

SA-I CLASS-VIII
SUBJECT : ENGLISH

9/2012

Time : 3 Hrs.

M.M.: 80

General Instructions :

- 1. Read the questions carefully.**
- 2. Attempt all the questions.**
- 3. Write in a neat and clear handwriting.**
- 4. Write the answers in complete sentences.**

SECTION-A (READING)

Q1. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg in Germany, lived a family with eight children. Eight! In order merely to feed the crowd, their father, a goldsmith had to work almost eighteen hours a day. Despite their hopeless condition, two of his children shared a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, although they knew fully well that their father would never be able to send even one of them to Nuremberg to study at the Art Academy.

After many long discussions, the two boys finally made a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go to work in the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the Academy. Then, in four years time, when the brother who had won the toss completed his studies, he would support the other brother at the Academy.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and for the next four years financed his brother, whose work at the Academy was an immediate sensation. His art work was better than most of his professors and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn for his works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long memorable meal, Albrecht rose from his honoured position and thanked his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled him to fulfil his ambition. His closing words were, 'And now Albert you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you'. All eyes turned to Albert who had tears streaming down his pale face. He was sobbing and repeatedly saying No...no...no...no'.

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He softly said, "No, brother I can't go to Nuremberg, it's too late for me. Look-look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once. I can't even hold a plate properly nor can I work on canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother it's too late for me.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and the thin fingers pointing skyward. He called this powerful drawing 'Hands', but the people in the entire world immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love, 'The Praying Hands'.

- (i) Their father was a goldsmith but the two sons had a different dream. What was their dream? (1)
- (ii) The two brothers finally made a pact. Describe the pact. (1)
- (iii) How did the Durer family welcome the return of their artist son? (1)
- (iv) 'And now Albert, you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream and I will take care of you'. Who spoke the above line and how did the listener react? (2)
- (v) What name did Albrecht give to his painting and why? (1)
- (vi) Find words from the passage which mean the same as given words : (1x2=2)
 - (a) agreement
 - (b) successful

Q2. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow : (7)

The road was hilly, the wind was strong,
The boy bravely struggled along,
With never a glance at the downward way
Where his comrades shouted and laughed in play.
Though he longed to be there and join the sport,
In his brave little heart he crushed the thought.
"If I went", he said, "I should certainly repent it,
When you've promised a thing, you're bound to do it".
The pitch was slippery, the bowling hard,
A weary batsman stood on guard,
He'd come to the field with an aching head,

But the game depended on him, they said.
The sun burned hot on his tired back,
And just for a moment he thought he'd slack,
He was sorely tempted to lose a wicket :
"It would be easy,' he thought, but it wouldn't be cricket!"

In life sometimes things won't go well,
And 'Duty' is a difficult word to spell.
But the fellow who sets before his eyes
A high ideal as the worthiest prize
Will give up the evil and follow the good,
And say to himself as brave boy should
"It only needs grit and I must not lack it :
The world's a hard nut, but I mean to crack it!"

- (i) The boy did not glance at his friend while climbing up the hill? Why do you think he did so? (1)
- (ii) Why was it important for the batsman to play well? (1)
- (iii) "It would be easy", he thought, "but it wouldn't be cricket!" What was the boy tempted to do? (1)
- (iv) What does the following line mean? (1)
'In life sometimes things won't go well'
- (v) What do you learn from the poem? (1)
- (vi) Find words from the poem which mean the same : (2)
(a) bitterly (b) courage

SECTION-B (WRITING)

- Q3. You are Mohit/Meenakshi. Your brother is staying in the school hostel and he is curious to know about your ailing grandfather's condition. Write an e-mail to him about the health condition of your grandfather. (5)
- Q4. Draw a beautiful and attractive poster educating people to 'Be Kind to Animals'. (4)
- Q5. You are Ankit/Ankita, a resident of 95, Pocket IV, Sunder Nagar, Chennai. Write a letter to your friend telling him about how you saved a drowning boy. (6)

SECTION-C (GRAMMAR)

Q6. Read the given passage carefully and fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:

(5x½=2½)

Be careful while you buy anything (a)_____ the market. Make sure that the balance and weights used (b)_____ the shopkeepers are correct. The beam (c)_____ the balance should move freely (d)_____ its central axis. It must surely have a stamp (e)_____ Weights and Measure Department.

Q7. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions :

(3x1=3)

(i) _____ did she enter the office, she was called by her son.

(ii) Atul ate so much _____ he fell ill.

(iii) _____ she studied hard, she did not get good grades.

Q8. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets :

(4x½=2)

(i) I _____ (play) on the computer when I _____ (feel) the earthquake.

(ii) The thief _____ (break) in while she _____ (cook) dinner.

Q9. Fill in the blanks with suitable articles where necessary :

(7x½=3½)

If you are (a)_____ privileged child, you must learn to share (b)_____ good-things of (c)_____ life you have with (d)_____ poor and (e)_____ deprived. You must learn to give, for (f)_____ more you give, (g)_____ better you feel.

Q10. Rewrite the following sentences as directed :

(3x1=3)

(i) Take your seat fifteen minutes before the examination. (Passive voice)

(ii) Success cannot be achieved without sincerity and hard work. (Active voice)

(iii) The audience was making fun of the speaker. (Passive voice)

Q11. Fill in the blanks with suitable collective nouns :

(4x½=2)

(i) My uncle brought a beautiful _____ of pearls for me.

(ii) The continuous noise of the _____ of geese disturbed us.

(iii) A _____ of soldiers was posted at the LOC.

(iv) This book has an _____ of poems.

Q12. Fill in the blanks with suitable relative pronouns :

(4x½=2)

- (i) Carefully listen to _____ the invigilator says.
- (ii) This is all _____ I wanted to say.
- (iii) God helps those _____ help themselves.
- (iv) The lady _____ we just saw is my aunt.

Q13. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences : (2x1=2).

- (i) The/leisure hours/of/a child/of/the TV/today/are spent/in front
- (ii) traffic/police/making/efforts/is/to increase/on the/roads/safety

SECTION-D (LITERATURE)

Q14. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

- (I) "Home they brought her warrior dead
She nor swooned, nor uttered a cry,
All her maidens, watching said,
"She must weep or she will die."
(3x1=3)

- (i) Who is referred to as 'her' in the above lines?
- (ii) What was the reaction of 'her' when the dead warrior was brought home?
- (iii) Why were the maidens worried about 'her'?

- (II) "Once while he nodded on a chair,
At the moth hour of the eve,
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve."
(3x1=3)

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above lines?
- (ii) What made 'he' sleep on the chair?
- (iii) Why was 'he' called by the poor man?

- (III) "When you know why I've broken into your little cottage you'll be surprised,
and it won't be a pleasant surprise".
(3x1=3)

- (i) Name the speaker and the listener in the above lines?
- (ii) Why did the speaker break into the listener's cottage?
- (iii) Why 'it' won't be a pleasant surprise?

Q15. Answer the following questions in brief :

(2x2=4)

- (i) Gopal was keen to sign his will. Why?
- (ii) How did John Horner, the plumber, come to be accused of 'stealing the blue carbuncle'?

Q16. Answer the following questions in brief :

(2x2=4)

- (i) Ruskins father was a dutiful son. Explain with reference to the poem 'Grandma Climbs a tree'.
- (ii) Father Gilligan was surprised when he reached the poor man's house in the morning. Why?

Q17. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80-100 words :

(5)

"This was the first time, Dr. Raman was going to do a piece of acting and conceal his judgement". Elaborate with reference to the lesson 'The Doctor's Word'.

OR

"Sherlock Holmes not only caught the criminal but also helped an innocent man escape prison". How can we prove the above statement correct referring to the lesson. 'The Blue Carbuncle'?

Q18. Answer the following questions in brief :

(2x2=4)

- (i) What kind of a relationship was shared between Rahman and Mini? Why?
- (ii) Why was the man, without a shirt, considered the happiest person by the courtiers of the king?

Q19. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80-100 words :

(4)

The king in the poem 'The Kings Cure' was apparently healthy, but he said he was sick. What was his sickness and how was it cured?

OR

"Robots can also at times, feel and understand things that a human being can". Give reference from the lesson 'Anukul' to prove the above statement right.