



Date: Grade: IX	Monthly Test 1 (2022-23) English Language and Literature	Max. Marks: 20 Time: 1 hour
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General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections - Reading, Writing & Grammar and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING (4 marks)

Read the following passage carefully:

1. When you grow up in a place where it rains five months a year, wise elders help you to get acquainted with the rain early. They teach you that it is ignorant to think that it is the same rain falling every day. Oh no, the rain is always doing different things at different times. There is rain that is gentle, and there is also rain that falls too hard and damages the crops. Hence, the prayer for the sweet rain that helps the crops to grow.
2. The monsoon in the Naga Hills goes by the native name, *khuthotei* (which means the rice-growing season). It lasts from May to early or mid-October. The local residents firmly believe that Durga Puja in October announces the end of rain. After that, one might expect a couple of short winter showers, and the spring showers in March and April. Finally, comes the 'big rain' in May; proper rain storms accompanied by heart-stopping lightning and ear-splitting thunder. I have stood out in storms looking at lightning arc across dark skies, a light-and-sound show that can go on for hours.
3. This is the season when people use the word *sezuo* or *suzu* to refer to the week-long rains, when clothes don't dry and smell of mould, when fungus forms on the floor and when you can't see the moon or stars because of the rainclouds. The rains are also called after flowering plants and people believe that the blossoming of those plants draws out rain. Once the monsoons set in, field work is carried out in earnest and the work of uprooting and transplanting paddy in flooded terrace fields is done. The months of hard labour are June, July and August. In August, as the *phrogu* plant begins to bloom, a rain will fall. This August rain, also called *Phrogu* is a sign that the time for cultivation is over. If any new grain seeds are sown, they may not sprout: even if they do sprout, they are not likely to bear grain. The rain acts as an almanac.
4. Each rain period has a job to fulfill: October rain helps garlic bulbs to form, while kumunyo rain helps the rice bear grain. Without it, the ears of rice cannot form

properly. End of October is the most beautiful month in the Naga Hills, as the fields turn gold and wild sunflowers bloom over the slopes, all heralding the harvest. Prayers go up to protect the fields from storms, and the rains to retreat because the grain seeds need to stand in the sun and ripen. The cycle nears completion a few weeks before the harvest, and the rain does retreat so thoroughly from the reaped furrows that the earth quickly turns hard. The months of rain become a distant memory until it starts all over again.

I. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below: (1x4=4 marks)

1. People pray asking the rain to retreat because
 - a. children don't get a chance to play
 - b. the fungus and mould would dry up
 - c. the crops need the sun to ripen.
 - d. rain is god to them

2. When do the rains become a memory in the Naga hills?
 - a. a few weeks after the harvest when the rain retreats
 - b. when the earth turns hard after the harvest without rains
 - c. in the beginning of October as the sunflowers bloom
 - d. in August with the phrogu rains.

3. How is the rain a calendar to the farmers?
 - a. it tells them when to sow and when to harvest
 - b. when it rains in various degrees in different months.
 - c. it helps to observe various agricultural festivals
 - d. Rain is a calendar as it has a fixed pattern.

4. Deafening is a word that can be substituted for _____ .
 - a. announce
 - b. light-and-sound
 - c. ear-splitting
 - d. thunder

Section B: Writing and Grammar

II. After your first day at school on June 1st, you return home. You decide to make a diary entry about being back at school after a long gap of nearly twenty-two months. Make the diary entry in about 100-120 words. **(5 marks)**

**III. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets.
(1x3=3 marks)**

- a. Driving _____ (be) fun, whereas obedience to traffic rules _____ (make) it more enjoyable and safer.
- b. Growth _____ (get) retarded if the environment in which we live _____ (be) polluted.
- c. An elephant _____ (excels) other animals in intelligence. whenever it _____ (face) a difficulty, it finds a way out on its own.

Section C: Literature

IV. Answer the following by choosing the correct answer. (1x2=2 marks)

1. Where was Margie's school?
 - A) in a building where all the students came
 - B) on the outskirts of the modern city
 - C) in her cousin Tommy's house
 - D) in a room in her house where a computer was set up
2. How did the flowering mustard-field look?
 - A. white like silver
 - B. red like a rose
 - C. pale like melting gold
 - D. like a football ground

V. Answer the following in about 40-50 words. (3x2=6 marks)

1. What are the things the child wanted from the fair? What prevents him from asking his parents for the things he wanted?
2. Imagine yourself to be Margie/Tommy. You have been teleported to an old school in the year 2017. Compare and contrast your school with that of the old school.