



Sahil Bheavrat

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DELHI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DWARKA

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2017-18)

SUBJECT- ENGLISH(SET-I)

CLASS -XII

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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

TIME-3Hrs

M.M-100

SECTION - A (Reading) 30 Mark

1. Read the following passage carefully.

(12 Marks)

- For four days, I walked through the narrow lanes of the old city, enjoying the romance of being in a city where history still lives — in its cobblestone streets and in its people riding asses, carrying vine leaves and palm as they once did during the time of Christ.
- This is Jerusalem, home to the sacred sites of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. This is the place that houses the church of the Holy Sepulchre, the place where Jesus was finally laid to rest. This is also the site of Christ's crucifixion, burial and resurrection.
- Built by the Roman Emperor Constantine at the site of an earlier temple to Aphrodite, it is the most venerated Christian shrine in the world. And justifiably so. Here, within the church, are the last five stations of the cross, the 10th station where Jesus was stripped of his clothes, the 11th where he was nailed to the cross, the 12th where he died on the cross, the 13th where the body was removed from the cross, and the 14th, his tomb.
- For all this weighty tradition, the approach and entrance to the church is nondescript. You have to ask for directions. Even to the devout Christian pilgrims walking along the Via Dolorosa — the Way of Sorrows — first nine stations look clueless. Then a courtyard appears, hemmed in by other buildings and a doorway to one side. This leads to a vast area of huge stone architecture.
- Immediately inside the entrance is your first stop. It's the stone of anointing: this is the place, according to Greek tradition, where Christ was removed from the cross. The Roman Catholics, however believe it to be the spot where Jesus' body was prepared for burial by Joseph.
- What happened next? Jesus was buried. He was taken to a place outside the city of Jerusalem where other graves existed and there, he was buried in a cave. However, all that is long gone, destroyed by continued attacks and rebuilding; what remains is the massive — and impressive — Rotunda (a round building with a dome) that Emperor Constantine built. Under this, and right in the centre of the Rotunda, is the structure that contains the Holy Sepulchre.
- "How do you know that this is Jesus' tomb?" I asked one of the pilgrims standing next to me. He was clueless, more interested, like the rest of them, in the novelty of it all and in photographing it, than in its history or tradition.
- At the start of the first century, the place was a disused quarry outside the city walls. According to the gospels, Jesus' crucifixion occurred 'at a place outside the city walls with graves nearby.' Archaeologists have discovered tombs from that era, so the site is compatible with the biblical period.

The structure at the site is a marble tomb built over the original burial chamber. It has two rooms, and you enter four at a time into the first of these, the Chapel of the Angel. Here the angel is supposed to have sat on a stone to recount Christ's resurrection. A low door made of white marble, partly worn away by pilgrims' hands, leads to a smaller chamber inside. This is the 'room of the tomb', the place where Jesus was buried.

9. We entered in a single file. On my right was a large marble slab that covered the original rock bench on which the body of Jesus was laid. A woman knelt and prayed. Her eyes were wet with tears. She pressed her face against the slab to hide them, but it only made it worse.

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

1x4=4

- (a) How does Jerusalem still retain the charm of the ancient era ?
 (i) There are narrow lanes.
 (ii) Roads are paved with cobblestones.
 (iii) People can be seen riding asses.
 (iv) All of the above
- (b) Holy Sepulchre is sacred to
 (i) Christianity
 (ii) Islam
 (iii) Judaism
 (iv) Both (i) and (iii)
- (c) Why does one have to constantly ask for directions to the church ?
 (i) Its lanes are narrow.
 (ii) Entrance to the church is nondescript.
 (iii) People are not tourist-friendly.
 (iv) Everyone is lost in enjoying the romance of the place.
- (d) Where was Jesus buried ?
 (i) In a cave
 (ii) At a place outside the city
 (iii) In the Holy Sepulchre
 (iv) Both (i) and (ii)

Answer the following questions briefly :

1x 6=6

- (e) What is the Greek belief about the 'stone of anointing' ?
 (f) Why did Emperor Constantine build the Rotunda ?
 (g) What is the general attitude of the pilgrims ?
 (h) How is the site compatible with the biblical period ?
 (i) Why did the pilgrims enter the 'room of the tomb' in a single file ?
 (j) Why did 'a woman' try to hide her tears ?
 (k) Find words from the passage which mean the same as:
 (i) A large grave (para 3)
 (ii) Having no interesting features/dull (para 4)

1x 2=2

2. Read the following passage carefully.

(10 Marks)

- (1) As dusk falls the neon lights of the jewellery shops in Bowbazaar come alive but the lights have no effect on the face of Mahadeo Yadav who is seated on the footrest of his rickshaw that is parked by the road, feeling very sad. He is sitting on his feet, hugging his knees to keep himself warm in the biting cold, so weakened and lifeless as if he had been dead for days without anyone noticing.
- (2) Who would after all notice a rickshaw puller, to check whether he is breathing or not ? Yet when the same rickshaw puller goes about his work pulling his rickshaw like a horse, he becomes the most noticed man in Calcutta. He makes a great subject for photographers,

writers and film-makers. He is the symbol of poor Calcutta. Many a famous actor has pulled the rickshaw in films set in the city.

- (3) Calcutta is said to have about 6000 rickshaw pullers running on its roads, running mostly in its old neighbourhoods. They have something in common apart from their poverty. All of them come from the country side. All of them wear the lungi to work, perhaps for better movement. Almost all of them are elderly. I am yet to see a young man hand pulling a rickshaw. It can be a sad sight to watch a man almost as old as your father struggling his way through the roads dressed only in a vest and a lungi and often barefoot.
- (4) Mahadeo Yadav, the rickshaw puller is in his seventies and has been pulling the same rickshaw in and around Bowbazaar for fifty years. For him, fifty years, half a century is not an achievement, but merely the time that has passed ever since he came to Calcutta to earn a living.
- (5) He lives all alone in Calcutta, in a room in a nearby lane, paying a monthly rent of fifty rupees. He is out with his rickshaw between three in the afternoon and ten at night, sometimes earning sixty or seventy rupees a day and sometimes nothing. Every month without fail he sends Rs. 300 to his wife back home, and once every year visits her. "I will pull the rickshaw as long as I can", he says, "this is my only source of livelihood. These days I tire easily. Sometimes my feet hurt and sometimes my back. But do I have a choice?" He answers all my questions without looking at me even once, but continued to stare ahead blankly, his arms folded around his knees. I take a good look at his rickshaw; the two – the rickshaw and the rickshaw puller – make quite a pair.

2.1 Choose the correct alternatives from the options given below :

1 × 2 = 2

- (a) A rickshaw puller is noticed only when he
 - (i) acts in a film.
 - (ii) becomes a subject for photographers.
 - (iii) sits all alone.
 - (iv) is old and tired.
- (b) Pick out the statement which is not true.
 - (i) Most rickshaw pullers are old.
 - (ii) The rickshaw pullers earn very little.
 - (iii) Many renowned actors are rickshaw pullers.
 - (iv) They are neglected by people.

2.2 Answer the following questions :

1 × 6 = 6

- (a) Why does Yadav "stare ahead blankly" ?
- (b) Why are rickshaw pullers known as the icons of poor Calcutta ?
- (c) Which instance tells you that Yadav loved his family ?
- (d) Where does Yadav stay ?
- (e) What comparison does the writer draw between the rickshaw and its puller ?
- (f) What do the rickshaw pullers have in common ?

2.3 Pick out words from the passage that mean the following :

1 × 2 = 2

- (a) well-known (para 2)
- (b) income (para 5)

3. Read the following passage carefully.

(8 Marks)

Whether work should be placed among the causes of happiness or among the causes of unhappiness may perhaps be regarded as a doubtful question. There is certainly much work which is exceedingly irksome, and an excess of work is always very painful. However, work is not, to most people, more painful than idleness. There are, in work, all grades; from more relief of tedium up to the profoundest delights, according to the nature of the work and the abilities of the worker. Most of the work that most people have to do is not interesting in itself, but even that work has certain great advantages. To begin with, it fills a good many hours of the day without the need of deciding what one shall do. Most people, when they are left free to

fill their own time according to their own choice, are at a loss to think of anything sufficiently pleasant to be worth doing. And whatever they decide on, they are troubled by the feeling that something else would have been more pleasant here. To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization and at present very few people have reached this level. Moreover the exercise of choice is tiresome in itself. Except, to people with unusual initiative, it is positively agreeable to be told what to do at each hour of the day, provided the orders are not too unpleasant. Most of the idle rich suffer unspeakable boredom. At times they may find relief by hunting big game in Africa or by flying around the world, but the number of such sensations is limited, especially after youth is past. Accordingly, the more intelligent rich men work nearly as hard as if they were poor.

Work, therefore is desirable, first and foremost as a preventive of boredom, although uninteresting work is as boring as having nothing to do. With this advantage of work, another associated advantage is that it makes holidays much more delicious when they come. Provided that a man does not have to work so hard as to impair his vigour, he is likely to find far more zest than an idle man would possibly find.

The second advantage of most paid work and some of unpaid work is that it gives chances of success and opportunities for ambition. In most work, success is measured by income and while our capitalistic society continues, this is inevitable. However dull work too, becomes bearable, if it is a means of building up a reputation. Continuity of purpose is one of the most essential ingredients of happiness and that comes chiefly through work.

- 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 4) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. 5
- B. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

SECTION B – ADVANCE WRITING SKILLS (50 Marks)

4. Chennai Book Society is going to organise a week-long book fair in the city during the Coming autumn vacation. It has requested your school for volunteers to manage various counters. As Secretary, Cultural Club, Chennai Public School, write a notice in about 50 words inviting the names of those who want to help. You are Lalith/Latha. 4
5. You are the Principal, Akash Public School, Ajmer. Yesterday you received a letter of enquiry from Mr. P.L. Sharma resident of 12, Abu Bakr Road, Dubai who wants his daughter, Navita, at present studying in class VIII, Indian School, Dubai to be admitted to your school next year in class IX. He wants to know all about your school. Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to Mr. Sharma.

OR

You are Navtej/Navita, 114, Mount Kailash, Kanpur. Write an application along with a personal résumé in 120 – 150 words in response to the following advertisement. WANTED a trained PGT (English) at least second class M.A. Preference to those with public school experience. Apply to Manager, Akash Public School, Ajmer by 15th March, 2015. 6

6. It was raining heavily. You were walking to your house after the school, when suddenly you saw a huge Neem tree coming down and falling on the pavement and the road thereby hitting a car parked on the pavement. The traffic came to a standstill. Describe the chaotic traffic scene in 125-150 words.

OR

You are Asha/Arunverma, correspondent for The Times of India. Write a report in 125-150 words for publication in a newspaper about the arrest of a gang of scooter/car lifters operating in your city. 10

7. Within a few months you will be joining a college. How do you look at college life? Is it freedom from strict discipline imposed on you by the school? A carefree life with no worries of completing assigned home work. Or, is it the beginning of responsible preparation for a brilliant career? Write an article in 150 – 200 words on what you think of college life. You are Ratna/Ramesh.

OR

On Teacher's Day, Your Principal has asked you to deliver a speech in the morning assembly on "The Role of a teacher in society". Write your speech in 150-200 words. You are Gurtej/Nav.

10

SECTION – C (TEXT BOOKS {FLAMINGO AND VISTAS} and LONG READING TEXT {NOVEL}) (40 Marks)

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

1x1=4

*At back of the dim class
One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream,
Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.*

- (a) Why is the class dim?
(b) Why is the child called 'sweet and young'?
(c) What does the child want to enjoy?
(d) What is the significance of the phrase, 'other than this'?

9. Answer any **four** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :

3x4=12

- (a) Why does Jo call the skunk's mommy stupid?
(b) How was Saheb's life at the tea stall?
(c) Whom did M. Hamel blame for Franz's inability to answer his questions?
(d) How did the Tiger King 'kill' the hundredth tiger?
(e) Who did Dr. Sadao think the survivor from the sea was when he first saw him?
(f) Even though the Maharaja lost Rs. 3 lac, he was still happy. Why?

10. Answer the following question in 120 – 150 words :

6

How did Dr. Sadao help the American POW to escape? What humanitarian values do you find in his act?

11. Answer the following question in 120 – 150 words:

6

The order from Berlin aroused a particular zeal in the school. Comment.

OR

What happened at the YMCA swimming pool which instilled fear of water in Douglas' mind?

12. Answer the following in 120-150 words :

6

How did the invisible man meet his associate, Thomas Marvel? What help did he expect from him?

13. Answer the following in 120-150 words:

6

Describe the burglary at the vicar's house.