

The Village International School, Thodupuzha

Sample Paper 2 2023-2024

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

Grade : XI

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks:80

SECTION A

READING (20 marks)

1. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

High–altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task despite the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipment which modern climbers take with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber which ultimately determines the success of his attempt. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with the utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. Moreover, a huge amount of capital is needed for financing these expeditions, and this is generally provided by governments or rich private organizations.

The primary objective of the mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which, in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment, or the sudden death of a very important member of the party.

Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in botany, geology & various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain & different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers & expeditionists utilize the fruits of their observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions. The British Expedition led by colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the Vicinity of the summit.

To ordinary people, mountaineering need not be a fearful journey in the land of snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face to face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes on the distant landscape. In the company of friends, they can enjoy an outing near a waterfall or cross into the next Valley with haversacks full of provisions dangling from their shoulders. All those who can afford to go to a hill station should seek this innocent pleasure, for it can be had without any risk to life or limb.

- i. What is the factor that determines the success of the climbers?
- ii. What precaution should the climbers take during their journey?
- iii. In what way does a mountaineering expedition contribute to the wealth of Knowledge?
- iv. How is an ordinary mountaineer's experience different from that of a regular expedition?
- v. How does a local guide help an expedition?
- vi. Why can an expedition not be a failure?
- vii. How are recorded observations of mountaineers useful to others?
- viii. What is the primary objective of a mountaineering expedition?
- ix. Find the synonym of "neighbourhood" in paragraph 3

- x. Find the antonym of "opponent" in paragraph 1

2. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, for they contaminate his food, carry diseases or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation; they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights, or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread, not only of only unpleasant insects

like Spiders or Wasps, but of quiet harmless ones like moths. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that industrious ant lives in a highly organised society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch.

2. No matter how much we like honey, or how much we have read about the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable, but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating, we enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that, like the praying mantis. The lead perfectly horrible lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly, or a column of ants triumphantly bearing home an enormous dead beetle?

3. Last summer, I spent days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prized peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but because it occasionally produces lushes peaches. During the summer I noticed that leaves of the tree were beginning to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphids were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large colony of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which, even though it failed to get rid of ants, kept me fascinated for 24 hours. I bound the base of the tree with a sticky tape, making it impossible for the ants to reach the aphids. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it. For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at midnight with a torch and noted with satisfaction and surprise that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning hoping to find that the ants had given up in despair. Instead, I saw that they had discovered a new route. They were climbing up the wall of the house and then on to the leaves of the tree. I realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly unscientific methods.

- a. Complete the following lines:
- i. Man wages against insects because
 - ii. The author bound the base of the tree with a sticky tape because
- b. Answer the following questions.
- i. What is our attitude towards insects?
 - ii. Why does the writer say that knowing insect as does not help man to change his attitude to insects?
 - iii. Do you think that attitude of man towards insect as described, is right? Why, why not?
 - iv. Why does man try to exterminate insects?
 - v. What do you think writer wanted to prove by the experiment he conducted on ants?
- c. Select words from the above passage which conveyed the meaning similar to the following.
- i. Drive away (Para 1)
 - ii. Sudden attack (Para 2)
 - iii. Cleverness (Para 3)

SECTION B

WRITING SKILLS (28 marks)

3. Highlight the importance of proper garbage disposal with an aim to create awareness among the city residents. Write a letter regarding the same to the editor of a local daily Hindustan Times. You are Rubal of Shakti Nagar, Delhi. (7)

4. Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan Kumar/Karuna Bajaj, Secretary, Janata Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool. (7)

5. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic, 'Discipline shapes the future of a student'. It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Karuna/Karan. (7)

6. Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach political science for which they have placed an advertisement in The Bhilai Express. You are Sanjay/Sanjana Sharma from 21, Vasant Marg, Bhilai. Draft a letter including a CV, applying for the advertised post. (120 – 150 words) (7)

SECTION C

LITERATURE (32 marks)

7. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (4)

The Laburnum Top is silent, quite still

In the afternoon yellow September sunlight ,

A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.

- i. Identify the correct combination of the (given) poem and the poet.
 - a. Ted Hughes : The Voice of the Rain
 - b. Walt Whitman : The Laburnum Top
 - c. Ted Hughes : The Laburnum Top
 - d. Shirley Toulson : Childhood
- ii. Mary said: **Close your cluttered closet**. Identify the similar figure of speech in the above extract used by Mary.
- iii. What is the significance of 'yellow' colour in the poem?
- iv. What has happened to the tree?

8. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (4)

CYRIL: [moving to the table; annoyed] Why not?

MRS. PEARSON: [coolly] I couldn't bother.

CYRIL: Feeling off-colour or something?

Mrs. PEARSON: Never felt better in my life.

CYRIL: [aggressively] What's the idea then?

MRS. PEARSON: Just a change.

CYRIL: [briskly] Well, snap out of it, Ma-and get cracking. Haven't too much time.

- i. What can you say about Cyril from the given lines?
- ii. The phrase **feeling off colour** means
- iii. Why does Cyril act aggressive?
- iv. The **change** referred to Cyril is a change in the way she is treated by the neighbour. Do you agree or not?

9. Read the extract and answer the following questions: (4)

The night dragged on with an endless, bitterly cold routine of pumping, steering and working the radio. We were getting no replies to our Mayday calls- which was not surprising in the remote corner of the world. Sue's head was swollen alarmingly.

- i. What is “ Mayday Calls”?
- ii. What had happened to Sue?
- iii. What was Sue’s reaction to her injury?
- iv. What did their ship collide with?

10. Answer the questions in brief: (4 X 3 =12)

- i. What was the outcome of the conversation between Mrs. Dorling and the narrator?
- ii. Who was King Tut? Why was his mummy taken out for a CT scan?
- iii. How does the story’s optimism helps in the situation of stress? (We are not afraid to die)
- iv. Describe the never ending cycle of rain in the context of “ the Voice of the rain”?

11. Answer the following questions in detail: (2 X 4=8)

- i. Bring out the humor in Uncle Khosrove’s and John Byro’s meeting.
- ii. Describe the changing relationship between the author and his grandmother. Did their feelings for each other change?