



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION 2025-26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CLASS – X

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 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 []

Q 1) Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following:

[20]

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

- Write an original short story beginning with the words: 'It's not my fault', he shouted...
- Describe an area in your city or hometown which is famous for its street food. Give details of the similar sights and sounds you would experience on this street.
- A working woman is a dynamic personality. She knows the intricacies of lives. She can instil the values better. Express your views either for or against the statement 'Working women are better mothers.'
- You are sitting in a balcony of your hotel room which is on the first floor on the bank of a river in a hilly area. Suddenly you notice a rise in the river water. Within ten minutes there was chaos all round as there were flash floods. Narrate what happened thereafter.
- Study the picture given below. Write an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition.



Q 2) Select **any one** of the following:

[10]

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

- You went to an ATM to withdraw some money but the machine did not dispense cash. However, the amount got debited from your account. Write a letter to the Manager of a bank, complaining the deduction of money from your Savings Bank Account, while you did not receive the cash from the ATM, which you used to withdraw the money.
- You recently visited a wildlife sanctuary with a group of friends, where you were all chased by a wild animal. Write a letter to your brother telling him about the scary experience and how you managed to get away safely.

Q 3)

- You are the Head Boy of your school. Write a notice for the school Notice Board inviting students of Classes IX and X for a visit to an Old Age Home on the occasion of International Day for Elderly. [5]
- Write an email to the Director of the Old Age Home requesting permission for the visit of the students from your school to the Old Age Home. [5]



Q 4) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Belgian Consul's house was situated in the maze of narrow, smelly alleyways that made up the Jewish quarter of the town. It was a fascinating area, the cobbled streets crammed with stalls that were piled high with gaily-coloured bales of cloth, mountains of shining sweetmeats, ornaments of beaten silver, fruit and vegetables. The streets were so narrow that you had to stand back against the wall to allow the donkeys to stagger past with their loads of merchandise.

It was a rich and colourful part of the town, full of noise and bustle, the screech of bargaining women, the cluck of hens, the barking of dogs and the wailing cry of the men carrying great trays of fresh hot loaves on their heads. Right in the very centre, in the top flat of a tall, rickety building that leant tiredly over a tiny square, lived the Belgian Consul.

He was a sweet little man whose most striking attribute was a magnificent three-pointed beard and a carefully waxed moustache. He took his job rather seriously and was always dressed as though he were on the verge of rushing off to some important official function, in a black cut-away coat, striped trousers, fawn spats over brightly polished shoes, an immense cravat like a silk waterfall, held in place by a plain gold pin, and a tall and gleaming top hat that completed the **ensemble**. One could see him at any hour of the day, clad like this, picking his way down the dirty, narrow alleys, stepping **daintily** among the puddles, drawing himself back against the wall with a magnificently courteous gesture to allow a donkey to pass and tapping it coily on the rump with his Malacca cane. The people of the town did not find his garb at all unusual.

They thought that he was an Englishman and as all Englishmen were lords it was not only right but necessary that they should wear the correct uniform.

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

1. Ensemble

- (a) a piece of furniture
- (b) a group of people
- (c) a collection of items
- (d) a type of building

2. Daintily

- (a) in a slow manner
- (b) in a delicate or graceful manner
- (c) in a careful manner
- (d) in a carefree manner

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'boldly'? [1]

- (a) magnificently
- (b) coily
- (c) gaily
- (d) tiredly

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

- 1. Where was the Belgian Consul's house located? [2]
- 2. What made the area captivating? [2]
- 3. Why did he have to stand back against the wall to allow the donkeys to stagger past? [1]
- 4. What made the streets noisy and busy? [2]
- 5. Why did the people of the town did not find his attire unusual? [2]

(iv) Describe the Belgian Consul and his appearance in not more than 50 words. [8]

Q 5) (i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. [4]
Do not copy the passage but write the answers in correct serial order.

Example: (0) transplanting

According to ecologist C R Babu,..... (transplant) old trees is always a risk due to stress and shock that a full-grown tree ..1.... (experience) when it is transplanted. "The chance of survival for old trees is 50-50," he said, "while trees such as Peepal, Ficus, Semal and Sheesham2 (be) tolerant to transplantation, trees such as Dak, Palash, Arjun, Shahtoot and Jhilmil are not," he added.



A ditch is3.. (dig) around the tree to be transplanted and its root system is....4..... (isolate) from the soil. The big branches are lopped off.5..... (leave) a few small branches for....6... (regenerate). The root system is covered with wet gunny bags to protect the roots. The trees are then sent to a nursery to acclimatise. After the roots start....7.... (grow) back, the tree8.... (lower) into a ditch created in its new spot.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word:

[4]

- (a) We can rummage _____ these old clothes and we are sure to find something to sell.
- (b) I am lucky to be favoured _____ such wonderful parents.
- (c) We can cut _____ this field instead of taking the main road.
- (d) His suggestion goes _____ all logic.
- (e) As he is tall, he has an advantage _____ the rest of the class.
- (f) Sudha is being moved _____ the Chennai office.
- (g) She is proud and looks _____ on her colleagues.
- (h) I wonder what he is aiming _____.

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

1. Stay still. We cannot take your photograph otherwise.
 - (a) Stay still, else we cannot take your photograph otherwise.
 - (b) Stay still because we can take your photograph otherwise.
 - (c) Unless you stay still, we cannot take your photograph
 - (d) If you stay still, we cannot take your photograph.
 2. Roy's mother rang up the school office. She wanted to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
 - (a) Roy's mother rang up the school office as she want to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp
 - (b) Roy's mother rang up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
 - (c) Roy's mother has rung up the school office to enquire about the swimming classes at the summer camp.
 - (d) Roy's mother rang up the school office wanting enquiry about the swimming classes at the summer camp
 3. I left my keys somewhere. Do you know where they are?
 - (a) Do you know where I had left my keys?
 - (b) Do you know where my keys were left behind?
 - (c) Do you know where I left my keys?
 - (d) Do you know where I would have left my keys?
 4. The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat. The players should not be blamed for the team's defeat.
 - (a) The captain should neither be blamed nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.
 - (b) Neither the captain nor the players should be blamed for the team's defeat.
 - (c) The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat as the players should not be blamed for the team's defeat.
 - (d) The captain should not be blamed for the team's defeat but the players too should not be blamed for the team's defeat
- (iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence. [8]
1. "Why were you absent yesterday?" the teacher asked me.
(Begin with: The teacher asked me why...)
 - (a) The teacher asked me why was I absent yesterday.
 - (b) The teacher asked me why I had been absent yesterday.
 - (c) The teacher asked me why I had been absent the day before.
 - (d) The teacher asked me why was I absent the day before.
 2. Very few dancers are as graceful as she is.
(Begin with: She is...)
 - (a) She is one of the most graceful dancers.
 - (b) She is the most graceful dancer.
 - (c) She is more graceful than all the other dancers.
 - (d) She is more graceful than a few other dancers.
 3. Yesterday was so much fun.
(End with a question tag)
 - (a) Yesterday was so much fun, would you say?
 - (b) Was yesterday much fun?
 - (c) Yesterday was so much fun, isn't it?
 - (d) Yesterday was so much fun, wasn't it?



4. He has applied many times. He has never been selected.

(Begin: In spite...)

- (a) In spite of applying many times, he had never been selected.
- (b) In spite applying many times, he has never been selected.
- (c) In spite of applying many times, he has never been selected.
- (d) In spite never being selected, he has applied many times.

5. I prefer aerobics to yoga.

(Use: rather)

- (a) I would rather do aerobics to yoga.
- (b) I would rather do aerobics than yoga.
- (c) I would rather prefer aerobics than yoga.
- (d) I would rather do yoga than aerobics.

6. The coach taught the children the rules of the game.

(Begin: The rules)

- (a) The rules have been taught by the coach to the children.
- (b) The rules of the game have been taught by the children to the coach.
- (c) The rules of the game is taught by the coach to the children.
- (d) The rules of the game were taught by the coach to the children.

7. No sooner did the film star arrive than the crowd cheered.

(Begin: As soon as)

- (a) As soon as the film star arrived then the crowd cheered.
- (b) As soon as the film star arrives the crowd starts cheering.
- (c) As soon as the crowd cheers the film star arrives.
- (d) As soon as the film star arrived, the crowd cheered.

8. School bags are often too heavy for students to carry.

(Use: 'So')

- (a) School bags are so heavy students cannot carry them.
- (b) School bags are often so heavy that students cannot carry them.
- (c) School bags are often so heavy for students to carry.
- (d) School bags are heavy so students cannot carry them.