



**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**SAIL TOWNSHIP, RANCHI**  
**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2017-18)**

**Class: X**  
**Time: 3 Hrs.**

**Subject- English**  
**F.M.- 80**

General Instructions:

*All questions are compulsory.*

*Section A: Reading*

*20 Marks*

*Section B: Writing & Grammar*

*30 Marks*

*Section C: Literature*

*30 Marks*

**SECTION A – READING**

**[20]**

**1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: [1X8 = 8]**

We have heard all the pious arguments before-- the tiger is on the top of the food chain pyramid, it was once a vehicle of the gods, it is a symbol of our national pride. But clearly none of these has prevented the poachers from systematically decimating the big cat for profit; India's tiger population has now dipped below 2,000. But are they really profiting? Is a dead tiger worth more than a live one? The answer is an unequivocal no. A dead tiger will fetch \$ 50,000 in the black market. But if India were to play its card well, it stands to gain \$30 million from tourists who come solely to see the magnificent beast in its habitat. And they will keep returning. Think of the spin-offs from this traffic. First, tourist spending would boost the local economies of areas in which sanctuaries are situated. It would also mean a boost in employment for those associated with the tourist trade. In short, killing the tiger is like killing the golden goose. After the Taj Mahal, the Indian tiger is arguably the biggest draw for both tourists both in India and abroad. People have been known to wait for days on end for a glimpse of the lord of the jungle. The sheer wait, often without a tiger sighting, is said to be one of the most exhilarating experiences in the visit to 'Incredible India'.

We should take a leaf from other countries which have projected one or other species as a big tourist draw. China advertises its elusive panda as a major tourist attraction, no one comes back from Australia without seeing the cuddly koala bear and far-flung Galapagos Island draws hordes of visitors who flock there to see the giant turtle sunning itself on the rocks. This is not to say that tourism alone will save the tiger; we need conservation measures alongside. But what is required is to give people, especially those who live in the vicinity of tiger reserves, an economic stake in keeping the animal alive. While conservationist may be appalled at commercializing the big cat, this is its only chance of survival. We have seen that strict penalties and restricted access to reserves have done little to prevent poachers from killing tigers at will. Despite awareness campaigns, the myth that tiger's body parts boost strength and courage still persists. It is only by convincing people that they are harming their own economic interests by killing the tiger that they will realise the merits of conservation. They must be made aware that killing the tiger that they will realise the merits of conservation. They must be made aware that killing the tiger brings in a one-time profit, keeping it alive means a sustained income. Surely, the choice will then be obvious.

- i. What is the importance of tiger ? [1]
- ii. What is the position of tiger in the food chain pyramid? [1]
- iii. How is a dead tiger more valuable than the living one? [1]
- iv. How can tiger be a money-spinning business? [1]
- v. Which animal is used by China as a major tourist attraction? [1]
- vi. What is the myth that encourages the poachers to kill tigers? [1]
- vii. How will you make people realise the merits of conservation? [1]
- viii. Which is the most exhilarating experience in the visit to 'Incredible India'? [1]

**2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

1. They were once everywhere. Chirping and flapping their wings at the window sills, on top of cupboards and on the branches of trees. Where have all the little sparrows gone? This is the most frequently asked question about the sparrows these days.
2. The association between humans and the house sparrow dates back to several centuries and no other bird has been associated with humans on a daily basis like the house sparrow. It is a bird that evokes fond memories of childhood and adds freshness to households through its presence. Many bird watchers and ornithologists recall with fondness how the house sparrows gave flight to their passion for observing birds. The nests of sparrow dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus stands and railway stations, where they live in colonies and survived on food grains and tiny worms.
3. Unfortunately, the house sparrow has now become a disappearing species. Like all other plants and animals which were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are now declining across their natural range. A study conducted by the Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam highlighted the population of sparrows fell by over 60 percent even in the rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh. A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that the house sparrow population in Britain has declined by about 58 percent since 1970.
4. Certainly, there is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrow. Scientists and experts say that severe changes in the urban ecosystem in recent times have had tremendous impact on the population of house sparrows whose numbers are declining constantly. Mobile tower radiation and excessive use of chemical fertilizers are aggravating the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.
5. There have been many theories put forward for the almost worldwide decline of the house sparrow. It is said that sparrow chicks, which required insect food for their survival in their early days, have not been getting adequate supply from their parents. This has triggered large scale deaths of chicks leading to gradual decline of their population.
6. Urban landscape too, has been dramatically altered over the years. Old houses, with courtyards in front and backyards, have made way for concrete multistories, with little greenery. No longer are sparrows able to find the tiny nooks, crannies and holes where they used to build their nests.
7. Typically, sparrows were never an issue of concern for us with their diminutive presence in our household. Perhaps, it is this diminutive presence because of which even their gradual disappearance has gone unnoticed. Mohammed Dilavar is rightly called the "sparrow man of India" as he has been successful in drawing the attention of the world towards the declining number of house sparrows.
8. House sparrows are important bio-indicators that their decline is a grim reminder of the degradation of urban environment and the danger from it to the humans in the long run.

- (i) "The association between humans and the house sparrow dates back to several centuries...." How? [2]
- (ii) What are the reasons for the decline of the number of house sparrows? [2]
- (iii) How has urban landscape affected the sparrow population? [2]
- (iv) Who is the "sparrow man of India"? Why? Is the decline of house sparrow an actual cause of worry?[2]
- (v) What did the study conducted by the Andhra University, Vishakapatnam highlight? [1]
- (vi) Who conducted a survey in Britain? [1]
- (vii) What do you understand by 'aggravating' in para 4? [1]
- (viii) Give the opposite of 'gradual' in para 7. [1]

### **Section - B (Grammar and Writing)**

**[30]**

3. "Empowering the women would help build up a strong human resource for the nation"

**Taking ideas from Unit 2' Education', together with you own ideas write a letter to the editor of *The Telegraph* , New Delhi, expressing your concern about the issue and the need to promote girl education. You are Alok, a resident of A-6/13 Ashoka Enclave, New Delhi. [8]**

4. Write a short story in about 200-250 words based on the outline given below: [10]

Anil's dream - do something great - win recognition far and wide - be famous in the world - one fine day, he saw this opportunity when ...

5. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the help of the given options.

[ ½ × 8 = 4]

The state of Odisha (i) \_\_\_\_\_ along the eastern seaboard of India, South of Bengal. (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ main attractions are the Temple towns of Puri and Bhubaneshwar and the great Sun Temple at Konark. (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ three (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ make a convenient (v) \_\_\_\_\_ compact little triangle. (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ state is predominantly rural, (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ fertile green plains (viii) \_\_\_\_\_ the coast rising up to the hills of the Eastern Ghats.

- |        |              |              |            |               |
|--------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| (i)    | (a) lies     | (b) situated | (c) was    | (d) falls     |
| (ii)   | (a) It       | (b) Its      | (c) That   | (d) The       |
| (iii)  | (a) Those    | (b) These    | (c) The    | (d) They      |
| (iv)   | (a) sights   | (b) scenes   | (c) sites  | (d) scenarios |
| (v)    | (a) together | (b) besides  | (c) and    | (d) but       |
| (vi)   | (a) Those    | (b) These    | (c) A      | (d) The       |
| (vii)  | (a) among    | (b) between  | (c) before | (d) after     |
| (viii) | (a) inside   | (b) along    | (c) across | (d) on        |

6. In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line, against which a blank is given. Write the missing word along with the words that come before and after it in the space provided. [ ½ × 8 = 4]

	Before	Missing	After
(a) We live only what we do. Earnest	.....	.....	.....
(b) people are dissatisfied anything short	.....	.....	.....
(c) of highest excellence in whatever they do,	.....	.....	.....
(d) and they always reach that excellence. Whatever are,	.....	.....	.....
(e) whether a shopkeeper saintly teacher, you	.....	.....	.....
(f) can safely give very best to the world without	.....	.....	.....
(g) any doubt misgiving. If the indelible impress	.....	.....	.....
(h) of your earnestness be on your goods the one case or on your words in the other, your business will flourish.	.....	.....	.....

7. Study the conversation between two persons given below and complete the paragraph that follows by filling the blanks suitably. [1 × 4 = 4]

Captain : Do you know that David was hit by a two –wheeler yesterday?

Nitesh : Oh no! When did it happen?

Captain : He was hit by a scooter on his way back from school.

Nitesh : Is he badly injured?

Captain: Though he is not seriously hurt, he is unlikely to participate in the inter – school competition the following week.

Captain asked Nitesh if he knew that (a)..... . Nitesh was shocked and wanted to know (b)..... .

Captain replied that he had been hit by a scooter on his way back from school. Nitesh enquired

(c) ..... . Captain replied that though he was not seriously hurt, he was (d).....

in the inter-school competition the following week.

### Section - C ( Literature and Long Reading Text ) [30]

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. [1 × 4 = 4]

Well, poor bird - she should have known

That your song must be your own.

That's why I sing with panache:

"Koo-oh-ah! ko-ash! ko-ash!"

And the foghorn of the frog

Blared unrivalled through the bog.

- (a) Why is the nightingale referred to as a poor bird?  
 (b) What do you mean by the word 'foghorn' as used in the extract?  
 (c) Which trait of the frog's character is reflected in these lines?  
 (d) Explain - 'your song must be your own'?

**OR**

You know not what you do: do not consent  
That Antony speak in his funeral:  
Know you how much the people may be moved  
By that which he will utter?

- (a) To what does the speaker object?
- (b) What does the word 'moved' mean in the extract?
- (c) What does the speaker anticipate will happen?
- (d) Was the speaker's apprehension justified?

**9. Answer the following in 30-40 words.**

**[2×4=8]**

- (a) What were the changes that the grandfather wanted to make in his will and why?
- (b) How did nature foretell Caesar's death?
- (c) How does the poet want to immortalise his friend in *Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments*?
- (d) "Ali displays qualities of love and patience." Give evidence from the story to support the statement.

**10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-120 words.**

**[8]**

Nicola and Jacopo, the two gentlemen of Verona, come across as harbingers of the values of altruism, diligence, grace and self-respect. Elaborate.

**OR**

"Greed goes hand in hand with deceit". Do you agree with the above statement? Give suitable examples from the drama 'The Dear Departed' to support your answer.

**11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 200-250 words.**

**[10]**

The learning process for Helen was quite different from that of a normal child. How did Miss Sullivan make amends for this?

**OR**

The charges of plagiarism had shaken Helen's confidence and demoralized her. How did she regain her confidence in life?