



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

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HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2017-18)

Class:-XII
Time- 3 Hrs.

Subject:- English
M.M-100

General Instructions:-

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

Section-A Reading

[30]

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. How often have you heard people remark: 'I m not like the rest; I'm different.' How often do people make this assessment of themselves in varied contexts. To some extent it is true; all of us are unique, different from each other. It is heartening to know that no two snowflakes are alike and everyone's finger prints are unique. Indeed, very few things in nature are exactly alike; each cloud, each flower, tree, every leaf, and even water molecules, are different from each other. Certainly, Nature never meant human beings to be clones of each other. Our DNA, circumstances of birth, culture, upbringing, influences and exposure –all ensure each individual has striking differences from another.
2. But we ignore that reality and pour ourselves into readily available cast. We model ourselves on available leads, become a part of groups and thereby lose our individual identities. Looking around for affirmations and approvals, we end up as clones of each other. Drowning the voice of our individual drummer we march to tunes that have the stamp of social approval.
3. And yet the niggling voice within us sometimes asserts itself, and we declare we are different. Of course, we are. Each one of us is different. But do we really appreciate or even understand our own differentiators? Do we work upon and display these to our advantage? " If you only read the books that everyone is reading you can only think what everyone else is thinking," says Haruki Murakami in *Norwegian woods*. True. And similarly if you only do what everyone else is doing, wear what others are wearing, echo opinions and reflect attitudes you encounter elsewhere – you can only be one of many!
4. If you wish to lead a life less ordinary it is important to create your differentiator and nurture it. Just like a differentiator helps grow or kill a business, a differentiator for an individual gives him that competitive edge over others. This is what will make you stand

out, be the one who is selected from amongst many, and the cynosure of all eyes in a crowded room. Your differentiator is what gives you your individual identity, the one thing that will make you stand out in a sea of 'others'.

5. To identify our differentiators focus on understanding and accepting yourself as you are, without wanting to be someone or something else. This will help you naturally gravitate towards thing that enhance and add value to you. You will learn to develop skills and use these to your best advantage without looking around for guidance or waiting for a sign. You will develop your own individual personalities as well as style statements.
6. It is important to develop your signature style, be it in personality traits, attitude or style statement. It could be the pursuit of a hobby that lifts you above the rest, or a philosophy or outlook you display. Step out of the boxes you have been taught to grow within and explore possibilities beyond. Consciously attempt to do things in your own way. Certain traits become the hallmark of a profession. Bureaucrats will be pompous; politicians will be smoothly devious; journalists will be intrusive; clerks irritable, scientists will be absent -minded; lawyers argumentative and doctors harried! Some are smart enough to consciously step away from adopting the traits associated with a group or profession ; they develop their own differentiators and attitudes. These are the ones instantly marked as 'different'.
7. But different from what? It is very easy if difference alone is the agenda. Wear strange clothes, walk in a strange manner, be rude amongst polite people and take on an anti-special stance. You are different! However, being subversive or an object of ridicule is not the point. Nor is it the idea to stand out for the heck of it. Your differentiator has to be real and true to you as you understand yourself. Then alone is it enticing and exciting.
8. Hence , in order to be effective, the differentiator has to define you and your agenda, not be the agenda itself. That will make you stand apart. That will give you the cutting edge over others and distinguish you from the rest of the crowd.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, complete the statements given below with the help of the options that follow. [1x4=4]

(a) Human beings are different from each other because

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| (i) nature never meant us to be clones | (ii) we are made like snowflakes |
| (iii) we follow different professions | (iv) our DNA is wired at birth |

(b) Despite being different from one another

- (i) We pour ourselves into a readily available cast
- (ii) fight for our rights
- (iii) We become individual drummers
- (iv) We go to nature for support

(c) The work written by Haruki Murakami is

- (i) What everyone else is thinking
- (ii) Norwegian Woods
- (iii) Woods are Norwegian
- (iv) Reflect attitudes you encounter

(d) Your true differentiator is

- (i) wearing clothes that others are wearing
- (ii) take an anti-special stance
- (iii) be true and understand yourself
- (iv) be enticing and attractive

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly. [1x6=6]

- (a) What gives individuals their striking differences?
- (b) What steps do we take to drown our differences?
- (c) What are the advantages of accepting ourselves as we are?
- (d) What are differentiators? How can one avoid them?
- (e) How can one be an effective personality?
- (f) What is the ultimate test of a true differentiator?

1.3 Find words from the passage that means the same as: [1x2=2]

- (i) encouraging (para -1)
- (ii) prying into another's affairs (para 6)

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. The recent announcement of the world's best loved comic book teen, Archie Andrews, being killed has sent shock waves throughout the teen world who have been fans of Archie comics and loving the series. A decade ago, the thought of Archie dying would have been an unthinkable ending for these books but in the decade after recession, change has set in. The era has produced gritty, realistic, even grim adult fiction and researchers in England who carried out a recent study claim that there are around 600 words relating to anger, fear, disgust and sadness, in use. These words have appeared in more than 500 million English novels and factual books in the last five years. Similar results have also been coming from Germany and the United States of America.
2. This trend is borne out by the novel titled *Wonder*, which was Number One on *the New York Times* best-selling list in 2013. It's a heart-wrenching story of a ten -year - old physically disabled boy who wishes to be treated normally at school. In another work, the John Green best-seller, *The Fault with Our Stars*, the protagonist, a teenager stricken with cancer, joins a support group, befriends a boy of the same age, an amputee, who is also a bone cancer survivor. Even science fiction has not been off this trend as the work *Hunger Games* and *Divergent* , with plots that are sad, morbid and depict the deepest underlying emotions of pain, anxiety, fear , anger felt by these young adults, proves once again that teenagers are becoming avid readers of this variety of fiction.

3. Why then are teenagers being drawn to this genre? According to social commentator Santosh Desai, because of the Internet reality, kids are consuming emotions much early. Kids imagine themselves more as adults early in life and want parents to treat them as equals. According to some psychologists such realistic friction is going down well with young teenagers of today because they imagine themselves more as adults and want their parents to treat them as equals. They want their elders to grant them 'personhood', with individual characteristics and feelings.
4. But publishing director Amita Choudhury has another explanation. She believes that in this hyper - consumerist world of ours, social positioning is becoming more important than actually connecting with people. Realistic stories dealing with the identity crisis are helping teens connect with the humanity that lies within themselves.
5. Psychotherapist Seema Hingorrany explains that dealing with the unknown gives young adults a hormone rush. In their own lives they are grappling with two worlds- teen and adulthood. Reading realistic stories makes them feel like adults, without having experienced adulthood. Chris Crutcher , an award winning writer of young adult fiction, says that he wants his young readers to be exposed to gritty life situations. According to him the value of young adult fiction is in the ability to bring dark subjects in the open where they are not so dark anymore because they get talked about and considered by teens and adults alike.
6. Another author, Ravi, contends that the appetite for grim fiction is because the current generation is severely competitive, yet lonely, as if functioning in a robotic world. The type of literature that deals with raw emotions and tells stories about an individual's solitary battle against the world helps youngsters deal with loneliness and gear themselves up to deal with the big, bad world.
7. It is for the above reasons that books dealing with fear, pain and loneliness, is fast becoming a genre that is steadily climbing the bestseller market worldwide. While the highest figures in such fiction categories was in the 1940s, followed by the recession-hit 1980s, the post-Depression of the 1920s came third in this listing. After the depression of 2008, there has been a similar trend and thus the writers and publishers predict that the future will see more dark and realistic stories in the years ahead.

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete the statements given below with the help of the options that follow: [1x2=2]

- (a) The hero of Archie comics has sent shock waves because
- (i) the series has been stopped (ii) the hero Archie Andrews has died
- (iii) the author of the series has died (iv) the series is no longer popular
- (b) The writer of the recent bestseller *The Fault with our Stars* is
- (i) an English writer (ii) an Indian writer Ravi
- (iii) publisher - director Amita Choudhury (iv) John Green

- 2.2 Answer the following questions briefly [1x6=6]
- (a) What is the trend in English teenage novels of the last five years?
 - (b) What is the story outline of the fiction work *Wonder*?
 - (c) What effect does a consumerist society have on teenagers, according to Amita Choudhury?
 - (d) Who is Chris Crutcher?
 - (e) What was the characteristics of teenage fiction after the 1940s?
 - (f) What do teenagers expect from their parents nowadays?
- 2.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as: [1x2]
- (a) the lead character (para 2)
 - (b) lonely (para - 6)
- Q.3 Read the passage given below.
- Ask anyone who has organized a traditional Indian wedding what the most painstaking task of all is , and the chances are the answer would be the entire process of sending out invitations. First one has to make a thousand calls to collect the addresses, write each of them on the card and then courier or post them. In addition to this , there is that special lot that needs to be delivered personally no matter how much time is wasted braving long hours in traffic jam.
- It is little wonder that e-invites or e-vites as they are popularly called, are catching on with the young and techie these days. They save paper, time and money and can be personalized to suit the couple. It is also environment- friendly. The people can also be non-traditional in the sense that they can send light, amusing messages in the e-vites retaining the main purpose but this liberty can be taken with just a handful of people who would understand.
- Paper invites, specially the designer ones, are expensive and can even cost Rs. 10,000 per card. For a Delhi industrialist's wedding in Dubai, iPad Air Tabs were sent out as special invites and each reportedly cost Rs. 30,000. Excess, however doesn't always impress, no matter, how expensive or exotic the invitation, in eventually lands up in the trash!
- E-invites have their pros. They are not only easy to create and cheap to make but also make the process of inviting the guests faster. There are no reports of cards getting lost on the way. However, a few cons cannot be overlooked. They make a wedding feel less formal, can land up in spam and guests may still keep waiting for a physical invite and not send online RSVPs. Some couples choose a middle path-send a save -the- date via e-mail followed by a physical invite.
- There are many websites and apps that allow people to create their e-vites. Paperless post, offers around 390 free designs. It also lets you use the same design for digital as well as physical invites. Users can play around with fonts and colours of the text as well as the texture and shade of the envelope. And of course, the content is personalized. On Desievite.com, one can make e-invites in ten Indian languages apart from English.

This site which is located in the US, has e-invites for a number of Indian festivals and religious events like Satyanarayan puja and Kali Puja.

- (a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) 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 Writing Skills [30]

4. New Era College, Gwalior, is about to enter its new academic session. As the Principal of the college you are concerned about the issue of ragging both inside and outside the college premises. Draft an anti-ragging notice to be put up on the college notice board, sensitizing students about the issue and asking them to report any misbehaviour in this regard to the authorities. (word limit 50 words) [4]

OR

Your grandparents are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. On this occasion, they decide to organise a party and invite all near and dear ones. Draft a formal invitation on their behalf to be sent out to friends and relatives in this regard. Invent necessary details such as day, date, venue and time. (word limit 50 words)

5. In our society we do not give to our women the respect and status that they deserve. Women are stared at, stalked and even molested. We need to change the male mindset about women. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national newspaper giving your views on the problem. You are Om/Amna a resident of AII4, Mall Road, New Delhi. [6]

OR

You want to spend a week-long holiday at Shimla in the month of October. You have decided to stay at Hotel Snowview. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the manager to book a room. Mention the dates, facilities in the room, food, sight-seeing facilities etc you will need. You are Amar /Amrita residing at MII4 , lake Road, Karnal.

6. Friendship and happiness are closely connected. We all need friends to share our joys and sorrows. A true friend stands by us in difficult times. He/She inspires and motivates us and loves us selflessly. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'The value of friends'. You are Pritusha/Prityush. [10]

OR

Cultural Society Sunshine Public School, Noida organized an adult literacy camp in its neighbourhood. Write a report in 150-200 words on the camp for your school newsletter. You are P.V. Sunitha / Sumit Raj, Secretary. Use the following clues:

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| number of volunteers -hours spent in teaching - location of the class- chairs, blackboards - number of people attending the camp-benefits. |
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7. Your school Principal has asked you to deliver a speech on 'Power and magic of Positive Thinking' in the school assembly. Write your speech in 150-200 words. You are Ramakant/Rajlaxmi. [10]

OR

A debate competition on 'We must guard Indian culture in the mess of foreign cultures today' has been hosted by your school. You are Anant/Amita, one of the participants. Write a debate in favour or against this topic so that your manoeuvre is well tested and acclaimed by the audience. (Word limit 150-200 words).

Section-C (Literature Textbooks and Long reading text) [40]

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [1x4=4]

Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

- (a) What does the Earth teach us?
(b) What will keeping quiet help us to achieve?
(c) Why do you think, the poet has used the capital letter 'E' in Earth?
(d) Why does the poet count up to twelve?

OR

All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink

- (a) Explain the first line.
(b) What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?
(c) What is the effect of this image on us?
(d) What does heaven's brink mean?

9. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 30-40 words each. [3x4=12]

- (a) What gift was sent to the Duraisani and with what expectation?
(b) Why were the lawyers chided by Gandhi Ji?
(c) "All we have to fear is fear itself." Explain.
(d) Throw light on Mukesh's attitude towards life.
(e) How was the Skunks's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
(f) Why did Dr. Sadao treat the American soldier even though it was an unpatriotic act on his part?

10. Answer the following question in 120-150 words "The story, 'The Rattrap', captures the basic goodness in a human being in the face of material temptations." Discuss. [6]

OR

What societal evils are depicted in "Lost Spring Stories of Stolen childhood"? Are those evils still existent in the society? What can be done in order to eradicate them or curb them to a great extent?

11. Rajkumar Shukla, a poor, unassuming peasant became a catalyst for change by taking Gandhi to Champaran, an act which later culminated into the first successful instance of civil disobedience in India. What qualities do you think helped Shukla and Gandhi respectively to initiate one of the most powerful movements in the history of our national struggle? Do you think youngsters today possess extraordinary qualities like Rajkumar Shukla and Gandhi Ji or are they escapists looking for short cuts? (Word limit 120-150 words) [6]

OR

The theme of the story 'Going Places' is adolescent fantasy and hero-worship. Every teenager has some or the other hero in his/her life. Based on your reading of the lesson and your own views explain, 'Are teenagers justified in their act of hero-worship'. (Word limit 120-150 words)

12. Answer the following question in 120-150 words.
Financial interests sometimes cloud the reasoning of a person making him prone to trouble. How far do you agree with the statement. Justify by giving the example of Mrs. Hall and the way she deals with the stranger. Highlight her money-grubbing attitude by giving three examples from the long reading text. [6]
13. Answer the following question in 120-150 words.
Why was Griffin not able to benefit even in fulfilling the indispensable requirements of life, like food, clothes or money? Do you think his invisibility could help him the way he had anticipated? What difficulties did he face due to his invisibility? Answer the question on the basis of the happenings upto the 20th chapter of the novel *The Invisible Man*. [6]