



**PRAGATI PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Half Yearly Examination (2017-18)**

**Class-XI (ENGLISH)**

**SET- B**

**M.Mks -100**

**Time: 3Hrs**

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.
2. Attempt all the questions of one section before moving on to the next section.
3. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.

**SECTION A READING 30M**

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

**12M**

1. The role friends play in our lives has become significantly greater than at any other time in our history. Today many of us live and work at great distances from where we were born or we grew up and are separated from our original families the pain we feel when we are away from our families can be significant.
2. The happiness of the individual relies on friendships which form a necessary human connection. It is perfectly normal to need and want friends and depression is more prevalent among those who lack friends. They lack the intimacy and richness friends can bring into our lives. Frequently friends reflect similar values to us. Yet these values are often different from the ones we grew up with; they are the values we created for ourselves in our adult lives.
3. Communication skills are fundamental in all friendships. The more friends and acquaintances one has, the greater are one's communication skills. Some call these, people skills.
4. Like watering a plant, we grow our friendships, (and all our relationships) by nurturing them. Friendship needs the same attention as other relationships, if they are to continue. These relationships can be delightfully non-judgemental, supporting, understanding and fun.
5. Sometimes a friendship can bring out the positive side that never shows in any other relationship. This may be because the pressure of playing a 'role' (daughter, partner or child) is removed, With a friend, you can be yourself and are free to change. Of course, you are free to do this in all other relationships as well, but in friendships you get to have lots of rehearsals and discussion about changes as you experience them. It is an unconditional experience where you receive as much as you give. You can explain yourself to a friend openly without the fear of hurting a family member. How do friendships grow? The answer is simple. By revealing yourself, being attentive; remembering what is most important to your friend and asking them about it; putting yourself in their position; showing empathy; seeing the world through the eyes of your friend, you will understand the value of friendship. All this means learning to accept a person from a completely different family to your own or perhaps someone from a completely different cultural background. This is the way we learn tolerance. In turn, we gain tolerance and acceptance for our own differences.
6. Relationships are made by being considerate which means all the communication skills come into play: active listening skills, questioning skills, and editing yourself.
7. Friendships offer a great opportunity to learn about yourself because a friend can reflect back to you 'how you come across in the world'. They also allow you to practice skills in dealing with 'personal

boundaries' by looking after yourself as well as your friend. They help you develop resilience in relation to the wider social world beyond your family.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (4)

(a) According to the contents of the passage, what is perfectly normal –

- (i) Have no friends
- (ii) Need and want friends
- (iii) Avoid friends
- (iv) Need many friends

(b) Depression is more prevalent among those –

- (i) Who are criticized by friends
- (ii) Who are like slaves to their friends
- (iii) Who depend completely on friends
- (iv) Who lack friends

(c) Why is friendship more enriching than any other relationship –

- (i) Friendship is a more trusting experience
- (ii) Friendship is eternal
- (iii) Friendship is an unconditional experience
- (iv) Friendship is more practical

(d) Which two main skills come into play in friendship –

- (i) Writing and speaking skills
- (ii) Mathematical and calculating skills
- (iii) Thinking and judging skills
- (iv) Listening and reflecting skills

1.2 Answer the following questions as briefly as possible. (6)

- (a) Why do friends play a more significant role today than ever before?
- (b) Why is friendship considered an essential human need?
- (c) How is friendship different from other human relationships?
- (d) Mention two essential human values that help friendship grow?
- (e) Which communication skills help in building friendship?
- (f) What kind of opportunity does friendship offer to us?

1.3 Pick words from the passage that mean similar to the following. (2)

- (i) Mutual discussion to (para 6)
- (ii) Chance (para 7)

Q2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

10M

- 1 The government appears to have woken up to the problem of acute agrarian distress. In a flurry of activity surrounding the prime minister's visit to Vidarbha, the government had declared its intent to seek remedies for

- the crisis affecting the peasantry, symbolized by the spate of farmers' suicides over the last few years. This is indeed welcome, though the response should have come sooner. Reports and studies from various sources including government commissions, on farmers' suicides and their proximate causes have analysed the issue to the bone. What was missing was concerted action on the part of the Centre.
- 2 The package being put together now recognizes that the immediate problem is not one of access to credit or the level of the interest rate (though these are indeed medium-term issues) but of a legacy of debt that cannot be borne. Low farm gate prices, rising input cost and an adequate increases in productivity have combined to make interest and debt repayment commitments too onerous to bear. The explains the government's decision to write off debt at least in the case of marginal and small farmers, and, if the Finance Ministry agrees, to insure them against crop failure so to prevent the legacy of debt from becoming an unbearable burden for many more. These are significant steps forward. However the government also adopt policies that militates against long term redressal of the agrarian crisis that underlies farmer's distress. The first of these is a fiscal policy stance that precludes the adoption of measures that are crucial to revitalize agriculture. : Massive public investment in rural infrastructure, including irrigation, drainage and flood control; lowering of input cost through subsidies where necessary; and a hike in expenditure to restructure the provision of a host of extention and a support services to improve agricultural productivity. With the government focused on fiscal deficit reduction rather on raising India's abysmal tax-GDP ratio and expanding much needed expenditures, these measures are being virtually ignored. Rather the emphasis, as reflected in this year's budget for example, is on increasing the flow of credit to rural areas, without recognizing why even the current limited flow has taken the farming community into a debt trap.
  - 3 The second is the decision to use free imports as a means to dampen inflation. The evidence on inflation is clear. While aggregate inflation on an annual point to point basis(as measured by the official Wholesale price index) stood at just 5.24 percent over the week ending June 10, 2006, the rate of inflation in the case of individual essential commodities was much higher: Between 9 and 10 percent in the wheat, fuel and sugar and as much as 35 percent in the case of pulses.
  - 4 A factor underlying these trends is long term deterioration in agricultural performances. In most cases lower demand resulting from limited purchasing power among some sections of the population has ensure that poor agricultural performance has yet to result in a short fall in supply related to demand. Even so, speculative hoarding has indeed resulted in an artificial short fall. Speculation has been added by a number of decisions of the government such as removal of control on the movements of agricultural, commodities and liberalization of rules relating to the operation of the private traders and agri-business firms, which in turn have resulted in the failure to procure adequate government stocks at the minimum support price where applicable.
  - 5 The government have sort to augment supply with imports. Beside deciding February to import wheat to replenish dwindling government stocks, it has now decided to permit private actual users of wheat like flour millers biscuit manufacturers and bread makers to import wheat duty free till the next rabi harvest. It has also allow custom duty free import of sugar till the beginning of the next crushing season which start in October.
  - 6 And it has put a ban on exports of pulses this efforts to enhance domestic supply with import may be successful in dampening in inflationary expectations and holding the price level in the short run. But it could also adversely affect revenues garnered by the already- distressed peasantry with attended implications for private expenditure needed to sustain and improve agricultural production. E.g., Reliance on PL-480 imports in the 1950s and early 1960s, while dampening price in inflation during Second Plan Years, was partly responsible for the inadequate yield growth that preceded the agrarian crisis of the mid-1960s.
  - 7 Reliance on imports to dampen price increases can, Therefore, worsen the agrarian crisis and the distressed condition of farmers in the medium term. What is needed is to directly curb speculative activities, reverse policies with regard to freer agricultural trade that have brought in large private players driven by opportunities

for profit and combine this with an investment-led agricultural strategy. If not, the small relief being offered the prime minister of farmers in the worst affected areas would amount to little other than temporary relief at a declaration of concern.

Q2.1 On the basis of reading passage answer the following questions.

- |                                                                                    |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a) What is the actual problem of agrarians in Vidarbha?                            | 1 |
| b) How the government can help for their redressal? Write atleast two major steps. | 2 |
| c) In what does the hoarding create a problem for all? Write down the solution.    | 1 |
| d) Mention the steps initiated by the government to tackle the situation?          | 1 |
| e) What solution has been put forth by the writer in the concluding para?          | 1 |

Q2.2 Find words from the above passage that are similar in meaning to the following: 1\*4=4

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) havoc(para -1)     | (b) To shut off( para -3) |
| (c) Collection (para-6 | (d) farming( para-1)      |

POWER CRISIS

Q3 Read the following passage carefully and answers the questions that follow: 8M

Most of the southern and western States, and even the normally surplus States in the north-east, are now going through a major power crisis. Power generation has suffered because of poor hydel storage, thanks to a truant monsoon. Compounding the problem, States that usually come to the help of large consumers in such a predicament have themselves run into difficulties in thermal generation on account of vagaries in coal supply. As a result, States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have to contend with a major shortage. In Tamil Nadu, there is no power cut, officially, but unscheduled load shedding is freely resorted to. At the national level, the gap between power generation and demand has been widening steadily, and it is due not a little to the persisting slippage in targeted addition to the generation capacity during the last two Plan periods. Power-deficit Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, which have been regularly buying power from the Central undertakings, could not do so this year because their neighbours, who are also in distress, happen to draw their full entitlement from the regional grid. Also, none of the power trading corporations has been able to make up the shortfall. The result: power outages, tripping, power cuts, and unscheduled load shedding for a few hours every day.

If the supply side of power position is thus beset with severe constraints, the demand side has its own quota of problems for the power managers and administrators. While the overall shortfall in electricity demand for the country is placed at 15-20 percent, the shortfall faced by several States in peak demand now is reported to range from 20 percent to 30 percent. Specifically, following the sharp rise in the price of diesel, there has been a big jump in demand from consumption by the farm sector.

Confronted as they are with heightened difficulties on both supply and demand fronts, the State Electricity Boards are constantly working on contingency plans to tide over the crisis and fondly hoping that the monsoon will revive and fill the hydel reservoirs before long. The authorities would do well to use more purposefully the grid structure and the consultation mechanism that already exist. Some restrictive measures may be inevitable, but the least the consumers expect is transparency.

Whether it is staggering supply, rotational load shedding or any other, prior intimation to the user-group will surely go some way in mitigating the hardship. (470 words)

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. (5 Marks)
- (b) Write a summary of the passage. (3 marks)

SECTION B – WRITING (40 Marks)

Q4. You are Asmit / Asmita, Head Boy/Head Girl of 'The Indian School'. Write a Notice for your school notice Board asking the students to participate in the Science exhibition to be held in your school. Invent necessary details (4M)

Q5. Draft an application for the post of a receptionist. (6mks)

Q6. Violence among teenagers is increasing. As Shahid/ shweta write an article on the role played by TV videogames and computer games in fuelling this trend and the ways to curb it. (200 words) (10mks)

Q7. Your school is celebrating 'Anti - Corruption Day'. Write a speech in 150- 200 words on the topic 'Minimization of Human Wants is the only way to cleanse society of all kinds of corruption.' You are Avni / Anuj of class XI. (10M)

Q8. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word along with the correction in your answer sheet. Remember to underline the word that forms your answer. The first has been done as an example.. (4mks)

	<u>Error</u>	<u>Correction</u>
I've been for lots of restaurants	eg., For	to
and they have all seemed to <sup>be</sup> being friendly	(a) -----	-----
places. That's why in a recent Monday	(b) -----	-----
night, I stopped at one to a cup of coffee.	(c) -----	-----
I am returning home after an all day car	(d) -----	-----
trip and needed something for help me travel	(e) -----	-----
the last 45 miles. The place is quiet and	(f) -----	-----
lonely then I entered. After a long wait, a tired	(g) -----	-----
looking waitress, approached me and her	(h) -----	-----
order notepad.		

Q9. Rearrange the following to form meaningful sentences. (2mks)

(a) They / in the hall / for / two hours / watching / had been / television

(b) Blessings / you / all / on / may / showered / be

Q10. Look at the news headlines below and use the information to complete the sentences. (4mks)

VIRAL FEVER CLAIMS TWO LIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ have been reported in capital due to viral fever.

2 DESUSTRIKE FORBIDDEN

DESU employees agitating for the pay hike \_\_\_\_\_ from going on strike.

SECTION C – LITERATURE 30M

Q11 Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow. (3mks)

*And who art thou? said I to the soft shower,  
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated.  
I am the poem of Earth, said the Voice of the rain,  
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.*

- a) The 'I' in the first line refers to  
i) the poet  
ii) the rain  
iii) the Earth  
iv) all the above
- b) The 'I' in the third line refers to  
i) the cloud  
ii) the land  
iii) the rain  
iv) the sea
- c) Trace out a word from the above extract which means 'something that cannot be touched'  
i) Eternal  
ii) Impalpable ✓  
iii) bottomless  
iv) art

Q12 Answer the following in 30-40 words each. (9mks)

- (i) Compare and contrast the reactions of the children and the adults when faced with extreme danger in — We're not Afraid To Die..... Together. I
- (ii) Who was Ranga? Why did people gather outside his house?
- (iii) Describe the author/narrator's first visit to Mr. Darling's house.

Q13 Krishwant Singh's grandmother was emotionally attached to him. Support the statement with help of instances from the story 'The Portrait of A Lady'. (150 words) (6mks)

Q14 Describe the Otis family. What do you think of them? 6M

Q15 The blood stain in the Canterville Chase kept on reappearing. How did this change the belief of the Otis Family? 6M