



HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2022-23)

Subject: ENGLISH(CORE)

Max. Marks:80

Grade: XI

Time: 3 Hrs

General Instructions: -

- All questions are compulsory.
- All answers to be written in the answer sheet provided.

SECTION- A

Reading: 18 Marks

Q1. Read the following passage carefully:

10 M

What writers struggle to express through numerous newspaper columns, the cartoon manages in a pointed one-liner. Little wonder then, that the first thing most of us like to see when we pick up a newspaper is the cartoon. Simple though it may seem, making a cartoon is an art that requires a combination of hard work, training and a good sense of humour.

Cartoonists say that the cartoons that make us laugh the most are in fact the cartoons that are hardest to make. Even celebrated cartoonists like R. K. Laxman admit that making a cartoon is not a piece of cake. Laxman says he has to wait for over six hours, which includes spending a lot of time scanning newspapers and television channels before any idea strikes him.

So how does one become a cartoonist? Which of us has the talent to make it? How can we master the rib-tickling strokes and the witty one-liners? How can we make people smile or laugh? There are few colleges or schools for cartoonists. Most cartoonists come from art colleges, while some learn the craft on their own. Most established cartoonists are of the view that no institute can teach you to make a cartoon.

“You can pick up the craft, you may learn to sketch and draw in institutes, but no one can teach anyone how to make a good cartoon,” says Uday Shanker, a cartoonist with Navbharat Times. While basics, like drawing and sketching can be learnt in an art college, and are important skills, these alone, do not make a good cartoonist. Because it’s a question of one’s creativity and sense of humour; two qualities one simply may not have. The advice established cartoonists give is that just because you can sketch, don’t take it for granted that you will become a cartoonist.

Read the questions given below and choose the option you consider the most appropriate.

1 What according to Laxman is the challenge in creating a good cartoon?

1

- (a) waiting for the right thought to emerge.
- (b) browsing newspapers and television.
- (c) getting the right kind of training.
- (d) good drawing and sketching skills

- 2 Which of these words BEST describes this passage? 1
(a) humorous
(b) technical
(c) challenging
(d) informative
- 3 Of the many qualities that cartoonists should have, which of the following is not referred to directly but can be inferred from the passage? 1
(a) knowledge of current technologies.
(b) knowledge of educational institutions.
(c) knowledge of news and current affairs.
(d) knowledge of different languages
- 4 According to the passage, which group of people is of the opinion that one cannot learn to make a cartoon in institutions? 1
(a) many struggling writers
(b) highly creative artists.
(c) well-respected cartoonist.
(d) all newspaper editors.
5. “Don’t take it for granted that you will become a cartoonist.” Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the sentence. 1
(a) Don’t assume that you will become a cartoonist.
(b) Don’t hope that you will become a cartoonist.
(c) Don’t believe that you will become a cartoonist.
(d) Don’t imagine that you will become a cartoonist
- 6 What is the other word for “creative”? 1
(a) Talented
(b) Unimaginative
(c) Conservative
(d) Stupid
- 7 What is the word which means “confess” in the given passage? 1
(a) Admit
(b) Conceal
(c) Deny
(d) Exclude
- 8 According to you what is a suitable title for the given passage? 1
(a) Cartoons World
(b) So, You Want to be a Cartoonist
(c) How Cartoonist think
(d) Cartoonists World
- 9 What are the qualities required to become a good cartoonist? 1
(a) Hard work, training and good sense of humour
(b) Luck, Intuition and Skill
(c) Training, keenness and Hard work
(d) Skill, Good sense of humour and luck

10 .Find synonym of “copious” in the passage?

1

- (a) Numerous
- (b) Combination
- (c) Rib-tickling
- (d) Basics

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully:

8M

“Rivers should link, not divide us,” said the Indian Prime Minister, expressing concern over interstate disputes and urged state governments to show “understanding and consideration, statesmanship and an appreciation of the other point of view.” Water conflicts in India now reach every level; divide every segment of our society, political parties, states, regions and sub-regions within states, districts, castes and groups and individual farmers. Water conflicts within and between many developing countries are also taking a serious turn. Fortunately, the “water wars”, forecast by so many, have not yet materialized. War has taken place, but over oil, not water.

Water is radically altering and affecting political boundaries all over the world, between as well as within countries. In India, water conflicts are likely to worsen before they get resolved. Till then they pose a significant threat to economic growth, security and health of the ecosystem and the victims are likely to be the poorest of the poor as well as the very sources of water - rivers, wetlands and aquifers. Conflicts might sound bad or negative, but they are logical developments in the absence of proper democratic, legal and administrative mechanisms to handle issues at the root of water conflicts. Part of the problem stems from the specific nature of water, namely that water is divisible and amenable to sharing; one unit of water is used by one is a unit denied to others; it has multiple uses and users and involves resultant trade-offs.

Excludability is an inherent problem and very often exclusion costs are very high: it involves the issue of graded scales, boundaries and the need for evolving a corresponding understanding around them. Finally the way water is planned, used and managed causes externalities, both positive and negative, and many of them are unidirectional and asymmetric. There is a relatively greater visibility as well as a greater body of experience in evolving policies, frameworks, legal set-ups and administrative mechanisms dealing with immobile natural resources, however contested the space may be. Reformist as well as revolutionary movements are rooted in issues related to land. Several political and legal interventions addressing the issue of equity and societal justice have been attempted. Most countries have gone through land reforms of one type or another. Issues related to forests have also generated a body of comprehensive literature on forest resources and rights.

Though conflicts over them have not necessarily been effectively or adequately resolved, they have received much more serious attention, have been studied in their own right and practical as well as theoretical means of dealing with them have been sought. In contrast, water conflicts have not received the same kind of attention.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

1 According to the author which of the following is/are consequences of water conflicts?

1

- I. Trans-border conflicts between developing countries.
- II. Water bodies will remain unused and unaffected till the conflict is resolved.
- III. Water conflicts have altered the political boundaries within countries.

- (a) Only I
(b) Only II
(c) Only III
(d) Both I & III
2. Why does the author ask readers not to view conflicts too negatively? 1
I. Most countries have survived them easily.
II. They bring political parties together.
III. They only affect the grass root levels.
(a) Only I
(b) Only II
(c) Only III
(d) None of I, II and III
3. The author's main objective in writing the passage is to: 1
(a) Showcase government commitment to solve the water distribution problem.
(b) Make a strong case for war as the logical resolution for water conflicts.
(c) Point out the seriousness of the threat posed by unresolved water conflicts.
(d) Describe how the very nature of water contributes to water struggles
4. Which word from the passage means the same as 'discord'? 1
(a) Interventions
(b) Conflict
(c) Amenable
(d) Revolutionary
5. What is the prime Minister's advice to resolve water disputes? 1
(a) Link all rivers to make a national grid.
(b) Politicians alone can solve the problem.
(c) Bridges and dams can resolve water issues.
(d) Make consensual and conscious efforts
6. What is the antonym of the word EVOLVING? 1
(a) Everchanging
(b) Growing
(c) Progress
(d) Regression
7. In India water problem deepens before getting resolved. 1
(a) Partially true
(b) False
(c) True
(d) None of the above
8. What message does the author wants to convey in the passage? 1
(a) Save water
(b) Water is a precious resource
(c) Water and politics are interconnected
(d) None of the above

Q.3	SECTION-B	30M	12M
	GRAMMAR	12M	

I Fill in the blanks with the suitable form of verb given in brackets:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Prodipta (win) the wrestling bout against Vijay this evening, I'm sure. | 1 |
| 2 | Indians (fight) a long struggle before they (attain) independence. | 1 |
| 3 | The train (depart) before we reached the station. | 1 |
| 4 | Majid, my best friend, (stay) in Kanpur since five years. | 1 |
| 5 | I..... (pass) my MBA by the time you return from abroad. | 1 |
| 6 | Tailor Master are the clothes I (give) for stitching ready yet? | 1 |

II. Read the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | System/ facts/ Albert/ on/ victim/ focus/ was/ education/ a/ of/ wrong/ where/ was/ only/ memorizing/ the. | 1 |
| 2 | Students/ the/ article/ write/ letter/ must/ suggestions/ a few/ end/ the/ in/of/to/ editor/ and/the | 1 |
| 3 | Sachin Tendulker/ appointed/ as/ brand/ has/ Rio/ Ambassador/ been/ of/ Olympics. | 1 |
| 4 | great importance / one of the / essentials of life / discipline is / in all spheres / and is of / of life | 1 |
| 5 | average/used/term/earth's/rise/the/describe/in/temperature/is/to/unnatural/the/global warming | 1 |
| 6 | Naga/worn/the/traditional/festivities/often/on/is/headgears/displayed/hornbill/during/ worn/tribal | 1 |

Q.4	WRITING		18M
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I Attempt any one of the following:

5M

You are Amit / Shalu of 98, Samrit Vihar, Punjab and wish to let out your newly built house. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in Hindustan Times giving all necessary details.

OR

You are HR Manager of Startek Ltd. Sector 30 Mumbai. You need an efficient data entry operator for your office in Punjab. Write an advertisement to be published in a local daily.

II. Attempt any one of the following:

5M

Vivek/Pramita is a student at Avid International School in New Delhi. Create a poster to publicize the health mela at your institution. Educate the general population about the increase of covid-19 infections by creating a poster.

OR

You are President of Leo Club of Jew Town. Prepare a poster on behalf of Lions Club and Leo Club for 'Diwali Mela' to be held at Nehru Stadium, mentioning some of the attractions.

III. Attempt any one of the following: **8M**

While science is a good slave, it can be a bad master. Write a short speech in 120-150 words to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school, advising students not to let gadgets and gizmos drive them, but to employ these to their advantage.

OR

You are Pranav/ Pawani, Head Girl/Head Boy of your school. Write a speech in 120-150 words, to be delivered at the career counselling session for students of classes IX-XII of your school advising students on the benefits of thinking seriously about their goals and aptitudes before choosing a stream of study.

Section C
Literature

32M

Q.5 Reference to the Context

I Attempt any one of the following: **3M**

a) Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up
Of chitterings and a tremor of wings, and trilling
The whole tree trembles and thrills.

1

i) What does 'machine' refer to in the extract?

- (a) It refers to the machine used to drill a hole in the tree
- (b) It refers to the machine used to cut the tree
- (c) It refers to the nest of the goldfinch where its young ones are staying
- (d) It refers to the nest of the squirrel

ii) Which figure of speech is used in "sleek as a lizard"?

1

- (a) Oxymoron
- (b) Transferred Epithet
- (c) Simile
- (d) Metaphor

iii) When did the death-like tree become alive?

1

- (a) in the month of March
- (b) by the arrival monsoon season
- (c) by the arrival of the Goldfinch
- (d) by the arrival of sparrows

OR

b) All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother's, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.

i) After how many years did her mother laugh on seeing the photograph?

1

- (a) twenty-one
- (b) twenty-three
- (c) twelve
- (d) twenty-five

- ii) Identify the literary device used in “Terribly transient” 1
- (a) Oxymoron
- (b) Similie
- (c) Transferred Epithet
- (d) Enjambment
- iii) ‘All three stood still to simile through their hair’, Which poetic device is used here? 1
- (a) Personification
- (b) Alliteration
- (c) Simile
- (d) Metaphor

II Attempt any one of the following: 3M

a) The winter air lay cold and still, like death itself, in this valley of the departed. Just above the entrance to Tut’s tomb stood Orion — the constellation that the ancient Egyptians knew as the soul of Osiris

- (i) Who is Osiris? 1
- (a) god of nature
- (b) god of afterlife
- (c) god of seasons
- (d) god of universe
- (ii) Who discovered Tut’s tomb and when? 1
- (a) Zahi Hawas in 1920
- (b) Howard Carter in 1922
- (c) Howard Carter in 1920
- (d) Sam Shaw in 1890
- (iii) How has archeology changed through the decades ? 1
- (a) focusses more on treasure
- (b) focusses more on physical findings
- (c) focusses on time factors more
- (d) focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death

OR

b) More problems arose when our hand pumps started to block up with the debris floating around the cabins and the electric pump short-circuited. The water level rose threateningly

- (i) What happened after the hand pumps started to block up with the debris floating around the cabins? 1
- (a) the author connected an electric-pump to an out-pipe
- (b) by taking out water with the help of bucket
- (c) by repairing hand pump
- (d) the author found another hand pump
- (ii) Why did the author hire the two crewmen? 1
- (a) to take rest from long the voyage
- (b) to help tackle one of the world’s roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean
- (c) because he could no longer sail the ship
- (d) he wanted to spend some time with his family

- (iii) What did they do to slow down the boat in the storm? 1
- (a) Stopped sailing
- (b) dropped the storm jib and lashed a heavy mooring rope
- (c) just dropped the storm jib
- (d) did nothing and waited for storm to calm down

III. Attempt any one of the following: 4M

(a) I followed the girl along the passage. An old-fashioned iron Hanukkah candleholder hung next to a mirror. We never used it because it was much more cumbersome than a single candlestick. 'Won't you sit down?' asked the girl. She held open the door of the living-room and I went inside past her. I stopped, horrified. I was in a room I knew and did not know.

(i) "I was in a room I knew and did not know". What does author mean by this? 1

- (a) She did not recognize the things that she saw
- (b) She did not want to remember anything
- (c) She saw familiar things, but in unfamiliar surroundings
- (d) She saw unfamiliar things, in familiar surroundings

(ii) Why did the author leave Mrs. Dorling in a hurry? 1

- (a) Because she was getting late for the train
- (b) Because she no longer wanted to stay there
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

(iii) In what condition did the author find the living room? 1

- (a) Haphazard
- (b) Well arranged
- (c) Empty
- (d) Old fashioned

(iv) According to the author, when do we notice the things in the house? 1

- (a) When they are out of our sight
- (b) When they are used by us
- (c) When they are shown by others
- (d) None of the above

OR

(b) I knew my cousin Mourad enjoyed being alive more than anybody else who had ever fallen into the world by mistake, but this was more than even I could believe.

In the first place, my earliest memories had been memories of horses

(i) What according to Aram was his first longing? 1

- (a) To own a horse
- (b) To become rich
- (c) To ride a horse
- (d) To know the way with horses

(ii) Who was the true knower of the horse? 1

- (a) John Byro
- (b) Fetvajian
- (c) Dikran Halabian
- (d) Zorab

(iii) Mourad had been hiding the horse _____. 1

(a) in a stable

(b) in a barn of a vineyard

(c) at a secret place of his house

(d) None of the above

(iv) Where did Aram live? 1

(a) In the centre of the town

(b) In the country house near vineyard

(c) Olive Avenue

(d) At the edge of town on Walnut Avenue

Q.6 Answer the following in 40-50 words:

Attempt the following: 6M

a) What happened when the goldfinch came to the laburnum tree? 3

OR

Explain: The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter.

b) What could Khushwant Singh not believe about his grandparents? 3

OR

Akhenaten went a little wacky. What did he do to earn such criticism?

Q.7 Attempt any one of the following in 40-50 words: 4M

What are the unique traits of the Garoghlanian tribe?

OR

How did Mrs Dorling receive Mrs S's daughter when she came back after several years?

How do you explain her behaviour?

Q.8 Attempt any one of the following in 120-150 words: 6M

What problems did Howard Carter face when he reached King Tut's mummy? What did he do to solve them?

OR

What were the troubles that they faced on the morning of 2 January? How did they counter nature's wrath?

Q.9 Attempt any one of the following in 120-150 words: 6M

What were the narrator's experience and reaction when she went to Mrs Dorling's house a second time?

OR

Narrate the riding experience of Aram and Mourad.
