



**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWTOWN  
SESSION 2020-21  
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION (ONLINE)**

**CLASS: IX  
SUBJECT: ENGLISH PAPER I**

**FULL MARKS: 40  
TIME: 1 HOUR**

- All questions are compulsory.
- The paper consists of three printed pages.

**Question 1**

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

There was one pet which Grandfather could not keep for very long. Grandmother was tolerant of some birds and animals but she drew the line at reptiles. Grandfather should have known that there was little chance of being allowed to keep a python.

He could never resist buying unusual pets and while we still had Toto, the monkey, he paid a snake-charmer in the market only four rupees for the young four-foot python that was on display to a crowd of eager boys and girls. Grandfather impressed the gathering by slinging the python over his shoulders and walking home with it.

The first to see them arrive was Toto, swinging from a branch of the jackfruit tree. One look at the python, ancient enemy of his race and he fled into the house squealing with fright. Toto hid under the sofa. Grandmother nearly fainted at the sight of the python curled round Grandfather's throat. She was dumbstruck for a while. After few seconds, she shouted at Grandfather and ordered him to get rid of it at once.

"Nonsense!" said Grandfather. "He's only a young fellow – he'll soon get used to us."

"He might, indeed," said Grandmother, "I have no intention of it getting used to us."

Grandfather said, "Well, I can't leave it loose in the garden. It might find its way into the poultry house and then where would we be?"

"Oh, how irritating you are!" grumbled Grandmother. "Lock the thing in the bathroom, then go out and find the man you bought it from and get him to come here and collect it."

Finally, Grandfather took the python into the bathroom and placed it in the tub.

"Perhaps Grandmother is right this time," he said. "We don't want the snake to get hold of Toto. It's sure to be hungry."

He hurried off to the market to look for the snake-charmer. He was gone for about two hours while Grandmother paced up and down the balcony. While Grandfather returned, looking crestfallen, we knew he was unable to find the snake-charmer.

"Well, then kindly take it away yourself," said Grandmother. "Leave it in the jungle across the river-bed."

"All right but let me feed it first," said Grandfather.

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: One-word answers or short phrases will be accepted. [3]

- i. slinging
- ii. intention
- iii. crestfallen

(b) Answer the following questions briefly.

- i. Whom did Grandfather buy the python from? How much did it cost? [2]
- ii. How did Grandfather impress the children in the market? [2]
- iii. What did Grandfather think might happen if the python would be left loose in the garden? [1]
- iv. What did Grandmother request Grandfather to do when he was unable to find the snake-charmer to return the python? [2]
- v. Which sentence in the passage tells you that Grandfather wanted to be really kind to the python? Which character trait of the Grandfather can you derive from this sentence? [2]

(c) In not more than 50 words, describe the reaction of Toto and Grandmother when they saw the python with the Grandfather for the first time. [8]

### **Question 2**

Attempt the following:

[10]

You have started taking interest in a new hobby during lockdown. Write a letter to your friend mentioning the new hobby and few reasons for choosing it.

### **Question 3**

(a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. Example: (0) spoke [2]

As she \_\_\_\_(0)\_\_\_\_(speak), I \_\_\_\_ (i)\_\_\_\_(rise) and \_\_\_\_ (ii)\_\_\_\_ (go) near the blackboard. I \_\_\_\_ (iii)\_\_\_\_ (find) the chalk and \_\_\_\_ (iv)\_\_\_\_ (write) in block letters the title of the book.

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [2]

- i. They admire him \_\_\_\_\_ his courage.
- ii. My younger brother is addicted \_\_\_\_\_ computer games.
- iii. Once upon a time, the great king ruled \_\_\_\_\_ all these villages.
- iv. The theory examination was followed \_\_\_\_\_ a group discussion.

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. [2]

- i. He has high fever. He will not take part in games.
- ii. I read the book. The book was gifted by my brother.

(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [4]

- i. As soon as he received the telegram, he called me. [Begin: No sooner...]
- ii. My younger brother composed a song. [Begin: A song...]
- iii. She is so selfish that she will not share her dress. [Use: too]
- iv. I completed my work and helped my friend. [Begin: Not only....]