



M.M : 40
Time : 1 Hr. 30 Min.

1. The Question Paper contains four sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has a passage for comprehension.
3. Section B-Grammar Section has two questions. Read the instructions carefully.
4. Section C-Writing Section has 2 questions. Adhere to the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
5. Section D-Literature Section has 3 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

1. Read the passage given below. (8)

Each evening for a full five minutes,
when the light is right, the elm
across the street casts its shadow
upon my neighbour's house.

5 The tree

seems to grow into the house, its shadow
alive in the solid stucco. The leaves
dance within the windows, filled,
fractured, by the wind, the twilight.

10 For years I never noticed. Then,
one morning, the saws awakened me.
That evening the tree was gone,
cut up and carted off in trucks.
The gap it left created a silence,

15 an emptiness, along the street:
the presence of the absence of the tree.
That evening, before the darkness fell,
the sky burned brilliant red and gold
and the shadow of the outline of the tree

20 fell full against my neighbour's house.

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

- i. What is a message in the poem “The Tree”?
- (A) Some things in life are not fully appreciated until they are gone.
- (B) The world is sometimes beyond our own understanding.
- (C) Home is where people feel most comfortable to be themselves.
- (D) It is difficult to predict the actions of our neighbours.

- ii. Which line from the poem “The Tree” best helps the reader understand that the speaker is experiencing regret? (1)
- (A) Each evening for a full five minutes, (line 1)
 (B) upon my neighbour’s house. (line 4)
 (C) That evening the tree was gone, (line 12)
 (D) an emptiness, along the street: (line 15)
- iii. How does the author’s use of language in lines 14 through 16 contribute to the mood of the poem “The Tree”? (1)
- (A) By explaining that the speaker is surprised by feelings of disappointment.
 (B) By highlighting how the speaker is frustrated with the current situation.
 (C) By suggesting that the speaker is uncertain about what will happen next.
 (D) By showing that the speaker is experiencing a sense of abandonment.
- iv. Based on lines 10 and 11 of the poem “The Tree,” what can the reader infer about the speaker? (1)
- (A) The speaker pays little attention to the nearby environment.
 (B) The speaker has suddenly become mindful of the tree.
 (C) The speaker prefers to sleep when it is completely silent.
 (D) The speaker fears the tree has accidentally been cut down.
- v. Which figure of speech is the most prominent in the following part of the poem? (1)
- “The tree
 seems to grow into the house, its shadow
 alive in the solid stucco. The leaves
 dance within the windows, filled,
 fractured, by the wind, the twilight.”
- (A) Imagery (B) Irony
 (C) Metaphor (D) Onomatopoeia
- vi. What does the phrase “the presence of the absence of the tree” imply? (1)
- (A) The tree’s roots were left behind
 (B) The tree’s absence is strongly felt
 (C) The tree is still there, but invisible
 (D) The tree was removed without leaving any trace
- vii. Read the conversation between Gitika and Mrudula and answer the question that follows. (2)
- Gitika : I am so tired of all these family gatherings and the unnecessary drama.
 Mrudula : I think these gatherings make for great memories. I know the drama can be tiring at times, but it usually becomes a great story to tell at future gatherings.
 Gitika : I just don’t get the point.
 Mrudula : Life is so unpredictable Gitika.....
- Explain Mrudula’s point to Gitika by finishing her sentence using the lesson learnt from the poem.

SECTION-B

Grammar Section (6 Marks)

2. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences. (3x1=3)
- (i) lived/a very/and/king/powerful/there/great
 (ii) had/a/he/and/they/noble wife/were happy
 (iii) of/happy/the/people/kingdom/the/were/also

3. Read the following conversation between a mother and son and then complete the paragraph (3x1=3) that follows:

Seema : Why haven't you brought my practical file?

Rita : I had gone to my uncle's house with my parents, so I forgot to keep it.

Seema : Don't make an excuse. I want to know the truth.

Rita : I am sorry Seema. I was chatting with my friends till late. I forgot that you needed it urgently.

Seema asked Rita (i) _____. Rita said that she had gone to her uncle's house with her parents, so she had forgotten to keep it. Seema asked Rita (ii) _____ and added that she wanted to know the truth. Rita said that she was sorry and further added (iii) _____ with her friends till late and she had forgotten that Seema had needed that urgently.

SECTION-C

Writing Skills (12 Marks)

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (100 words)

- A. Gurung and Sandesh are discussing about the importance of sports and games in a school. Gurung is of the opinion that sports and games are for purely fun and students must have it as a stress buster. But Sandesh feels that it should be taken seriously and only those students who want to make their career in sports should be allowed to invest their time in it. Write their discussion in the form of dialogues taking clues from the MCB Unit 'Sports and Games' by adding your own ideas to it.

OR

(5)

- B. Kadambini and Aafreen are friends in a school. Kadambini has been watching Aafreen for past few days and found her unusually quiet. Kadambini decides to talk to her and finds that she has not been able to develop an interest in any activity, be it painting, swimming, games or studying. She is not sure what types of relationships give her comfort. When asked to talk about her positive qualities, she thought for a long time but could not list any. Nor was she able to mention her negative aspects. Kadambini suggests her to introspect and do SWOT analysis to find her strengths and weaknesses. She (Kadambini) tells her that she needs to be aware about herself. Write their conversation in the form of dialogues taking ideas from the MCB chapter 'Children' by adding your ideas to it.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120 words)

- A. You are Harsimrat Kaur. Recently you read about a famous world mystery in your MCB chapter 'Mystery'. Excited to know more about it you research and find more details about it. You then decide to write a letter to share your learnings with your cousin Divyajyot living in Patiala. Write the letter for Harsimrat taking clues from the MCB Unit 'Adventure' by adding your own ideas to it.

OR

(7)

- B. Kaalappan Sethupathi is studying in class IX. He did research on 'Save the Tiger Project' as a part of his ASL project. After the research he shares his learning outcomes with his friend Omkar Bapat living in Mumbai about the importance of tigers in the jungles. Taking clues from the MCB Unit 'Environment' and adding your own ideas write a letter for Kaalappan.

SECTION-D

Literature Section (14 Marks)

6. Read the excerpts given below and answer the questions that follow after each excerpt.
- A. *"A tall old man, with a smooth face and white hair looking as proud as Julius Caesar was there to meet her. His clothes were frazzled but I didn't notice that till later."* (2x1=2)
- (i) What does the description of 'A tall man' talk about the person?
- (A) Very knowledgeable
(B) Highly educated
(C) Proud of his ragged clothes
(D) Proud of his own self
- (ii) Why did not the speaker notice that the old man's clothes were 'frazzled'?
- B. *When I think of the lollies I licked* (2x1=2)
And the liquorice all sorts I picked,
Sherbet dabs, bit and little,
And that hard peanut brittle,
My conscience gets horribly pricked.
- (i) What do you think of poet as a child?
- (A) She loved sweets and used to take a lot of care of her teeth.
(B) She had a sweet tooth but careless about maintaining oral hygiene.
(C) She didn't like spicy food.
(D) She didn't have control on eating food.
- (ii) What is the tone of the poet in the stanza?
7. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)
- (i) 'His very perfection had led to a series of 'evasions' on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Bramble. Explain.
- (ii) What is the significance of the words 'entrances' and 'exits' in the poem 'The Seven Ages'?
- (iii) "Now I'm not a man, now I'm a number." How had the speaker become a number?
8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words each.
- A. Human life is nothing but a 'drama'. What message does the poet want to convey to us through this line? (The Seven Ages)
- OR** (1x6=6)
- B. Love, compassion and forgiveness are great human values which we must try to imbibe. Discuss it in the context of the play 'The Bishop's Candlesticks.'