



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY/CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24



ENGLISH

Class : VIII
Date : 16.10.2023
Admission No.:

Duration : 3 Hrs
Max. Marks : 80
Roll No.:

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 SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage.

(10 M)

Man's urge to communicate with his associates brought about speech and writing. But it was only when man developed an aesthetic sense and sought for beauty and rhythm and dynamism in the hand written words that a whole new field, hitherto unknown began to emerge.

The word calligraphy is a composite adaptation of two Greek words: kallos (beauty) and graphein (to write). It is primarily an art and perhaps one of the most intimate, spontaneous and personal expressions, reflecting lucidly the artist-calligrapher's moods.

Like any other form of art, calligraphy too has been always influenced by the cultures and traditions of a certain age. Although the basic forms of letters remain the same, the approach to render them has constantly altered, matching the moods of people and time.

Whatever the mood and time, in calligraphy the layout or the composition is very important. The composition should be balanced and ought to have a visual rhythm. The freedom and spontaneity of pen-strokes combined with the discipline of keeping each individual letter legible and elegant, demands of the creative calligrapher, a balanced personality.

Like any other creative activity, good calligraphy is the attribute of a concentrated mind, a trained hand and a feeling heart.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above:

- (i) The art of calligraphy is the result of man's: (1)
- (a) urge to communicate (b) search for beauty
(c) urge to appreciate beautiful things (d) search for the unknown
- (ii) Calligraphy as an art which best expresses the artist's: (1)
- (a) beauty (b) ability to write (c) mood (d) culture
- (iii) All creative works require _____ (1)
- (a) concentration (b) skill (c) sensitivity (d) all of the above
- (iv) The word '**lucidly**' means _____ (1)
- (a) clearly (b) timely (c) really (d) sadly
- (v) The influence of cultures and traditions on the art of calligraphy is seen in : (1)
- (a) basic forms (b) the attitude towards art
(c) changes to match people's likings (d) the layout

- (vi) A good calligraphy is the attribute of (1)
(a) a concentrated mind (b) a trained hand
(c) a feeling heart (d) all of the above

- (vii) What role does the mood of people and time play in the art of calligraphy? (2)
(viii) What is calligraphy? What is it derived from? (2)

2. Read the following passage: (10M)

The choices we make on a daily basis—wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation—can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.

You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.

We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe.

I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, traveling, doing speaking engagements and so on— simply exhausting myself.

Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.

You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow.

- (i) The reason why living on the edge has become popular, is because... (1)
a) it's exciting to try something different b) population being much younger.
c) exhausting effort to make changes. d) strong tendency to stay within our limits.
- (ii) The phrase "potentially harmful circumstances" refers to circumstances that can (1)
a) certainly be dangerous. b) be fairly dangerous.
c) be possibly dangerous. d) seldom be dangerous.
- (iii) The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up. (1)
(a) rebuke (b) question (c) offer aid to (d) offer advice to

(iv) Which word is closest in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentence from the passage? (1)

But I kept pushing myself, traveling, doing speaking engagements and so on— simply exhausting myself.
a. deteriorate b. wear out c. fatigue d. all the three

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

4. You are Kiran, the cultural captain of The Oxford School, Bahadurgarh. Write a notice for the school Notice Board giving details of the Fancy Dress Competition to be held for the Sub Junior and Junior Category students. (5)

OR

Write an article on the Importance of moral values in Education in not more than 200 words

5. You are Rakshit, the president of Hill View Residency, Mira Road, Mumbai. Write a letter to the editor of The Indian Express about the open garbage area situated in your locality and how it's harmful for everyone including stray animals, the children park as well as schools and residential societies situated around it. (5)

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXT BOOK (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: (5)

The jar under sun is filled with thin slices of green mangoes
dipped in mustard oil, the prime attraction for us to go to terrace,
my mother's mango pickle jar
would be the one that would keep us for hours at the terrace,
we would chew those slices which would send a flurry
of aftertaste – a curious mixture of sour, sweet and
pungent, added to it the burning sensation of dried chilli flakes.

1. Analyse why the poet refers to the taste of the pickle as a curious mixture. (2)
 2. Choose the option that describes how the poet feels while chewing the slices of pickled mango. (1)
 - a. I think I can just taste the oil of the pickle as the aftertaste.
 - b. I can taste the pickled mango initially but its nearly tasteless after that.
 - c. I get a burst of flavours as the aftertaste on chewing the pickled slices.
 - d. I am unsure about the immediate taste but there is a mild aftertaste, for sure.
 3. Identify the option which will take the phrase 'prime attraction' to fill in the blank. (1)
 - a. The children were shivering because the weather had become the
 - b. The children enjoyed spending the with their friends.
 - c. The children purchased a lot of from the store.
 - d. The children enjoyed the programme but they missed the, the puppet show.
 4. Find an example of alliteration from the poem. (1)
7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions. (5)
- Here, There, Everywhere
A lake is killed by the arsenic urine
From the bladder of profit factories
A poisoned stream staggers down the hills
Coughing chaos in the sickly sea
The wailing whale, belly up like a frying fish,
Crests the chilling swansong of parting waters
But out earth will not die.

- (i) The poet awards human characteristics to the (1)
a. hills b. fish c. factories d. earth
- (ii) The tone of the poet in the above excerpt is but takes a turn with the offered. (1)
a. depressing : reassurance
b. resigned : suggestions
c. critical : analysis
d. complaining : awareness
- (iii) Identify the figure of speech used in the lines 'A lake is killed by the arsenic urine from the bladder of profit factories' (1)
- (iv) Comment on the poet's description of the effects of pollution caused by the factories. (2)

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)

- (i) My heart sank a little. Why did the narrator of the story *The Luncheon* feel like this? (3)
- (ii) Explain how 'plaiew' and 'slakait' reflect the sustainability in Khasi culture (3)
- (iii) Why do you think the langurs were chattering in the trees that evening? (Trust) (3)
- (iv) It is believed that a deity lives in the forest and protects her home.. Why do you think there is this belief regarding the forest?
- (v) If you were the whale in Osundare's poem *The Earth Will Not Die*, what would you convey to the humankind? (3)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6)

- (i) The Earthquake has been described as *bashful*. Do you agree with this description? Find evidence from the poem *The Bashful Earthquake* to support your answer. (3)
- (ii) Explain how the poem '*Our Earth Will Not Die*' ends with a sense of hope. (3)
- (iii) How does the narrator draw a relationship between the depth of the ravine and the fact that it was a little haven of wildlife?

10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

- (i) Draw a character sketch of the Narrator and the Lady from the story *The Luncheon*.

OR

Imagine that you are the narrator of the story *The Luncheon*. Write a diary entry expressing your plans on how you hope to manage the budget of the entire month.

11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

- (i) Describe the narrator's first encounter with the leopard. How did he develop an unusual friendship with the leopard and why was he full of self-doubt and regret about the friendship at the end of the chapter.

OR

Do you think storytelling as a tool is an effective way to promote environmental awareness? Write a short story that you have heard which stresses the importance of environment conservation.
