

ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL, AGRA
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS 2024-25
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
CLASS VIII

Time: 2 hrs.

MM: 80

Date-

Instructions:

- Attempt ALL FIVE questions in the paper.
- You are advised to spend at most 30 min. for answering Q1. and 20 min. answering Q2.

I. Write a composition (300-350 words) on ANY ONE of the topics given below. [20]

1. Write a short story beginning with, "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves."
2. What type of friend you would like to have - someone who is rich, or someone who is our helpful, or someone who is reliable? Which one of these characteristics is most important to you?
3. 'Every family should adopt a pet animal.' Express your views for or against this statement.
4. Write about a book which you have read recently, describing the features which have made it a bestseller.
5. Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it; however there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



II. Select ANY ONE of the following topics to write in approx. (150 words)

1. Write a letter to your cousin, who is disappointed at not being able to make it to the final round of a singing competition on television.
2. You have left behind your mobile phone in a shopping mall. Write a letter to the manager to enquire if it has been found you will have to describe the phone, the time, the place and other circumstances to help the manager trace your phone.

III. Write on Each of the following topics in approx. (50-75 words)

1. Your school is arranging for mathematics extra classes during the summer vacations. Write a notice informing the students about the extra classes and providing them the details like dates, time and the registration process.
2. Write an email to your classmate explaining the steps to solve a difficult mathematics problem given as homework.

III. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Nestled in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, the village of Glenmore is a picturesque haven surrounded by rolling hills and pristine lakes. The local inn, known as The Highland Retreat, stands as a testament to the region's rich history and warm hospitality. With its stone walls and thatched roof, the inn has been a gathering place for locals and travellers alike for generations.

The innkeeper, Mrs. MacLeod, is a friendly figure with twinkle in her eyes and tales to share. The walls of The Highland Retreat are adorned with photographs capturing moments from the village's past, from lively ceilidh dances to the yearly Highland Games. As visitors enter, they are greeted by the aroma of freshly baked scones and the sound of traditional folk tunes playing softly in the background.

One of the inn's cherished traditions is the storytelling night held every Friday. Villagers and visitors gather around the crackling fireplace, sipping warm cups of heather tea as tales of mythical creatures and ancient legends unfold. Each storyteller brings a unique narrative, weaving together elements of folklore and personal experiences, creating a magical atmosphere that transcends time.

Despite the idyllic setting, Glenmore faces challenges as younger generations migrate to urban areas in search of employment opportunities. The village is determined to preserve its cultural heritage and maintain the sense of community that has defined it

for centuries. Initiatives like storytelling nights and traditional music festivals aim to attract both locals and tourists, ensuring that the spirit of Glenmore lives on.

(i) For each of the word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [3]

1. Testament

- a. Evidence
- b. Overview
- c. Monument
- d. Helping hand

2. Transcends

- a. Overpass
- b. Hospitable
- c. Ordinary
- d. Indifferent

3. Idyllic

- a. Concert
- b. Perfect
- c. Narration
- d. Exhibition

(ii). Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) Give a suitable title for the above passage. [1]

(b) Describe the physical attributes of The Highland Retreat, including its architecture and surroundings. [2]

(c) How does Mrs. MacLeod, the innkeeper, contribute to the welcoming atmosphere of The Highland Retreat? [2]

(d) Explain the importance of the storytelling night tradition in the village and its impact on the community. [2]

(e) What role do photographs play in preserving the history of Glenmore within The Highland Retreat? [2]

(iii) In not more than 50 words, explain in your own words how the passage highlights the balance between tradition and modern challenges in context of Glenmore. [8]

V.

(i). 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. [4]

In a small village, there _____(a)_____ (exist) a tradition that _____(b)_____ (require) every family to participate in the annual harvest festival. Each member of the community _____(c)_____ (contribute) something to make the event memorable. The preparations _____(d)_____ (involve) weeks of hard work, but the outcome _____(e)_____ (be) truly spectacular. Not only the villagers but also neighbouring communities _____(f)_____ (attend) the festival. The festivities _____(g)_____ (include) traditional dances, music performances, and a grand feast. This tradition _____(h)_____ (bind) the villagers together, creating a sense of unity and shared celebration.

(ii) Fill in each blank with appropriate words.

- (a) Renu died _____ cancer.
- (b) I met her _____ chance.
- (c) She will be cured _____ her illness.
- (d) The lights in the hall were turned _____.
- (e) He took _____ his coat.
- (f) The old woman begged _____ door to door.
- (g) The boy is complaining _____ headache.
- (h) I wanted to use the phone but there was an old lady _____ the telephone booth.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option. [4]

1. We all enjoyed the play. My brother took us for the play.

- (a) My brother took us for the play for us to enjoy.
- (b) We all enjoyed the play where my brother took us.
- (c) We all enjoyed the play for which we are taken by my brother.
- (d) My brother took us to the play which we all enjoyed.

2. It is not a new washing machine. However, it is reliable.

- (a) Not only the washing machine is old, but also reliable.
- (b) It is not a new washing machine still it can be reliable.
- (c) Thus not being a new washing machine, it is reliable.
- (d) Though it is not a new washing machine, it is reliable.

3. I had left my house. Your phone call came afterwards.

- (a) Your phone call came after which I left my house.
- (b) Your phone call came after I had left my house.
- (c) Your phone call came after I left for my house.
- (d) Your phone call came that I had left my house.

4. Mona has won the first prize. I am pleased to announce it.

- (a) I am pleased to announce Mona won the first prize.
- (b) I am pleased to announce that Mona has won the first prize.
- (c) I am pleased to announce Mona winning the first prize.
- (d) I am pleased announcing that Mona has won the first prize.

(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. **[8]**

1. Run fast, else you will miss the bus. (Begin with: If...)

- (a) If you cannot run fast, you will miss the bus.
- (b) If you do not run fast, you will miss the bus.
- (c) If you do not run fast, else you will miss the bus.
- (d) If you want not to miss the bus, run fast.

2. He informed the police of the murder. (Use: report)

- (a) He report to police of the murder.
- (b) He reported the murder to the police.
- (c) The police was reported of the murder by him.
- (d) He was one to report the murder to the police.

3. Work hard and you will succeed. (Begin with: Unless...)

- (a) Unless do not work hard, you will succeed.
- (b) Unless should you work hard, you will not succeed.
- (c) Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.
- (d) Unless when you work hard, you will not succeed.

4. Why don't you come with me for a picnic? (Begin with: I suggest ...)

- (a) I suggest you to come with me for a picnic.
- (b) I suggest so that you come with me for a picnic.
- (c) I suggest that you should come with me for a picnic.
- (d) I suggest for you to come with me for a picnic.

5. I will return the book only after I have read it. (Begin with: Only ...)

- (a) Only after reading the book, will I return it.
- (b) Only to read the book, will I return it.
- (c) Only before reading the book, I will not return it.
- (d) Only for reading the book, will I return it.

6. He is inviting each of his classmates. (Begin with: Each ...)

- (a) Each of his classmates are being invited.
- (b) Each classmate of his are on invite.
- (c) Each of his classmates is being invited.
- (d) Each of his classmate is to be invited by him.

7. As soon as he heard the news, he rushed home. (Use: no sooner)

- (a) No sooner did he heard the news, he rushed home.
- (b) No sooner did he hear the news, than he rushed home.
- (c) No sooner than did he hear the news, he rushed home.
- (d) No sooner he hear the news, he rushed home.

8. He was too poor to pay his fees. (Begin with: He was so poor ...)

- (a) He was so poor to pay his fees.
- (b) He was so poor when he paid fees.
- (c) He was so poor that he could not pay his fees.
- (d) He was so poor that he could pay his fees.

XXX