

Roll Number		
-------------	--	--

SET C



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

CLASS: X

Sub. Code: 184

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs

17.09.2019

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- a) This paper consists of 3 sections - A, B & C. All the sections are compulsory.
- b) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- c) Do not exceed the given word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if the word limit exceeds.

1. Read the following passage carefully.

8

1. My grandmother's house is like a chambered sea shell. It has many rooms, yet it is not a mansion. Its proportions are small and its designs are simple. It is a house that has grown organically, according to the needs of its inhabitants. To all of us in the family, it is known as the la casa de Mama. It is the place of our origin, the stage of our memories and dreams of Island life.

2. I remember how in my childhood it sat on stilts, this was before it had a car park downstairs-it rested on its perch like a great blue bird-not a flying sort of bird, more like a nesting hen, but with spread wings. Grandfather had built it soon after their marriage. He was a painter and house-builder by trade, a poet and meditative man by nature. As each of their eight children were born, new rooms were added. After a few years, the paint didn't exactly match, nor the materials, so there was a chronology to it, like the rings of a tree, and Mama could tell you the history of each room in her casa, and thus, the genealogy of family along with it.

3. Her own room is the heart of the house. Though I have seen it recently, both woman and room have diminished in size, changed by the new perspective of my eyes, now capable of looking over countertops and tall beds. It is not this picture I carry in my memory of Mama's casa. Instead, I see her room as a queen's chamber where a small woman loomed large, a throne room with a massive four poster bed in its center, which stood that the smallest grandchildren were allowed to take naps in the afternoons, here too was where Mama secluded herself to dispense private advice to her daughters, sitting on the edge of the bed, looking down at whoever sat on the rocker where generations of babies had been sung to sleep. To me, she looked like a wise empress right out of the fairy tales I was addicted to reading.

4. And there was the monstrous wardrobe, she kept locked with a little golden key, she did not hide. This was a test of her dominion over us, though my cousins and I wanted a look inside that massive wardrobe more than anything, we never reached for that little key lying on top of her bible on the dresser. This was also where she placed her earrings and rosary when she took them off at night. God's word was her security system. This wardrobe was the place I imagined where she kept jewels, satin slippers, and elegant silk, sequined gowns of heartbreaking fineness. I

lusted after those imaginary costumes. I heard that Mama had been a great beauty in her youth. My cousins had ideas as to what she kept in that wooden vault; its secret could be money Mama did not hand cash to strangers, banks were out of the question, so there were stories that her mattress was stuffed with dollar bills, and that she buried coins in jars in her garden under rose-bushes, or kept them in her untouched wardrobe; there might be that legendary gun salvaged from the Spanish American conflict over the Island. We went wild over suspected treasures that we made up simply because children have to fill locked trunks with something wonderful.

I. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentences.

- (i) Grandmother's house resembles a chambered sea shell because 1x4=4
- (a) Its design is simple (b) Of the many rings on the tree
- (c) It looks like the Queen's chamber (d) It has many rooms
- (ii) Grandfather was a _____ by profession
- (a) Sailor (b) Painter (c) Poet (d) meditative
- (iii) As each of her eight children was born, new _____ were added.
- (a) Rooms (b) Trees (c) Birds (d) houses
- (iv) The key was kept on top of the Grandmother's _____ on the dresser
- (a) Clothes (b) Bible (c) Silk gown (d) books

II. Answer the following questions in one word or one sentence.

1x4=4

- (i) What was the la casa de Mama in the family?
- (ii) What was the test of her dominion over them?
- (iii) What according to the narrator did Mama keep in the wardrobe?
- (iv) What had the author heard of Mama as a young woman?

2. Read the following passage carefully.

12

1. The habit of reading is one of the greatest resources of mankind; and we enjoy reading books that belong to us much more than if they are borrowed. A borrowed book is like a guest in the house; it must be treated with punctiliousness, with a certain considerate formality. You must see that it sustains no damage; it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly, you cannot mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, although this is seldom done, you really ought to return it.

2. But your own books belong to you; you treat them with that affectionate intimacy that annihilates formality. Books are for use, not for show; you should own no book that you are afraid to mark up, or afraid to place on the table, wide open and face down. A good reason for marking favorite passages in books is that this practice enables you to remember more easily the significant sayings, to refer to them quickly, and then in later years, it is like visiting a forest where you once blazed a trail. You have the pleasure of going over the old ground, and recalling both the intellectual scenery and your own earlier self.

3. Everyone should begin collecting a private library in youth; the instinct of private property, which is fundamental in human beings, can here be cultivated with every advantage and no evils. One should have one's own bookshelves, which should not have doors, glass windows, or keys; they should be free and accessible to the hand as well as to the eye. The best of mural decorations is books; they are more varied in color and appearance than any wallpaper, they are more attractive in design, and they have the prime advantage of being separate personalities, so that if you sit alone in the room in the firelight, you are surrounded with intimate friends. The knowledge that they are there in plain view is both stimulating and refreshing. You do not have to read them all. Most of my indoor life is spent in a room containing six thousand books; and I have a stock answer to the invariable question that comes from strangers. "Have you read all of these books?"

"Some of them twice." This reply is both true and unexpected.

4. My devotion to reading has never made me a recluse. How could it? Books are of the people, by the people, for the people. Literature is the immortal part of history; it is the best and most enduring part of personality. But book-friends have this advantage over living friends; you can enjoy the most truly aristocratic society in the world whenever you want it. The great dead are beyond our physical reach, and the great living are usually almost as inaccessible; as for our personal friends and acquaintances, we cannot always see them. Perchance they are asleep, or away on a journey. But in a private library, you can at any moment converse with Socrates or Shakespeare or Carlyle or Dumas or Dickens or Shaw or Barrie or Galsworthy.

I. Answer the following questions briefly:

2x4=8

- (i) We enjoy reading books that belong to us much more than if they are borrowed. Why?
- (ii) What is a good reason for marking favourite passages in book?
- (iii) What kind of bookshelf should one have?
- (iv) Why are books the best mural decorations?

II. Find the words from the passage that mean the same as the following. Choose the correct option.

1x4=4

- (i) Strict or exact in the observation (para 1)
 - (a) Punctiliousness (b) Familiarly (c) Formality (d) seldom
- (ii) ability to think and understand things (para 2)
 - (a) significant (b) annihilates (c) intellectual (d) blazed
- (iii) the most basic and important (para-3)
 - (a) fundamental (b) private (c) intimate (d) instinct
- (iv) living or lasting forever (para-4)
 - (a) devotion (b) enduring (c) immortal (d) aristocratic

SECTION - B

3. Children are the future of the nation. Schools and parents play an important role in shaping a child's personality. Write an article on the topic 'Role of School in a Child's Life' in about 100-100-150 words.

8

- Importance of school for a child
- Shaping of physical and mental health
- Development of the right attitude
- Character-building
- Providing opportunities to develop talent in each child.

OR

You are Sonal/ Samkit of Vidyanjali Public School, Lucknow. You have seen an advertisement in 'The Times of India' related to new batches of 'Astronomy Club' initiated by National Science Centre, Lucknow starting from the coming fortnight. You wish to join the Club. Write a letter to the Director, enquiring about the venue, duration, fee- structure, activities, transportation etc. Invent other necessary details (100-150 words)

4. **Write a story with the following as its opening lines, in about 150-200 words.** 10
 "An old man had two daughters. He loved both of them. Once he asked them...."
5. **Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below.** 1x4=4
 Reading a novel or short story (i) _____ second language could dramatically (ii) _____ physiological responses to emotions such (iii) _____ smiling. It enables us to (iv) _____ various mental abilities at all levels.
- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| (i) (a) of | (b) in | (c) from | (d) at |
| (ii) (a) reduce | (b) reduces | (c) reduced | (d) reducing |
| (iii) (a) like | (b) similar to | (c) as | (d) alike |
| (iv) (a) developed | (b) develops | (c) develop | (d) developed |
6. **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 the word that comes after it in your answer sheet. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined.** 1x4=4
- Twenty years ago, kids in school never even (a) _____
 heard the internet. The internet is a vast resource (b) _____
 for types of information. It is like a giant bulletin (c) _____
 board that the whole world uses anyone can (d) _____
 put anything on the internet
7. **Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences.** 1x4=4
- (a) precious gift /is a /life/ from God/ to us
 (b) thankful/ should/ be/ we/ God/ to/ it/ for
 (c) God/ some/ remember/ only/ people/ distress/ in
 (d) some/ believe/in/ do not/ unfortunately/ God

SECTION - C

8. **"He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up."**

1x4=4

- (a) How are the boy's eyes?
- (b) Why are the boy's eyes 'desperate'?
- (c) What is the boy learning?
- (d) What is the boy going to know?

OR

**He should be snarling around houses
At the jungle's edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorizing the village!**

- (a) The poet says 'He should be', which means that he is not doing at present, so where is he and what is he doing?
- (b) Where should 'he' be?
- (c) Where is he snarling around houses?
- (d) Name the poem and the poet.

9. **Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each.**

2x5=10

- 1. What made the young seagull's family celebrate his first flight?
- 2. Why is 10th May 1994 important for South Africa?
- 3. Why did Mr. Keesing punish Anne Frank?
- 4. Why did Hari Singh feel bad after stealing the money?
- 5. Why is Horace Danby described as good and respectable but not completely honest?

10. **Answer the following questions in 100-150 words.**

8

What were the difficulties faced by Nelson Mandela in achieving freedom for his people?

OR

The postmaster represents such people who still believe in helping others. Mention the values of the postmaster which you would like to emulate in yourself.

11. **Answer the following questions in 100-150 words.**

8

At the beginning of the story, Fowler felt disappointed with Ausable. Do you think Fowler had the same feeling towards the end of the story? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

Write a character sketch of Horace Danby.

End of the Question Paper

