



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
FIRST PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

CLASS: X

Sub. Code: 184

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs.

07.01.2020

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- *This paper consists of three sections A, B & C : All the sections are compulsory.*
- *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them. All questions are compulsory.*
- *Do not exceed the given word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if the word limit exceeds.*

SECTION - A: READING**(20 Marks)****1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :****8 Marks**

1. High-altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task in spite of the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipments, which modern climbers take along with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber, which ultimately determines the success of his attempt to climb. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion, which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow, but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why, all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. Moreover, a huge amount of capital is needed for financing these expeditions, and this is generally provided by government or rich private organisations.
2. The primary objective of mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure, if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes, operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or sudden death of any member of the party. Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in botany, biology, geology and various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain, and the different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers and expeditionists utilize the fruits of their observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions. The British Expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the vicinity of the summit.
3. To ordinary people, mountaineering need not be a fearful journey in the land of

snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face-to-face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes in the distant landscape. In the company of friends, they can enjoy an outing near a waterfall or cross into the next valley with haversacks full of provisions dangling from their shoulders. All those who can afford to go to hill station should seek this innocent pleasure, for it can be hard without any risk to life or limb.

1.1 Choose the correct answer.

1X4=4

- i) Throughout the journey, _____ is a constant companion.
 - a) protective equipment b) oxygen mask c) death d) local guides
- ii) The primary objective of a mountaineering expedition is to _____.
 - a) get to the top of a high mountain b) contribute to the success of later expeditions
 - c) get a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain
 - d) feast the eyes in the distant landscape
- iii) Sometimes, operations are temporarily suspended because of _____.
 - a) bad weather b) loss of valuable equipment c) sudden death d) all of these
- iv) The British Expedition was led by _____.
 - a) local mountaineers b) colonel hunt c) a group of scientists d) none of these

1.2. Read the given questions and write the answer in a sentence.

1X4=4

- i) What determined the success of the climbers?
- ii) What accessories does a climber have to be equipped with?
- iii) How should the terrain climbers tread every inch of their climb?
- iv) What precautions should the climbers take during their journey?

2. Read the following passage carefully :

12Marks

1. Child marriages are rampant in North India. The curse continues to blight the lives of people even as the country stands at the threshold of the 21st century. Children bound by marriage are victims of blind customs and superstitions, prevalent in rural areas and in certain urban concentrations as well among the weaker socio-economic groups. Nothing seems to stop this anti-social practice despite the Child Marriage Act passed as early as in 1929, which makes child marriage a grave offence.

2. Why do marriages take place at all and what could be done to wean the people away from the practice? The evil thrives because of illiteracy and other related causes-the most important of which is the anxiety of parents to marry off their daughters as early as possible. In many

states, where illiteracy is high like in Rajasthan the practice of child marriage is in vogue. 'Akhha Teej' is D-day for the parents of minor girls, for on that day, they seek their salvation from the anxiety of girls growing up in their midst.

3. A child marriage is less likely to take place if the parents are literate or at least the father is. He is then aware of the legal minimum age and health hazards his daughter will face by an early marriage. If the mother otherwise literate, has been exposed to the importance of family planning, she is also less likely to solemnise her daughter's wedding at an age below the legal minimum.

4. Among the other factors causing parents to give away young daughters in marriage is the need felt by families having more than one daughter, to keep wedding expenses down. By marrying two daughters at the same time, parents save on expenses. Parental anxiety about grown-up (14 years and above) daughters going astray, forces the less educated to give away their female children in marriage.

5. The existing law was amended in 1978, raising the minimum age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years and for boys from 18 to 21 years. The committee on the status of women in its report in 1974 had recommended that all offences under the Child Marriage Restraint Act should be made cognizable and special officers be appointed to enforce the law. The Government, however did not pay heed to it while raising the minimum age of marriage. At the same time, there is no foolproof system of registering births and thus, there is no legally enforceable method for establishing the age of a male or a female.

6. The committee also recommended that a girl should be entitled to repudiate a child marriage on attaining maturity even if such marriage was consummated. But this remained only a hope which was never implemented by law. It has never been appreciated that what is needed is social action, especially by social activists and organisations, so that the provisions of the legislation are rigorously practised.

7. The crux of the problem is that the girl-child in traditional rural areas is caught in a situation, which is pre-determined and predestined. Her role is circumscribed around marriage and motherhood.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions in 30-40 words each : 2x4=8

- (i) What are the reasons for child marriage in India?
- (ii) What are the recommendations of the committee on the status of women?
- (iii) Why is it often difficult to establish the age of a male or female legally?
- (iv) How can the provisions of the legislation be rigorously practised?

2.2 Find the words from the passage that mean the same as the following. Choose the correct option. 1x4=4

(i) a feeling of worry or nervousness (para-2)

(a) salvation (b) anxiety (c) superstitions (d) offence

(ii) an act of protecting from harm, risk or destruction (para-2)

(a) illiteracy (b) rampant (c) customs (d) salvation

(iii) to make minor changes (para-5)

(a) amended (b) recommended (c) enforceable (d) consummated

(iv) to reject (para-6)

(a) rigorously (b) circumscribed (c) repudiate (d) legislation

SECTION B : WRITING AND GRAMMAR

30Marks

- 3.** You are Rachna/Raghu, 15 Mall Road, Agra. You happen to see the following news item in a newspaper. Write a letter in about 100-150 words, to the editor of the newspaper about your views on the matter.

8 Marks

(New Delhi: The Supreme Court has passed an order that it is the responsibility of every citizen to look after their aged parents. If they fail, they will have no right of inheritance.)

OR

The government is providing a number of welfare schemes for girls, so that they may be educated and make themselves independent. But today, many parents consider it to be a burden. Write an article, in about 100-150 words, on 'Girls are an asset and no longer a burden.'

- 4. Write a short story based on the given outline in about 150-200 words.**

10Marks

Branches of huge banyan tree- parents- starvation-problems-trend setters

- 5. Choose the most appropriate option from the ones given below to complete the following passage. 1 x4=4**

The Archaeological Survey of India, with the help of (a) _____ police and other government agencies, (b) _____ mounted a massive rescue effort to trace lost bronzes. One of the main problems (c) _____ protecting and caring for this precious heritage is the lack of coordination (d) _____ various government agencies dealing with this subject.

a) (i) the (ii) of (iii) in (iv) for

b) (i) have (ii) had (iii) has (iv) have been

c) (i) on (ii) under (iii) by (iv) in

d) (i) under (ii) between (iii) among (iv) over

6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Identify the error 1 x4=4 and write it along with the corrections. Underline the correct word supplied by you.

	Error	Correction
Historians generally believes that	a)
there were a dark period before the Pallavas	b)
and the Cholas arrives on the scene.	c)
They refer for it as the interregnum of the Kalabhras,	d)
a name mentioned in the eight-century Velvikudi copperplate grant.		

7. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. 1 x 4 =4
- (a) like greed anger/a/is/negative emotion
- (b) more of everything/a/it/to have/is/strong desire
- (c) to what/it/our attention/we don't have/turns
- (d) robs us of our/peace mind/of

SECTION - C
(LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT)

30Marks

8. Read the extract given below and answer the following question. (Any One) 1x4=4

(i) *"In a world of possessions. People will take*

Balls, balls will be lost always the little boy

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external."

- (a) The poet speaks of the ball as a symbol of _____.
- (b) Who has lost the ball and when?
- (c) What has the boy learnt from the loss?
- (d) What does the poet want him to learn?

OR

(ii) *Bishamber raised the garland to place it around the bride's neck; but before he could do so, Bholi's hand struck out like a streak of lightning and the garland was flung into the fire. She got up and threw away the veil.*

- (a) What did Bholi do?
- (b) Why did she do it?
- (c) Why did Bholi at first agree to an unequal match?
- (d) Later, she rejected the marriage. What does this tell us about her?

9. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words

2x5=10

- a. What is the theme of the poem — 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?
- b. How has the poet observed nature in the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
- c. How did Think-Tank interpret the poem 'The Cat and the Fiddle'?
- d. How did the young seagull overcome his fear and soared gradually towards the sea during his first flight?
- e. How did Ausable kill Max without using a weapon?

10. Answer any ONE of the following question in about 100-150 words

1x8=8

- a) Draw a character-sketch of Nelson Mandela highlighting his struggle against the apartheid regime for the human rights of his people.

OR

- b) Why did Lencho need God's help?

11. Answer any ONE of the following question in about 100-150 words

1x8=8

- a) Why did Hari Singh decide to return the stolen money? What light does it throw on his character?

OR

- b) Why did Mrs Pumphrey, the mistress of Tricki, make a frantic call to the noted veterinary surgeon, Dr James Herriot? How did Dr James Herriot succeed in curing Tricki?

End of the Question Paper