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| **HY/EN/1119B 21/11/2019** | | | | |
| **HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2019-20)** | | | | |
| **Subject: ENGLISH(CORE)**  **Grade: XI** | | | Max. Marks:80Time: 3 Hrs | |
| ***General Instructions:*** *-*   * *All questions are compulsory.* * *All answers to be written in the answer sheet provided.* | | | | |
|  |  | **SECTION – A**  **READING: 20 Marks** | |  |
| **1.** | **1.1**  **1.2** | **Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:**  **Great Indian digital divide**  1. The revolution in information technology (IT), far from helping India to leapfrog to a post-industrial society, threatens to rupture the social fabric by enriching a few at the cost of many.  2. In a very short time and quite unexpectedly, India has risen to considerable eminence in the world of information technology. This year, software products are expected to account for $ 5.7 billion in exports and will account for a quarter of the growth in the economy, which is expected to grow nearly seven per cent. Within eight years, predicts a recent study by McKinsey & Co. and the National Association of Software & Service Companies (Nasscom), India’s annual IT exports could hit $ 50 billion about 33 per cent of global software exports. Such a surge is expected to generate 2.2 million jobs—and push our growth rate near the double digits that many East Asian Tigers enjoyed before the 1997 crash.  3. For the rapidly growing middle class, which was desperate to make its presence felt but remained mired in the great Indian outback of the global economy and regretfully watched the industrial revolution pass it by, this is the moment they have been waiting for. When countries like Japan and Germany, the objects of Indian admiration, should come knocking on our doors to solicit our talent to invigorate their industry, it is indeed redemption of sorts. And IT is the cause of it all.  4. The big question is, will IT do an encore for India as a nation, and not just for a wafer thin percentage of IT-literate Indians, mostly the poster boys of the IITs?  5. IT has, as yet, failed to touch the lives of the average citizen and India is nowhere close to being a knowledge economy or society. As per the International Data Corporation (IDC), in a survey of 55 countries, India ranks 54th on its Information Society Index.  6. The fact is, it is a straightforward reflection of the deep inequality of our education system which breeds a few ‘geniuses’ at the cost of the entire nation. A study by former director of the National Centre for Software Technology, R. Narasimhan, points out that nowhere is the digital divide more glaring than in IT education. The report warns that India’s ‘obsession’ with the software industry and its exports orientation is leading to the churning out of unemployable students on one hand and bright whiz-kids on the other. While the latter are lured away by overseas employers, the former remain unemployable.  Narasimhan cautions against the ‘hype’ associated with the phenomenal growth of India’s software industry defying rational explanations and built up into a ‘mystique of sort’ which breeds false hopes.  7. India’s software industry is a poor employment generator. In the mid-Nineties, some 20,000 people were actively employed in software export services. In contrast, there were three million registered unemployed graduates in the Nineties. While the ‘Narasimhan study doesn’t mention number of jobs lost due to computerization, one could comfortably add a million to the number.  **Answer the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option.**  a.The revolution in IT threatens to break apart the social fabric because…………………………  (a) the stocks of software companies have risen at BSE  (b) it has helped India to rise beyond the industrial society  (c) it is enriching a few at the cost of many  (d) it has created a gulf between the rural and urban sector  b. Growth in export of Indian software products and national economy have been achieved because of…………………………  (a) global recession  (b) liberalized economy  (c) public private cooperation  (d) eminence of Information Technology  c. It is a time of pride for the middle classes in India because…………………………  (a) developed industrial nations will require Indian software professionals to invigorate their industry  (b) they are desperate to make their presence felt  (c) they have remained stuck in the mud of global economy  (d) they have regretfully watched the industrial revolution pass by them  d.The digital divide is clearly visible in IT revolution because…………………………  (a) it has improved a lot of average Indian citizen  (b) it has benefitted only the products of IITs or some IT-literates  (c) it has made India a knowledge economy or society  (d) non-IT trained students run the IT institutes  e. Narasimhan’s report cautions against ‘hype’ around IT software industry because…………………………  (a) it is rational  (b) it breeds false hopes  (c) all look for foreign assignments  (d) it attracts even the dullards  f. The word ‘redemption’ in para 3 means…………………………  (a) recoupment  (b) recumbent  (c) recovery  (d) redeeming  **Answer the following questions in brief:**  a. Why is the digital divide clearly visible in IT revolution?  b. Why is IT not beneficial for average Indians?  c. What does Narasimhan’s report highlight on IT software industry?  d. How is it lucrative for the middle classes in India?  e. Find the words from the passage which are similar in meaning.  (i) Recovery (para 3)  (ii) Very easily seen (para 6) | | 12  1X6  1X4  1X2 |
| **2.** |  | **Read the passage given below:**  A good business letter is one that gets results. The best way to get results is to develop a letter that, in its appearance, style, and content, conveys information efficiently. To perform this function, a business letter should be concise, clear, and courteous.    The business letter must be concise. Little introductory or preliminary chat is necessary. Get to the point, make the point, and leave it. It is safe to assume that your letter is being read by a busy person with all kinds of correspondence to deal with. Such a person does not want to spend time a a newsy letter about your ski trip or medical problem. Hone and refine your message until the words and sentences you have used are precise. Revision and rereading take time but are a necessary part of writing a good letter. A short business letter that makes its point quickly has much more impact on a reader than a long-winded, rambling exercise in creative writing. This does not mean that there is no place for style or even, on occasion, humour in the business letter. While it conveys a message in its content, the letter also provides the reader with an impression of you, its author. Your style is part of the message.    The business letter must be clear. You should have a firm idea of what you want to say, and you should let the reader know it. Be sure to use an accepted business-letter format. There are several, and they can be found in any book of business English. Use the structure of the letter—the paragraphs, topic sentences, transitions—to guide the reader point by point from your introduction, through your reasoning, to your conclusion. Paragraph often, to break up the page and to provide visual cues to the organization of your letter. Reread what you have written from the point of view of someone who is seeing it for the first time, and revise to be sure that all necessary information is provided (including reference numbers, dates, and other identification) and that all explanations are clear. A clear message, clearly delivered, is the essence of business communication.    The business letter must be courteous. Sarcasm and insults are ineffective and can often work against you. If you are sure you are right, point out the fact as politely as possible, explain why you are right, and outline what you expect the reader to do. Always put yourself in the place of the person to whom you are writing. What sort of letter would you respond to? How effective would sarcasm and threats be in making you fulfill a request? Another form of courtesy is taking care in your writing or typing. Grammatical and spelling errors (even if you call them typing errors) tell a reader that you don’t think enough of him or her to be careful. Such mistakes can lower the reader’s opinion of you faster than anything you say, no matter how idiotic. There are excuses for ignorance; there are no excuses for sloppiness.    The business letter is your custom-made representative. It speaks for you and is a permanent record of your message. It can pay big dividends on the time you invest in giving it a concise message, a clear structure, and a courteous tone.  (a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.  (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. | | 5  3 |
|  |  | **SECTION – B:**  **WRITING & GRAMMAR (30 Marks)** | |  |
| **3** |  | You are the manager, Herbal India Ltd. Draft an advertisement for your company for the post of Senior Sales Executive. Specify your requirements, qualifications, experience and personality of the candidates.  **OR**  All India Publishing House in collaboration with International Trade Authority is organizing 14th International Book Fair at Pragati Maidan for a week beginning from 23rd July. Draft an advertisement for publication in national dailies. | | 4 |
| **4**  **5** |  | You are Priya Khanna, librarian of your school, Aligarh. You have been asked to place an order for some books for the school library. Write a letter to the Sales manager, lighthouse, main road, Noida, placing an order for the books that you need    Write a letter to M/s. H.M.T. Corporation Chandigarh, complaining that the wrist -watch you had recently bought from them does not function properly and ask for an immediate replacement. You are Dipti/ Deepak Gupta, 450, Sector 20, Chandigarh. | | 6  6 |
| **6** |  | You are Karan/ Kirti of L.M. Memorial Public School, Dwarka. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 150-200 words.  **OR**  You are Ankit/Ankita. You have to deliver a speech on the topic “Education Gives One Power”. You have jotted down the following notes: Education trains mind—sharpens skill and abilities—Education: a source of power— improve self—be independent—earn money—ignorance to knowledge—removes superstition—develops a free spirit—important for women: gives them freedom from social ills—independent—responsible. Write your speech in 150-200 words. | | 8 |
| **7** |  | **The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in the answer sheet against the correct blank number.**  **Incorrect Correct**  “Either you or your friend Shalu havestolen my  notebook”, shouted Shreya. Neither I or my friend  are your culprits, said Shalu. We were both not in  class since morning. In fact, we are out the whole  day. But whom are the culprit then? asked Shreya.  I don’t know this, but we were both not guilty. | | ½x6=3 |
| **8** |  | **Rearrange the following to form meaningful sentences**.  (a) forward/man/in/came/to/great/a/help/my/difficulties/me  (b) children/the/hours/for/playing/garden/have been/in/two/the  (c) on adequate/and/depends/preparation/indomitable/success/determination | | 1X3 |
|  |  | **SECTION: C**  **(LITERATURE: TEXTBOOKS)**  **(Marks: 30)** | |  |
| **9** |  | Read the extract given below and briefly answer **any two** of the questions that follow:  When did my childhood go?  Was it when I found my mind was really mine,  To use whichever way I choose,  Producing thoughts that were not those of other people  But my own and mine alone  Was that the day!   1. Explain: ‘My mind was really mine’. 2. How could the poet use his mind? 3. What kind of thoughts could he produce? | | 1X2 |
| **10** |  | Answer **any five** of the following questions in 30 -40 words each:  a. How are the earth's principal biological systems being depleted as explained in “The Ailing Planet”?  b. Why does the father fail to understand his son in the poem, “Father to Son”?  c. What is the central idea of Walt Whitman’s poem, “The Voice of the Rain?  d. In the lesson ‘Adventure”, what bitter experience did the professor have at the meeting in Azad Maidan?  e. What role does the narrator play in the life of Rangappa?  f. Which English poet influenced Shahid’s poetry the most? How? | | 2x5 |
| **11** |  | Answer **any one** of the following questions in 120-150 words:  “Forests precede mankind deserts follow” Examine the validity of this remark in the light of ‘The Ailing Planet: The Green Movement's Role’.  **OR**  Rain does its duty unmindful of any recognition. A great lesson is hidden here.  Elucidate. | | 1X6 |
| **12** |  | Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 120-150 words:  What was Albert’s philosophy on education? Do you subscribe to his view?  **OR**  “Mother’s Day”, written in the 1950s, is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family. What are the issues it raises? | | 1X6 |
| **13** |  | Answer **any one** of the following questions in about 120-150 words:  Based upon The Browning Version, what impression do you form of Frank and Mrs Crocker-Harris? Elucidate.  **OR**  What impressions of Shahid do you gather from the lesson “The Ghat of the Only World”? | | 1X6 |

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