trees?

(d) What do you become when you are in a tree, according to Wadhwa?

(e) Who all can join NDNS and what do they teach?

(f) What varieties of trees are planted by the NDNS members?

(k) Find words from the passage which means the same as:

(1x2=2)

i. Biological Environment (Para2, 5)

ii. Excursion (Para 4)

Q2. Read the passage carefully.

(8)

1. The monsoon is such a welcome respite from the scorching summer thanks to the overcast sky, gentle rain and lush greenery all around. Almost all of us love to savour spicy and crunchy food items such as fritters (pakoras) and chaats like panipuri, sevpuri teamed with cutting chai as the rainwater lashes against the window pane. However, the season also brings along a lots of diseases such as dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough and cold and jaundice due to bacteria in the environment. The challenge lies in going about your daily routine without falling ill. If you suffer from low immunity, you are at a higher risk of contracting these diseases. However, the right dietary tips can strengthen your immunity and help you stay hale and hearty.

2. Due to the humid climate, you may not feel too thirsty and consume just one litre of water every day. But you need to be well hydrated as sweat doesn't evaporate quickly in monsoon. Consequently, this prevents the body from releasing heat. So consume a lot of water as it helps to flush out toxins from the body. Ensure that the water is clean, pure and safe to drink. Avoid aerated drinks; instead consume warm beverages such as green tea with holy basil leaves, ginger, pepper and honey as they have anti-bacterial properties. A bowl of hot vegetable soup is also a good option. The hot beverages increase your body temperature (which will in turn give you warmth) while the ingredients will boost your immunity.

3. Consume fruits such as cherries, bananas, apples, pomegranates, plums, litchis and pears as they are packed with anti-oxidants and are rich in vitamin A, E, C and minerals. Vegetables such as cauliflower, potatoes, cluster beans, lady's finger, kidney beans, pigeon pea and sprouted grains get spoilt easily due to the humidity. So, they should be avoided. Opt for cooked or steamed veggies. Avoid salads as they comprise raw vegetables that contain active bacteria which lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity. Avoid strong smelling or extra sweet fruits such as mangoes and jackfruit that attract flies as their excess intake can cause skin irritation and stomach ache. It's also important to store vegetables the right way during the rains. Do not wash the veggies thoroughly before storing, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus. These bacteria can spread to other susceptible food items as well, making them unhygienic. Instead, pat dry and store separate food items in different containers. Buy them in limited portions and use them as soon as possible.

4. Dehydration makes your hair brittle and scanty. So hydrate yourself. Zinc and iron help to keep your tresses healthy and beautiful. Consume nuts, eggs and walnuts to maintain hair strength. Walnuts are rich in biotin and vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants. Proteins are important for hair strength too. So add curd to your diet, as it is a great source of protein. Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin C. Vitamin C keeps your hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that among other things strengthens the hair capillaries (ensuring proper nutrient supply to our hair). Also, ensure that you wash your locks on alternate days and cover them well during the monsoon. Dried apricots, roasted sunflower seeds and lentils are better foods to consume during monsoon than other iron-rich foods which are susceptible to microbial attack. Do not forget to eat yummy corn as corn is also rich in iron and zinc.

5. So, the secret to enjoy the rains, without the fear of affecting your health is to go light on eating. Have a safe and healthy monsoon.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION – B (30 marks)

WRITING

- Q3. Seema Saran is in a hurry to sell some of her furniture and her refrigerator as she is shifting base to Mumbai. Draft her advertisement in 50 words. (4)

OR

The Resident's Welfare Association of Jankapuri has decided to celebrate Independence day with various programmes. Drafts a notice informing residents of details and asking for their participation in 50 words. You are the Secretary of the RWA, Sushma/Sushmit Sharma.

- Q4. The Artist's Training Academy, Sector 1, RK. Puram trains and coaches aspiring high school students for competitive examinations to qualify for entrance into art and designing colleges. You are Senjuti/Sanjay Sarkar of class XI who wants to pursue art/designing as your career. Write a letter to the Director of the academy seeking necessary information as you wish to join the academy. Your address is 10/1 Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi. (word limit 150) (6)
- Q5. The 30th Annual Film Festival was held in Goa between 30th September and 4th October. As Joseph Andrews, correspondent of The Foundation Times, report the event in 150 – 200 words. (10)

Hints: Inauguration – Star studded, film of different genres Screened, Indian-regional and foreign ones, presence of celebrities – awards given.

- Q6. Blue Whale challenge is only the tip of the iceberg in the world of virtual games that have literally captured the minds of the teenagers. The teenagers have understandably become very tech savvy but are simultaneously becoming vulnerable to such engaging online games which have the potential to destroy them totally. As Rhea/Riaz write an article on the above topic and provide necessary suggestions to help teenagers associate themselves in more meaningful and productive activities. (word limit 200) (10)

SECTION – C (30 marks)

LITERATURE

- Q7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: (4)

I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravelled world whose margin fades
For ever and forever when I move.

- a) Name the poem and the poet. (1)
- b) In what way has the speaker become a part of all his experiences? (1)
- c) Explain 'untravelled road' in the context of the given lines. (1)
- d) Identify a figure of speech in the given lines and explain it. (1)

- Q8. Answer the following questions in 50 – 60 words each. (4 x 3 = 12)

a) Describe the close companionship shared by Khushwant Singh and his grandmother when he lived in the village.

- b) When Suzanne decided to marry the better actor, why did Robichon and Quinquart propose to prove themselves in 'solemn' roles? Who had suggested this idea?
- c) Explain why the narrator in 'Father to Son' says that 'anger grows from grief' while describing his emotions.
- d) Identify any three basic traits of the Supreme Creator as delineated by Sri Aurobindo in the poem 'Who'.

Q9. Answer the given questions in 100 words each.

(2x5 = 10)

- a) Travelogues reflect the disappointments and joys experienced during the course of a journey. Discuss how this holds true for the excerpt in your syllabus from Nick Middleton's 'Extremes along the Silk Road.'
- b) Symbolism is a key feature of the short story 'The Address'. Explore the symbolism in a specific house number as given in the story.

Q10. How does the account by Gordon Cook and Alan East highlight the strength of family values during extreme adversity? (80 - 100 words)

(4)

*****The End*****