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

#  **PRE- MIDTERM ASSESSMENT (2023-24)**

 **ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**Class: IX maximum Marks: 30**

**Date: 23/05/2023 Time :1 hour**

***General Instructions:***

1. ***The question paper contains THREE sections: READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE.***
2. ***Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part***

**SECTION A: READING 5**

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

 **Hiking is a Great Source of Pleasure**

1. Hiking is a great source of pleasure for us, besides being beneficial for our health. Once we leave the crowded street of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open-air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, and the hectic daily routine are all forgotten, and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing, and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.

2. Hiking takes us into the midst of nature. The sight of a waterfall, flowers, streams, trees, and bushes is pleasing. A connection is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the singing of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance for us.

3. You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us – all these are noticed, and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of examination, and no anxiety about the home. We have the leisure to stand, walk, and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountain region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain – all these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.

4. We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or get caught in a rain shower. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.

5. Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.

6. The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, and chirping sound of birds make one’s mind and soul at peace with nature.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions. (5x1=5)**

1. To go out for a walking tour is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a) to stroll

b) to ramble

**c) to hike**

d) to saunter

2. Why does the writer say that the mind is at ease when you hike?

a) Because hiking is an inexpensive activity.

b) Because it brings families together.

c) Because of the intolerable noise of traffic.

**d) Because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.**

3. Complete the following with a phrase from the text:

The various sounds of nature acquire **new meanings and significance to us.**

4. Give one reason why it is a pleasure to hike in the mountains than in the plains.

a) Because observation is sharpened.

**b) Because of the excitement of climbing up and the adventure of coming down**.

c) Because it is leisure to stand, walk, and talk.

d) Because there are no worries.

5. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2.

Aroma: cooking; fragrance: **flowers.**

**SECTION B- GRAMMAR 5**

**II. Attempt ANY FIVE of the following questions 5**

# Fill in the blanks with suitable modals to convey the sense indicated in the brackets:

1. I **can** speak English fluently. (present ability)

2. You **may** leave these papers on my table and go. (permission)

3. We **will** not give up fighting. (determination)

4. He **mus**t apologise or face the consequences. (command)

5. We **ought** to serve our nation. (moral obligation)

6. **Shall** we go to a movie? (suggestion)

 **SECTION B- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 5**

**III. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. 5**

A. You went to Shimla during winter and experienced the snowfall. Write a diary entry about your experience. You are Rashob/ Rasmika.

B. Imagine you have been selected as a member of the Cricket Team of India. You are in the seventh heaven. Write a diary entry in about 100-150 words about your great feelings at this moment. You are Jaipal / Janvi.

**Correction Criteria**

**Format: Date & Day, Time and Name-1.5 marks**

**Content-3.5 ( sentence structure, relevance, language and presentation)**

 **SECTION C- LITERATURE 15**

**IV. Reference to the Context 4**

Answer **ANY ONE** of the following questions.

1. “Then took the other, just as fair,

And having perhaps a better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as far as passing there

Had worn them really the same,”

1. Which road did the poet finally choose? 1
2. The first one
3. **The second one**
4. One after another.
5. Went back home as he was confused.
6. Name the figure of speech in ‘wanted wear’ 1

**Alliteration**

1. Why did the narrator leave the first road? What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza? 2

**Because the second road presented a better claim as it was still grassy and had not been used by many travelers. abaab**

1. “They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to----on a screen, you know”
2. Who are ‘they’ at the beginning of the above line? 1
3. The county inspector and Margie.
4. Margie’s father and mother
5. **Margie and Tommy**
6. County inspector and mother
7. What shows that the book was very old? 1

**The colour of the pages yellow and crinkly which shows that the book was very old.**

1. Why was it funny for the children to read the book 2

**These children are not familiar with printed books. They read virtual books. While they scroll up and down, the words and lines move up and down and sometimes side to side as well. But as far as a printed book is concerned, you need to manually turn the pages and the words wouldn’t move. So, they feel it funny.**

**V. Answer ANY TWO of the following Questions in 30-50 words. (2x3=6)**

1. Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?

**Margie had been doing badly in geography. This was because the mechanical teacher was very fast in displaying the questionnaire. The County Inspector adjusted its speed up to an average ten-year level. Thus, the mechanical teacher’s speed was controlled appropriately. The County Inspector assured that the overall pattern of Margie’s progress was quite satisfactory.**

1. When did the child realise that he was separated from his parents? What was his response?

**The child wants to have a ride on a roundabout. He asks his parents for permission. When there is no response, he realises that he has lost his way. He cannot see his parents. He starts crying bitterly. He runs here and there in search of his parents**

1. What was the poet’s dilemma in the poem “The Road Not Taken?”

**The poet faces a dilemma that every man faces in his life, i.e. making the right decision. One day, during the walk, the poet reached a bifurcation in the road. Out of two roads, he had to take only one. He decided to take the second road which was less frequented. Hence the road is a symbol of the choice. It is just not possible to make more than one choice and to take both roads. So, the poet decides to take the road less travelled.**

**VI. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions (1x5=5)**

 1. Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the schools in the story? Give reasons for your answer.

 **There is no doubt that today’s schools have more fun than the school discussed in the story. This school has nothing but a mechanical teacher with no emotions and sentiments. It does not have the ability to understand the psychology of a child. Moreover, it guides a pupil according to its adjusted modes. But today’s schools work for the overall development of a child. They are given training in leadership, sports, politics and science. They learn how to adapt themselves to the new surroundings and cope with strangers. The students sit and learn together forgetting their caste, colour and creed. These activities don’t give vent to the feelings of depression, alienation and segregation.**

 2. A little child’s reaction to the immediate situation bears a universal ring when examined superficially. Delving into depth, one can see that each child reacts to a situation according to his or her individual characteristics. Write a character sketch of the little child in the lesson ‘The Lost Child’, bringing out the child’s individual traits as illustrated in the contents of the story.

 **The little child in the story ‘The Lost Child’ had accompanied his parents to a village fair. Dressed in a yellow turban, he was excited and engrossed in all the activities of the fair. The child had had a sheltered upbringing where his parents were in a habit of dictating his every action. Thus, he obeyed his father’s command to follow them despite wanting to linger at the toy shop. He was observant and fascinated by the sight of insects and worms on the footpath. The child had a strong fun-loving streak and while his parents rested in the grove, he ran around the banyan tree, gathering flower petals and listening to doves’ cooing. Like several children, he had a sweet tooth and wanted to enjoy burfis. He was a restless individual drawn to immediate stimuli and temporarily let go of the safety and security of his parents, but was inconsolable when lost, and consistently pleaded to be taken to them**

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