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Code Number 101



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SECOND MID TERM EXAMINATION 2017
ENGLISH

CLASS: IX

Sub. Code: 101

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

17.12.2017

Max. Marks: 80

1. *This paper consists of 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 carefully and follow them faithfully.*
3. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.*
4. *Attempt all questions of a section without mixing them with another section.*

SECTION A – READING (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

8

School used to be all about writing, whether it was the exercise books we wrote in or the notes we passed around. But not anymore. Now it's all about typing. Learning your QWERTY is almost as important as learning your ABC.

So, when my daughter came home last year with cursive handwriting homework, I was nonplussed. Cursive writing was originally developed to make it easier for children to write with a quill. By joining up the letters, it kept the quill on the parchment and minimized ink blots. But my daughter writes with a laptop.

The research suggests that the process of writing information down on paper, by hand, has a more direct effect on the formation of memories in the learning process than typing. Taking notes in class is still the most effective way to learn. It's a better way to store the skills for written language in a child's brain than pressing keys.

But that doesn't mean that one should ditch computers. Children should be taught to touch-type early on. Learning is aided by the physical act of writing. Authors often write their first draft by hand. Whether it's to do with the pace of thought, or some kind of stimulation the physical act has, we don't know. But it's a fact.

The French would doubtless agree. They love their handwriting. Teachers in France believe that fluency with a pen 'unlocks the mind' and they spend more time on writing than reading between the ages of three and eight.

We teach children the formation of letters and the appropriate joining strokes. But after a few years we leave them on their own devices, just as the written workload starts to increase. That's when the bad habits set in.

But as proper writing becomes rarer, spending some time improving your handwriting is a good investment. In the future, sending a handwritten letter will be a display of affluence and class, which is why the sale of fountain pens is reviving.

Answer the following questions briefly.

- a) Why is handwriting not given much importance today? 1
- b) Why was the author nonplussed when his daughter came home with cursive handwriting homework? 1
- c) Why was Cursive writing introduced? 1
- d) How is taking down notes better than typing? 1
- e) What makes the 'bad habit' set in? 1
- f) What does the revival in the sale of fountain pen show? 1
- g) Although children are taught to write at an early age, they do not have legible handwriting when they grow older as _____ . 1
- h) Learning your QWERTY means _____ . 1

2. Read the following passage carefully. 12

When Rajat, a student studying for the Class X Board examination approached Dr. Anoop Mishra of the Fortis Hospital, who had put on six kilograms, during preparation leave, for advice, he was told that the lack of physical activity was the primary cause of weight gain. He further advised him to follow a few significant tips.

As Rajat's appetite had gone up and he had begun to snack frequently, Dr. Mishra asked him to give up the habit and have small meals at frequent intervals. He was also told not to skip a meal. In case, he still felt the urge to snack, he was advised to have sprouts and salads in lieu of snacks loaded with fat and eat fruit in place of snacks with refined sugars. To avoid the temptation of munching on biscuits, chips and namkeens, he was advised to munch carrots, cucumber and fruits.

To keep up his metabolism, and be able to concentrate for longer hours on his books, he was advised to avoid heavy meals, especially late at night. He needs to expose his body to sunlight for at least fifteen minutes a day to imbibe Vitamin D, a good vitamin for regulation of weight and also for the brain.

When it came to cold drinks, Rajat was advised to drink toned milk and nimbu pani to help him get rid of untimely hunger pangs. Also green teas he was told was a metabolic booster and could be tried out.

As far as his study routine was concerned, Dr. Mishra advised him to take breaks frequently instead of sitting for long hours at a stretch as that could cause headaches. In case he did get a headache it was necessary to learn what triggers it, and then try and avoid those things. The lighting of the room and placement of the chair was also important. Above all, Rajat was advised to take regular exercise, as all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

Answer the following questions briefly.

- a) Why did Rajat approach Dr Mishra? 2
- b) What was Rajat advised to do instead of snacking? 2
- c) What substitute was Rajat advised in place of snacks? 2
- d) How was he to overcome the temptation of eating biscuits and namkeens? 2
- e) Rajat was advised to avoid heavy meals to _____ . 1
- f) Green teas could be used as _____ . 1
- g) We should expose ourselves to sunlight for fifteen minutes every day to _____ . 1
- h) Headaches can be avoided by proper room setting and _____ . 1

SECTION B – WRITING AND GRAMMAR (30 marks)

- 3. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper in 100 – 120 words to create awareness about pollution hazards and the role of the public in making the environment clean. 8

OR

You are Ruchi/ Rohit. Once you got a chance to visit a remote village of Rajasthan. You noticed that girl children did not go to school. Write an article on “Need to educate the girl child” for the school magazine in 100 – 120 words.

- 4. **Complete the following story in 200 - 250 words using the given sentences as the beginning of the story.** 12

Ten years old Ravi and his father boarded a local train in Mumbai. There were just a few passengers in the compartment.

- 5. **Complete the paragraph given below by filling in the blanks with one word. Write the answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank numbers. Do not copy the whole passage.** 3

The last solar eclipse of the 20th century (a) (take) place on 11th August 1999. It (b) (view) by millions of people all over the world. Being the last great heavenly event it (c) (be) the world’s most watched one. This eclipse (d) (cover) a more thickly (e) (populate) area of the earth than any of its predecessors. The path of the Moon's shadow (f) (begin) in the Atlantic Ocean and ended in the Bay of Bengal.

6. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line against which a blank is given. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied. 4

More of the fun and excitement in our life comes (incorrect) (correct)
eg. more much

a) from the use for our senses. Senses open up a
b) world which are full of sights, sounds, smells,
c) tastes and things to touch. The sharp your senses and
d) the more you use it, the more enjoyable each
e) of these world becomes for you.
f) For instant, a painter can see shades
g) and shapes which little gifted
h) people could not see.

7. Arrange the following words and phrases into meaningful sentences. 3

- a) homophones / known as / sounding / words / similar/ are
b) opposite / antonyms / words / meaning / known as / in / are
c) as another / or nearly the / a word /same meaning / is synonym / having the same

SECTION C – LITERATURE (30 marks)

8. Read one of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow. 4

If I'd known, I was paving the way
To cavities, caps and decay,
The murder of mlin's
Injections and drillin's
I'd have thrown all me sherbet away.

- (a) How did the poetess pave the way for cavities in her teeth?
(b) Explain 'murder of fillings'.
(c) What had the poetess not known?
(d) Name the poet and the poem.

OR

Last scene of all, That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion, Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything. 4

- (a) How is history 'eventful' here?
(b) Explain 'oblivion'.
(c) What is meant by 'sans'? How does the word explain the age?
(d) What does 'second childishness' mean?

9. **Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.** **8**
- a) Which event was Mrs. Bramble waiting for that could end all her anxieties? **2**
- b) In the poem "The Solitary Reaper," what guesses does the poet make about the subject of the song? **2**
- c) What decision does the poet make regarding the first path? What was his afterthought? **2**
- d) What did Juliette expect as she put up the villa for sale? **2**

- 10 **Answer ONE of the following questions in about 80 – 100 words.** **8**
- Nothing is impossible if one is determined and diligent enough to achieve the same. Discuss this statement with reference to the story 'A Dog Named Duke'.

OR

Love and sympathy win people and colleagues but exhibitionism of knowledge and the tendency to outshine others only irritate them. Give a character sketch of Private Quelch or the Professor in your own words including all his traits and shortcomings.

- 11 **Answer ONE of the following questions in about 150 – 200 words.** **10**
- What were the conditions imposed on Gulliver for setting him free in Lilliput?

OR

Draw a character sketch of Gulliver's little nurse Glumdalclitch.

End of the Question Paper