

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2021-22)
CLASS XI
SUBJECT: ENGLISH

TIME: 90 MINUTES

MAX MARKS: 40

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections.
2. Section A-READING has 18 questions. Attempt a total of 14 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
3. Section B-WRITING SKILLS has 12 questions. Attempt a total of 10 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
4. Section C-LITERATURE has 30 questions. Attempt 26 questions, as per specific instructions for each question.
5. All questions carry equal marks.
6. There is no negative marking.

SECTION A – READING

I. Read the passage given below.

- I. Travel is a bug that was in me when I was born, probably inherited from my father. In 24 years of travelling widely through India, I have been most fascinated by those little islands that dot the Bay of Bengal off the East Coast of India. Yes, I am talking about the Andaman Islands. Andamans somehow seemed almost sinister, with images of being haunted, bleak and scary, until my parents actually returned from a trip to Port Blair and told us about these serene islands.
- II. We immediately awaited the first opportunity to take a break and check them out. Finally, the D-Day came and we were all ready. We boarded the aircraft and to our surprise, found that there were several empty seats. On enquiry, we learnt that all supplies to the Andamans including newspaper and meat go from the mainland and so there is always more cargo and less people.
- III. Port Blair airport is a small, old airport that was constructed in 1947. On my way to the hotel, I noticed that there are none of the usual autorickshaws that noisily wend their way through most Indian towns. There was only one traffic signal in the entire town and the roads were more up and down than level. This was all surprising for a person like me who has lived in the coastal towns of Chennai and Mumbai.
- IV. The colour of the sea was an unpolluted blue, a colour that I had not seen in any of the beaches in India. It was calm and beautiful. I was thrilled with the fact that we were going to spend 10 entire days there. All we had to do was sit in the open restaurant, look at the sea, enjoy the cool breeze and feel good.
- V. The Andaman Islands are a group of several islands, so most of our sightseeing was by boats. There are a total of more than 356 islands there. Even the oldest boatman, Rathnam, had seen only 200 of them. I figured that 10 days were surely not enough to get a full picture of this place, so I started to store every sight, every sound and every smell. The sound and light show at the jail sent a shiver down my spine. (This trip was before the movie ‘Kalapani’ was released). The realisation that those who fought for our independence had lived, struggled, suffered and even died here, left an impact.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of the ten questions by choosing the correct option.

- Q.1** One thing that left a major impact on the author was.....
- A. the serenity of the place
 - B. the wholesome experience
 - C. vastness of the islands
 - D. the realisation of the struggles of freedom fighters

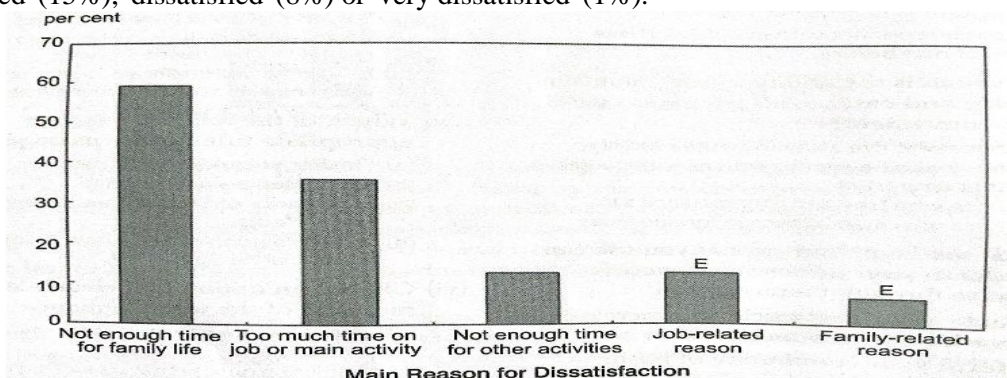
- Q.2** Pick the option that is NOT TRUE as per the passage.
- (1) The narrator liked travelling.
 - (2) There were no empty seats in the aircraft.
 - (3) The Port Blair airport is small.
 - (4) The Andaman Islands are a group of islands.
- A. 1 and 2
 - B. Only 2
 - C. 3 and 4
 - D. Only 4

- Q.3** What was the author's initial impression about the Andaman Islands?
 A. They were beautiful and serene.
 B. They were uninhabitable.
 C. They were sinister, haunted and scary.
 D. They were difficult to explore.
- Q.4** The airport at Port Blair was built in.....
 A. 1947
 B. 1847
 C. 1948
 D. 1940
- Q.5** Where are the Andaman Islands located?
 A. in the Arabian Sea
 B. in the Bay of Bengal
 C. in the Indian Ocean
 D. in the Atlantic Ocean
- Q.6** How many islands constitute Andaman Islands?
 A. 200
 B. more than 356
 C. 350
 D. less than 356
- Q.7** What is the historical significance of Andaman Islands?
 (1) They were centre of trade and commerce.
 (2) They have the maximum number of tribal population.
 (3) They were used as centre for scientific research.
 (4) They had the in famous Kalapani jail where freedom fighters were imprisoned by the British
 A. only 1
 B. 1 and 2
 C. 3 and 4
 D. Only 4
- Q.8** Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'boarded' as used in the passage.
 A. I was the last to board the tourist bus.
 B. I felt board when I went to Denmark.
 C. Einstein was board in his school classes.
 D. Did you take my board today?
- Q.9** What is the meaning of the phrase 'sent a shiver down my spine'?'
 A. feel very frightened
 B. feel very excited
 C. feel very relaxed
 D. none of these
- Q.10** What was unusual about Port Blair that the author noticed on his way to the hotel?
 1. There were no auto rickshaws on the road.
 2. There was only one traffic signal in the entire town.
 3. Roads were more up and down then level.
 4. The colour of the sea was an unpolluted blue.
 A. only 1
 B. only 1 and 2
 C. only 3 and 4
 D. all of the above

II. Read the passage given below.

- I. Over the last four decades, the number and proportion of couples in which both parents work, especially full-time, have increased considerably. Recent studies show that approximately 69% of couple families with at least one child were dual-earner families, up from 36% in last 19th century.
- II. In this context of evolving professional and family roles, concerns about work- life balance have also grown. This is especially true for women.
- III. Despite men's increased involvement in raising children and doing household chores, women continue to devote an average more time to both. They are also more likely to be caregivers, which can have an impact on their time use and possibly on their ability to balance work and family life.
- IV. This data examines the satisfaction with work-life balance of mothers and fathers of children aged 17 and under who work full-time (i.e., 30 hours or more per week).
- V. Overall, most parents who work full-time are satisfied with their work-life balance. In the study, 3 out of 4

parents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with this balance (75%). The others were 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' (15%), 'dissatisfied' (8%) or 'very dissatisfied' (1%).



- VI. Of the parents who said that they were not satisfied, the most frequently mentioned reason for the dissatisfaction was not having enough time for family life. This was followed by spending too much time on their job or main activity, and not having enough time for other activities.
- VII. Of the respondents, it was found that lone parents who work full-time obviously assume more responsibilities; they must prepare meals, transport children, help with homework, etc. This pressure may be even greater when the children are very young and the parents have little or no social support.

Only 67% of lone parents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their work-life balance, compared with 76% of couple parents. Among individuals and couples, women were less satisfied than men, perhaps in part because they assume more family responsibilities than men. Furthermore, parents with at least one child aged 0 to 4 years were less likely to report being satisfied with the balance between their job and home life (72%) than those whose children were all between 5 and 17 years of age (77%). Among parents with at least one young child, 75% of fathers reported that they were nonetheless satisfied with their work-life balance, compared with 68% of women.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six out of the eight questions by choosing the correct option.

- Q.11** What is the data about?
 (1) unemployed people with children
 (2) work-life balance of working parents
 (3) satisfaction level of working parents
 (4) how do working parents divide their time
 A. only 1
 B. both 2 and 3
 C. only 3
 D. only 4
- Q.12** Why is there an increased focus on work level balance?
 A. evolving professional and family roles
 B. changing lifestyle
 C. study the trend of nuclear families
 D. study the reason behind the behavioural issues of children.
- Q.13** Pick the statement that is TRUE as per the data given in the passage.
 A. Maximum number of parents were dissatisfied.
 B. Fathers were not very satisfied with the balance.
 C. Lone parents were equally satisfied as couple parents.
 D. Most parents believed that they did not give much time to family.
- Q.14** Approximately 40% of the parents believed that
 A. They spend quality time with children but it is not enough.
 B. They are dissatisfied and do not have enough time for family life.
 C. They spend too much time on their job or main activity.
 D. They do not have enough time for other activities.
- Q.15** Which of the following figure shows the CORRECT latest percentage of dual-earner families with at least one child?



- Q.16** Why is there a pressure on lone parents?
 A. They alone take the responsibility.
 B. The children are very young.
 C. They have little or no social support.
 D. All of the above
- Q.17** Pick the statement that is TRUE with respect to satisfaction with work-life balance data given in the passage.
 A. pertains to mothers only
 B. pertains to fathers only
 C. pertains to fathers and mothers of children aged 17 and under who work full time
 D. all of the above
- Q.18** The number and proportion of working couples have increased considerably in last _____ years.
 A. 20
 B. 10
 C. 40
 D. 4

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR

III. Answer any THREE out of the four questions given, with reference to the context below:

Sathwik lost his bus pass during interval in the school premises. He writes a notice about his lost property.

- Q.19** Which one of the following is the most appropriate opening sentence for this notice?
 A. I would like to inform everyone that
 B. This is to inform all fellow students that
 C. Sathwik would like to inform all the students that
 D. I lost my bus pass in the school premises
- Q.20** Select the option which covers the points to be included in the content of this notice.
 (1) Salutation
 (2) Name of the school
 (3) Date & heading
 (4) Name of the finder
 (5) Name of the object lost
 A. (1)(2)(3)
 B. (2)(3)(4)
 C. (2)(3)(5)
 D. (2)(4)(5)
- Q.21** Select the option which is NOT TRUE in connection with Notice writing of the above type.
 A. We should not include hypothetical information.
 B. We should not include personal information.
 C. Avoid repetition of any information.
 D. It is better to use first person in the content of the notice.
- Q.22** Choose the best conclusion for this type of notices.
 A. If anybody happens to find it, kindly handover it to the undersigned.
 B. If anybody wants to return the object, contact the undersigned.
 C. If anybody wants to search for the object, contact the undersigned.
 D. If anybody wants to collect the reward, contact the undersigned.

Answer any FOUR out of five questions given, with reference to the context below:

The letter given below is incomplete. Choose the option that completes the letter appropriately.

23

_____ 20 October 2021

The Municipal Commissioner
 MCD, (East)
 New Delhi - 92
 Sir
 Subject _____ **24** _____

_____ **25** _____ the authorities of their negligence of the sanitation in the locality of Nand Nagri. The roads here are not swept for days. Consequently, heaps of garbage can be seen here and there. Also, the drains remain choked and are always overflowing. In addition, the choked drains are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The situation turns worse during rainy season, as a result residents suffer from various diseases like malaria, dengue etc.

Thank you

Ram Prasad

- Q.23** A. Receiver's address
B. Sender's address
C. Reference number of any previous correspondence
D. None of the above
- Q.24** A. Letter of complaint
B. Poor sanitary condition of the locality
C. Complaint regarding poor sanitary conditions in Nand Nagri
D. All of the above
- Q.25** A. The purpose of this letter is to inform
B. I have written this letter to complain against
C. This letter of complaint is against
D. The purpose of the letter is to fight against
- Q.26** A. I want quick action against the problem.
B. If the problem persists, I will contact the higher authorities for its resolution.
C. The problem needs to be resolved quickly and immediately.
D. I look forward to a quick resolution of the problem.
- Q.27** A. Yours truly
B. Yours sincerely
C. Yours faithfully
D. All of the above

IV. Answer the questions given below

- Q.28** There is no flower more beautiful than Lily in the entire world.
A. Lily is the more beautiful flower in the entire world.
B. Most flowers are more beautiful than Lily in the entire world.
C. Lily is the most beautiful flower in the entire world.
D. Some flowers are more beautiful than Lily in the entire world.
- Q.29** _____ short stories that he published were critically acclaimed.
A. Few
B. Little
C. The few
D. A little
- Q.30** In recent decades, the efficiency of the United Nations _____ by a growing number of countries.
A. have been questioned
B. was questioned
C. had been question
D. has been questioned

SECTION C – LITERATURE

This section has sub-sections: V, VI, VII, VIII, IX. There are a total of 30 questions in the section. Attempt any 26 questions from the sub-sections V to IX.

V. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee resurrection, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery — and still get the most attention. But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: board games, a bronze razor, linen undergarments, cases of food and wine.

- Q.31** In the above extract, 'they' refers to
A. a group of dried flowers and branches
B. ministers of Tut
C. things which were found in the tomb
D. team lead by Zahi Hawas

- Q.32** Which of the following was not found at the time of discovery?
 A. utensils
 B. jewellery
 C. gold artefacts
 D. both (A) and (B)
- Q.33** Which among the following is the synonym of ‘resurrection’?
 A. dissuade
 B. rejuvenate
 C. enervate
 D. dispirit
- Q.34** Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
Statement 1 The stunning findings of the valley of the king attracts a lot of tourists.
Statement 2 Tourists have damaged much of the tomb where king Tut was laid.
 A. Statement 1 is true but statement 2 is false.
 B. Statement 1 is false but statement 2 is true.
 C. Both statements 1 and 2 cannot be inferred.
 D. Both statements 1 and 2 can be inferred.
- Q.35** What does Pharaoh mean?
 A. Egyptian God
 B. A ruler in ancient Egypt
 C. Head priest in ancient Egypt
 D. None of the above

VI. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

When I went in to comfort the children, Jon asked, ‘Daddy, are we going to die?’ I tried to assure him that we could make it. But, Daddy, he went on, ‘we aren’t afraid of dying if we can all be together - you and mummy, Sue and I.

- Q.36** What is true regarding the given extract?
 A. It shows resignation to the circumstances.
 B. It shows the unity felt by the family.
 C. It shows the courage shown by Sue and Jon.
 D. All of the above
- Q.37** What effect did Jon’s statement have upon the author?
 A. determination, strength and resolution
 B. regret and desperation
 C. sorrow and resignation
 D. a combination of desperation and determination
- Q.38** Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:
Statement 1 I went in to comfort the children.
Statement 2 I left the children's cabin determined.
 A. Statement 1 is the cause of Statement 2.
 B. Statement 2 is the effect of Statement 1.
 C. Statement 2 can be inferred from Statement 1.
 D. Statement 1 and Statement 2 are independent of each other.
- Q.39** Choose the term which best matches Jon’s statement.
 A. acceptance
 B. reflection
 C. reiteration
 D. sentimentality
- Q.40** How would you best describe the character traits of Jon after reading the above passage?
 A. optimistic
 B. fearless
 C. determined
 D. All of the above

VII. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

It is the engine of her family.
 She strokes it full, then flirts out to a branch-end
 Showing her barred face identity mask.
 Then with eerie delicate
 whistle - chirrup whisperings.

- Q.41** Why is 'it' called the engine of her family?
 A. as she feeds them.
 B. as the moment she comes, the place becomes active.
 C. as she protects them.
 D. all of the above
- Q.42** 'Showing her barred face identify mask' shows that the tree
 A. protects the Goldfinch and her family.
 B. hides the Goldfinch and her family.
 C. provides for Goldfinch and her family.
 D. gives the Goldfinch her identity.
- Q.43** The phrase 'stokes it full' means that
 A. protects it
 B. feeds it
 C. entertains it
 D. cares for it
- Q.44** Why does 'it' flirt out to branch end?
 A. to look out for any danger
 B. to look for food
 C. to fly away
 D. to show something to her babies
- Q.45** What is the meaning of the following line 'Then with eerie delicate whistle chirrup whisperings'?'
 A. The sound that the Goldfinch makes.
 B. the sound of rustling of tree leaves
 C. the sound of wind passing through the forest
 D. none of the above

VIII. Read the given extract to attempt questions that follow:

I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had was a gold border on the lid. I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. 'That's a nice box.' I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room. 'Oh, you know about them?' She had turned round and brought me my tea. She laughed. 'My mother says it is antique. We have got lots more.' She pointed round the room. 'See for yourself.'

- Q.46** What similarity did the author notice about the daughter of Mrs Dorling?
 A. voice like her mother
 B. attitude like her mother
 C. broad back like her mother
 D. walking style like her mother
- Q.47** 'I remembered' here refers to
 A. her remembering her mother's teapot
 B. her remembering where the burn mark was
 C. her recognising her mother's things
 D. her remembering her mother's words
- Q.48** Why was it a strange voice?
 A. because the author couldn't recognise her feelings.
 B. because the author had not expected to speak.
 C. because the author was angry.
 D. because the author had never said anything unconsciously.
- Q. 49** What is the significance of the given lines?
 A. The author reminisces her mother's belongings.
 B. The author points out how war destroyed their happy family.
 C. The author realises the meaninglessness of things.
 D. None of the above
- Q.50** What do you mean by 'antique'?
 A. ancient
 B. gift
 C. valuable
 D. rusted

IX. Attempt the following.

- Q.51** The lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady' does not deal with one of the themes mentioned below:
A. Grandfather's religiousness
B. Alienation experienced by the elderly people
C. Different phases of relationship between Khushwant Singh and his grandmother
D. The business of life fades relationship albeit unintentionally.
- Q.52** The movement reflected in the phrase 'burst into a fury of speed' is
A. prancing
B. running
C. trotting
D. hopping
- Q.53** What changes had the villagers expected from Ranga?
1. He would leave his caste.
2. His features would change.
3. He would talk only in English.
4. He would become boastful.
5. He would become a rebel against the village's customs.
A. 1 and 2
B. 2 and 3
C. 3 and 4
D. 4 and 5
- Q.54** Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.
Assertion: The Goldfinch remains alert to avoid the risk of being discovered by the tree.
Reason: The yellow leaves of the Laburnum tree hide the yellow body of the Goldfinch and her babies.
A. Assertion can be inferred but the reason cannot be inferred
B. Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
C. Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
D. Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.
- Q.55** 'Like pallbearers they climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs into the swirling sand outside'
By calling the workers, pallbearers, the author indicates the _____
A. importance of the scan
B. glory attached with King Tut
C. difficulty associated with the task
D. precision of the movement of the workers
- Q.56** Choose the book title that perfectly describes the poet's mother's childhood.
A. The book of Joy by Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams
B. The Geography of Bliss by Eris Weiner
C. The Secret by Rhonda Byrne
D. Search Inside Yourself by Chade-Meng Tan
- Q.57** Pick the option that is not true about the role of a man in Daoism.
A. Man leads the interaction between the Yin and the Yang.
B. Without man, the presence of the Yin and the Yang is futile.
C. Man comprehends and becomes the eye of the universe.
D. None of the above
- Q.58** Pick the option that characterises the aspects of Western painting from the story of Quinten Metsys.
1. Life like
2. Panoramic
3. Decorative
4. Meditative
5. Symbolic
A. only 1
B. 2 and 3
C. 4 and 5
D. 1 and 5
- Q.59** Look at the statements given below. Choose the option that correctly identifies which statements are fact and which are opinions.
1 The poet cannot get over the loss of her mother.
2. The thoughts and memories with her mother makes the poet emotional.
3 The poet must move on and celebrate the life led by her mother.

4 The poet's sadness will reflect upon her life.

A. F:1 and 2, O: 3 and 4

B. F:1 and 4, O: 2 and 3

C. F:2 and 3, O: 1 and 4

D. F:3 and 4, O: 1 and 2

Q.60 Pick the option that best describes the narrator's mother in 'The Address'.

1. kind

2. gullible

3. prudent

4. careless

5. irrational

6. mercenary

A. 1,2,3

B. 2,3,4

C. 3,4,5

D. 4,5,6