



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
MIDDLE SECTION
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (2017 - 2018)
ENGLISH**

CLASS: VIII

DATE: 12. 09. 2017

MARKS: 80

TIME: 2½ hrs

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- a) Read all the questions carefully.
- b) Write all your answers on the answer sheets provided.
- c) Do not copy any questions and statements.
- d) Number the answers correctly.
- e) Do not exceed the word limit.

SECTION 'A' - READING (15 MARKS)

I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(5 marks)

Have you ever heard the sound of a hummingbird? They make a buzzing noise when they fly. They make this noise because they beat their wings very fast. They beat their wings up to 80 times a second. All that flapping makes a lot of noise. That's why we call them hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds fly in a unique way. They move their wings so fast that they can hover. This means that they can stay in one spot in the middle of the air. They are the only bird that flies backward too.

Hummingbirds need lots of energy to move as fast as they do. This means that they need to eat a lot of food. Their favourite food is nectar, a sweet liquid found inside some flowers. They drink nectar in large quantity, daily. They have to visit hundreds of flowers to get enough nectar to live. Hummingbirds use their tongues for eating, not their long beaks.

Hummingbirds help flowers too. They get pollen on their heads and bills when they feed. Flowers use pollen to make seeds. Hummingbirds spread pollen from one flower to the other. This helps flowers make more seeds. More seeds mean more flowers. More flowers mean more food for hummingbirds. Isn't it nice how that works out?

a) On the basis of your reading the above passage choose the most appropriate option and complete the sentences: **(1x5=5 marks)**

i. They are called hummingbirds because _____.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. they are very light | b. they sing when they fly |
| c. their wings make a humming sound | d. they move very fast |

ii. Humming birds can hover because _____

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| a. they can move their wings very fast. | b. they can fly backward. |
| c. they have a lot of energy . | d. they can fly very fast. |

iii. Humming birds visit hundreds of flowers because _____

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. they need enough nectar to live | b. they eat pollen. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|

- c. they spread pollen from one flower to the next d. they plant seeds.
- iv. This is the only bird that _____
- a. can fly faster than any other bird. b. can fly longer than any other bird.
- c. can fly backward. d. cannot hover in mid air.
- v. Humming birds help flowers by _____
- a. spreading pollen from flower to flower b. spreading seeds by carrying them on their heads.
- c. spreading seeds by carrying them on their bills d. all the above.

II. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (5 marks)

When Anne reached the school that morning all was quiet and still. The previous teacher had instructed the children to be in their places on her arrival, greet her and extend a warm welcome to her. When Anne entered the classroom the children greeted her with “shining morning faces” and bright, curious eyes. She hung up her hat and faced her pupils, hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt and that they would not make out how nervous she was. She had sat up until nearly twelve the previous night drafting a speech with which she meant to begin her interaction with her pupils on the reopening day of school. She had revised and improved it, and then she had learnt it by heart. It was a very good speech and had some very fine ideas in it, especially about mutual help and earnest striving for knowledge. The only trouble was that she could not now remember a word of it. After what seemed a year to her . . . about ten seconds in reality . . . she said faintly, “Take your seats, please,” and sank breathlessly into her chair. While the children read their lessons Anne tried her best to relax and feel comfortable in her new school.

a) On the basis of your reading the passage answer the following questions: (1x5=5 marks)

1. What were the children instructed to do when Anne arrived?
2. How did the children greet her when she entered the classroom?
3. How did Anne feel when she faced the students?
4. How did she plan to begin her interaction with the students? How did she prepare for it?
5. What was the speech about? Why was she unable to deliver it?

III. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (5 marks)

Nicholas Chorier is not an ordinary photographer. He is a kite aerial photographer. He uses a kite to hoist his camera into the skies, which dangles in mid-air and clicks photographs. As a teenager, Nicholas had two hobbies— photography and kite- flying. During a trip to India to make a photo report on kite- making, he learnt about this unique style of photography. Fascinated, he literally tied his two hobbies together for a living. Nicholas learnt to make strong kites modelled on the Japanese kites, Rokkaku that could withstand harsh winds. A beginner in his chosen field, he then set out to train himself. Today he is one of the most well-known kite aerial photographers in the world. The technique is to tie a cradle containing the photography equipment to the string of the kite and then fly it, thus launching the camera into air. From the ground, Nicholas controls the angles of the camera with a remote. An air-to-ground video link enables him to see the view from the kite’s angle. Once satisfied with the frame, he clicks a picture.

However, the job does have its drawbacks too. Once, his kite disappeared in the Yamuna River, with his expensive camera. He is especially fond of India and recently released a book, 'Kite's Eye View: India between Earth and Sky'.

i) On the basis of your reading the passage complete the following sentences: (2 marks)

- a) Nicholas Chorier clicks photographs by using _____
- b) The two hobbies that Nicholas tied together for a living are _____
- c) The camera is launched into air by _____
- d) Nicholas is able to see the view from the kite's angle with the help of _____

ii) State whether the following statements are True or False: (2 marks)

- a) Nicholas learnt about the unique style of photography during his trip to India. _____
- b) Though Rokkaku is a very strong Japanese kite yet it cannot withstand strong winds. _____
- c) Nicholas Chorier is one of the most well-known kite aerial photographers in India. _____
- d) The aerial photographer's trip to India also included making a report on kite-making. _____

iii) a) The synonym of the word usual from the passage is _____ (1 mark)

- b) The antonym of the word mild from the passage is _____

SECTION 'B'-- WRITING (20 MARKS)

IV. Read the following telephonic conversation between Neha and Nisha. Neha leaves a message for her mother. Write the message in about 50 words: (4 marks)

Nisha Hello! May I speak to Nita?

Neha: Mummy is not at home. May I know who is speaking?

Nisha: I am Nisha, her colleague. When will she come back?

Neha: I am not too sure when she will be back. Is there any message for her, aunty?

Nisha: Yes, please tell her that we have to meet the Principal of St. Mary School tomorrow at 9 in the morning instead of 10. I received the confirmation just now. I will pick her up at 8.30 in the morning and she must take all the official papers with her.

Neha: I will surely convey the message.

Nisha: Thank you, Neha.

V. Write a précis of the following passage. Provide a suitable title. (4 marks)

We should develop the habit of reading. It is like a workout for our brain and improves our concentration. Reading provides knowledge. We should read everything that we can, regardless of whether we find it interesting or not. Reading expands our vocabulary and improves language skills. Even a 'boring' text can teach us new words. Having a larger vocabulary will help us express ourselves better. It helps to develop our imagination and empathy. We learn more about the world. Each time we read, we are exposed to new ideas. Reading can change the way we understand the world. We learn how people live in faraway places. We can learn about cultures different from our own. Reading is good for our state of mind. It has a calming effect and refreshes our mind. It can lower our stress levels and help us relax. The benefits of reading are a lot.

(149 words)

VI. You are Arav \ Aleena, the Student Secretary of Environment Club of your school. Draft a **Notice** in not more than 50 words, to be put up on your school notice board, informing students about 'Plant A Tree' drive organized by the club. Include all relevant details. **(4 marks)**

VII. i) The unhygienic condition of the school toilets is a cause of concern .Write a letter of complaint to the Principal of your school highlighting this problem and the urgent need to solve this issue at the earliest for the benefit of the students. **(8 marks)**

(OR)

ii) You have to deliver a speech in the morning assembly of your school. Prepare a speech in about **120 words**, on 'Importance of Cleanliness.'

SECTION 'C'- GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

VIII.a. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences: **(3marks)**

- i) the /Earth /will be/ destroyed/ if /do not / we/ it /care /take / of
- ii) should / we /plant / protect /trees /nature/ and /more
- iii) we / strive for / a safe / should/ healthy environment /and

b. This passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word and its correction. Underline the word you provide: **(4 marks)**

- a) The internet has open up new ways of communication. At _____
- b) the click of a mouse the entire world are on our personal _____
- c) computer screens. We get all the information we needed _____
- d) without have to visit the libraries or flipping the pages _____
- e) of the encyclopedia. Though much have been said about _____
- f) the internet, it is not always possible to making full use of it. _____
- g) However people who spend hours on it undoubtedly misses _____
- h) out on other interesting activity of life. _____

c. Read the conversation between Tessa and her mother and complete the passage that follows. Write the answers only in your answer-sheet. **(4 marks)**

Tessa: a) Hello Mom! How was your day?
Mother: b) It was very tiring. How was your day?
Tessa: c) It was good. I have been chosen for the school basketball team.
Mother: d) Congratulations. It's certainly good news.

Tessa greeted her mother and asked her a) _____. Her mother replied b) _____ and asked her _____. Tessa replied that it had been good and added that c) _____. Her mother congratulated her and said d) _____.

d. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the words that come before and after it. Underline the word you provide: **(3marks)**

- a) The patients have waiting for an hour for the doctor to arrive. _____
- b) Some of them have an appointment but there others _____
- c) who come for consultation without prior appointment. _____
- d)The receptionist written down all the names in order. _____
- e) Some patients have been since 8 a.m. So they are _____
- f) feeling a little irritated but there no choice. _____

e. Do as directed within the brackets: (3marks)

- i) You should return the books. I expect that. (Combine the sentences using Infinitive)
- ii) The girl saw an eagle. She screamed. (Combine the sentences using Participle)
- iii) The students submitted _____ (Complete the sentence using the verb submitted transitively)
- iv) The _____ man was taken to the hospital. (Fill in the blank with the Past Participle form of the verb 'wound')
- v) The aircraft _____ safely and timely despite inclement weather conditions. (Fill in the blank with the Present Perfect form of the verb land)
- vi) _____ wild animals is prohibited in India. (Fill in with the appropriate Non-Finite form of the verb hunt)

f. Change the following speeches with the help of clues given in brackets: (3 marks)

- i) He will say, "I am happy with my new assignment." (Indirect Speech)
- ii) The old man said to the boy, "Please help me carry the basket of fruits."(Indirect Speech)
- iii) My friend said that he was not feeling well then. (Direct Speech)

SECTION 'D'—LITERATURE (25 MARKS)

IX. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4marks)

'Yet he was kind if severe in aught,
The love he bore to learning was in fault
The village all declar'd how much he knew
'Twas certain he could write and cipher too...'

- (i) Who is the 'he' referred to in the above excerpt?
- (ii) Which skills of the village school master are highlighted in the above extract?
- (iii) What made him severe?
- (iv) How do we know that he was not always stern?

X. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow: (3 marks)

'But I have no intention of getting used to him. You know quite well that your cousin Mabel is coming to stay with us tomorrow. She will leave the minute '

i. The 'I' in the above extract is _____

a) Grandfather b) the narrator c) Grandmother

ii) 'I' did not have any intention of getting used to him because _____

a) 'I' disliked reptiles.

b) 'I' was afraid that the snake would strangle Grandfather.

c) the snake was the cause of anxiety and fear to all.

iii) 'I' was sure Mabel would leave as soon as she learnt that _____

a) there was a snake in the house.

b) there were birds and animals in the house.

c) Grandfather did not look forward to her visits.

XI. Answer any SIX of the following questions in about 30 - 40 words:

(12 marks)

i) Why did the narrator think that Aachchi disliked him?

ii) Who is the poet – speaker thanking despite his difficult situation in the poem 'Invictus'? Why is he still grateful?

iii) When did the swallow decide to stay with the Prince forever? What was the last task carried out by the swallow?

iv) How do we know that the village school master was skilled in arguing?

v) How was the python trapped?

vi) Who was the most affected by the python's visits? How did this person react to these visits?

vii) Why did the narrator decide to touch Aachchi's feet?

XII. Answer ONE of the following questions in about 120 words.

(6 marks)

i) When did the narrator's attitude towards Aachchi change? Why did it change?

OR

ii) How did the swallow and the Happy Prince help the people in the city? Illustrate your answer with examples from the lesson.