

DEVAMATHA CMI PUBLIC SCHOOL
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2017 - 2018

Std.VIII**ENGLISH**

Time : 3 h.
Marks : 80

Section A - Reading (20 Marks)
 Section B - Advanced Writing Skill (20 Marks)
 Section C - Grammar (20 Marks)
 Section D - Literature (20 Marks)

General Instructions :

1. Answer all the questions.
2. Do not write anything in the question paper.
3. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.
4. Ensure that questions for each section are answered together.
5. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.
6. Strictly adhere to the word limit given with each question. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the word limit.

Section A - Reading (20 marks)

1. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow :

Where the acorn tumbles down,
 Where the ash tree sheds its berry
 With your fur so soft and brown,
 With your eye so round and merry
 Fieldmouse, I can see you pass.
 Little thing, in what dark den,
 Lie you all the winter sleeping?
 Till warm weather comes again,
 Then once more I see you peeping
 Round about the tall tree roots,
 Nibbling at their fallen fruits.
 Fieldmouse, fieldmouse do not go,
 Where the farmer stacks his treasure,
 Find the nut that falls below,
 Eat the acorn at your pelasure,
 But you must not steal the grain
 He has stacked with so much pain.
 Make your hole where mosses spring,
 Underneath the tall oak's shadow,

Pretty, quiet harmless thing,
Play about the sunny meadow
Keep away from corn and house,
None will harm you, little mouse.

Answer the following questions:

(1x10=10)

1. Refer to the first stanza and describe the appearance of the field mouse.
2. Why isn't the field mouse seen during the winter season?
3. When does the field mouse become active again?
4. What does the poet forbid the fieldmouse to do?
5. What are the food habits of fieldmouse?
6. What do you understand by 'the farmer stacks his treasure'?
7. What has been stacked by the farmer?
8. What does the poet mean by 'Pretty, quiet harmless thing'?
9. Find out the antonym of the words given below:
a) ugly b) noisy
10. Pick out the word from the poem which has the Synonym 'rarely.'

II Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Folktales are stories that are passed on from adults to children and every country has its own folktales. This is a folktale from Africa and it tells us that sometimes the strong and powerful are defeated by the weak and helpless.

Every evening, Tajiri or rich man, sat down to a hearty meal that was prepared for him in his kitchen. The food that was leftover was enough to feed a family but he was a very stingy person. The leftovers were fed to his pigs so that they would fatten up well and he would benefit from them later.

Maskini or poor man, survived on simple food. He owned a goat that gave him milk and cheese and every evening he had a bowl of porridge. But he would hide outside Tajiri's kitchen while eating the porridge. The aroma of delicious food from the kitchen made Maskini's mouth water and the porridge tasted like a feast.

One evening Tajiri was taking a walk to build up an appetite for dinner, he noticed Maskini hiding outside his kitchen. He was furious when he saw Maskini inhale deeply with a pleasant expression on his face. He sent Maskini to the village jail immediately. The next week Tajiri was summoned to the village court where the case would be decided. Tajiri said that all the smell that came from his kitchen belonged to him. By inhaling the smell, Maskini was depriving him of it. As payment against it, he demanded Maskini's goat, his sole possession. Maskini was a simple man. He could not say anything in his own defence out of fear and kept quiet. The village elders and the village chief discussed the problem at hand and finally took a decision.

The village chief said, "Maskini did enjoy the smell of food, but he did not receive any food for him. Hence Tajiri should not be given the goat. However he has the right to smell Maskini's goat whenever he wants."

Tajiri flew into a rage and left the place immediately. But the villagers were happy that justice had been done.

A) Choose the correct answer from the options given below: (1x3=3)

1. Tajiri sent the leftovers from his table to.
a) Maskini b) the villagers c) his pigs
2. Tajir was angry when he saw Maskini hiding outside his kitchen
a) because he had stolen food.
b) because he was peeping into kitchen
c) because he inhaled deeply the aroma of food.
3. Tajiri demanded, as payment, that
a) Maskini's food be given to him
b) Maskini should be kept in prison
c) Maskini's goat be given to him.

B) Answer the following: (1x7=7)

1. Find out the word from the passage that means "ordered to come to a place"
2. How do you come to know that Tajiri was very stingy?
3. Why would Maskini hide outside Tajiri's kitchen?
4. Had Maskini taken anything that belonged to Tajiri?
5. What was the decision taken by the village elders and chief?
6. What is a folktale?
7. Would you support Tajiri or Maskini? Why?

Section B – Advanced Writing Skill (15 marks)

- III Imagine you are Tuhina/Tarun. Write down a diary entry about your thoughts and experiences after your grandmother's birthday celebrations. (5)
- IV Write a letter to your friend telling him/her about the recent trip you made to a hill station. (5)
- V Read the following outline and write a story based on it. (5)

The Real Master

Akbar's court _____ two men Shamsher and Raghav ____ each claimed that he was the master and the other servant ____ Shamsher had gone to Afganistan _____ left property and wealth for servant Raghav to look after _____ he refused to return his wealth or property when Shamsher returned ____ Birbal smiled _____ said he could read minds _____ asked both men to lie down with their faces towards the floor ____ ordered a soldier to cut off the servant's head _____ soldier confused but took out his sword _____ Raghav ran to the king and begged for forgiveness _____ Birbal was rewarded _____ intelligence and presence of mind.

Section C – Literature (30 marks)

- I Give the meanings of the words given below: (½x4=2)
a) meek b) endurance c) tinge d) ruthless

- II Write the Synonyms for the words given below: (1x2=2)
 a) Formidable b) Stare
- III Write the Antonym for the given words: (1x2=2)
 a) defied b) amazement
- IV Frame a meaningful sentence using the words given below: (1x2=2)
 a) surged b) perished
- V Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follows: (Answer any one) (1x3=3)
 a) “My heart was so light
 That I sang day and night,
 For all nature looked gay.”
 “You sang, sir you say?
 Go then,” says the ant, “and dance the winter away.”
- 1) What does the word ‘gay’ mean?
 - 2) What did the speaker admit truthfully?
 - 3) How did the ant respond to the cricket?

OR

2. “They are usually excited to go on this outing.” But on that day they refused to go and most probably saved his life.
 - 1) Who are ‘they’ here?
 - 2) Why did ‘they’ refuse to go out?
 - 3) Whose life was saved?
- VI Quote from memory (first 8 lines) (4)
 “I love to rise
 -----eye outworn.”
- VII Answer each of the the following questions in two or three sentences: (Answer any four) (2x4=8)
1. Why do Jim and Hans think that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts?
 2. The author talks about “A Summit within.” What is it?
 3. What is the theme of the poem ‘Geography lesson.’ Explain in poets words.
 4. Mention any two reasons for the discontent that led to the 1857 War of Independence?
 5. Describe Macavity and his pranks?
 6. Describe Bepin Babu’s Character?
- VIII Answer the following questions in a sentence each: (1x4=4)
1. What pulled the princess out of her gloom?
 2. What did Hafees Contractor have nightmares about?
 3. What was the most wonderful sight the giant see?
 4. Why did Velu decide to follow the strange girl?

- IX Value Based Questions: (1x3=3)
1. Why does the poet consider his 'freedom' more valuable than power, gold or lust?

SECTION D - GRAMMAR (15 MARKS)

- I Join each of the following pairs of sentences using a Relative Pronoun: (1x2=2)

1. Diamond is a very precious stone. It is found in many parts of Africa.
2. Shahina sings very well. She is popular among her classmates.

- II Fill in the blanks with correct words from the brackets: (½x2=1)

1. Plenty of sugar _____ kept in the jar (are, is)
2. The _____ were taken to the meadows (cattle, cattles)

- III Add appropriate Question tags to the following: (½x2=1)

1. They know the way, _____.
2. She usually plays volleyball, _____.

- IV Write suitable questions for the following answers: (1x2=2)

1. My father gives me **Rs. 100** every month for my personal expense.
2. I told her that you are **a kind person.**

- V Identify the errors in the following Negative Sentences and correct them. (1x2=2)

1. I have not neither seen Sita or Rita.
2. I cannot bear this pain no longer.

- VI Insert the words given in brackets in the correct place to make meaningful sentences: (1x2=2)

1. He rode the bicycle (down the road, hastily, yesterday)
2. We are going camping (for a week, to the woods, this Friday)

- VII Use the Adverbs given in the box to replace each of the groups of words underlined: (½x2=1)

[gracefully, immediately, repeatedly]

1. Please reply to this letter with out any delay.
2. The sports teacher told the children again and again to wear sports shoes for the P T period.

- VIII Rewrite the following sentence into Comparative Degree: (1)

1. Dr. Jain is the most experienced of all the doctors in the hospital.

- IX Complete the sentences with 'a', 'an' or 'the': (½x2=1)

1. I wrote down all _____ information in _____ small note book.

- X Write the Abstract Noun formed from the words given below: (½x2=1)

1. protect 2. exist

- XI Complete the sentences using a Collective Noun given in the bracket: (½x2=1)

(herd, flock, crowd, audience)

1. The _____ was very pleased with the performance, and clapped and cheered for some time.
2. One or two cows, and then a whole _____ was crossing the road.