

HALF -YEARLY EXAMINATION 2023-2024

CLASS: X E

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

MAX. MARKS: 80

DATE: _____

TIME: 2 HOURS

NOTE: You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper. The time given at the head of the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

[20]

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following:

- i. Write a short story ending with – ‘I realized the importance of having a friend like her.’
- ii. ‘Competition leads to progress’. Express your views either for or against this statement.
- iii. Narrate an experience that showed how deceptive appearances can be.
- iv. You are a regular traveller in your school bus. Describe what you see on your way home from school each afternoon. Give details of the familiar sights and sounds you experience each day.
- v. The greatest joys of life come unexpectedly. Describe an occasion when you experienced such bliss.

Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

[10]

Select any one of the following:

- i. Write a letter to your grandfather, describing your career plans for the future.
- ii. The market in your locality has more than sixty shops but has no parking facility. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Traffic Police describing your problem and suggesting a possible solution for the same.

Question 3

i. Your school is organising a campaign for creating awareness about the hazards of plastics. Write a notice for your school informing the students of the campaign and inviting them to participate in it. [5]

ii. Write an email to a famous environmentalist requesting him to guide the students of your school in organising this awareness campaign. [5]



Question 4

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

The Indian must have had that nice window seat from London. He looked under 40, medium height, slim wearing a blazer. I boarded the Emirates flight in Dubai in October 2003. I got a seat next to him. I looked at him and smiled as I sat down. His face was blank. He had a distant look that made me stop mid-smile.

Whenever I take a flight. I try to chat with a fellow passenger. Most people are responsive when they are alone at 40,000 feet. There are some who barely nod, that's when I keep to myself. Flying has helped me to get to know perfect strangers. To a journalist this could be a seed of an unexpected story or a chance to hear something different. In good company time flies too. I've met all types, you never know who you'll meet next, and they are usually interesting, once you've broken the ice.

The man, on my left, wearing a blazer, on that three hour long Dubai-Mumbai flight, was a puzzle.

I glanced his way and he looked through me. One of the **snooty** non-resident Indian, I thought. What does one lose if you smiled at a fellow human being? He just stared fixedly at the seat in front of him. Why are some people so full of themselves?

When the stewardess brought lunch, the unfriendly man had his eyes shut. She gave me a should-I-wake-him-up-look. I didn't say anything and he didn't get his lunch. Serves him right.

He soon got up and saw me eat. But he didn't say anything or ask for his meal. He only had to press a button. That's his problem.

We still had almost two hours of flight left. I read a magazine. I tried to play a video game. I listened to music. He did nothing.

At times our eyes met, but he isn't all there, I thought. He's like no other passenger I've sat next to. By the time our jet landed in Mumbai. I found his presence almost unbearable and very uncomfortable. As we taxi down the runway, the intercom doles out the usual closing message. It ended with a request to keep all cell phones switched off a little longer. That's when I hear the man speak on his cell phone. The cheek!

He was discussing his connecting flight. About somebody receiving him...it all sounded like some special arrangements. I had half a mind to tell him to shut up and switch it off. Just before the aircraft came to a halt, he was the first man to stand up. "Excuse me, May I leave? I can't miss my connecting flight."

Hmm! I got up to make way, when he went on mechanically. "My wife and child died in a road accident in Delhi."

"Oh!" I exclaimed inadequately. "I'm so sorry."

As I see the man rushing out before the other passengers could block the aisle. I'm shell shocked by the revelation. Suddenly, everything falls into place. The tables have turned I'm the bad guy for having judged him so hastily- and so wrongly.

I could have spoken first! Despite his terrible loss and the torment he was **enduring**, he was so calm, controlled and dignified. Maybe in his soul-crushing sorrow he didn't want to burden a stranger with his pain.

That was a brave fellow traveller from whom I learned an invaluable lesson: To look beyond the façade and to never assume anything until you have walked in the other man's shoes.

- i. For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]
1. snooty
 - (a) arrogant
 - (b) friendly
 - (c) humble



2. enduring
 - (a) reject
 - (b) run away
 - (c) bear
- ii. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word able? [1]
 - (a) glanced
 - (b) arrangement
 - (c) inadequately
- iii. Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
 - (a) Describe the author's neighbour in the plane. [2]
 - (b) What does the author usually do whenever he takes a flight? [2]
 - (c) How did the neighbour miss his lunch? [2]
 - (d) Where did the author board the flight? [1]
 - (e) What shocked him in the end? [2]
- iv. In not more than 50 words show how the author learnt not to judge a book by the cover. [8]

Question 5

- i. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example: (0) disapproved

One of the world's greatest music composers, George Frederick Handel, was the son of a man who0.... (disapprove) music.

Handel, however, had an aunt, who1.... (teach) him to sing and, gave him a clavichord, a musical instrument like a piano, to play secretly in the attic. In due course of time, Handel's father2.... (appoint) as a surgeon to the court of Duke Johan Adolph I.

One day,3.... (learn) that Handel played his musical instrument, the Duke's organist invited him4.... (play) the great court organ. The organist5.... (amaze) to hear what young Handel could do and6.... (take) him to play for the Duke.

At the end of the7.... (perform) the Duke called in Handel's father and8.... (suggest) that his son should study music. A suggestion from the Duke was very much a command. Thus, the composer of "The Messiah" began a great career in music.

- ii. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
 - (a) I refrained _____ criticising them.
 - (b) Our proposal was turned _____ by the chairman.
 - (c) We are hoping _____ a revision in salary.
 - (d) I gave _____ all my old books.
 - (e) He presided _____ the meeting.
 - (f) He has travelled all _____ the world.
 - (g) I wonder what he is aiming _____.
 - (h) They have lived in this town _____ 2005.
- iii. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so**. Choose the correct option. [4]
 1. He is very short. He cannot play basketball.
 - a. He is too short to play basketball.

- b. He is so short that he cannot play basketball.
c. He is so short he cannot play basketball.
d. He is short so he cannot play basketball.
2. This shop is centrally located. It is not running in profit.
a. Although this shop is centrally located, it is not running in profit.
b. This shop is centrally located so it is not running in profit.
c. This shop is centrally located yet so it is not running in profit.
d. This shop is centrally located because it is not running in profit.
3. He has not submitted his project file. I know the reason.
a. I know the reason why he has not submitted his project file.
b. The reason to submit his project file is not known.
c. The reason to submit his project file is known.
d. I don't know the reason why he has not submitted his project file.
4. The leader was missing. The followers are missing.
a. The leader as well as the followers is missing.
b. The leader as well as the followers are missing.
c. The leader and the followers is missing.
d. The leader along with the followers are missing.
- iv. Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]
1. He was young. He was brave. (Begin:- Though)
a. Though he was young, he was brave.
b. Though he was brave, he was young.
c. Though he was young he was not brave.
d. Though he was young he wasn't brave.
2. An ambulance is taking the sick man away. (End:- an ambulance)
a. The sick man is being taken away by an ambulance.
b. The sick man was being taken away by an ambulance.
c. The sick man had been taken away by an ambulance.
d. The sick man is taken away by an ambulance.
3. I will not be able to join school this month. (Use:- unable)
a. I will be unable to join school this month.
b. Unable I will be to join school this month.
c. I am unable to join school this month.
d. I am not able to join school this month.
4. Unfortunately, he failed in the first attempt. (Use:- succeed)
a. Unfortunately, he did not succeed in the first attempt.
b. Unfortunately, he succeeded in the first attempt.
c. Unfortunately, he did succeed in the first attempt.
d. Fortunately, he did not succeed in the first attempt.
5. Everyone loves his country. (Change to Negative Sentence)
a. No one hates his country.
b. There are people who don't love their country.
c. There are people who do not love their country.
d. There are people who don't love hate their country.
6. There is nothing brighter than hope. (Change to Interrogative Sentence)
a. Is there anything brighter than hope?
b. Is there nothing brighter than hope?
c. Is there something brighter than hope?

- d. Is there anything less brighter than hope?
7. She heard an unusual commotion and came out. (Rewrite using 'Hearing'
instead of 'heard')
- a. Hearing an unusual commotion she came out.
 - b. Hearing an usual commotion she came out.
 - c. Having hearing an unusual commotion, she came out.
 - d. Hearing an unusual commotion, she ran out.
8. I can edit innumerable times. (Use 'able to')
- a. I am able to edit innumerable times.
 - b. I can able to edit innumerable times.
 - c. I should be able to edit innumerable times.
 - d. I could be able to edit innumerable times.

END

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