



**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**SAIL TOWNSHIP, RANCHI**  
**Half Yearly Examination (2017-18)**

**Class:- IX**  
**Time – 3 Hrs.**

**Subject:- English**  
**Maximum Marks:- 80**

*General Instructions:*

*All questions are compulsory.*

*Section A: Reading*

*20 Marks*

*Section B: Writing & Grammar*

*30 Marks*

*Section C: Literature*

*30 Marks*

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**SECTION A – READING**

**[20]**

**Q1. Read the passage and answer the following:**

**[8]**

- 1 The communities of ants are sometimes very large, numbering even up to 500,000 individuals; and it is a lesson to us, that no one has ever yet seen a quarrel between any two ants belonging to the same community. On the other hand, it must be admitted that they are in hostility not only with most other insects, including ants of different species, but even with those of the same species if belonging to different communities. I have over and over again introduced ants from one of my nests into another nest of the same species; and they were invariably attacked, seized by a leg or an antenna, and dragged out.
- 2 It is evident, therefore, that the ants of each community all recognize one another, which is very remarkable. But more than this, I several times divided a nest into two halves, and found that even after a separation of a year and nine months they recognized one another, and were perfectly friendly; while they at once attacked ants from a different nest, although of the same species.
- 3 It has been suggested that the ants of each nest have some sign or password by which they recognize one another. To test this, I did some insensible experiments. First I tried chloroform; but this was fatal to them, and ... I did not consider the test satisfactory. I decided therefore to intoxicate them. This was less easy than I had expected. None of my ants would voluntarily degrade themselves by getting drunk. However, I got over the difficulty by putting them into whisky for a few moments. I took fifty specimens,—twenty-five from one nest and twenty-five from another,—made them dead drunk, marked each with a spot of paint, and put them on a table close to where other ants from one of the nests were feeding. The table was surrounded as usual with a moat of water to prevent them from straying. The ants which were feeding soon noticed those which I had made drunk. They seemed quite astonished to find their comrades in such a disgraceful condition, and as much at a loss to know what to do with their drunkards as we are. After a while, however, to cut my story short, they carried them all away; the strangers they took to the edge of the moat and dropped into the water, while they bore their friends home into the nest, where by degrees they slept off the effects of the spirit. Thus it is evident that they know their friends even when incapable of giving any sign or password.

**1.1. On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions.**

**[8]**

- a) How large are ant communities?
- b) What is the lesson that the writer wants us to learn from the ants?
- c) Do ants ever display hostility?
- d) What is that one remarkable quality of ants?
- e) Name the two insensible experiments conducted by the writer on the ants?
- f) Why did the writer decide to intoxicate the ants?
- g) How did the normal ants deal with the drunk ants of their nest?
- h) What was done to the drunk ants of the other nests?

**P.T.O**

**Q2.**

**Coffee- Health, Body and Mind**

**[12]**

1. The idea that coffee is bad for your heart pops up periodically. Over the last 20 years several studies - - mainly from Europe -- found that drinking very strong coffee regularly could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researchers even isolated fat like chemicals, cafestol and kahweol, responsible for the rise.
2. It turned out that the European brewing method -- boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining -- produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods used by the majority of coffee lovers elsewhere remove all but a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee -- five to six cups a day. Average coffee drinkers drink only two cups.
3. Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not raise blood pressure dangerously. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.
4. "For heart disease, I think the issue is closed," says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied many aspects of coffee and health. "Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk."
5. Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson's disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese-American men found that avid coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn't drink the brew.
6. Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital found indirect evidence that caffeine -- the habit-forming stimulant in coffee -- may actually combat Parkinson's. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine the problem underlying Parkinson's in humans. However, these are preliminary findings; human studies have not consistently supported caffeine's protective role.  
- Reader's Digest (adapted)

**2.1. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**[2 x4 = 8]**

- (a) In what respect does coffee harm the human heart? How?
- (b) What is the finding of latest researchers about coffee and the human heart?
- (c) What problem causes Parkinson's disease? What is the role of coffee in this respect?
- (d) 'Caffeine is a powerful stimulant'. What are the positive and negative effects of caffeine?

**2.2 A. Find the words which convey similar meanings:**

**[1x4=4]**

- (i) separated (para 1)
- (ii) drug that increases physical or mental activity and alertness. (Para 6)

**B. Find the words which convey opposite meanings:**

- (i) minority (para 2)
- (ii) ailing (Para 3)

**SECTION B –WRITING AND GRAMMAR**

**[30]**

**Q3** Your first Semester Exams are round the corner. The syllabus is vast, but whenever you sit down to study you are unable to concentrate as exam fear grips you. You feel you may let down your parents and your teachers who have a lot of expectations from you. Write a diary entry about your feelings in about 100-120 words. **[8]**

**Q4. Given below is the beginning of a story. Complete it in about 200-250 words. [12]**

Ravi was travelling by train. Suddenly the train stopped and some strange –looking men entered the compartment and .....

**Q5. Complete the paragraph given below by filling in the blanks with the help of the correct options: [ $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$ ]**

People (a) ..... (be) seldom aware that their comfortable living (b)..... (depend) upon the work of several thousands of persons. The first thing, for instance, almost everyone (c) ..... (look) forward to in the morning is a hot cup of tea. This cup of tea (d) ..... (embody) the work of thousands of people. Consider first the supply of clean drinking water. In large cities, this (e) ..... (be) possible because of the construction of huge (f) ..... (reservoir) at great cost and the regular maintenance of the water supply system by hundreds of workers.

**Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correct one as given in the example. [ $\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4$ ]**

	Incorrect	Correct
This is not to say there were	<i>eg.</i> were	are
no limits on how fastly a human	(a).....	.....
being can run or how many	(b).....	.....
weight a person may lift or how	(c).....	.....
well one can do a particular task. The	(d).....	.....
points is; we really know what this	(e).....	.....
limits are. Therefore, few of us	(f).....	.....
too often set our individual limits for	(g).....	.....
below which we could actual achieve.	(h).....	.....

**Q7. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. [ $1 \times 3 = 3$ ]**

- India/ tradition/ has a glorious/ of education
- great reservoirs/ were considered/ India's ancient universities/ of knowledge
- is a legacy/ the present/ of the British/ educational system

**SECTION C: Literature Text Book and Long Reading Text** **[30]**

**Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : [ $1 \times 4 = 4$ ]**

‘‘I listen’d motionless and still  
And, as I mounted up the hill  
The music in my heart I bore  
Long after it was heard no more.’’

- Name the poem and the poet.
- Why did the poet listen to the song ‘‘ motionless and still’’?
- What effect does this music have on the poet?
- How is the poet able to hear this music even after the maiden has stopped singing?

**Q9. Answer all the following in about 30-40 words. [ $4 \times 2 = 8$ ]**

- Explain the line ‘‘For men may come and men may go but I go on forever.’’
- What made Duke an extraordinary dog?
- Why is Lord Ullin’s daughter ready to brave the tempest that rages over the sea?
- Why was the poet unable to understand the song of the solitary reaper? What was his guess regarding the theme of her song?

**Q10. Answer any one of the following in about 100 – 120 words. [8]**

- Marcy’s character undergoes a complete change in the course of the story ‘A Dog Named Duke’. Discuss.

Or

- The fruit of hard work, dedication and determination is always sweet. The grandmother of Sudha Murthy gets to taste it in her old age. Explain.

**Q11. Answer any one of the following in about 150 -200 words. [10]**

- Who was uncle Podger? How did he involve the entire family in the simple task of hanging a picture?

Or

- Attempt a character sketch of ‘J’ the narrator .

