

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION: 2025-2026

CLASS: IX

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

NAME OF STUDENT:

MAX. MARKS: 80

DATE:

TIME: 2 HOURS

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NOTE: You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper. The time given at the head of the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt **all five** questions

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets.

Question 1.

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.) (20)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on **any one** of the following:

- (i) They can, who think they can. Narrate an incident or an experience to bring out the truth of this statement.
- (ii) Write a short story entitled : 'A Mysterious Sound'.
- (iii) Narrate an experience that showed how deceptive appearances can be .
- (iv) You are a regular traveller in your school bus. Describe what you see on your way home from school each afternoon. Give details of the familiar sights and sounds you experience each day.
- (v) Participation is more important than winning medals in international sports events. Express your views either **for** or **against** this statement.

Question 2.

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) (10)

Select **any one** of the following:

- (i) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper, supporting or opposing the use of social media by students in high school.
- (ii) You had a particular bad day. Your best friend, in an attempt to help you, tried to lighten your mood. But you got angry and snapped at him/her. Write a letter to him/her apologising for your behaviour.

Question 3.

- (i) Your school is organizing a campaign for creating awareness about the hazards of plastics. Write a notice for your school informing the students of the campaign and inviting them to participate in it. (5)
- (ii) Write an email to a famous environmentalist requesting him to guide the students of your school in organising this awareness campaign. (5)

Question 4.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Long ago there lived in a village a man and his wife with their little son. They were extremely poor. They had a small farm, which could produce barely enough sweet potatoes to keep body and soul together. Sometimes the man used to work as a porter to carry the produce of the larger farmers to the market at a distance of ten miles. But even then he could earn only for a week for his family.

Time went on, the severe strain of his labour and the poor quality of food told upon the health of the overworked father. Gradually he became a confirmed invalid and died after some time. After the funeral, the widow was left almost destitute. She was a woman, however, with a strong character, and she realised the absolute necessity of making up her mind at once as to her course of action. Soon a scheme came to her mind. It must be the secret of her life, which not even her own son should ever know.

After selling her cottage, she moved away to a quiet suburb outside the city. Then she discarded her woman's attire and dressed herself as a man. In no other way could she support herself and her child: for in China, a woman was under great disadvantage in the way of earning her own living. She took up the job of a porter and used to carry as heavy a load as any of the men.

The years went by, and her little son grew up to be a fine young man. The mother had determined that he should be a scholar. One day her son came back home in an excited mood. "Father," he cried, "the great desire of your heart and of mine has been granted to us today. I have passed, and that too with honours, for my name stands at the very top of the list of those who have been adjudged successful. And now, my beloved father, there will be no more hard work for you. My name will soon be flashed throughout the Province. My fortune has indeed been made, and it is due entirely to the hardship you have endured."

All the time her son was talking, the mother's face shone with delight, for the hopes and wishes of a lifetime had come to her with a rush that almost overpowered her. The young fellow did not notice the deadly pallor that spread over his mother's face as he was speaking. She was a true and noble woman, with a high ideal of what a woman's life ought to be, and she dared not to face the opinion of the world when it was discovered that she had lived as a man.

Next morning, at sunrise, when the son entered his father's room, he found him lying upon his bed, dead, but dressed in a woman's clothes. The story spread rapidly in every home, gentle and simple. The universal feeling was one of intense admiration for the devotion and heroism which had caused the mother to sacrifice her life for her son. The Emperor issued an edict with an inscription carved upon the arch with the words: "The Wonderful Man."

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: (2)

(1) told

- (a) gave information (b) had a noticeable effect
(c) did not keep a secret (d) ordered

(2) endured

- (a) persisted (b) borne
(c) continued (d) lasted

(ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'rich'? (1)

- (a) strain (b) invalid
(c) destitute (d) secret

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

- (a) How did the man earn a living for his family? (2)
(b) What was the secret scheme planned by the lady? Why did she make such a plan? (2)
(c) To whom did the son attribute his success? (1)
(d) What was the reason for the deadly pallor on the mother's face? (2)
(e) What did the son see when he entered his father's room? (2)

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise how the mother received the honour of being 'The Wonderful Man'. (8)

Question 5.

(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)

Example:

One of the world's greatest music composers, George Frederick Handel, was the son of a man who(0)... (disapprove) music.

Answer: (0) disapproved

Handel, however, had an aunt, who...(1)...(teach) him to sing and, gave him a clavichord, a musical instrument like a piano, to play secretly in the attic. In due course of time, Handel's father...(2)...(appoint) as a surgeon to the court of Duke Johan Adolph I.

One day, ...(3)...(learn) that Handel played his musical instrument, the Duke's organist invited him...(4)...(play) the great court organ. The organist ...(5)...(amaze) to hear what young Handel could do and ...(6)...(take) him to play for the Duke.

At the end of the ...(7)...(perform) the Duke called in Handel's father and ...(8)...(suggest) that his son should study music. A suggestion from the Duke was very much a command. Thus, the composer of "The Messiah" began a great career in music.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. (4)

- (a) The noise is too much, but you'll have to put with it .
(b) The army stood in case of trouble.

- (c) She turned the offer to work at the factory.
- (d) We couldn't help laughing his mimicry.
- (e) The roof gave way the weight of the snow.
- (f) I gave all my old books.
- (g) We are hoping a revision in salary.
- (h) We can't go all the details now.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so.** (4)

1. He lost his cellphone. It was his birthday present.

- (a) He lost his birthday present cellphone.
- (b) He lost his cellphone as it was his birthday present.
- (c) He lost his cellphone which was his birthday present.
- (d) He lost his cellphone for his birthday present.

2. When will the function begin? Please tell me the time.

- (a) Please tell me the time at which the function will begin.
- (b) Please tell me the time when will the function begin.
- (c) Please tell me the time when the function will begin.
- (d) Please tell me the time when would the function begin.

3. Don't get down. The bus must stop.

- (a) The bus must stop yet don't get down.
- (b) Don't get down if the bus must stop.
- (c) Don't get down or the bus would stop.
- (d) Don't get down until the bus stops.

4. I speak the truth. I am not afraid of it.

- (a) I speak the truth being not afraid of it.
- (b) I am not afraid of speaking the truth.
- (c) I am not afraid for speaking the truth.
- (d) I am not afraid to speaking the truth.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each. (8)

(1) He had not been invited otherwise he would have come. (Begin: Had)

- (a) Had he not been invited otherwise he would have come.
- (b) Had he be invited otherwise he would have come.
- (c) Had he been invited otherwise he would have come.
- (d) Had he been invited he would have come.

(2) There are few people in the market today. (Begin: There are hardly)

- (a) There were hardly any people in the market today.
- (b) There are hardly any people in the market today.
- (c) There are hardly any few people in the market today.
- (d) There are hardly any people in the market on this day.

(3) Although we searched the area, we could not find the key. (Begin: In spite of)

- (a) In spite of searching the area, we would not find the key.
- (b) In spite of searched the area, we could not find the key.
- (c) In spite of searching the area, we could not find the key.
- (d) In spite of searching , we could not find the key.

(4) "Do you have any hotel in the city?" my uncle asked me. (Begin: My uncle ...)

- (a) My uncle asked me if I have any hotel in the city.
- (b) My uncle was asking me if I have any hotel in the city.
- (c) My uncle asked me if I had any hotel in the city.
- (d) My uncle asked me do you have any hotel in the city.

(5) No sooner did he go to bed than he fell asleep. (Begin: As soon as)

- (a) As soon as he go to bed, he fell asleep.
- (b) As soon as he went to bed, he fall asleep.
- (c) As soon as he go to bed, he was falling asleep.
- (d) As soon as he went to bed, he fell asleep.

(6) As soon as he finishes his work, he starts playing. (Begin: Hardly)

- (a) Hardly his work is finished, he starts playing.
- (b) Hardly he finishes his work, he starts playing.
- (c) Hardly he has finished his work and he starts playing.
- (d) Hardly does he finish his work, when he starts playing.

(7) Unless the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert. (Begin: If)

- (a) If the train arrives on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (b) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (c) If the train arrived on time, we shall miss the concert.
- (d) If the train does not arrive on time, we shall not miss the concert.

(8) He conducted the show like a trained artist. (Use: as if)

- (a) He conducted the show as he were a trained artist.
- (b) He conducted the show as if he had been a trained artist.
- (c) He conducted the show as if he was trained artist.
- (d) He conducted the show as if a trained artist.