



**V & C Patel English School**  
**Half Yearly Exam**

**Date: 13/09/17**  
**Subject: English**

**Max.Marks: 80**  
**Std.: VIII**  
**Time: 3 hrs.**

**General Instructions:**

(i) The question paper is divided into four sections:

Section A – Reading	20 marks
Section B – Writing	15 marks
Section C – Grammar	15 marks
Section D – Literature	30 marks

ii) All questions are compulsory

iii) You may attempt any section at a time

iv) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

**SECTION A [READING]**

**Q1 [A] Read the passage carefully:**

It is important to keep a level head at all times. However, there are two occasions when keeping a level head is absolutely necessary – when we achieve a big success and when we make a bad failure. An exceptional success usually inflates our ego and makes us boastful; a miserable failure fills us with dejection and makes life meaningless. Both these experiences are common in student life. A brilliant performance in one examination turns one's head while a dismal result in another makes one feel as if this was the end of the world. Both these reactions are equally flawed. Superiority complex is as deplorable as inferiority complex.

To be successful in life, one should be in total control of oneself; one should remain unmoved both by the ups and downs of life. For, he who gets broken by a stroke of bad luck is equally likely to get broken by a run of good luck too. No progress is possible in either case.

How can one keep a level head? If our value system is correct, we will not get easily strayed in life. If a businessman gives greater importance to health, character, a happy family and friendship than to money, he will not lose his head if he suddenly turns rich or if there is a slump in business and income suddenly goes down. Similarly, if a student's focus is on acquiring knowledge, or on personality development, one performance, whether exceptionally good or bad, will not destroy his or her balance.

We should also remember that nothing is permanent in this world. Neither good fortune will keep smiling at us nor bad luck keep hounding us all the time. Both prosperity and adversity are bound to pass, to be swallowed by a shadowy past. Why then rejoice in one and grieve at the other?

**[1.1] Answer the following questions.**

**[5]**

1. On what two occasions is it most important to maintain one's balance?
2. What are the usual consequences of an exceptionally good performance or a very bad result?
3. What can a businessman succeed in keeping a level head?
4. What message is conveyed in the above passage?
5. What should be a student's attitude towards their studies?



[1.2] Complete the following sentences in your own words:

[2]

1. Success in life depends upon.....
2. He/She who meekly surrenders to adverse circumstances .....

[1.3] Select the most suitable heading for the passage;

[1]

1. Acquiring Knowledge – the main aim of a student's life
2. The importance of remaining cool
3. The Fleeting Nature of Prosperity and Adversity

[1.4] Find words from the passage that mean the same as;

[4]

1. to make something larger
2. to obtain
3. a sudden fall in sale
4. wrong, containing mistakes

Q1 [B] Read this poem and answer the questions given below.

[8]

### Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods are these I think I know, His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here, to watch his woods fill up with snow.  
My little horse think it queer, to stop without a farmhouse near;  
Between the woods and frozen lake, the darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake, to ask if there is some mistake;  
The only other sound's the sweep, of easy wind and downy flake.  
The woods are lovely dark and deep, but I have promises to keep;  
*And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.*

- a. Which of the following is not around the poet?  
i) Woods      ii) farmhouse      iii) a frozen lake      iv) a horse
- b. What time of the day is it?  
i) Morning      ii) afternoon      iii) evening      iv) midnight
- c. Why would the horse find it strange to stop where the poet had stopped?
- d. According to the poet, why does the horse shake its harness bell?
- e. Explain "*And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.*"
- f. What were the sounds that the narrator could hear in this poem?
- g. Find the words in the poem that mean the same as :  
i) curious      ii) expanse

### SECTION B [Writing]

Q2 [A] Your school recently organised a charity show to help the flood-affected people of Rajasthan. Write a brief report for your school magazine.

[5]

Value points:

- Charity show
- Organised by cultural club
- Different programme
- Tickets sold in advance
- Fund was sent to flood relief committee



[B] Your school is organising 'Yoga Session' during vacation. Draft a notice informing all the students about it. You are Mohan Kumar, head boy of XII – A. [5]

OR

You are Preeti / Preet a resident of , Pandav Road, Chennai. You have got the highest place of merit in the National Science Olympiad. Write a letter to your father, who is away on a business tour, sharing your happiness and telling him about the honour you received at the hands of the Principal of your school.

Value points

- Participation in national Science Olympiad
- the highest place in merit
- appreciation by Principal Sir
- sharing proud of achievement

[C] You are Swati / Sourabh , for years together you ate fast food without knowing that it would affect your health, make you overweight and suffer from heart disease. Write a letter to the Editor, The Times of India, expressing your ideas on the health hazards caused by the junk food. [5]

OR

You recently celebrated your birthday. Your cousin asks you how you celebrated it, as he couldn't attend it. Write an email describing your birthday party to him.

### SECTION C [Grammar]

Q3 [A] There is an error in each of the lines given below. Correct the error and write the correction against the correct blank number. [3]

- |  | error    | correction |
|--|----------|------------|
| a. Let me voice the concern of ours entire village             | a) _____ | _____      |
| b. regarding a degeneration of Nila Lake. This lake            | b) _____ | _____      |
| c. has been the main support of farmers for much years.        | c) _____ | _____      |
| d. Recently the sugar mill was established in its catchment d) | _____    | _____      |
| e. area. Many trees were felled in these area to facilitate    | e) _____ | _____      |
| f. the construction of buildings, roads and bridges. Any       | f) _____ | _____      |
- roads are so high that they block the smooth flow of rain water.

[B] In the given passage one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes after it. [3]

- |   | Before   | Word  | After |
|---|----------|-------|-------|
| If you don't eat properly, you fall ill         | a) _____ | _____ | _____ |
| You not waste time in searching for home        | b) _____ | _____ | _____ |
| remedies. On the other hand, you consult your   | c) _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Physician immediately. Anxiety increase the     | d) _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Disorder. The doctor's instructions be followed | e) _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Faithfully. You have full faith in your doctor. | f) _____ | _____ | _____ |



[C] Complete the headlines by choosing the correct answer from the option given below.

[3]

a. 150 workers in Afghanistan kidnapped.

Authorities said that 150 workers \_\_\_\_\_ in Afghanistan by suspected 'Taliban militants'.

- i) have been kidnapped      ii) were kidnapped      iii) had been kidnapped

b. Supreme Court stays judicial postings in Punjab.

Judicial postings in Punjab \_\_\_\_\_ by the Supreme Court.

- i) have been stayed      ii) had been stayed      iii) were stayed

c. Chief Minister inaugurates flyover.

The Chief Minister Mrs. Shiela Dixit \_\_\_\_\_ the flyover today at Raj Nagar, New Delhi.

- i) inaugurate      ii) has inaugurated      iii) inaugurating

[D] Choose the most appropriate option from the bracket to complete the passage. [3]

Yesterday I (a)..... (*was travelling / had travelled / travel*) by a bus. The bus (b)..... (*was running / will run / run*) from Red Fort to Mandi house. When the bus (c)..... (*reached/reach/reaches/will reach*) ITO, it (d) ..... (*get/got/will get / gets*) overcrowded. Many commuters (e) ..... (*had blocked/ had been blocking / block / were blocking*) the entrance and some (f)..... (*stand/had been standing / stood / were standing*) on the foot board.

[E] Complete this advertisement of a supermarket using appropriate preposition. [3]

[ in of to into from till ]

THE ULTRA MARKET

WHERE THE CUSTOMER IS KING

Ours is the only ultramodern supermarket in your city. We sell an excellent range (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Products for all your needs. The quality of the products sold (b) \_\_\_\_\_ our store is beyond compare. Our experts' staff will be assistance (c) \_\_\_\_\_ you at all times. Our prices are at the lowest in the area. Walk (d) \_\_\_\_\_ our store any time. We are open (e) \_\_\_\_\_ seven in the morning and stay open (f) \_\_\_\_\_ 11 p.m.

SECTION D [LITERATURE]

Q4 [A] Read the following lines carefully and answer the questions that follows.

1. "I venture to think that my experience as an Everester has provided me with the inspiration to face life's ordeal."

- a. Name the prose and its writer.  
b. What according to the writer did his experiences as an Everester teach him?  
c. What are the three qualities that played a major role in the author's climb?

[3]

2. I love to rise in a summer morn, When the birds sing on every tree;  
The distant huntsman winds his horn, and the skylark sings with me.  
O! What sweet company.



- a. Name the poem and poet. [3]
- b. What are the attractions of a summer morning?
- c. Whose company does he find sweet?

[B] Answer the following questions in 30-40 words. [10]

- a. Mention the various ways in which the British and the German soldiers become friends and find things in common at Christmas.
- b. Explain the central idea of the poem 'The Ant and the Cricket'.
- c. In what ways did the British officers exploit Indians?
- d. Who was Chunilal? What is his role in the story?
- e. What makes the school boy unhappy? Why does he compare himself to a bird?

[C] What message does Tagore's poem 'The Last Bargain' convey? What is the Speaker's last and the best bargain? (Value based) [4]

Q5 [A] Do you think Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour? Find instance of her courage, kind nature and humour in the text and explain in your own words. [3]

[B] Draw a character sketch of Giant in your own words. [3]

[C] Fill in the blanks with suitable idiomatic expressions. [4]

[ sailed through, whole bag of tricks, separate sheep from goats, shape up or ship out ]

- a. It was really difficult to find the information even after applying the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Audition test was conducted by the director to \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. When Tom started neglecting the customers, he was told to \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. The presentation at the national conference was extremely important for the company. We \_\_\_\_\_ it.

\*\*\*\*\* ALL THE BEST \*\*\*\*\*

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