



V & C Patel English School
HALF YEARLY EXAM

Std: IX
Subject: English

Max. Marks: 80
Date: 22 -09 -2017
Time: 3 hours.

General Instructions :

(i) The question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A	: Reading	20 marks
Section B	: Writing & Grammar	30 marks
Section C	: Literature	30 marks

(ii) All Questions are compulsory

(iii) You may attempt any section at a time.

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

SECTION A READING (20 marks)

Q 1 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. (10)

1 I was born in small but beautiful mountain village of Nakuri near Uttarkashi in Garhwal, with the gurgling, playful Bhagirathi river flowing nearby. My parents were a hard-working and extremely self-contained couple. Even though our family was poor, barely managing the essentials, my father taught us how to live and maintain dignity and self-respect – the most treasured family value till today. At the same time my parents also practised the creed, “kindness is the essence of all religion.” They were large hearted, inviting the village folk passing by to have tea at our home, and gave grain to the sadhus and pundits who came to the house. This characteristic has been ingrained in me so deeply that I am able to reach out to others and make a difference in their lives—whether it is in my home, society or at the work place.

2 I was the third child in the family – girl, boy, girl, girl and boy in that order – and quite a rebel. I developed a tendency to ask questions and was not satisfied with the customary way of life for a girl child. When I found my elder brother, Bachchan, encouraging our youngest brother, Raju, to take up mountaineers I thought, Why not me? I thought that my brothers were always getting preferential treatment and all opportunities were open to them. This made me even more determined to not only do what the boys were doing, but to do it better.

3 The general thinking of mountain people was that mountaineering as a sport was not for them. They considered themselves to be born mountaineers as they had to go up and down mountain slopes for their daily livelihood and even for routine work. On the other hand, as a student, I would look curiously at foreign backpackers passing by my village and wonder where they were going. I would even invite them to my house and talk to them to learn more about their travels. The full significance of this came to me later when I started working. The foreigners took the trouble to

come all the way to Himalayas in order to educate themselves on social, cultural and scientific aspects of mountaineering, as well as to seek peace in nature's gigantic scheme of things .

- (a) What does the author tell us about the financial condition of her parents?
- (b) What is the most treasured value of the author's family?
- (c) Give an example to show that author's parents were very hospitable?
- (d) How do you know that the author's parents discriminated between sons and daughters?
- (e) Why do the mountain people consider themselves to be born mountaineers?
- (f) Why would the author invite foreign mountaineers to her house?
- (g) Why were foreigners drawn to the Himalayas?

1.1 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

- (a) to flow with a bubbling sound (para -1)
- (b) a person who resists an established authority, often violently (para- 2)
- © the course of someone's life or their manner of living (para-3).....

Q2 Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1 Life begins at 40. Mine certainly did. Our son wanted to study at a good American University. In the early 1950s, if you had a dream, it remained unfulfilled unless you could afford it. Taking a loan was unthinkable. That was only life and death matters. We advised our son to keep studying meanwhile and graduate well from school.

2 For the first time in my life I thought of taking up a job. At 40? No degrees, no business experience. Not very promising. Besides, I would hate to be cooped up in an office from nine to five. What would I like to do? I liked meeting people. That suggested travel, tourism, hotels. Although we had lived in Calcutta for years, I had never really seen the city. For the next four Sundays, my husband drove me to all the places in the guide book. My inspection tours showed there was good scope for an entrepreneur in the city tourism. Why not become a tourist guide? I was sure I could do a much better job. Then the 'buts' set in. What will people say? Why is Silloo roaming around the taxis with strange men? Are the Mehtas so hard up? Could I take it?

3 It wouldn't require much capital. The only investment was myself. The more knowledge I acquired about the country, the better I would be at my job. I definitely liked the idea because it gave me freedom to be myself. One morning, dressed elegantly, I went to a major travel agent's office. Assuming me to be a customer, I was shown to the Manager's desk. I told him what I had discovered and suggested he engage me as a guide for his tourists. Mr. Roper was astonished but receptive. He said, "Mrs. Mehta, you are the answer to our prayers. Many a time we have to pull out the office staff because we have no one to accompany our VIP tourists". Thus began Mrs. Mehta's Guide Service.

- 4 Next day I called some of my friends to coffee. I selected four ladies. All were educated, intelligent and comfortable in any society. They were bored with their lives and as I expected, ready to try something new. I warned them that they would earn peanuts but learn great deal. I prepared a slim guide book about India. My guides should know something about India's history, geography, governance, economy, population, religions, etc.
- 5 We spent a large part of the time driving around and talking to the tourists. By the end of the tour we would have usually established a good rapport. When I read some of the letters tourists have written to me, I feel a glow in my heart even now. I don't remember their faces but they must have been nice people to take time from their busy lives to say "thank you" to a guide so far away. Here are some of the nicest letters. "You are the best guide I've ever had in all my lengthy travels". "You contributed more to my understanding of India than several dozens of other people". "The very delicious tea in your home and the stimulating conversation was one of the highlights of our trip". What more can one want! I chose the right career. Sometimes it could be boring and tiring but that happens in any job. One just carries on.
- 6 Slowly, the business grew. Suddenly, everyone wanted to be one of Mrs. Mehta's guides. Those who had taken a dim view of my career choice began calling me up!
- 7 In the meantime, my son got a scholarship to Cornell!

2.1 Complete the statements based on your reading of the passage in your own words.

- (a) The narrator was unable to fulfill her son's dream of studying abroad because(2)
- (b) The writer was afraid to take up a job as a tourist guide because.....(1)
- (c) To start her new business the writer needed to(1)
- (d) We know that the writer was successful as a guide from(2)

2.2 Find words from the passage that mean the same as: (4)

- (a) Someone who starts a business (para-2)
- (b) Willing to listen or consider suggestions (para-3)

2.3 Find words from the passage that mean the opposite :

- (a) rejected, refused (para -4)
- (b) interesting, exciting (para-5)

SECTION B (WRITING & GRAMMAR) (30 marks)

Q 3 Humans are the tigers' most significant predator, and illegal poaching is a major threat to the tigers. On the basis of Unit 3 MCB 'ENVIRONMENT' Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper complaining about the illegal poaching of tigers in India and measures to conserve tigers in the reserves. (8)

Q 4 There was a young girl who wished to see the world. She wanted to observe new things. She told her mother about her wish. Her mother promised that they would go to a hill station. Next Sunday, they set out on their journey. On their way..... Write the story. (10)

Q5 Complete the following paragraph by filling in the blanks with the help of the given options (4)

Medicinally, the bark of (a) _____ Kadam tree is used as an antiseptic and (b) _____ fevers. The juice of this tree (c) _____ used to kill germs (d) _____ the sores.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| (a) (i) a | (ii) an | (iii) the | (iv) some |
| (b) (i) on | (ii) over | (iii) for | (iv) to |
| (c) (i) is | (ii) was | (iii) been | (iv) being |
| (d) (i) in | (ii) on | (iii) over | (iv) for |

Q 6 The following paragraph has not been edited. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank numbers. (4)

	Incorrect word	Correction
The entire household was in the	in	under
control for my mother-in-law. She	(a) _____	_____
was the majestic figure, very fair and	(b) _____	_____
very serious. She was rigid on	(c) _____	_____
her orthodoxy. No one dare to	(d) _____	_____
argue with her.		

Q7 Rearrange the following to form meaningful sentences. The first one has been done as an example for you. (4)

reward/its/is/honesty/own

Honesty is its own reward

- (a) teaches us/ our dealings /honest / religion /in / to be
- (b) everywhere /and /is respected / honest man / an / admired
- (c) leads / he / a / and / happy / prosperous / life
- (d) the / first / honesty / is the / chapter / in / book / wisdom / of

SECTION C(LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXT) (30 marks)

Q 8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. (4)

1 "I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,

Among my skimming swallows;

I make the netted sunbeam dance

Against my sandy shallows."

Against my sandy shallows."

- (a) Who is "I" ?
- (b) How is the movement of the brook at this stage?
- (c) Name the poetic device used in line 2?
- (d) What does "netted sunbeam" mean and how does it dance?

OR

1 " But your parents would take possession of it, every year from the beginning of spring until the end of September. What's more they would bring the whole tribe of your sister's children with them."

- (a) Who is the speaker ?
- (b) Whom is he speaking to?
- (c) What has the listener asked the speaker to do?
- (c) What does he mean by "take possession"?

Q 9 Answer the following question in 30-40 words.

(8)

- 1 How do we know that the grandmother was determined to read?
- 2 'It was like lighting a fuse. Duke shimmied himself U-shaped in anticipation'. Explain.
- 3. What is a wood? What did the narrator see in the wood? Were the path similar?
- 4 What drew the attention of the narrator towards the reaper?

Q 10 The brook can be compared to one who is completely selfless and thinks that giving is a part of one's journey of life. Refer to the poem 'The Brook' and express your viewpoint regarding this aspect of life.

(8)

OR

Imagine that you are Lord Ullin. You bemoan and lament the tragic loss of your lovely daughter and curse yourself for having opposed her alliance with the chieftain. Express your feelings of pain and anguish in a letter to your friend.

Q11 Attempt any ONE

(10)

1 What are the difficulties described by the narrator about camping out in the open when it was raining? Do you think it would have been an adventure without the rain? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

Describe the character of George.
