

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL JAMMU
SESSION: 2024-25
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
SAMPLE PAPER

CLASS: VIII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH

M.M: 80
TIME: 3 Hr

Instructions:

Read the questions carefully.

Attempt all questions.

Section A(Reading)- 20 marks

Section B(Grammar & Creative Writing Skills)- 28 marks

Section C(Literature)- 32 marks

SECTION-A (READING)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10 marks)

In a small coastal town, nestled between towering cliffs and gentle waves, there stood an old lighthouse. This lighthouse, built over a century ago, had guided countless ships safely through stormy nights. It was said that the lighthouse keeper, an elderly man named Captain Harris, was renowned for managing the lighthouse, and knew every rock and current along the treacherous coastline.

One stormy evening, as the waves crashed violently against the rocks, a ship's distress signal pierced through the howling wind. Captain Harris, alerted by the lighthouse's vigilant beam, hurried to the shore. Through his trusted telescope, he spotted a ship caught in the swirling tempest, its crew struggling against the relentless fury of the sea.

Without a moment's hesitation, Captain Harris fired a flare into the night sky, signaling the stranded ship. With steady hands and unwavering determination, he maneuvered his small boat through the raging waters. As he reached the desperate crew, his weathered face cracked into a reassuring smile.

Hours passed before Captain Harris returned safely to the shore, his rescue mission a success. The grateful crew gathered around him, thanking him profusely for saving their lives. Yet, amidst the celebrations, Captain Harris remained humble, his eyes fixed on the distant horizon, where the storm clouds were finally giving way to dawn.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

A. What was Captain Harris known for in the coastal town? (1 mark)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Building ships | c. Fishing in the storm |
| b. Operating the lighthouse | d. None of the above |

B. How did Captain Harris signal the stranded ship? (1 mark)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. By shouting loudly | c. By sending a message in a bottle |
| b. By firing a flare | d. By calling them on a radio |

C. Find the synonym of the word "anger" from the passage. (1 mark)

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| a. rescue | b. fury | c. profusely | d. admist |
|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|

D. Find the antonym of the word 'scattered' from the passage. (1 mark)

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| a. reassuring | b. current | c. gathered | d. treacherous |
|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|

E. Complete the Statement: (1 mark)

Captain Harris spotted the ship in distress using _____.

F. State whether True/False: (1 mark)

- Captain Harris was a immature man who had recently become the lighthouse keeper. _____
- G.** What qualities do you think are necessary for someone to be a successful lighthouse keeper like Captain Harris? (2 marks)
- H.** How did the lighthouse play a crucial role in the safety of the ships? (2 marks)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (10 marks)

The Red Fort, also known as Lal Qila, is a historic fortification in the city of Delhi, India. It served as the main residence of the Mughal emperors for nearly 200 years, until the British took over in 1857. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1638, the fort is a blend of Persian, Timurid, and Indian architectural styles. The fort's construction took nearly a decade to complete, and it was finally finished in 1648. The Red Fort is named after its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone, which stand as a testament to the grandeur of Mughal architecture.

The fort complex is vast, covering an area of about 254.67 acres, and it includes numerous structures such as the Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience), the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience), the Rang Mahal (Palace of Colors), and the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque). The fort is not only a symbol of the architectural brilliance of the Mughal era but also an important cultural site. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.

The Red Fort holds a special place in the heart of every Indian as it is the site where the Prime Minister hoists the national flag on Independence Day, delivering a speech from its ramparts. This tradition has been followed every year since India gained independence from British rule in 1947.

Over the centuries, the Red Fort has witnessed numerous historical events and has stood as a silent witness to the changing fortunes of the Indian subcontinent. Today, it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Delhi, drawing visitors from all over the world who come to marvel at its magnificent architecture and learn about India's rich history.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- A. Who commissioned the construction of the Red Fort? (1 mark)**
 a. Akbar b. Aurangzeb c. Shah Jahan d. Jahangir
- B. How many years did the fort take to complete? (1 mark)**
 a. 5 b. 10 c. 15 d. 20
- C. Find the synonym of the word 'impressive or notable' from the passage. (1 mark)**
 a. complex b. architectural c. designated d. magnificent
- D. Find the antonym of the word 'tiny' from the passage. (1 mark)**
 a. vast b. hoists c. symbol d. teach
- E. State whether True/False: (1 mark)**
 The Red Fort is located in the capital of India. _____
- F. Complete the Statement: (1 mark)**
 The Red Fort is named after its massive enclosing walls of _____.
- G. Why does the Red Fort hold a special place in the hearts of Indians? (2 marks)**
- H. What are some of the important structures within the Red Fort complex? (2 marks)**

SECTION B (GRAMMAR & WRITING)

Q3. Complete the following paragraph using correct options given in the brackets.(1x4=4 marks)

Last weekend, my family and I ____ (a) _____ (go / went / going/ goes) on a trip to the mountains. We ____ (b) _____ (stay / stayed / staying/ stays) in a cozy cabin near a beautiful lake. Next Saturday, we ____ (c) _____ (are going / go / goes/ will going) to see a breathtaking view of the valley. While we ____ (d) _____ (travels / travelled / travelling/ travel), we will enjoy the fresh mountain air and the chirping of birds.

Q4. Rearrange the following to make meaningful sentences. (1x3=3 marks)

- a. her / she / homework/in / finished / evening / the .

Q11. Read the following extract and answer the questions:

*When the jet sprang into the sky,
it was clear why the city
had developed the way it had,
seeing it scaled six inches to the mile.*

- a. Name the poem and the poet. (1 mark)
- b. What did the poet see from the sky? (1 mark)
- c. Write the rhyme scheme of the given lines. (1 mark)
- d. What was the difference of the scale of measurement from sky? (2 marks)

Q12. Answer any seven out of the following eight questions in 20-30 words: (2x7=14 marks)

- a. How did the East India Company subdue the Indian princes?
- b. In what ways did the British officers exploit Indians?
- c. How did the speaker feel after talking to the child on the beach?
- d. What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour?
- e. The author describes Bepin Babu as a serious and hardworking man. What evidence can you find in the story to support this?
- f. Bepin Babu lost consciousness at Hudroo Falls. What do you think was the reason for this?
- g. The cricket says, "Oh! what will become of me?" When does he say it, and why?
- h. Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?

Q13. Answer any two out of the following three questions in 60-80 words: (4x2=8 marks)

- a. How do you think the geography teacher felt when she heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?
- b. Why did Bepin Babu decide to meet Chunilal? What happened after their meeting?
- c. What message does Tagore's poem The Last Bargain convey? What does he try to highlight?