



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ
HALF YEARLY EXAM – OCTOBER 2023
(ENGLISH PAPER – 1) ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time: 2:00 Hrs.

Class 9

M.M.: 80

Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

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 this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions

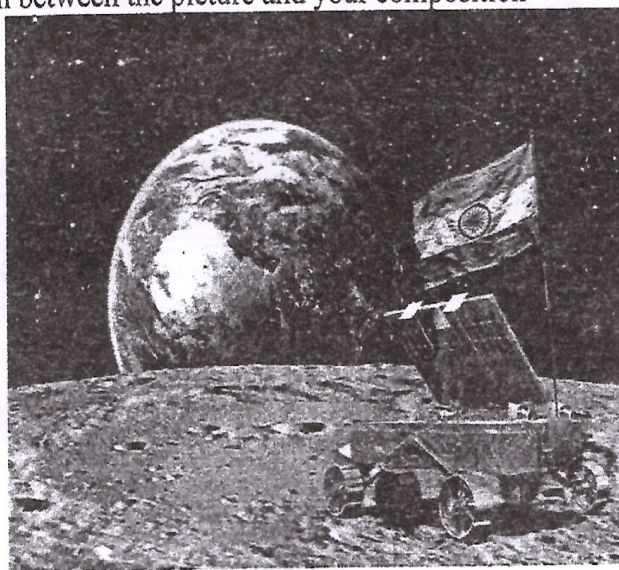
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

Question 1

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

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- (i) Write an original story ending with the line, "I hope I do not have to face such things again."
- (ii) With our lives becoming more and more hectic and stressful, we, at times fail to realise the basic human values. Narrate one incident where you brought joy to someone's life by being kind and compassionate.
- (iii) Teenagers today are more worldly wise than their parents. Express your views for or against the statement.
- (iv) Summers are becoming hotter with each passing year. Write a description of one such very hot day.
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition



Question 2

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

Select **any one** of the following:

- (i) You live in a new colony just outside the city precincts. There is no regular bus service to your colony, though so many apartments have already come up. Write a letter to the transport authority to start regular bus service to your colony as soon as possible.
- (ii) Your neighbour is away on a holiday. His house has been burgled in his absence. Write a letter explaining to him what has happened. Also tell him about the action taken by you and advise him to return immediately.

Question 3

- (i) The Universal Solidarity Movement Association of your school is organising an Inter-school Skit Competition. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board giving details of the event. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/her to send a team of ten members to participate in the Skit Competition. [5]

Question 4

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

The story of Robinson Crusoe, few people know, is based on a real life incident. The son of a cobbler, Alexander Selkirk was a wayward young man, with little respect for authority. Abject conditions at sea and the cruelty of the captains made the sailors miserable in those days. It was not surprising that Alexander became rebellious and **malevolent** when he became a sailor.

In 1704, he was assigned as the 'Sailing Master' on a ship, it anchored for repairs near the desolate island of Juan Fernandez about 650 kilometres west of Chile. They were looking for gold, which they often got by plundering other ships. In the days that followed, Alexander hatched a conspiracy. He instigated the other sailors to leave the ship and remain on the island. They would declare a mutiny.

Perhaps, Alexander reasoned, that the Captain would accept their demands if he believed that his men would refuse to sail otherwise. Unfortunately for Alexander, the crew played the Judas. The captain, getting to know of Alexander's part in the planned mutiny, left him behind on the island as he was a bad influence on the men. He was provided with a few ships with a few necessities, among them, a copy of the Bible.

Alexander **marooned** on an island populated only by wild cats and goats became **adept** at hunting and his food soon comprised fish, turtles and meat. He also made clothes with goat skin. Although a cobbler's son, he could not make shoes. Running barefoot after goats had hardened the sole of his feet. He read the Bible again and again and slowly took to reading it aloud. He spoke and sang to the cats and learnt to milk goats.

Once, during his stay on the island, a Spanish ship anchored near the island and the crew rowed in. Alexander was petrified and hid in the thick foliage. In those days Spain and England were at daggers drawn. Fortunately, the Spaniards left after a brief rest.

In February, 1709, two English ships sailed in to collect fresh water and shoot goats. Alexander rushed to them for succour. He looked strange with his **unkempt** hair, beard and goat skin clothes. His rescuers understood him with great difficulty. His speech had changed a great deal. His vocabulary had shrunk and he had to grope for words. They did, however, manage to understand his story finally.

Alexander took a job as a sailor on one of the ships and reached London in 1711. He returned home with a large fortune. However, he ran out of his fortune in two years and had to return to sea. Alexander's adventure became well known.

Eight years later, Daniel Defoe gave the story a new shape with many twists, calling it The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe. It was now the story of a man who was shipwrecked on an island and lived alone for an unbelievable twenty eight years.

i. Two words from the passage are given below: Give the meaning of each as used in the passage. [2]

1. **malevolent**

a. hostile

b. sympathetic

c. active

d. violent

2. **marooned**

a. sheltered

b. coloured

c. abandoned

d. unarmed

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word **unskilled**. [1]

a. succour

b. unkempt

c. adept

d. abject

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

a. Why did Alexander become reckless and malevolent when he became a sailor? [2]

b. What was the conspiracy that Alexander hatched? Why did he do so? [2]

c. Why was Alexander petrified when the crew of the Spanish ship rowed in? [2]

d. Mention two points of difference between Alexander's actual story and Defoe's version. [2]

e. How did the crew play the Judas? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words of your own, give an account of Alexander's adventure on the island. [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.

Example :

(0) Mid afternoon while _____ (give) my report to Mrs. Biggs,

Answer : giving

I (1) _____ (hear) a loud thumping (2) _____ (come) from the direction of her storeroom.
"What (3) _____ (be) all that noise downstairs?" I asked.
"Probably a rat. I don't hear anything," she replied.
I ran downstairs and (4) _____ (open) the storeroom door. There was Mr. Biggs
(5) _____ (look) very dusty and very disgruntled; he wanted to know why Mrs. Biggs
(6) _____ (shut) him up for hours. He had gone into the store room in search of a walking
stick and Mrs. Biggs, (7) _____ (see) the door open, (8) _____ (bolt) it.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

[4]

- (a) The match ended in a tie and the prize money was divided _____ the members of the two teams.
(b) Besides being fined Rs.1000, his car license was also taken away.
(c) The tree grew to a dangerous slant and had to be cut _____.
(d) My daughter believes _____ fairies.
(e) Raj was not accustomed _____ his friend's rude behaviour.
(f) The cat sprang _____ the table.
(i) I ran _____ my teacher at the show last night.
(j) I saw maybe his plan and realised he was going to cheat us.

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

[4]

1. The train went off the tracks. No one was injured.
 - a. No one was injured because the train went off the tracks.
 - b. As soon as the train went off the tracks, no one was injured.
 - c. Despite of the train going off the track no one was injured.
 - d. Although the train went off the tracks, no one was injured.
2. You are stubborn. Everyone says so.
 - a. Everyone says so you are stubborn.
 - b. No one says that you are stubborn.
 - c. Everyone says that you are stubborn.
 - d. You are stubborn everyone is saying.
3. He tried many times. He did not make it to the Indian Idol.
 - a. In spite of many trials, he did not make it to the Indian Idol.
 - b. Although he did not make it to the Indian Idol, he made many trials.
 - c. He made so many trials that he did not get into the Indian Idol.
 - d. Hardly had he made any trials when he got into the Indian Idol.
4. The concert finished at 10:00 pm. The audience left the theatre.
 - a. When the audience left the theatre, the concert finished at 10:00 p.m.
 - b. The concert finished at 10:00 p.m. so the audience left.
 - c. The concert having finished at 10:00 p.m., the audience left the theatre.
 - d. As soon as the concert finished at 10:00 p.m. than the audience left.

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

1. In spite of being rich, he is not happy.

[Begin : However.....]

- a. However being rich, he is not happy .
- b. However happy he is , he is not rich .
- c. However rich he may be , he is not happy.
- d. However happy he may be , he is not rich .

2. No sooner had Ram narrated the story than he was praised.

[Begin: Hardly]

- Hardly had Ram narrated the story when he was praised.
- Hardly had Ram narrated the story than he was praised .
- Hardly was Ram praised when he narrated the story .
- Hardly was the story narrated than Ram was praised .

3. There is nothing nobler than forgiveness.

[Change into an Interrogative Sentence]

- What is nobler than forgiveness ?
- Is forgiveness a noble quality ?
- What kind of quality is forgiveness ?
- Is there anything nobler than forgiveness ?

4. Cleopatra is the most famous Egyptian queen.

[Begin : No other]

- No other Egyptian queen is most famous like Cleopatra .
- No other Egyptian queen is as famous as Cleopatra.
- No other queen is as famous as the Egyptian Cleopatra .
- No other Cleopatra is as famous as the Egyptian queen .

5. Amazing discoveries have been made by the explorers.

[Begin : Explorers.....]

- Explorers have made amazing discoveries.
- Explorers have discovered many amazing things .
- Explorers have been making amazing discoveries .
- Explorers had made amazing discoveries .

6. They said, " Will you go with us ?"

[Begin : They asked]

- They asked will you go with us ?
- They asked whether you will go with us .
- They asked whether he would go with them .
- They asked whether I would go with them.

7. He was too sick to even walk.

[Use : so....that]

- He was so sick to even walk .
- He was so sick that he could not even walk.
- He was sick so that he could not walk .
- He is so sick that he cannot walk .

8. My house is bigger than yours.

[End :mine]

- You have a bigger house than mine .
- Your house is bigger than mine .
- Your house is smaller than mine.
- The bigger house is mine .