



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. Hibernation is one of the main adaptations that allow certain northern animals to survive long cold winters. Hibernation is like a very deep sleep that allows animals to save their energy when there is little or no food available to them. The body functions of true hibernators go through several changes while they are in hibernation.
2. Body temperature drops and the heart rate also slows down. For example, a hibernating woodchuck's body temperature drops by more than 30 degrees Celsius and its heart rate slows down from 80 to 4 beats per minute. Other true hibernators include the jumping mouse, little brown bat, eastern chipmunk and several ground squirrels. Other animals, such as the skunk and racoon, are not considered true hibernators, as they wake up in winter to feed and their body functions do not change as much.
3. Since they only sleep for a little bit at a time, the term 'dormancy' or 'light sleeping' is used to describe their behaviour pattern.
4. The largest animals to hibernate are bears. Their heart rate may slow down from a usual 40-50 beats per minute to 8-12 beats per minute, but their body temperature changes very little, so they are able to wake up quickly.
5. Hibernating animals have a special substance in the blood called hibernating inducement trigger or HIT. This substance becomes inactive in the fall, when the days become cooler and shorter. When HIT becomes inactive, the animals start preparing for winter.

6. Some animals store food, so that they can eat when they wake up and some animals eat a lot in late summer and add excess fat to their bodies.

7. This fat keeps them warmer and acts as a source of energy while they are sleeping. Some animals also make changes to the places where they will sleep. They add leaves and grasses to keep themselves warm.

1.1 Choose the correct answer.

1X4=4

(i) _____ is not considered to be a true hibernator.

- (a) Skunk (b) Bear (c) Squirrel (d) Chipmunk

(ii) A hibernating woodchuck's body temperature drops by more than _____

- (a) 60 degree Celsius (b) 45 degree Celsius
(c) 30 degree Celsius (d) 50 degree Celsius

(iii) Hibernating animals have a special substance in the blood called _____

- (a) dormancy (b) HIT (c) hibernators (d) light sleeping

(iv) When HIT becomes inactive, animals start preparing for _____

- (a) summer (b) autumn (c) spring (d) winter

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

1X4=4

(i) What is hibernation?

(ii) Why do certain northern animals hibernate?

(iii) Why are bears able to wake up quickly?

(iv) What is HIT?

2. Read the following passage carefully :

12Marks

1. They were once everywhere Chirping and flapping their wings at the window sills, on top of cupboards and on the branches of trees. Where have all the little sparrows gone? This is the most frequently asked question about sparrows these days.

2. The association between humans and the house sparrow dates back to several centuries and no other bird has been associated with humans on a daily basis like the house sparrow It is a bird that evokes fond memories of childhood and adds freshness to the household through its presence Many bird-watchers and ornithologists recall with fondness how the house sparrows gave flight to their passion for observing birds. The nests of sparrows dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus stands and railway stations, where

they lived in colonies and survived on food grains and tiny worms.

3. Unfortunately, the house sparrow has now become a disappearing species. Like all other plants and animals, which were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are also declining across their natural range. A study conducted by the Andhra University, Visakhapatnam highlighted that the population of sparrows fell by over 60 per cent even in the rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh. A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that the house sparrow's population in Britain has declined by about 58 per cent since 1970.

4. Certainly, there is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrows. Scientists and experts say that severe changes in the urban ecosystem in recent times have had a tremendous impact on the population of house sparrows whose numbers are declining constantly. Mobile tower radiation and excessive use of chemical fertilizers are aggravating the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.

5. There have been many theories put forward for the almost worldwide decline of the house sparrows. It is said that sparrow chicks, which require insect food for their survival in their early days, have not been getting adequate supply from their parents. This has triggered large scale deaths of chicks leading to gradual decline of their population.

6. Urban landscape too, has been dramatically altered over the years. Old houses, with courtyards in front and backyards, have made way for concrete multistories, with little greenery. No longer are sparrows able to find the tiny nooks, crannies and holes where they used to build their nests.

7. Typically, sparrows were never an issue of concern for us with their diminutive presence in our household. Perhaps, it is this diminutive presence because of which even their gradual disappearance has gone unnoticed. Mohammed Dilawar is rightly called the "Sparrow Man of India" as he has been successful in drawing the attention of the world towards the declining number of house sparrows.

8. House sparrows are important bio-indicators that their decline is a grim reminder of the degradation of urban environment and the danger from it to the humans in the long run.

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

(i) "The association between humans and the house sparrows date back to several

Centuries." How?

(ii) What is the reason for the decline of the number of house sparrows?

(iii) How has urban landscape affected the population of sparrows?

(iv) Who is the "Sparrow Man of India" and why is he called so? Is the decline of house sparrows an actual cause of worry?

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

(i) to gradually become less (para-3)

(a) highlighted (b) conducted (c) abundant (d) declined

(ii) very great in amount or level (para-4)

(a) severe (b) tremendous (c) impact (d) potent

(iii) annoying; making something worse (para-4)

(a) aggravating (b) drawing (c) diminutive (d) degradation

(iv) very serious (para-8)

(a) concern (b) concrete (c) grim danger (d) danger

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

It so happened that when I was 12 years old, I thought of travelling in a train without a ticket.

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

Hampi, (a) its temple complexes, palaces and fortresses, epitomized the rich historical, architectural-cultural and cosmopolitan legacy (b) the Vijayanagara Empire, which flourished on the banks of (c) Tungabhadra for more than 200 years from the mid-14th century. It is second (d) The New York Times list of 52 places to visit in 2019.

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| a. (i) with | (ii) by | (iii) for | (iv) in |
| b. (i) in | (ii) on | (iii) after | (iv) of |
| c. (i) a | (ii) an | (iii) the | (iv) in |
| d. (i) by | (ii) out | (iii) on | (iv) in |

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

	Error	Correction
Most well-known museums all the world boast	a)
of at least one Chola bronze. Some have more. It had	b)
only on 1904 that the Ancient Monuments Preservation	c)
Act had passed in India; many bronzes had been smuggled	d)
out of the country by then.		

7. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. 1 x 4 =4

- (a) evergreen tree/at/Ashoka/is/tree/tall
 (b) a height of even more reaches and/it 15 m
 (c) prized/it/beautiful foliage is/its/for
 (d) Indian subcontinent/sacred/it/throughout/is considered/the

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. "They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
 They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
 They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,"

- (a) What is the attitude of the animals about their condition?
 (b) Who lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins?
 (c) Who makes the poet sick and why?
 (d) What is the attitude of the animals for their sins?

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

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

1x8=8

- a) How did Peggy and Maddie realise Wanda's feelings that she liked them?

OR

- b) Do you think that for the young seagull, hunger was a source of motivation? Explain

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

1x8=8

- a) Give a character sketch of Matilda.

OR

- b) The narrator was deceived very cleverly by the hack driver who was Oliver Lutkins. Explain in detail.

End of the Question Paper