



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ  
HALF YEARLY EXAM – OCTOBER 2023  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time: 2 Hrs.

CLASS X

M.M.: 80

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.)

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

[20]

- (i) Write an original short story entitled: 'A Strange Encounter'.  
(ii) Have you ever helped your enemy when it was hard to do so? Explain why you helped him, and the positive impact it had on the both of you. What did you learn from the experience?  
(iii) 'Tourism is beneficial to the environment.'  
Express your views either for or against this statement.  
(iv) You were among the 25 tourists, who were stranded in Pangji village in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district following landslides and flash floods. Describe the horrifying experience.  
(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Question 2**

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

Select any one of the following:

[10]

- (i) You have recently heard an audio book which greatly impressed you. Write a letter to your cousin highlighting the parts that impressed you the most and convince him to hear the audio book.  
(ii) ISRO scripted history as the Chandrayaan -3 spacecraft made a soft landing on the surface of the moon on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2023 and you were one of the nine million people across India who witnessed it and were inspired by it. Write a letter to the Principal of your school seeking permission to start a Science Club. Give specific reasons to prove that the Club will be beneficial to the students and explain why the Club would meet after school hours.

**QUESTION 3**

- (i) Your school is hosting an Inter-school Science Fest. Write a notice informing the students at your school about the event. [5]  
(ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school informing him/her of the Inter-school Science Fest being held at your school and requesting him/her to send a team of students to participate. [5]

## QUESTION 4

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

My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart. I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it. Then she would fetch my wooden slate which she had already washed and plastered with yellow chalk, a tiny earthen ink pot and a reed pen, tie them all in a bundle and hand it to me. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it, we went to school. She carried several stale chapattis with her for the village dogs.

My grandmother always went to school with me because the school was attached to the temple. The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting each other for the chapattis we threw to them.

When my parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for us. That was a turning point in our friendship. Although we shared the same room, my grandmother no longer came to school with me. I used to go to an English school in a motor bus. There were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house.

As the years rolled by we saw less of each other. For some time she continued to wake me up and get me ready for school. When I came back she would ask me what the teacher had taught me. I would tell her English words and little things of Western Science and learning, the law of gravity, Archimedes' principle, the world being round, etc. This made her unhappy. She could not help me with my lessons. She did not believe in the things they taught at the English school and was distressed that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures. One day I announced that we were being given music lessons. She was very disturbed. To her music had lewd associations. It was the monopoly of harlots and beggars and not meant for gentlefolk. She rarely talked to me after that.

When I went up to university, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her *seclusion* with resignation. She rarely left her spinning wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset, she sat by her wheel, spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon, she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the verandah breaking the bread into little bits, hundreds of little birds collected round her, creating a veritable *bedlam* of chirrupings. Some came and perched on her legs, others on her shoulders. Some even sat on her head. She smiled but never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half-hour of the day for her.

When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother could. She was not even sentimental. She came to leave me at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer. Her fingers were busy telling the beads of her rosary. Silently she kissed my forehead, and when I left, I cherished the moist imprint as perhaps the last sign of physical contact between us.

But that was not so. After five years I came back home and was met by her at the station. She did not look a day older. She still had no time for words, and while she clasped me in her arms I could hear her reciting her prayer. Even on the first day of my arrival, her happiest moments were with her sparrows, whom she fed longer and with *frivolous* rebukes.

In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum and sang of the homecoming of warriors. We had to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining. That was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray.

The Portrait of a Lady- Khuswant Singh



(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. seclusion

- (a) aloof
- (b) loneliness
- (c) quarantined
- (d) union

2. bedlam

- (a) chaos
- (b) peaceful
- (c) troublesome
- (d) bed in a room

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'frivolous'? [1]

- (a) serious
- (b) unimportant
- (c) inconsequential
- (d) minor

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(a) Which sentences in the passage tell us that the author's grandmother was a religious person? [2]

(b) Why was the author's grandmother disturbed when he started going to the city school? [2]

(c) What was "the last sign" of physical contact between the author and the grandmother? Why did the author think that to be the last physical contact? [2]

(d) How did grandmother spend her day in the city? [2]

(e) What was the happiest moment of the day for the grandmother? [1]

(iv) The author went abroad for further studies and returned after five years. In not more than 50 words, describe the grandmother's send off and reception of her grandson. [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)

It \_\_\_\_\_ with a bang at 3 a.m. in Derna, after extreme rainfall that hit Libya on Sunday, which was brought by a storm called Daniel.

(0) Answer: started

On Monday, the residents of Derna 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep). One dam burst, then a second, 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (send) a huge wave of water gushing down the mountains towards the coastal Libyan city, killing thousands as entire neighborhoods

3) \_\_\_\_\_ (sweep) into the sea. More than 5,000 people are believed to

4) \_\_\_\_\_ (kill) with thousands more missing, though estimates from different

Libyan officials and aid groups 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (vary) and the toll 6) \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) to rise. Buildings, homes and infrastructure were "wiped out" when a 7-metre wave

hit the city and thousands were killed. Experts 7) \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that apart from the

big storm itself, Libya's catastrophe 8) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) greatly exacerbated by a lethal confluence of factors including aging, crumbling infrastructure, inadequate warnings and the impacts of the accelerating climate crisis.

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
- (a) Growing up, we were looked \_\_\_\_ and brought up by our grandparents.
  - (b) Printed \_\_\_\_ the poster in large, broad letters was the word 'Wanted'.
  - (c) I was carried \_\_\_\_ by his impressive speech.
  - (d) The effect of a given dose of medicine will vary \_\_\_\_ one individual to another.
  - (e) The 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, seeks to provide 33% reservation for women \_\_\_\_ the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
  - (f) I have always preferred teaching \_\_\_\_ working in an office.
  - (g) The kitchen was infested \_\_\_\_ rats.
  - (h) This novel has been written \_\_\_\_ Jeffrey Archer.

- (iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using **and**, **but** or **so**. Choose the correct option. [4]

- 1) I often wake up late in the mornings. I am never late for school.
  - (a) Although I often wake up late in the mornings, I am never late for school.
  - (b) I am sometimes late for school because I often wake up late in the mornings.
  - (c) I am never late for school because I usually wake up on time.
  - (d) Although I often wake up late in the mornings, I am always late for school.
- 2) I saw a few peach trees. The trees were laden with fruits.
  - (a) I saw a few peach trees and the trees were laden with fruits.
  - (b) I saw a few peach trees laden with fruits.
  - (c) I saw a few peach trees who were laden with fruits.
  - (d) I saw a peach tree that was laden with fruit.
- 3) Could he depend upon Bill? Bob did not know this.
  - (a) Bill does not know to depend on Bob or not.
  - (b) Bob did not know whether he could depend on Bill.
  - (c) Bob did not know when he could depend on Bill.
  - (d) Bob does not know if he can depend on Bill.
- 4) Actress-turned-politician Divya Spandana died yesterday. This information was false.
  - (a) Actress-turned-politician Divya Spandana died yesterday but this information was false.
  - (b) This information that actress-turned-politician Divya Spandana died yesterday, is false.
  - (c) This information, that actress-turned-politician Divya Spandana died yesterday, was false.
  - (d) The death information of Divya Spandana, was not true.

- (iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]

- 1) Both the players are not adequately prepared for the cricket tournament. (Begin: Neither.....)
  - (a) Neither of the players are adequately prepared for the cricket tournament.
  - (b) Neither of the player is adequately prepared for the cricket tournament.
  - (c) Neither of the players is adequately prepared for the cricket tournament.
  - (d) Neither of the player were adequately prepared for the cricket tournament.

- 2) "Do you want some more ice-cream or a slice of cake?" asked my aunt.  
(Begin: My aunt asked.....)
- (a) My aunt asked if I want some more ice-cream or a slice of cake.
  - (b) My aunt asked if I wanted some more ice-cream or a slice of cake.
  - (c) My aunt asked if I would want some more ice-cream or a slice of cake.
  - (d) My aunt asked if she has wanted some more ice-cream or a cake.
- 3) I suddenly realised that the room was too small for the three of us to share.  
(Begin: I suddenly realized that the room was so.....)
- (a) I suddenly realised that the room was so small for the three of us to share.
  - (b) I suddenly realised that the room was so small that it could not be shared by three of us.
  - (c) I suddenly realised that the room was so small that it can not be shared by the three of us.
  - (d) I suddenly realised that the room is so small that it can not be shared by three of us.
- 4) If Chinmay doesn't come soon, he will miss a wonderful opportunity.  
(Use: Unless...)
- (a) Chinmay will miss a wonderful opportunity unless he come soon.
  - (b) Unless Chinmay comes soon, he will miss a wonderful opportunity.
  - (c) Chinmay will miss an wonderful opportunity unless he comes soon.
  - (d) Unless Chinmay misses a wonderful opportunity he will not come soon
- 5) My grandfather's garage needs a thorough cleaning again.(use: thoroughly)
- (a) My grandfather's garage needs a thoroughly cleaning again.
  - (b) My grandfather's garage needs to be cleaned thoroughly again.
  - (c) My grandfather's garage needed a cleaning thoroughly again.
  - (d) My grandfather's garage needed to be thoroughly clean yet again.
- 6) No sooner does the newspaper reach the stands than it is sold out.  
(Begin: As soon as.....)
- (a) As soon as the newspaper reached the stand it was sold out.
  - (b) As soon as the newspaper reaches the stands it is sold out.
  - (c) As soon as the newspaper reaches the stands it was sold out.
  - (d) As soon as the newspaper had reached the stands it was sold out.

- (7) Indian cuisine surprised the world leaders and delegates at the G20 Summit.  
(End: .....by the Indian cuisine.)
- (a) World leaders and delegates surprised everyone at the G20 Summit with their cuisine.
  - (b) The world leaders and delegates are surprised by the Indian cuisine.
  - (c) The world leaders and delegates at the G20 were surprised by the Indian cuisine.
  - (d) At the G20 summit world leaders and delegates have been surprised by the Indian cuisine.
- (8) Vardaan never admitted that he had violated the traffic rules.  
(Begin: At no .....)
- (a) At no point did Vardaan admitted that he had violated the traffic rules.
  - (b) At no time did Vardaan admit that he had violated the traffic rules.
  - (c) At no time did Vardaan admit that he violated the traffic rules.
  - (d) At no pointed time did Vardaan admits that he had violated the traffic rules.

\*\*\*\*\*ALL THE BEST\*\*\*\*\*