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**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2022
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE-184**



CLASS: IX
DATE: 21.09.2022

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAX. MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All three sections are compulsory.
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- Don not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.

SECTION A - READING

20

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing on your mind?

2. If your answer is yes, then you should understand that you are not a robot. Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow despite our circumstances and limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true feels great when life goes our way. But what happens when it does not? What happens when you fail despite all your hard work? Do you stay down and accept defeat or do you get up again? If you tend to persevere and keep going, you have what experts call 'grit'.

3. Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that has been described as the key to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is an example of grit for trying more than 1,000 times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you will realize the importance of his success. When asked why he kept going despite hundreds of failures, he merely stated that they had not been failures; they were hundreds of attempts toward creating the light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side.

4. Grit can be learnt to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that help is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that makes an individual stay at the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgement. This practice has been used to quieten the noise of fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.
5. What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today.
- Moral: Learn from your Mistakes

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below: **10×1=10**

- i) The reason why you are not a robot is that:
- a) you fail miserably at tasks
b) failure and success can affect your emotions
- c) you work hard
d) you have limitations
- ii) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

“What is the point of being alive if you don’t at least try to do something remarkable?” 1) —John Green	“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.” 2) —James Joyce	“Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end.” 3) —Denis Waitley	“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.” 4) —Albert Einstein
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a) option (1) b) option (2) c) option (3) d) option (4)

- iii) What is the tone of the following context: ‘Falling down or failing is one of the most... educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life’?
- a) humorous
b) optimistic
c) horrifying
d) solemn
- iv) Which of the following is relevant for the title of the passage?
- a) dreams always come true
b) failure and grit go hand in hand
- c) humans vs robots
d) falling down and getting up
- v) was created after many attempts.
- a) electricity
b) light bulb
c) current
d) tube light
- vi) Which one of the following sentences makes the correct use of ‘grit’, as used in the passage?
- a) get rid of that grit in your shoes
b) she had a bit of grit in her eye
- c) the road had been covered with grit
d) her grit never made her give up

vii) To develop perseverance one must:

- a) become more aware b) work hard
- c) be in the moment and be aware without judgement d) seek guidance

viii) How does mindfulness help?

- a) it creates awareness b) it quietens the noise of fears and doubts
- c) it helps one become successful d) it helps develop focus

ix) What do you understand from this line, 'Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences?'

- a) falling down makes us angry b) failure can deeply affect our emotions
- c) stay positive and be optimistic d) self-control is empowering

x) Choose the option that correctly states the meaning of 'social intelligence' as implied in the passage:

- a) knowing others b) knowing oneself and others
- c) knowing oneself d) knowing one's surroundings

xi) The importance of perseverance and optimism for a successful and fulfilling life is explained using the example of _____.

- a) Thomas Edison b) flourishing c) grit d) limitations

xii) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?

- a) always aim for the best b) live life king size
- c) through mindfulness we can overcome the negative impact of failure
- d) social intelligence is crucial for a successful life

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe.

2. Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces while the other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but these are the basics.

3. Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of a workout for the mind.

4. You do not always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It is called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

5. Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first, they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on, they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006, a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below:

10×1=10

- i) What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?
 - a) to explain the rules of chess
 - b) to compare different types of games
 - c) to talk about game pieces
 - d) to persuade people to play chess
- ii) Which is not a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?
 - a) chess players think about what will happen next
 - b) chess players take a lot of risks
 - c) chess players take their time
 - d) chess players use their brains
- iii) How long have people been playing chess?
 - a) over 100 years
 - b) over 500 years
 - c) over 1000 years
 - d) over 5000 years
- iv) Where did the game that chess is based on come from?
 - a) Europe
 - b) India
 - c) America
 - d) all of these
- v) Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?
 - a) this paragraph argues that players should think less
 - b) this paragraph explains how blitz chess is played
 - c) this paragraph explains how time clocks work
 - d) this paragraph describes many different ways to play chess
- vi) How does a game of chess end according to the text?
 - a) one player takes all of the other player's pieces
 - b) one player makes it to the end of the board
 - c) one player becomes a ruler
 - d) one player loses his or her king

- vii) Which happened first?
- a) computers did not play chess well b) Deep Blue won an important game
c) cell phones got good at playing chess d) Deep Blue took up a whole room
- viii) How is blitz chess different from regular chess?
- a) each player has two kings b) players are blindfolded
c) players only have ten minutes to play d) players start from a random position
- ix) If it is your turn in blitz chess, what happens when you hit the clock?
- a) both your clock and the other person's clock keep running
b) the other person's clock stops running and yours starts
c) both clocks stop running
d) your clock stops running and the other person's clock begins
- x) When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976
- xi) What is the meaning of the word 'Blitz'?
- a) a sudden effort or attack on somebody/something b) to dive fast
c) very happy d) annoyed
- xii) When did a cell phone first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING

20

3. Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words, on 'My Loving Sister'. Take the information given below in the input: 5

(strong and caring sister — currently staying with her friend's family pursuing an advanced academic program — tries to find time in her busy schedule to call or text us — sacrificed so much to be the best — understanding, intelligent, funny and charismatic— brings solution to every problem)

OR

Your school celebrated Sports Day on 29th August 2022. The famous cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Write a description about the event in 100-120 words.

4. You are Ramya/Ram. You have experienced an unusually happy day in your life. Record your feeling in a diary entry in about 100-120 words: 5

OR

Your brother has turned up from abroad after his higher studies. Your family members celebrated his arrival. Write a diary entry describing how you gave homecoming welcome to your brother and soon that day becomes 'A Memorable Family Occasion' for you in 100-120 words.

5. Attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve given below:

10x1=10

- i) You _____ not repeat the same mistake.
a) could b) should c) shan't d) shall
- ii) Carl has _____ honorary degree in Architecture.
a) the b) a c) an d) much
- iii) We _____ on the court before it started raining.
a) were playing b) was playing c) has been playing d) had been playing
- iv) My mother _____ up early in the morning.
a) get b) gets c) will be d) shall be
- v) The children _____ in the field now.
a) has played b) are playing c) plays d) will had played
- vi) It _____ raining since morning.
a) have been b) has been c) is d) was
- vii) He _____ his house seven days ago.
a) left b) leave c) leaves d) is leaving
- viii) I _____ a letter when he came to my house.
a) am writing b) was writing c) will write d) wrote
- ix) The train _____ before he reached the station.
a) has left b) was left c) had left d) is left
- x) It _____ raining since morning when you rang me up.
a) had been b) has been c) have been d) was
- xi) If he works hard, he _____ pass.
a) will b) should c) would d) could be
- xii) I _____ white washing my house since morning, so I am feeling tired.
a) have been b) has been c) will be d) will have been

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**5x1=5**

i) Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. They called her name and she did not move.

- What was wrong with Evelyn?
- Who noticed something the wrong with Evelyn?
- How was the wrong noticed?
- Explain this line : They called her name and she didn't move
- When was Evelyn's deafness confirmed?

i) by the age of 5 ii) by the age of 6 iii) by the age of 8 iv) by the age of 11

OR

ii) Your Highness, when my brother was pursuing his ancient trade, a wall fell on him and killed him. This merchant is to blame.

- Who makes this plea? To whom?
- What was the 'ancient trade' mentioned here?
- Who had been killed and how?
- Was the merchant really to be blamed?
- The merchant said that his wall fell because.....

i) the thief had tried to break in ii) the wall was old and weak
iii) the bricklayer had not built it right iv) the hole made in it was too big

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**5x1=5**

i) Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- What does the poet mean by 'yellow wood'?
- Why did he feel like travelling both the roads?
- '....long I stood'. What did the speaker do while standing for a long time?
- Explain: 'And be one traveller'
- What does the poem speak about?

i) about the plight of roads ii) about the people
iii) about two woods iv) about the choices made by people

OR

ii) When the humid shadows hover

Overall the starry spheres

And the melancholy darkness

Gently weeps in rainy tears,

What a bliss to press the pillow

Of a cottage-chamber bed

And like listening to the patter

Of the soft rain overhead!

a) What does the poet imply by 'humid shadow'?

b) What does the phrase 'starry spheres' refer to?

c) What does the poet consider a 'bliss' in the rainy season?

d) Which poetic device has been used in 'lie listening'?

e) Which poetic device has been used in the fourth line?

i) simile ii) metaphor iii) personification iv) alliteration

8. Answer ANY FOUR questions in 40-50 words each:

4x3=12

i) How was Einstein honoured for his achievements?

ii) What is the central idea of the poem, 'Wind'?

iii) Describe the book that Tommy had found in the attic.

iv) What was Kezia's father's routine before going to an office and after coming back in the evening?

v) How was Bismillah Khan's music appreciated and recognised on the international level?

9. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each:

2x3=6

i) How did the mother distract the child's mind from the toy seller?

ii) What destruction was caused by Toto to the narrator's room?

iii) What did the dancing girl say in her defence?

10. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

i) What is the moral presented by the poet in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

OR

ii) Give an account of the awards, accolades and recognition that Bismillah Khan earned as a talented musician

11. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

i) Write a note on the theme of the story 'The Lost Child'.

OR

ii) Describe how the Guru saved his disciple from execution.

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2022
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE -184**



CLASS: IX
DATE: 21.09.2022

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAX. MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All three sections are compulsory.
- ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
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SECTION A - READING

20

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe.

2. Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces while the other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but these are the basics.

3. Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of a workout for the mind.

4. You do not always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It is called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

5. Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first, they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on, they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006, a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below:

10×1=10

- i) What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?
 - a) to explain the rules of chess b) to compare different types of games
 - c) to talk about game pieces d) to persuade people to play chess
- ii) Which is not a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?
 - a) good chess players think about what will happen next
 - b) good chess players take a lot of risks
 - c) good chess players take their time
 - d) good chess players use their brains
- iii) How long have people been playing chess?
 - a) over 100 years b) over 500 years c) over 1000 years d) over 5000 years
- iv) Where did the game that chess is based on come from?
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- viii) How is blitz chess different from regular chess?
- a) each player has two kings b) players are blindfolded
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- x) When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976
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- a) a sudden effort or attack on somebody/something b) to dive fast
 - c) very happy d) annoyed
- xii) When did a cell phone first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing on your mind?
2. If your answer is yes, then you should understand that you are not a robot. Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow despite our circumstances and limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true feels great when life goes our way. But what happens when it does not? What happens when you fail despite all your hard work? Do you stay down and accept defeat or do you get up again? If you tend to persevere and keep going, you have what experts call 'grit'.
3. Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that has been described as the key to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is an example of grit for trying more than 1,000 times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you will realize the importance of his success. When asked why he kept going despite hundreds of failures, he merely stated that they had not been failures; they were hundreds of attempts toward creating the light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side.
4. Grit can be learnt to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that help is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that makes an individual stay at the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgement. This practice has been used to quieten the

noise of fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.

5. What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today.

Moral: Learn from your Mistakes

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below:

10×1=10

i) The reason why you are not a robot is that:

- a) you fail miserably at tasks
- b) failure and success can affect your emotions
- c) you work hard
- d) you have limitations

ii) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

<p>“What is the point of being alive if you don’t at least try to do something remarkable?”</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>—John Green</p>	<p>“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.”</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>—James Joyce</p>	<p>“Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end.”</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>—Denis Waitley</p>	<p>“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.”</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>—Albert Einstein</p>
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- a) option (1) b) option (2) c) option (3) d) option (4)

iii) What is the tone of the following context: ‘Falling down or failing is one of the most... educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life’?

- a) humorous
- b) optimistic
- c) horrifying
- d) solemn

iv) Which of the following is relevant for the title of the passage?

- a) dreams always come true
- b) failure and grit go hand in hand
- c) humans vs robots
- d) falling down and getting up

v) was created after many attempts.

- a) electricity
- b) light bulb
- c) current
- d) tube light

vi) Which one of the following sentences makes the correct use of ‘grit’, as used in the passage?

- a) get rid of that grit in your shoes
- b) she had a bit of grit in her eye
- c) the road had been covered with grit
- d) her grit never made her give up

vii) To develop perseverance one must:

- a) become more aware
- b) work hard
- c) be in the moment and be aware without judgement
- d) seek guidance

viii) How does mindfulness help?

- a) it creates awareness b) it quietens the noise of fears and doubts
- c) it helps one become successful d) it helps develop focus

ix) What do you understand from this line, 'Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences?'

- a) falling down makes us angry b) failure can deeply affect our emotions
- c) stay positive and be optimistic d) self-control is empowering

x) Choose the option that correctly states the meaning of 'social intelligence' as implied in the passage:

- a) knowing others b) knowing oneself and others
- c) knowing oneself d) knowing one's surroundings

xi) The importance of perseverance and optimism for a successful and fulfilling life is explained using the example of _____.

- a) Thomas Edison b) flourishing c) grit d) limitations

xii) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?

- a) always aim for the best
- b) live life king size
- c) through mindfulness we can overcome the negative impact of failure
- d) social intelligence is crucial for a successful life

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING

20

3. Your school celebrated Sports Day on 29th August 2022. The famous cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Write a description about the event in 100-120 words:

5

OR

Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words, on 'My Loving Sister'. Take the information given below in the input:

(strong and caring sister — currently staying with her friend's family pursuing an advanced academic program — tries to find time in her busy schedule to call or text us — sacrificed so much to be the best — understanding, intelligent, funny and charismatic — brings solution to every problem)

4. Your brother has turned up from abroad after his higher studies. Your family members celebrated his arrival. Write a diary entry describing how you gave homecoming welcome to your brother and soon that day becomes 'A Memorable Family Occasion' for you in 100-120 words:

5

OR

You are Ramya/Ram. You have experienced an unusually happy day in your life. Record your feeling in a diary entry in about 100-120 words.

5. Attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve given below:

10x1=10

- i) I _____ white washing my house since morning, so I am feeling tired.
a) have been b) has been c) will be d) will have been
- ii) You _____ not repeat the same mistake.
a) could b) should c) shan't d) shall
- iii) Carl has _____ honorary degree in Architecture.
a) the b) a c) an d) much
- iv) We _____ on the court before it started raining.
a) were playing b) was playing c) has been playing d) had been playing
- v) My mother _____ up early in the morning.
a) get b) gets c) will be d) shall be
- vi) The children _____ in the field now.
a) has played b) are playing c) plays d) will had played
- vii) It _____ raining since morning.
a) have been b) has been c) is d) was
- viii) He _____ his house seven days ago.
a) left b) leave c) leaves d) is leaving
- ix) I _____ a letter when he came to my house.
a) am writing b) was writing c) will write d) wrote
- x) The train _____ before he reached the station.
a) has left b) was left c) had left d) is left
- xi) It _____ raining since morning when you rang me up.
a) had been b) has been c) have been d) was
- xii) If he works hard, he _____ pass.
a) will b) should c) would d) could be

SECTION C - LITERATURE

40

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

5x1=5

i) Your Highness, when my brother was pursuing his ancient trade, a wall fell on him and killed him. This merchant is to blame.

- a) Who makes this plea? To whom?
- b) What was the 'ancient trade' mentioned here?
- c) Who had been killed and how?
- d) Was the merchant really to be blamed?
- e) The merchant said that his wall fell because.....
 - i) the thief had tried to break in ii) the wall was old and weak
 - iii) the bricklayer had not built it right iv) the hole made in it was too big

OR

ii) Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. They called her name and she did not move.

- a) What was wrong with Evelyn?
- b) Who noticed something the wrong with Evelyn?
- c) How was the wrong noticed?
- d) Explain this line : They called her name and she didn't move
- e) When was Evelyn's deafness confirmed?
 - i) by the age of 5 ii) by the age of 6 iii) by the age of 8 iv) by the age of 11

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

5x1=5

i) When the humid shadows hover

Overall the starry spheres
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed
And like listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!

- a) What does the poet imply by 'humid shadow'?
- b) What does the phrase 'starry spheres' refer to?
- c) What does the poet consider a 'bliss' in the rainy season?
- d) Which poetic device has been used in 'lie listening'?
- e) Which poetic device has been used in the fourth line?
 - i) simile ii) metaphor iii) personification iv) alliteration

OR

ii) Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
 And sorry I could not travel both
 And be one traveller, long I stood
 And looked down one as far as I could
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- a) What does the poet mean by 'yellow wood'?
- b) Why did he feel like travelling both the roads?
- c) '...long I stood'. What did the speaker do while standing for a long time?
- d) Explain: 'And be one traveller'
- e) What does the poem speak about?
 - i) about the plight of roads ii) about the people
 - iii) about two woods iv) about the choices made by people

8. Answer ANY FOUR questions in 40-50 words each:

4x3=12

- i) What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?
- ii) How does the poet describe the wind in the poem 'Wind'?
- iii) Write a brief note on Margie's school routine.
- iv) What was Kezia's father's routine before going to an office and after coming back in the evening?
- v) How was Bismillah Khan's music appreciated and recognised on the international level?

9. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each:

2x3=6

- i) What are the things that the child wants at the fair?
- ii) Describe Toto the monkey that Grandfather bought from the Tonga-driver.
- iii) Whom does the dancing girl blame for her going up and down the road in front of the bricklayer?

10. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

- i) Give an account of the awards, accolades and recognition that Bismillah Khan earned as a talented musician

OR

- ii) What is the moral presented by the poet in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?

11. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

- i) How did the guru manage to save his disciple's life? What does it reveal about the King and his minister?

OR

- ii) Write a note on the theme of the story 'The Lost Child'.

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2022
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE-184**



CLASS: IX
DATE: 21.09.2022

TIME ALLOTTED: 3 HRS.
MAX. MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All three sections are compulsory.
- ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- iii) Don not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions. Marks will be deducted if this limit is crossed.

SECTION A - READING

20

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing on your mind?

2. If your answer is yes, then you should understand that you are not a robot. Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow despite our circumstances and limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true feels great when life goes our way. But what happens when it does not? What happens when you fail despite all your hard work? Do you stay down and accept defeat or do you get up again? If you tend to persevere and keep going, you have what experts call 'grit'.

3. Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that has been described as the key to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is an example of grit for trying more than 1,000 times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you will realize the importance of his success. When asked why he kept going despite hundreds of failures, he merely stated that they had not been failures; they were hundreds of attempts toward creating the light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side.

4. Grit can be learnt to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that help is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that makes an individual stay at the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgement. This practice has been used to quieten the noise of fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.

5. What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today.

Moral: Learn from your Mistakes

10×1=10

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below:

i) The reason why you are not a robot is that:

- a) you fail miserably at tasks b) failure and success can affect your emotions
c) you work hard d) you have limitations

ii) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

<p>“What is the point of being alive if you don’t at least try to do something remarkable?” (1) —John Green</p>	<p>“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.” (2) —James Joyce</p>	<p>“Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end.” (3) —Denis Waitley</p>	<p>“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.” (4) —Albert Einstein</p>
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- a) option (1) b) option (2) c) option (3) d) option (4)

iii) What is the tone of the following context: ‘Falling down or failing is one of the most... educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life?’

- a) humorous b) optimistic c) horrifying d) solemn

iv) Which of the following is relevant for the title of the passage?

- a) dreams always come true b) failure and grit go hand in hand
c) humans vs robots d) falling down and getting up

v) was created after many attempts.

- a) electricity b) light bulb c) current d) tube light

vi) Which of the following sentences makes the correct use of ‘grit’, as used in the passage?

- a) get rid of that grit in your shoes b) she had a bit of grit in her eye
c) the road had been covered with grit d) her grit never made her give up

- vii) To develop perseverance one must:
- a) become more aware b) work hard
 - c) be in the moment and be aware without judgement d) seek guidance
- viii) How does mindfulness help?
- a) it creates awareness b) it quietens the noise of fears and doubts
 - c) it helps one become successful d) it helps develop focus
- ix) What do you understand from this line, 'Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scary human experiences?'
- a) falling down makes us angry b) failure can deeply affect our emotions
 - c) stay positive and be optimistic d) self-control is empowering
- x) Choose the option that correctly states the meaning of 'social intelligence' as implied in the passage:
- a) knowing others b) knowing oneself and others
 - c) knowing oneself d) knowing one's surroundings
- xi) The importance of perseverance and optimism for a successful and fulfilling life is explained using the example of _____.
- a) Thomas Edison b) flourishing c) grit d) limitations
- xii) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?
- a) always aim for the best
 - b) live life king size
 - c) through mindfulness we can overcome the negative impact of failure
 - d) social intelligence is crucial for a successful life

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe.

2. Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces while the other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but these are the basics.

3. Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of a workout for the mind.

4. You do not always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It is called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

5. Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first, they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on, they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006, a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the TWELVE given below:

10×1=10

- i) What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?
 - a) to explain the rules of chess
 - b) to compare different types of games
 - c) to talk about game pieces
 - d) to persuade people to play chess
- ii) Which is not a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?
 - a) good chess players think about what will happen next
 - b) good chess players take a lot of risks
 - c) good chess players take their time
 - d) good chess players use their brains
- iii) How long have people been playing chess?
 - a) over 100 years
 - b) over 500 years
 - c) over 1000 years
 - d) over 5000 years
- iv) Where did the game that chess is based on come from?
 - a) Europe
 - b) India
 - c) America
 - d) all of these
- v) Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?
 - a) this paragraph argues that players should think less
 - b) this paragraph explains how blitz chess is played
 - c) this paragraph explains how time clocks work
 - d) this paragraph describes many different ways to play chess
- vi) How does a game of chess end according to the text?
 - a) one player takes all of the other player's pieces
 - b) one player makes it to the end of the board
 - c) one player becomes a ruler
 - d) one player loses his or her king

- vii) Which happened first?
- a) computers did not play chess well b) Deep Blue won an important game
 - c) cell phones got good at playing chess d) Deep Blue took up a whole room
- viii) How is blitz chess different from regular chess?
- a) each player has two kings b) players are blindfolded
 - c) players only have ten minutes to play d) players start from a random position
- ix) If it is your turn in blitz chess, what happens when you hit the clock?
- a) both your clock and the other person's clock keep running
 - b) the other person's clock stops running and yours starts
 - c) both clocks stop running
 - d) your clock stops running and the other person's clock begins
- x) When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976
- xi) What is the meaning of the word 'blitz'?
- a) a sudden effort or attack on somebody/something b) to dive fast
 - c) very happy d) annoyed
- xii) When did a cell phone first beat a strong human player in chess?
- a) 2006 b) 1997 c) 1970 d) 1976

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING

20

3. Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words, on 'My Loving Sister'. Take the information given below in the input: 5

(strong and caring sister — currently staying with her friend's family pursuing an advanced academic program — tries to find time in her busy schedule to call or text us — sacrificed so much to be the best — understanding, intelligent, funny and charismatic — brings solution to every problem)

OR

Your school celebrated Sports Day on 29th August 2022. The famous cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Write a description about the event in 100-120 words.

4. You are Ramya/Ram. You have experienced an unusually happy day in your life. Record your feeling in a diary entry in about 100-120 words: 5

OR

Your brother has turned up from abroad after his higher studies. Your family members celebrated his arrival. Write a diary entry describing how you gave homecoming welcome to your brother and soon that day becomes 'A Memorable Family Occasion' for you in 100-120 words.

5. Attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve given below:

10x1=10

- i) You _____ not repeat the same mistake.
a) could b) should c) shan't d) shall
- ii) Carl has _____ honorary degree in Architecture.
a) the b) a c) an d) much
- iii) We _____ on the court before it started raining.
a) were playing b) was playing c) has been playing d) had been playing
- iv) My mother _____ up early in the morning.
a) get b) gets c) will be d) shall be
- v) The children _____ in the field now.
a) has played b) are playing c) plays d) will had played
- vi) It _____ raining since morning.
a) have been b) has been c) is d) was
- vii) He _____ his house seven days ago.
a) left b) leave c) leaves d) is leaving
- viii) I _____ a letter when he came to my house.
a) am writing b) was writing c) will write d) wrote
- ix) The train _____ before he reached the station.
a) has left b) was left c) had left d) is left
- x) It _____ raining since morning when you rang me up.
a) had been b) has been c) have been d) was
- xi) If he works hard, he _____ pass.
a) will b) should c) would d) could be

- xii) I _____ white washing my house since morning, so I am feeling tired.
a) have been b) has been c) will be d) will have been

SECTION C - LITERATURE

40

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

5x1=5

i) Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. They called her name and she did not move.

- a) What was wrong with Evelyn?
- b) Who noticed something the wrong with Evelyn?
- c) How was the wrong noticed?
- d) Explain this line : They called her name and she didn't move
- e) When was Evelyn's deafness confirmed?
 - i) by the age of 5 ii) by the age of 6 iii) by the age of 8 iv) by the age of 11

OR

ii) Your Highness, when my brother was pursuing his ancient trade, a wall fell on him and killed him. This merchant is to blame.

- a) Who makes this plea? To whom?
- b) What was the 'ancient trade' mentioned here?
- c) Who had been killed and how?
- d) Was the merchant really to be blamed?
- e) The merchant said that his wall fell because.....
 - i) the thief had tried to break in ii) the wall was old and weak
 - iii) the bricklayer had not built it right iv) the hole made in it was too big

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

5x1=5

i) Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;"

- a) What does the poet mean by 'yellow wood'?
- b) Why did he feel like travelling both the roads?
- c) '....long I stood'. What did the speaker do while standing for a long time?
- d) Explain: 'And be one traveller'
- e) What does the poem speak about?
 - i) about the plight of roads ii) about the people
 - iii) about two woods iv) about the choices made by people

OR

ii) When the humid shadows hover

Overall the starry spheres

And the melancholy darkness

Gently weeps in rainy tears,

What a bliss to press the pillow

Of a cottage-chamber bed

And like listening to the patter

Of the soft rain overhead!

a) What does the poet imply by 'humid shadow'?

b) What does the phrase 'starry spheres' refer to?

c) What does the poet consider a 'bliss' in the rainy season?

d) Which poetic device has been used in 'lie listening'?

e) Which poetic device has been used in the fourth line?

i) simile ii) metaphor iii) personification iv) alliteration

8. Answer ANY FOUR questions in 40-50 words each:

4x3=12

i) How was Einstein honoured for his achievements?

ii) What is the central idea of the poem, 'Wind'?

iii) Describe the book that Tommy had found in the attic.

iv) What was Kezia's father's routine before going to an office and after coming back in the evening?

v) How was Bismillah Khan's music appreciated and recognised on the international level?

9. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each:

2x3=6

i) How did the mother distract the child's mind from the toy seller?

ii) What destruction was caused by Toto to the narrator's room?

iii) What did the dancing girl say in her defence?

10. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

i) How does the poet capture the sights and sounds of the Lake Isle of Innisfree

OR

ii) Write a short note on the relationship between Kezia and her father.

11. Attempt ANY ONE out of two questions given below in 100-120 words each:

1x6=6

i) Write a note on the theme of the story 'The Lost Child'.

OR

ii) 'Toto was a sharp and active monkey' Discuss.

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER