



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION 2025-26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CLASS - IX

TIME: 2 Hours

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

[20]

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

- (i) Write an original story which justifies the truth of the statement, 'Rumours are like wildfire.'
- (ii) Narrate an incident where you underestimate your younger brother, but he actually walks away with the cake
- (iii) You were invited to a special cultural program held to raise money for the flood victims in your city. Describe what you saw heard and felt at the event. What did you learn from your experience?
- (iv) 'AI is certain to make us it's slave in the near future'. Write your views for or against the statement
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be some clear connection between the picture and the composition.



Question 2. Select any one of the following:

[10]

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

- (i) You recently had an unexpected reunion with a long-lost cousin whom you had not met in years. Write a letter to your best friend sharing the experience. Describe how you met, what you talked about, your emotions during the meeting and any interesting or surprising things you discovered about your cousin.
- (ii) Write a letter to the Mayor of your city requesting him to conduct an awareness drive to make people realise the pride and honour associated with the Tri-colour and how disrespectful it is to throw it on the ground after celebrations.

Question 3.

[10]

- (i) Your school is hosting an Inter-school Badminton Tournament. Write a notice informing the students about the event.
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/her to send participants for the competition.

Question 4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

According to legend, an Ethiopian goatherd named Kaldi is said to have discovered the coffee plant in the 9th century. The story goes that Kaldi was sitting under a tree, dozing. When he glanced up at the goats in his care, he was surprised



by what he saw. They were prancing around like they didn't have a care in the world. Most surprisingly, the dignified buck, typically a moody so-and-so, was joining in, too.

Kaldi was confused. What on earth had made his goats dance?

He watched as one animal wandered towards the trees that lined the clearing. It stood on its hind legs, reached towards a low branch, and tore off some of the red berries that glowed like jewels amongst the green leaves. Within moments, the goat was transformed, quickly joining the rest of the frolicking herd.

Eager to feel the effects for himself, Kaldi pulled a few berries from the tree and shoved them into his mouth. At first, he didn't feel any different. But then, his blood started to buzz. A burst of energy rushed to his head, and before he knew it, he was in the middle of the field, dancing with abandon among his animals.

Soon after, a monk passed by. Surprised by what he saw in the field, he asked Kaldi about the dancing goats. Kaldi passed him some of the red berries and told the monk to try them out. Instead of eating them, the monk took them back to the monastery. In the kitchen, he crushed them and added boiling water. The first cup of coffee had been made!

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

[2]

1. prancing

(a) dance

(b) stand

(c) trudge

(d) cower

2. frolicking

(a) patrolling

(b) gamboling

(c) stewing

(d) galloping

(ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'turned a blind eye to'?

[1]

(a) dozing

(b) moody

(c) buzz

(d) glanced

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

(a) According to the legend when and by whom was coffee discovered?

[2]

(b) What did Kaldi see that surprised him greatly?

[2]

(c) What did Kaldi discover as he watched one of the animals wander towards the tree that lined the clearing?

[2]

(d) What was Kaldi eager to do?

[1]

(e) What did the monk do with the berries?

[2]

(iv) In not more than 50 words list the events that led to the first cup of coffee.

[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: (0) suppressed

Occurring about 443.8 million years ago, the 'Ordovician-Silurian' extinction was the first major mass extinction event. The extinction event (0) ____ (suppress) many of these changes, (1) ____ (eliminate) some 71 percent of all species living right before the event. While the cause of the (2) ____ (extinct) is not entirely clear, the leading theory (3) ____ (point) to a phenomenon called silicate weathering.



Silicates are minerals found in Earth's crust that store carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that can increase the planet's temperature.

According to the theory, after silicates (4) ____ (absorb) a certain amount of carbon dioxide, Earth (5) ____ (grow) colder, and ice sheets spread over the surface of the planet. Once the ice had physically blocked the silicates, carbon dioxide (6) ____ (build) up in the atmosphere again, warming the planet enough to melt the ice sheets and expose the silicates once more, and thus the cycle repeated itself in a feedback loop. This phenomenon would have caused fluctuations in sea level and temperature so drastic that marine animals unable (7) ____ (survive) the changing conditions (8) ____ (go) extinct.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

- (a) Trespassers are liable ____ a fine of \$500.
- (b) William turned ____ the offer of a free trip to Paris.
- (c) He is too miserly to part ____ his money.
- (d) Ron jumped ____ my offer of a job.
- (e) One fine day, he set ____ on his adventurous trip.
- (f) He fell a victim ____ his own avarice.
- (g) The truant persisted ____ disobeying the rules.
- (h) Boys over sixteen are debarred ____ competing.

[4]

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

[4]

1. The blow dazed him. The condition lasted only for a moment.
 - (a) Although the blow dazed him, the condition only lasted for a moment.
 - (b) If the blow dazed him, the condition lasted only for a moment.
 - (c) The blow neither dazed him nor the condition lasted for a moment.
 - (d) As the blow dazed him, the condition lasted for a moment.
2. She did such intricate embroidery. Her eyesight was affected.
 - (a) Her eyesight was affected while doing such intricate embroidery.
 - (b) Her eyesight was affected because she did such intricate embroidery.
 - (c) Her eyesight was affected when she was doing such intricate embroidery.
 - (d) Her eyesight was affected whenever she was doing intricate embroidery.
3. Jane is quite friendly. Her brother is rather reserved.
 - (a) Jane is quite friendly while her brother is rather reserved.
 - (b) Jane is quite friendly whereas her brother is quite reserved.
 - (c) Jane is quite friendly whenever her brother is quite reserved.
 - (d) Jane is quite friendly whether her brother is quite reserved.

4. I finished my project. I submitted it.
 - (a) I finished my project to submit it.
 - (b) Having submitted my project, I finished it.
 - (c) I finished my project after submitting it.
 - (d) Having finished my project, I submitted it.

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

1. No one could infer what his last lines meant.
(Begin: It.....)
 - (a) It is difficult for no one to infer the meaning of his last lines.
 - (b) It was difficult for anyone to infer the meaning of his last lines.



- (c) It is difficult for anyone to infer the meaning of his last lines.
(d) It was difficult for no one to infer the meaning of his last lines.
2. She is so busy that she finds no time to entertain her friends.
(Rewrite using 'too')
- (a) She is too busy that she cannot find time to entertain her friends.
(b) She is too busy and so she cannot find time to entertain her friends.
(c) She is too busy to find time to entertain her friends.
(d) She is too busy to find time for the entertainment of her friends.
3. He came to the party.
(Add Question tag)
- (a) He came to the party, isn't it?
(b) He came to the party, did he?
(c) He came to the party, didn't he?
(d) He came to the party, wasn't it?
4. The teacher said, "Akash, why were you absent yesterday?"
(The teacher asked....)
- (a) The teacher asked Akash why he was absent yesterday.
(b) The teacher asked Akash why were you absent yesterday?
(c) The teacher asked Akash why had he been absent the previous day.
(d) The teacher asked Akash why he had been absent the previous day.
5. Kartik has the best handwriting in the class.
(Begin: No one....)
- (a) No one has the better handwriting than Kartik in the class.
(b) No one has best handwriting than Kartik in the class.
(c) No one has better handwriting in the class than Kartik.
(d) No one in the class has better handwriting than Kartik.
6. Sheela will be selected for the competition only if she goes for the auditions.
(Begin: Unless...)
- (a) Unless she goes for auditions, Sheela will not be selected for the competition.
(b) Unless she auditions, Sheela will be selected for the competition.
(c) Unless Sheela does not audition, she will not be selected for the competition.
(d) Unless she goes for auditions. Sheela will be selected for the competition.
7. As soon as he reaches home, his friends call him.
(Begin: Hardly....)
- (a) Hardly does he reach home, when his friends call him.
(b) Hardly had he reached home, when his friends call him.
(c) Hardly, he reaches home then his friends call him.
(d) Hardly does he reach home, then his friends call him.
8. He will finish the work in a fortnight.
(Begin: The work)
- (a) The work was finished by him in a fortnight.
(b) The work will be finished by him in a fortnight.
(c) The work in a fortnight will be finished by him.
(d) The work had finished in a fortnight.