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**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
MIDDLE SECTION
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2019-20**



SUBJECT - ENGLISH

Code: MZ EN11

CLASS: VIII

Time Allotted: 2 ½ Hrs.

19.09.2019

Max .Marks: 80

General Instructions.

1. The question paper comprises of **four Sections, A, B, C and D.** You have to attempt all the sections.
2. **All** questions are **compulsory.** Read all the questions carefully.
3. **All answers should be written in the answer sheet provided.**

SECTION A – READING (15 marks)

Qns		Marks
1	<p>Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p>1. Today, the role friends' play in our lives has become significantly greater than at any other time in our history as many of us live and work at great distances and are separated from our original families. The pain we feel when we are away from our families can be significant.</p> <p>2. The happiness of an individual depends on his friendship which forms a necessary human connection. It is perfectly normal to need and want friends. Depression is more prevalent among those who lack friends. They lack the intimacy and richness friends can bring into their lives. Frequently friends reflect similar values to us. Communication skills are fundamental in all friendships. The more friends and acquaintances one has, the greater are ones communication skills. Some call these, people skills.</p> <p>3. Like watering a plant, we grow our friendship and all our relationships by nurturing them. These relationships can be delightfully non-judgmental, supportive, understanding and fun.</p> <p>4. Sometimes a friendship can bring out the positive side that you never show in other relationships. With a friend you can be yourself and free to change. Your friendship grows when you understand the value of friendship by revealing yourself; being attentive; putting yourself in their position; showing empathy; seeing the world through the eyes of your friend. It is an unconditional experience where you receive as much as you give. When we learn to accept a person from a completely different cultural background or from a completely different family, we learn tolerance. In turn we gain tolerance and acceptance for our own differences.</p> <p>A. Answer the following questions. (1× 6=6)</p> <p>(i) Why has the role of friends become important in our lives?</p>	7Marks

- (ii) Why is depression common among those who lack friends?
- (iii) How are 'people skills' important in friendship?
- (iv) How is maintaining friendship similar to watering plants?
- (v) What makes one's friendship an unconditional experience?
- (vi) When is tolerance learnt?

B. On the basis of your reading the passage, find the appropriate words. ($\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$)

- (i) the antonym for - *rarely* _____ (para 2)
- (ii) the words - *ability to share someone else's feelings* - are closest in meaning to _____ . (para 4)

2. **Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

8marks

1. Televisions show sound and pictures. They get data from cables, discs or over-the-air signals. They turn this data into sounds and images. People watch news and shows on them. You probably call them TVs. The first TV was made by John Baird in 1925. It had one colour. It could only show 30 lines. There was just enough room for a face. It did not work well, but it was a start.

2. The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a 'Felix the Cat doll' for two hours a day. The doll spun around a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right. By the end of 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech which was aired over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but people loved it.

3. They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country. By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now.

4. Colour TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most people. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, colour TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in colour. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows. Nowadays, most TVs are high- definition ones. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High- definitions TVs have 1080 lines. There are state-of -the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what will come up next.

A) Choose the correct option to answer the questions given below.

i) When did colour TVs come out?

- (a) 1953 (b) 1925 (c) 1939 (d) 1965

ii) Which was **not true** about the first TV?

- (a) It did not work well. (b) It had only 30 lines.
 (c) It could only show one colour. (d) It did not have sound.

- iii) Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?
 (a) Felix the Cat was really popular (b) Felix the Cat had been a big radio star
 (c) They were running tests. (d) Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.
- iv) Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?
 (a) The Civil War (b) World War II (c) The election of the U.S. President
 (d) The World's Fair of 1939.
- v) Which best explains why families switched to colour TVs in 1965?
 (a) Colour TVs cost a lot of money. (b) World War ended (c) troops came home with a lot of money. (d) Many shows were only shown in colour.
- vi) Why was 1939 an important year for TV?
 (a) The first TV station began broadcasting. (b) John Baird created the first TV.
 (c) Many Americans were introduced to TV. (d) The first colour TV was released.
- vii) What is the author's main purpose in writing this?
 (a) He's telling readers how TVs became popular.
 (b) He's trying to get people to watch more TV.
 (c) He's trying to explain how a TV works.
 (d) He's describing the history of the TV.
- viii) Which happened first?
 (a) The end of World War II (b) The release of high-definition TVs
 (c) The release of colour TVs. (d) The 1939 World's Fair.

B. State if the following statements are True or False.

- (i) TVs get data from cables, discs or over-the-air signals. _____
 (ii) By 1956, colour TVs were cheaper. _____
 (iii) When the war was over, TV spread across the world. _____
 (iv) The more the number of lines on the screen, clearer will be the image. _____

C. Answer the following questions.

- (i) Why would watching TV have been boring in 1928? Use information from the text to support your answer.
- (ii) How did the five inch black-and-white TVs at the World's Fair impress people?

SECTION B – WRITING (20marks)

3. Read the following conversation between Komal and Mr. Grover, a furniture shop owner. Since Mr. Grover is not available, his assistant Vijaya answered the call. As Vijaya was going out immediately afterwards, she left a message for Mr. Grover. Write down the message that she leaves for him in not more than 50 words. 4marks

Komal : Hello, Is it Grand Furniture?
 Vijaya : Yes
 Komal : Could I speak to Mr. Grover?
 Vijaya : I'm afraid he's not here at the moment.

- Komal : When will he be back?
 Vijaya : Not before 6 in the evening. Can I take a message for him?
 Komal : Yes. Could you tell him that he has to deliver the furniture ordered by me, for my new house only on 20th October and not on 14th October. Please ask him to keep them ready by 9 a.m. on the 20th. I will be sending a pick-up van to collect them.

4. You are Kiran / Rhea, the student Coordinator of the Literary Club of D.V Public School, Ranchi. Draft a Notice in not more than 50 words, to be put up on the school notice board, informing the students of class VII and VIII about the Inter-House Talent Competition to be held on 30th September, 2019. Include all relevant details. 4marks

5. **Read the extract given below and write the Précis of the following passage. Provide a suitable title.** 4marks

Water is the basis of all life. Every animal, every plant contains a substantial portion of free and combined water in its body. No kind of physical activity is possible in which water does not play an essential part. Water is necessary for human and animal life, while moisture in the soil is equally imperative for life and growth of plants and trees though the quantity varies. The conservation and utilization of water is thus fundamental for human welfare. The main source of water is rainfall or snowfall. During the rainy season, large quantities of water flow and find their way to the sea which is a loss to the country. Vast areas of land which at present are mere waste lands could be turned into a fertile and productive land by harnessing the course of the rivers. The conservation and utilization of water is therefore a matter of great concern and needs to be dealt with at the national level. (160words)

- (i) Title:
 (ii) Water is the basis of _____ and _____ (iii) Rain or snowfall _____ but most of the water _____ during the rainy season. The barren land could be made fertile and (iv) _____ by _____ of the rivers. Therefore, conservation and utilization of water is a great problem to be dealt at the national level.

6. **Complete the following story in about 150 – 200 words.** 6marks

One night, my sleep was suddenly disturbed by some strange noise coming from the direction of the living room. It was dark.....

OR

Write a letter of complaint to the Vice-Principal of your school informing him / her about the heavy weight of the school bag that you students carry to school every day. Several other students have also felt this and join you in your complaint. Also give your suggestions on some ways of improving the present situation.

SECTION C – GRAMMAR (20marks)

7. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it in your answer sheet. Do not forget to underline the correct word. ½×6=3

- (a) When darkness descended the scene _____
 - (b) and all was well safe, the tigress _____
 - (c) called cubs by emitting a cry. The cubs _____
 - (d) were bigger a full grown cat. _____
 - (e) They trolling up to their mother and _____
 - (f) hurried straight the kill. The mother _____
- spitted at them furiously that they drew back at once and waited.

8. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$
 Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied.

- Each of us has certain unique points and certain
- (a) weaknesses, which is different from others. But _____
 - (b) one should always make a effort to make the _____
 - (c) better use of one's abilities to be contended and _____
 - (d) to achieve success. If we starts focusing on our _____
 - (e) weaknesses or start compare our failures with other's _____
 - (f) achievements, we will feel happy and dissatisfied. _____

9. **Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets.** $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

- (a) James _____ a few minutes ago. (left / has left / leaves)
- (b) He _____ for the national team in 65 matches so far. (played / has played / is playing)
- (c) She _____ from flu when she was interviewed. (suffered / had suffered / had been suffering)
- (d) It started to rain while we _____. (are playing / were playing / played)
- (e) I suppose it _____ when we start. (is raining / was raining / will be raining)
- (f) We _____ English for five years. (study / are studying / have been studying)

10. **Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences. Write the correct answers in your answer sheet.** $1 \times 3 = 3$

- (a) language / global / has / become / English language
- (b) in most countries / second or third / in schools / it is now / as a first, / language / being learnt
- (c) every child / in about / 50 years / learning / English / who is born / will be / as a language / on this earth

11. **Change the following sentences from Direct to Indirect Speech and from Indirect Speech to Direct Speech.** $1 \times 4 = 4$

- (a) Mother asked Rohan, "Why are you so nervous?"
- (b) Seema said, "What a beautiful painting this is!"
- (c) Aman said that he had seen that picture.
- (d) The zoo keeper requested the visitors not to tease the animals.

12. **Do as directed.** 1×4=4
- (a) He did not even have a rupee. He could not buy a loaf of bread. (Combine the sentences using **Infinitive**)
- (b) The boys fly their kites. (Pick out the transitive verb and name the object)
- (c) The audience _____ . (Complete the sentence using the verb **watch** transitively)
- (d) The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat. (Combine the sentences using **Participle**)

SECTION D – LITERATURE (25marks)

13. **Give the word meanings for.** 2
- (i) ridiculous: _____ (ii) withered: _____
- (iii) grief: _____ (iv) endearment: _____
14. **Give the antonyms for.** 2
- (i) sensible x _____ (ii) assorted x _____
- (iii) boisterous x _____ (iv) warning x _____
15. **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** 4

They gave another terrible yell and rush forward
 You clutch my hand and say
 'Dear boy, for heaven's sake, keep away from them.'
 I say, 'Mother, just you watch me.'

Choose the correct option.

- i) In the above reference, the word 'They' refers to
 (a) The palanquin bearers (b) the villains (c) the villagers
- ii) What does the phrase 'for heaven's sake' mean in the above lines?
 (a) It emphasizes a request (b) it refers to the God's in heaven
 (c) it expresses anger
- iii) Who clutches the boy's hand?
 (a) his mother (b) his brother (c) the villains
- iv) The poem 'the Hero' is written by
 (a) Sarojini Naidu (b) Rabindranath Tagore (c) Oliver Goldsmith
- v) Pick out the synonym from the above reference for *to make a sudden loud cry*
- vi) Pick out the antonym from the above reference for *release*
- vii) What does the boy want his mother to watch?

16. **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** 3

She looked at the three buckets, paint peeling off, a sad blot on this spotlessly clean hospital of which the entire community was so proud. She turned back to look for Baruah, but he was nowhere to be found.

- i) Who is the 'She' referred to in the above lines?
- ii) What was the entire community proud of? Why?
- iii) Why did she look around for Baruah?

17. **Answer any five of the following questions in about 30 - 40 words.**

10

- i) Why did the statue of the Happy Prince look shabby? What was done with the statue?
- ii) How did Aachchi give away goodies to the narrator and his siblings?
- iii) In the poem 'The Village Schoolmaster' the poet uses the adjectives 'stern' and 'skilled' to describe the schoolmaster. Justify the use of these words with instances from the poem.
- iv) Why did news not have much distance to travel before everybody in Dibraru heard it?
- v) In the poem 'The Hero' the boy wants to save his mother if such a situation were to arise. But he wants to be praised by certain people. Who are these people and why does he pine for their appreciation?
- vi) Where did the statue of the Happy Prince stand? Why was the Happy Prince sad?

18. **Answer any ONE of the following questions.**

6

- i) The moment the narrator saw the photograph in Aachchi's room, it was the turning point in his sensibility about Aachchi. Explain giving instances from the lesson.

OR

- ii) Describe the hospital in Dibraru in your own words.

End of the Question Paper.