



ANANDALAYA
PERIODIC TEST-2
Class : VIII

Subject : English
Date : 21-09-2024

M.M : 50
Time : 2 Hours

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains four sections.
2. Section A- Reading has one passage for comprehension.
3. Section B- Writing has two questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
4. Section C- Grammar has a question with sub-parts. Read the instructions carefully and write only the answers.
5. Section D- Literature has four questions. Read the instructions and adhere to the word limit for each question.

SECTION-A Reading Section (10 Marks)

1. (a) Meghalaya, the abode of clouds in northeastern India, is home to an extraordinary marvel known as 'Living Root Bridges.' These unique structures are not just architectural wonders but living, breathing examples of sustainable engineering that have stood the test of time for centuries.
(b) What sets these bridges apart is the fascinating technique employed by the Khasi and Jaintia tribes to weave nature into infrastructure. The bridges are created using the roots of the Ficus elastica tree, also known as the rubber tree. The process begins by guiding the pliable aerial roots of these trees across a river or stream. Over time, the roots naturally intertwine and strengthen, forming a sturdy network.
(c) The term 'Living Root Bridges' stems from the ongoing growth and adaptation of the bridge itself. Unlike conventional structures that deteriorate with age, these bridges evolve and strengthen over the years. The living roots continue to grow, reinforcing the bridge's integrity and allowing it to endure the region's heavy monsoon rains, which can be particularly intense in Meghalaya.
(d) The creation of these living root bridges is a patient and intricate process that requires years of nurturing. The villagers carefully guide the roots, often using bamboo scaffolding to shape the bridge as it develops. The roots are given time to grow and mature, gradually transforming into a robust bridge that can bear the weight of multiple people.
(e) Beyond their structural brilliance, the living root bridges represent a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. The local communities recognize the environmental benefits of using living materials, as it minimizes the need for felling trees or disrupting the natural landscape.
(f) Visitors to Meghalaya are not only captivated by the breathtaking beauty of these bridges but also by the sustainable spirit embedded in their creation. The Living Root Bridges stand as a testament to the ingenious ways in which communities can work hand in hand with the environment, offering a lesson in eco-friendly engineering that is both awe-inspiring and enduring.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

- (i) What is the unique feature of the Living Root Bridges in Meghalaya? (1)
(A) They are made of stone and concrete.
(B) They are living, growing structures.
(C) They are built by machines made from natural material.
(D) They are very old but have been recently renovated.

- (ii) Which two qualities of Living Root Bridges differentiate them from conventional structures, as given in para (b)? (answer in 20-30 words) (2)
- (iii) Which factor is most crucial for the successful creation of a living root bridge? (1)
- (A) The use of bamboo for the framework
(B) The unique natural environment of the village
(C) The gradual growth and strengthening of the roots
(D) The number of people involved in the process
- (iv) What is the primary purpose of using bamboo scaffolding in the creation of living root bridges? (1)
- (A) To provide aesthetic appeal during the construction phase
(B) To speed up the growth process of the roots
(C) To serve as a temporary support while shaping the roots
(D) To ensure the bridge can immediately bear heavy loads
- (v) How does the concept of living root bridges reflect the values of the local communities? (1)
- (A) It shows their preference for modern construction methods.
(B) It highlights their commitment to preserve cultural traditions over the environment.
(C) It explains their desire to stabilize infrastructure growth with environmental sustainability.
(D) It suggests they prioritize convenience over long-term environmental health.
- (vi) The living root bridges are an example of _____ engineering, where nature and human ingenuity come together to create sustainable solutions. (1)
- (A) traditional (B) innovative (C) destructive (D) mechanical
- (vii) Use the word 'patient' in a sentence in the same sense as used in para (d). (1)
- (viii) Fill in the blank meaningfully. (1)
- The key method used to create Living Root Bridges is to _____.
- (ix) What does the phrase 'stood the test of time' imply about the Living Root Bridges? (1)
- (A) They have proven to be durable and reliable despite aging.
(B) They require frequent repairs to them to remain functional.
(C) They are fragile and are easily damaged over time.
(D) They deteriorate quickly due to harsh weather conditions.

SECTION-B Writing Section (12 Marks)

2 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 50 words. (4)

A You are the captain of your school cricket team. The friendly match with Astha School cricket team scheduled for next week has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Draft a notice informing the members of the team. (word limit-50 words)

OR

B You are the Head Boy/Girl at Teresa Public School, Kolkata. The Lions Club of your city is organizing a Diphtheria vaccination camp in your school. Write a notice for the students' notice board inviting students to get the vaccine. Invent all details like day, date, time and venue. (word limit-50 words)

3 Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 150 words. (8)

A Your school is celebrating Science Week in which various programmes related to science are being organized at the school level. In this series, you have been asked to deliver a speech on the topic 'Is Science a Boon or a Bane'. Based on the following hints prepare a speech on the topic.

- A great blessing to mankind – progress in all fields
- From agriculture to medicine, defence and industry – a great leap forward
- Some negative effects too – being used for destructive purposes, examples bombs

- Industrial pollution- global warming
- Science to be in safe hands- welfare of mankind- ultimate aim – make earth a peaceful planet to live in

OR

B Your school is hosting an Education Week, focussing on the different aspects of modern education and its importance. As part of the event, you have been asked to deliver a speech on the topic ‘The Need for Vocational Education in India’. Based on the following hints, prepare a speech in 150 words on the topic.

- Growing unemployment among youth despite having degrees
- Skill gap between education and industry requirements
- Vocational training provides practical skills and job readiness
- Boosts economic growth and empowers youth
- Need for government initiatives and awareness programmes

SECTION-C Grammar Section (10 Marks)

4. Do as directed.

(A) Read the instructions to operate an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) and fill in the gaps by (3x1=3) selecting the correct option.

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Find an ATM of any bank | • Wait a little till your transaction is complete |
| • Take your ATM card and put it in the slot | • Get the currency |
| • Enter your secret PIN | • Collect your Card and Transaction Slip |
| • Select your option | • Leave the ATM cabin |

For doing a transaction through ATM you (i)..... to find an ATM of any bank. First you (ii)..... put your card in the card slot followed by (iii)..... the secret PIN. You are to wait till your transaction is complete. Then take the currency, collect your card and leave the ATM cabin.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| (i) (A) shall | (B) are required | (C) should | (D) needed |
| (ii) (A) need | (B) should | (C) must | (D) ought to |
| (iii) (A) enter | (B) entered | (C) entering | (D) have enter |

(B) Rearrange the phrases/words to form meaningful sentences. (3x1=3)

- (i) pillars / there / human life / man / of / woman / and / are / two
- (ii) both / in the making of / share / responsibility / equal / the / society
- (iii) both / each other / hence, / are / supplementary / to

(C) In the following passage one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along (4x1=4) with the word before and after as shown in the table.

	Before	Omitted	After
e.g.	Jaipur was the capital of great Jai Singh	was the leader of princes.	Jai Singh who was
(i)	Jaipur is known as the pink city	is also romantic and beautiful.	
(ii)	The city palace which is now museum	is famous for containing	
(iii)	priceless relics old Rajput times.	Amber palace which is situated	
(iv)	not far Jaipur is a must for all tourists	to visit.	

SECTION-D Literature Textbook (18 Marks)

5. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. (2x1=2)

*But to go to school in a summer morn,
O' it drives all joy away,
under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day,
In sighing and dismay.*

- (i) What does 'cruel eye outworn' refer to?
- (A) To the teachers and uninspiring life at school.
- (B) To the strict teachers and the Principal.
- (C) To the parents who force their children to go to their schools.
- (D) To the parents and teachers who compel the children to go to their schools.
- (ii) How do the little ones spend the day?
- (A) They learn unwillingly and gain enough knowledge to make their career.
- (B) Children play throughout and learn a little.
- (C) They adjust helplessly with their condition and somehow pass their time.
- (D) The little ones spend the day sadly sighing.
6. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. (2x1=2)
- In school, when I was in the second or third standard, one of my teachers, Mrs. Gupta, saw my sketches and told me, "See, you are useless in everything else but your sketches are good. When you grow up you become an architect". I did not know at that time but she was right. Later, after I became an architect, I went back to meet her and tell her. (The Treasure Within)*
- (i) The extract shows that teachers
- (A) are astrologers and can predict their students' career.
- (B) are good guessers and can speculate easily about their students' career.
- (C) know their students' strengths and weaknesses and can guide them for a good career.
- (D) like to make instinctive wild guesses about their students' career.
- (ii) Which of the following quotes correctly depicts the life of Hafeez Contractor?
- (A) Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.
- (B) Tough times never last, but tough people do.
- (C) We don't even know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward.
- (D) Do not judge me by my successes—judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.
7. Answer ANY FOUR of the following six questions in about 30- 40 words each (4x2=8)
- (i) What does the title mean, "The Summit Within"?
- (ii) Narrate the story of the ant and the cricket in brief. What moral or message does it convey?
- (iii) How did the Principal's words influence Hafeez Contractor?
- (iv) What pulled the Princess out of her gloom?
- (v) What was Bepin Choudhury's ailment or problem? Was it real or deliberate?
8. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 words. (1x6=6)
- (A) How does HPS Ahluwalia explain the title of the lesson, 'The Summit Within'?

OR

- (B) Do you think Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour? Find instances of her courage, kind nature and humour in the story 'Children at Work'.