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|  | **INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR** |

MID -TERM EXAMINATION (2023-24)

Class: VIII Sub: ENGLISH Max Marks: 80 marks

Date:21-09-2023 Time:2 ½ hours **SET -2**

***General Instructions:***

*(i)All questions are compulsory.*

*(ii)The question paper consists of four sections:*

*Section A – Reading (20 marks), Section B-Grammar (12 marks), Section C- Writing (12 marks) and Section D-Literature (36 marks).*

*(iii) Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section.*

*(iv) Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.*

**SECTION A: READING (20 marks)**

**I. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

1. Happiness is not something far away and unattainable. Happiness does not depend on circumstances or objects. It is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desires and worries. We all seek happiness but few, very-few, indeed, get it. We are unhappy partly because we desire much more than what we can hope to attain.

Our countless desires are hard to be satisfied. And that is what makes us so sad in life. The secret of happiness lies in the simplification of life. Simple living encourages high thinking. It leads to contentment. Contentment gives us inner wealth, the wealth of the mind and of the soul.

2. A contented man devotes himself to virtues; a man can feel true happiness. I do not mean that for simplification of life, a man should become an ascetic. The happiness of a sadhu is of a negative kind. I want positive kind of happiness. For this I must live in the midst of life and faithfully carry out my responsibilities to my home and my country. But all this should be done in the spirit of selfless service.

3. A man, who wants to lead a happy life, should also make others happy. In making others happy he will taste real and lasting happiness. There is a kind of joy in serving others with virtuous motives, in sacrificing what one has for the good of others. An act of goodness is of itself an act of happiness. The secret of perfect happiness lies in renunciation.

4. Wealth may give us joy for a while and fame may provide us with fleeting excitement. But they cannot give us permanent happiness. Kings have everything to make them happy and yet they feel unhappy. It is because they do not practise renunciation. There is a sense of joy in doing one’s work honestly and efficiently. A research-worker feels joy in research and a journalist in writing.

In doing one’s duty sincerely, one feels peace of mind which is an important essence of happiness. It is only by cultivating spirit of renunciation, self-sacrifice, contentment and science work that one can really be happy. The strings of misfortune spare none but they will not cow such a person.

5. Happiness is like the sun, it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve them to experience happiness. You don’t have to create happiness. All you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.** (10 x 1=10)

(i) Which of the following is the correct chain of things, as mentioned in the passage, leading to happiness?

(a) contentment, high thinking, simple living, inner wealth

(b) simple living, high thinking, inner wealth, contentment

(c) high thinking, simple living, inner wealth, contentment

(d) simple living, high thinking, contentment, inner wealth

(ii) What does a contented man do?

(a) He assimilates the basic virtues of life.

(b) He faces boldly the adversities of life.

(c) He encounters the strings of misfortunes.

(d) He gives up bad habits effortlessly.

(iii) What, according to the passage, is a positive kind of happiness?

(a) Keeping our motives and feelings under control.

(b) Love for life and a country.

(c) Leading a simple life of an ascetic.

(d) Carrying out all worldly activities in the spirit of selfless service.

(iv) A man who wants to live a happy life should:

(a) make others happy.

(b) master the art of renunciation.

(c) pursue wealth and fame.

(d) inculcate the virtues of life.

(v) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

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| “Life is about creating and living experiences that are worth sharing.”   *-Steve Jobs* | “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”  *-Albert Einstein* |
| (1) | (2) |
| “Happiness is not something readymade; it comes from your own actions.”     —*Dalai Lama* | “When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”                                          *—Paulo Coelho* |
| (3) | (4) |

(a) Option (1)

(b) Option (2)

(c) Option (3)

(d) Option (4)

(vi) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

(a) One feels peace of mind in doing one’s duty sincerely.

(b) Renunciation is the result of perfect happiness.

(c) Multiplicity of desires make us unhappy.

(d) Making others happy makes one happy.

(vii) The phrase “cow a person” refers to get someone:

(a) spared

(b) caught

(c) scared

(d) provoked

(viii) Doing one’s work sincerely hardly makes one happy. (True/False)

(ix) Select the option that makes the correct use of “unattainable”, as used in para 1.

(a) Unattainable development implies a long-term perspective.

(b) Keep goals small so they are more easily unattainable.

(c) Diabetes is unattainable but not curable.

(d) Some economists think that 100% employment in India is an unattainable goal.

(x) The antonym of ‘permanent’ as given in para 4 is………… .

(xi) ‘*An act of goodness is of itself an act of happiness.’* Based on the above passage , justify this statement. (1 x 2=2)

**II. Read the given poem and answer the questions that follow.**

***SYMPATHY***

I lay in sorrow, in deep distress;

My grief a proud man heard;

His looks were cold, he gave me gold,

But not a kindly word.

My sorrow passed—I paid him back

The gold he gave to me;

Then stood erect and spoke my thanks

And blessed his charity I lay in want and grief and pain;

A poor man passed my way,

He bound my head, he gave me bread

He watched me night and day

How shall I pay him back again for all he did to me?

Oh, gold is great, but greater far Is heavenly sympathy.

***Charles Mackay***

**Choose the most appropriate option:** (5 x 1=5)

(i) How did the proud man help the poet when he was in deep distress?

(a) He gave him jewels (c) He gave some money

(b) He took him home (d) He pitied the poet

(ii) What did he not give to the poet?

(a) money (c) food

(b) gold (d) sympathy

(iii) How did the poor man take care of the poet?

(a) The poor man gave him some food and money

(b) The poor man gave him good and kind words

(c) The poor man gave him food and took care of him day and night

(d) He took the poet home and bound his head which was hurt

(iv) Which of the following statements is ***not true***?

(a) The poet repaid his debt to the proud man only by thanking him

(b) The poet blessed the charity of the rich man

(c) When the poet was in sorrow, he was given money

(d) The poet says, he cannot repay the poor man for his sympathy

(v) Which word in the poem means “giving money to a person who is in need”?

(a)   kindness                                                  (b) sympathy

(c)   charity                                                     (d) distress

(vi) Below are some lines from the poem with some words underlined. Choose the correct meaning of the words from the options given in brackets. (6 x 0.5=3)

a)    I lay in sorrow, deeply distressed (tired/unhappy/angry)  
b)    He gave me gold (money/jewellery/sheets)  
c)    And blessed his charity (money/kind help/pride)  
d)    A poor man passed my way (to move past/stopped me)  
e)    Is heavenly sympathy (selfishness/godly goodness/pride)  
f)    Greater far is heavenly sympathy (the feeling of being sorry at another’s sadness/the feeling of pain/a superior feeling)

**SECTION B: GRAMMAR (12 marks)**

**III.** Identify whether the following sentences are simple, compound, or complex sentences. (1x4=4)

1. After they reach the hotel, they will inform us.

2. We are going to the park.

3. I did not know that this food was meant only for the staff.

4. The wind blew the leaves off the trees.

**IV**. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct form of the verb from the options given below. (1x4=4)

1. I think, she has deliberately --------------- the mobile off.  
   (a) switches  
   (b) switched   
   (c) is switched  
   (d) is switching
2. The entire audience ------------- out in a hilarious laughter as she said the punchline.  
   (a) burst  
   (b) had burst  
   (c) is bursting  
   (d) were bursting
3. I ----------- it is going to rain.
4. think
5. thought
6. am thinking
7. have thought
8. We \_\_\_\_\_\_ a function at home. Please do come in.
   1. have had
   2. having
   3. are having
   4. had

**V.** State whether the verbs in the sentences given below have been used in their transitive or intransitive forms. (1x4=4)

1. The ants fought the wasps.
2. Ring the bell, Rama.
3. The ship sank rapidly.
4. This horse never kicks.

**SECTION C: WRITING (12 marks)**

* + - * 1. You are a resident of Nihal Vihar, Faridabad. There is too much traffic chaos in your locality. The school children are the most vulnerable group as their safety is at stake. Write a letter to the editor to solve the above mentioned problem. (1 x 6=6)
        2. Write a story in 150-200 words, with the help of the cues given below. Give a suitable title to the story.

***A rich man ……… had many servants……… purse with lot of money is stolen from rich man’s drawer……… rich man files a complaint in the police station ……… all the servants called ……… stick of same length given to each ……… servants told that stick of the thief will grow by one inch overnight ……… the thief cuts his stick by one inch ……… he is easily caught the next day***. (1 x 6=6)

**SECTION D: LITERATURE (36 marks)**

**VIII.** Answer **any four** from the given reference to context questions. (4 x 3=12)

***1. ‘You have already been answered!’***

a. Who had already been answered?

b. What answer is referred to here?

c. Do you think the answer is appropriate? Why?

1. ***“I would like to be given to the Morinji temple as a sacred treasure.”***
2. Who is the speaker? When does he say this?  
   b. Who did he express his wish to?  
   c. Why did he want to be given away to the temple?
3. ***“Dear Father, I want my husband to be highly skilled in fighting. He should be able to overpower me in fight.”***

a. Who said this and to whom?

b. Why did the speaker lay down this condition?

c. Did the listener agree with the speaker?

1. ***We use our text messages,***

***Our computers, to speak for us.***

1. What do these two lines reflect about our lifestyle?  
   b. How do our computers speak for us?  
   c. Is the speaker happy about it?

**5**. ***He was the talk of the town and very soon, they were minting money.***

a. Who was the talk of the town?

b. How did he become the talk of the town?

c. Who were minting money and how?

**IX.** Answer **any seven** from the given short answer questions. (7 x 1=7)

Q.1. What does Betaal do on hearing the answer of king Vikramaditya?

Q.2. What does the speaker feel about ‘speaking’? (***Communication***)

Q.3. What is meant by ‘the unforgiving minute’?

Q.4. How did the priest get rid of the tea kettle?

Q.5. What was the ‘ real adventure’ for the tourists?

Q.6. Which visitors does the rain herald? (***A Short Monsoon Diary***)

Q.7. Describe the bond between the kettle and the tinker?

Q.8. Who was the man who came running out of the woods? (***The Three Questions***)

**X.** Answer **any four** from the given long answer questions. (4 x 3=12)

Q.1. Who was Sona and what condition did she set for her marriage?

Q.2. How should one’s behaviour be with crowds and kings? Why do you think it should be so? (***If***)

Q.3. Why did King Vikramaditya climb the ancient tamarind tree? What did he bring down from the tree?

Q.4. What were the answers to the King’s three questions?

Q.5. What requests did the badger make to the tinker?

**XI.** Match the following words in column A with their meanings in column B. (0.5x10=5)

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| **A** | **B** |
| 1. worn out | 1. moved or went together in a crowd |
| 1. pondered | 1. tissue that binds muscle to bone |
| 1. frail | 1. badly damaged |
| 1. crouched | 1. thought about something carefully for a period of time |
| 1. sinew | 1. depend on something |
| 1. intently | 1. bent forward |
| 1. rely | 1. attentively |
| 1. flocked | 1. the way which somebody stands |
| 1. disgrace | 1. delicate |
| 1. stance | 1. shame |
|  | 1. expectation |