



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
MIDDLE SECTION
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 1 (2016 - 2017)
ENGLISH**

**CLASS: VIII
DATE: 25. 09. 2016**

**MARKS: 60
DURATION: 2HRS**

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 (10 MARKS)

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

What's fiercer than a lion but smaller than a beagle? The honey badger, one of the toughest mammals found in Africa and western Asia. Honey badgers stand less than a foot high. They are only a couple feet long. They weigh just over 20 pounds. Yet they have a reputation for toughness that is far greater than their size. Some honey badgers will chase away lions and take their prey.

So what makes the honey badger so tough? They have speed, stamina, and agility, but so do many animals. The thing that sets the honey badger apart is their skin. Their skin is thick and tough. Arrows, spears, and bites from other animals can rarely pierce it. Small bullets can't even penetrate it. Not only is their skin thick and tough, it is also loose. This allows them to twist and turn to attack while another animal is gripping them. Honey badgers have long, sharp claws. These claws are good for attacking and even better for digging. Honey badgers are some of nature's most skilled diggers. They can dig a nine-foot tunnel into hard ground in about 10 minutes. They love to catch a meal by digging up the burrows of frogs, rodents, and cobras. They also use their digging skills to make their homes. They live in small chambers in the ground and defend them fiercely. The honey badger is fearless and a tireless fighter and will attack any creature that threatens them, man included.

You might be wondering: "If honey badgers are so tough, how did they get a name that makes them sound like a piece of candy?" Since honey badgers have such thick skin, bee stings rarely harm them. So honey badgers love to raid beehives. Honey badgers chase after honey aggressively. So much so that beekeepers in Africa have to use electric fencing to hold them back. Beekeepers aren't the only people who have grown to hate honey badgers. Honey badgers may be fun to read about, but they are nasty neighbours. They attack chickens, livestock, and children.

If a honey badger moves in your backyard, there's not much you can do about it. Who is going to meddle with an animal with teeth strong enough to crunch through turtle shells? An animal that never tires, gives up, or backs down.

Q1. On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions briefly:

- a) i) What makes the honey-badger one of the toughest mammals despite its small size?(1**

mark)

- ii) How do we know that honey-badgers are skilled diggers? How does this skill help them?
(1mark)

b) On the basis of your reading the passage complete the following sentences: (3 marks)

- i) The honey-badger will attack any creature that threatens them which proves that _____
- ii) Honey-badgers are hated by beekeepers and are considered nasty neighbours because _____
- iii) We can't do much if a honey-badger moves into our backyard because _____

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (5 marks)

About a year ago, I had gone to Tamhini Ghat near Pune with a group of mountaineers. The small hillock on which the 250-foot-high peak is located has a motorable road around its edge. We scaled the peak the night we reached the base village.

While preparing to descend down the peak the next morning, we knew we would have to be careful in choosing our route, since the region wasn't well-explored as some others in Sahyadris. But we were keen to move down because there was a small pond at the base of the valley.

While rappelling, that is moving down a steep incline, the harness that you wear has a long, thick rope passing through it. One end of the rope is tied to a boulder on the peak and the other end is with the person we call the 'controller'. A controller is usually an experienced mountaineer who goes down first and ensures that the path is clear of obstacles. Since I was the controller, I secured my harness, cross-checked the knots and set off.

Some 20 feet into the descent, I reached a steep projection or overhang, in the rock face. I hadn't anticipated this. I looked down to see if I could take another route to minimize the impact of the swing but just as I was contemplating changing tracks, I saw a huge swarm of buzzing insects. They had made a wide hive at the exact point where the rock face, curved inward. I had to take another route to avoid disturbing them.

I scampered across the rock face and began inching back towards the overhang. I should have realized that losing foothold would make me swing anyway. Despite my prayers, I swayed from right to left, and my rope collided head on with the swarm of small black insects and honey bees.

The river was a good 200-odd feet below me. I couldn't let go of the rope since I didn't have an anchor to control my fall. So, I didn't move at all but stayed there and let the insects attack me.

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

- a) The writer says that they would have to be careful while choosing the route because _____
- i) the area was a difficult terrain.
- ii) it was a relatively unexplored area.
- iii) there was a river at the base of the valley
- iv) they did not have proper equipments.

b) It is the responsibility of the controller to _____

- i) ensure that the path is clear of all obstacles.
- ii) secure the harness and cross check the knots.
- iii) monitor each day's schedule.
- iv) tie the end of a rope to a boulder.

c) When the writer descended to some 20 feet he decided to change the route because _____

- i) he felt scared when he saw the steep fall.
- ii) he wanted to minimize the impact of the swing.
- iii) he saw a swarm of bees at the point where the rock face curved.
- iv) there was a deep cleft in the rock.

d) The writer could not save himself from _____

- i) falling down the cliff.
- ii) being attacked by the bees.
- iii) dashing against the rock as his rope swung wildly
- iv) plunging into the river below.

e) The synonym of the word **expected** from the passage is _____

- i) anticipated
- ii) scampered
- iii) experience
- iv) realized

SECTION 'B'-- WRITING (15 MARKS)

Q3. Read the following telephonic conversation between Ankit and Divya. Divya leaves a message for, Arjun. Write the message in about 50 words: (4 marks)

Ankit: Hello! May I speak to Arjun?

Divya: I am sorry, my brother is not at home. He has gone to the clinic. May I know who is speaking?

Ankit: I am his friend, Ankit. Yes I know he is not well. Will he be able to come to school tomorrow?

Divya: Yes, he will go to school tomorrow.

Ankit: Well then, could you please convey a message to him?

Divya: Surely.

Ankit: Please tell him that he has to submit the Science project positively by tomorrow and he shouldn't forget to bring his Mathematics notebook to school as we have to submit it for evaluation. If he has any doubts regarding the project ask him to call me.

Divya: I will certainly convey the message.

Ankit: Thanks and bye.

Q4. You are Arnav \Aruna, the Student Secretary of the Literary 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 a proposed visit to the Royal Opera House in your city. Include all relevant details. (4 marks)

Q5.i) The non-availability of good story books and magazines in the school library 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.

(7 marks)

(OR)

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

SECTION 'C' - GRAMMAR (15 MARKS)

Q6.Change from Direct to Indirect Speech:

(3marks)

- i. She said, 'Alas! A nail has pricked my foot.'
- ii. He said to him, 'Please wait here till I return.'
- iii. Manas will say, 'I have finished the project.'

Q7. 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) We have a positive attitude towards life. a) _____
 - b) We to make life worth living and hence it is b) _____
 - c) a to practice self – discipline and inculcate true values. c) _____
 - d) If we overcome the various challenges of life and d) _____
 - e) face all adversities then, we conquer all our fears. e) _____
 - f) At times we lose hope and give up trying f) _____
- but we mustn't give up but muster all our courage,
fight back and rise again.

Q8.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:

(3 marks)

- a) Each and one single person throughout the world must work a) _____
- b) together to save the earth. We can both continue living an b) _____
- c) irresponsible life or change his own lifestyle to save the c) _____
- d) planet. Just many few simple steps, like recycling and reusing d) _____
- e) can prove to be beneficial ultimately. To protect a earth and e) _____
- f) save that from disaster we must stop degradation of environment. f) _____

Q9. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences: (3marks)

- i) news paper/ report / a / climate / change / that/ affecting / the health/ of/ people/ shows /is
- ii) says / it /change/ climate / responsible / for / is/ health hazards / severe/ that
- iii) must /stop / degradation / of environment /we/ for /well -being /of / people /the

Q10. Do as directed within the brackets: (3marks)

- i) People _____ on the moon. (Use the present perfect form of the verb **walk**)
- ii) They _____ the road for several days. (Use the present perfect continuous form of the verb **repair**)
- iii) The concert _____ already _____ (Use past perfect form of the verb **begin**) when I reached.
- iv) At noon tomorrow the bikers _____ (Use the future perfect form of the verb **cover**) 200 kilometres.
- v) I used to _____ my pocket money on the first of every month but not any more. (Use the correct form of the verb **get**)
- vi) She _____ her homework before she went to bed. (Use the past perfect form of the verb **finish**)

SECTION 'D'-- LITERATURE

(20 MARKS)

Q11. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (3marks)

'In arguing too, the parson own'd his skill,
For e'en though vanquished he could argue still;
While words learned length and thund'ring sound
Amazed the gazing rustics rang'd around.....'

- (i) Who is the 'he' referred to in the above excerpt? Who admitted his skill in arguing?
- (ii) Which skill of the village school master is highlighted in the above extract?
- (iii) What made the rustics wonder and gaze at him?

Q12. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow: (3 marks)

'I did not know what tears were. I lived in the palace of Sans -Souci, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. Now they have put me up here so high.....'

- i. The 'I' in the above extract is _____
a) the Happy Prince b) the swallow c) the artist
- ii) 'I' did not know what tears were because _____
a) sorrow was not allowed to enter the palace of Sans-Souci.
b) the speaker was not concerned about his people.
c) the speaker's heart was made of lead and nothing affected him.
- iii) After death 'I' was unhappy because _____
a) he learnt about the ugliness and misery of the city.
b) he was put up on a tall column, high above the city.
c) the little bird refused to help him in reaching out help to the needy.

Q13. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 30 - 40 words marks: (8 marks)

- i)** Why does Henley describe himself the 'captain' of his soul and the 'master' of his fate? What message does the poem convey?
- ii)** What did the PO's wife find astonishing?
- iii)** Why did God consider the leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow as the two most precious things in the city?
- iv)** What skills in the village school master surprised the villagers?
- v)** Why would the narrator sulk in silent envy? Why did he think Aachchi was not happy with him?

Q14. 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)** What preparations were undertaken in Dibraru for the visit of Edward Heinlein?