

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER FOR HALF-YEARLY EXAM

SUB: ENGLISH

CLASS - XI

TIME: 3 HOURS

M.M: 80

This Question Paper is divided into five (05) Sections:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Section A - Reading Skills: | 20 Marks |
| Section B - Advanced Writing Skills: | 20 Marks |
| Section C- Grammar: | 10 Marks |
| Section D- Literary Text Books: | 18 Marks |
| Section E- Long Reading Text: | 12 Marks |

General Instructions:

- 1) All sections are compulsory.
- 2) Read the questions carefully and write the answers in the answer sheets provided.
- 3) Do not answer the questions randomly. Attempt all the questions of one section before moving on to another section.
- 4) Do not write anything on the question paper.
- 5) **This Q.P excludes Internal Assessment of 20 Marks (10 Marks for Listening & Speaking Skills and 10 marks for Reading Project)**

SECTION A - READING (20 Marks)

Q.1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

My Vision of My India

In 3000 years of our history people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, the Greeks, the Turks, the Moguls, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their

culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others.

That is why my first vision is that of FREEDOM. I believe that India got its first vision of this in 1857, when we started the war of independence. It is this freedom that we must protect and nurture and build on. If we are not free, no one will respect us.

My second vision for India is DEVELOPMENT. For fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation.

I have a third vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand in hand.

My good fortune was to have worked with three great minds, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai of the Dept. of space, Professor Satish Dhawan, who succeeded him and Dr. Brahm Prakash, father of nuclear material. I was lucky to have worked with all three of them closely and consider this the great opportunity of my life. Here I am reminded of an instance – One day an orthopaedic surgeon from Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences visited my laboratory. He lifted the material and found it so light that he took me to his hospital and showed me his patients. There were these little girls and boys with heavy metallic callipers weighing over three kg. each, dragging their feet around. He said to me: " Please remove the pain of my patients". In three weeks, we made these Floor reaction Orthosis 300 gram callipers and took them to the orthopaedic centre. The children didn't believe their eyes. From dragging around a three kg. load on their legs, they could now move around! Their parents had tears in their eyes. That was bliss to me.

I have a question:

Why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognize our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why?

Another question:

Why are we, as a nation so obsessed with foreign things? We want foreign TVs, we want foreign shirts. We want foreign technology. Why this obsession with everything imported? Don't we realise that self-respect comes with self-reliance?

I was in Hyderabad giving this lecture, when a 14year old girl asked me for my autograph. I asked her what her goal in life is: She replied: 'I want to live in a developed India.' For her, you, I will have to build this developed India.

You must proclaim. As an aside from yours truly: India is not an underdeveloped nation, it is a highly developed nation in an advanced state of decay! **(560 words)**

(A.P.J.Abdul Kalam)

Q.1. A. Choose the best alternative from the answers given below:

1 x 6 = 6

- a) India has been plundered by :
- i) the Greeks and the Portuguese
 - ii) the French and the Dutch
 - iii) the British
 - iv) all of the above.
- b) What does the author mean when he says "Yet we have not done this to other nations." ?
- i) India has not conquered and plundered other nations
 - ii) India has not snatched away the history and culture of other nations
 - iii) Both(i) and (ii)
 - iv) None of the above
- c) India has not conquered other nations because
- i) India is afraid of other nations
 - ii) India respects the freedom of other countries
 - iii) India lacks military strength
 - iv) All of the above
- d) When did Indians first have the vision of freedom?
- i) In 1857 during the first war of independence
 - ii) During the first World War

- iii) During the Quit India Movement
- iv) None of the above
- e) Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam envisages India which is....
 - i) Free and developed
 - ii) Militarily and economically strong
 - iii) Self- reliant
 - iv) All of the above
- f) How long did it take to make Orthosis 300 gm callipers?
 - i) One week
 - ii) two weeks
 - iii) three weeks
 - iv) four weeks

B. Answer the following questions in reference to the above passage: 1 x 6 = 6

- a) What does Dr. Kalam want us to protect and nurture?
- b) Why must India stand up to the world?
- c) The great scientists who inspired A.P.J. Abdul Kalam are
(i) _____ (ii) _____ and (iii) _____
- d) Why do we need to give up our obsession with foreign things?
- e) Explain briefly the statement-“That was bliss to me.”
- f) Find the synonym of ‘Nurse’ from the above passage.

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answers the questions that follow:

Most of the southern and western States, and even the normally surplus States in the north-east, are now going through a major power crisis. Power generation has suffered because of poor hydel storage, thanks to a truant monsoon. Compounding the problem, States that usually come to the help of large consumers in such a predicament have themselves run into difficulties in thermal generation on account of vagaries in coal supply. As a result, States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have to contend with a major-shortage. In Tamil Nadu, there is no power cut, officially, but unscheduled load shedding is freely resorted to.

At the national level, the gap between power generation and demand has been widening steadily, and it is due not a little to the persisting slippage in targeted addition to the generation capacity during the last two Plan periods. Power-deficit Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, which have been regularly buying power from the Central undertakings, could not do so this year because their neighbours, who are also in distress, happen to draw their full entitlement from the regional grid. Also, none of the power trading corporations has been able to make up the shortfall. The result: power outages, tripping, power cuts, and unscheduled load shedding for a few hours every day.

If the supply side of power position is thus beset with severe constraints, the demand side has its own quota of problems for the power managers and administrators. While the overall shortfall in electricity demand for the country is placed at 15-20 percent, the shortfall faced by several States in peak demand now is reported to range from 20 percent to 30 percent. Specifically, following the sharp rise in the price of diesel, there has been a big jump in demand from consumption by the farm sector.

Confronted as they are with heightened difficulties on both supply and demand fronts, the State Electricity Boards are constantly working on contingency plans to tide over the crisis and fondly hoping that the monsoon will revive and fill the hydel reservoirs before long. The authorities would do well to use more purposefully the grid structure and the consultation mechanism that already exist. Some restrictive measures may be inevitable, but the least the consumers expect is transparency. Whether it is staggering supply, rotational load shedding or any other, prior intimation to the user-group will surely go some way in mitigating the hardship.

(470 words)

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. **(5 Marks)**

(b) Write a summary of the passage.

(3 marks)

SECTION B – WRITING (20 Marks)

- Q 3.** You are Asmit / Asmita, Head Boy/Head Girl of 'The Indian School'. Write a Notice for your school notice Board asking the students to participate in the Science exhibition to be held in your school. Invent necessary details

OR

Design a poster to increase awareness among youth about blindness and the 'Importance of donating eyes'. **(4 Marks)**

- Q4.** Your school is celebrating 'Anti - Corruption Day'. Write a speech in 150- 200 words on the topic 'Minimization of Human Wants is the only way to cleanse society of all kinds of corruption.' You are Avni / Anuj of class XI.

OR

You are Neeraj/Neerja, Staff Reporter of The Times of India. You have recently witnessed the grand inaugural programme of the Indian Premier League-6 (IPL-6) at Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata. Write a report on the event to be published in your newspaper. **(Within 100-120 words)** **(6 Marks)**

- Q.5.** You are Krishan/Kiran studying at Hindustan School, Chennai. The road leading to your school is full of potholes causing a lot of congestion. Students and parents are often caught in a traffic jam. In spite of several representations to the concerned authorities of the Chennai Corporation, nothing has been done to improve the condition. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of Chennai, requesting him to take necessary action to solve the problem at the earliest. Also offer your suggestions for improvement. (within 125-150 words)

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper drawing the attention of the concerned authorities towards the problem of price inflation and the increase in the cost of commodities for daily use. (Within 125-150 words) **(10 Marks)**

SECTION C – GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

Q.6. There is an error in each line of the following paragraph. Find and write the incorrect word and the correction as given in the example against the correct blank no. in your answer sheets. **(1x4=4 Marks)**

| | | | Incorrect | Correct |
|---|------------------------------|----|------------------|----------------|
| . | Four suspects, who has | | Has | have |
| | been hold in connection with | a) | _____ | _____ |
| | the kidnapping or murder | b) | _____ | _____ |
| | of Adnan Dede, have confess | c) | _____ | _____ |
| | to his interrogators. | d) | _____ | _____ |

Q.7 The following passage has not been edited. There is a word missing in each line. Find the missing word that comes before and after it. **(1mark x 4 = 4marks)**

Before Missing After

An Inter House Debate Competition will held (a) _____ / _____ / _____
next Sunday.

All the House In-charges requested to enlist (b) _____ / _____ / _____
teams from their houses by tomorrow.

The topic and the time limit have already put up (c) _____ / _____ / _____

On the notice board. The students advised to note (d) _____ / _____ / _____
down the topic from the notice board

Q.8. Rearrange the following words into meaningful sentences. **(1x2=2 Marks)**

- Friends / life / good / make / our / happy / extremely.
- Not / find / now a days / easy / good / is / It / friends / to / but.

SECTION D – LITERARY TEXT BOOKS (18 Marks)

Q.9. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions, choosing the best option from those given below: **(any one extract)** (Mention the extract no. being attempted) **(1 x 3=3 Marks)**

Extract-1

A sweet face.

My mother's that was before I was born.

And the sea, which appears to have changed less,

Washed their terribly transient feet.

a) The time referred to here is the time before the birth of the

- i) poet's mother
- ii) poet's father
- iii) poet
- iv) photographer

b) Which / who has not changed much ?

- i) Sweet face of mother
- ii) photograph
- iii) sea
- iv) beaches and hotels.

c) The last line shows a contrast between the sea and

- i) the animals
- ii) the human beings
- iii) the forest
- iv) the rivers

OR

Extract-2

*And who art thou? said I to the soft shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated.
I am the poem of Earth, said the Voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,*

- a) The 'I' in the first line refers to
- i) the poet
 - ii) the rain
 - iii) the Earth
 - iv) all the above
- b) The 'I' in the third line refers to
- i) the cloud
 - ii) the land
 - iii) the rain
 - iv) the sea
- c) Trace out a word from the above extract which means 'something that cannot be touched'
- i) Eternal
 - ii) Impalpable
 - iii) bottomless
 - iv) art

Q.10. Answer any three of these questions in about 40-50 words each **(3 x3 = 9)**

- a) "When the people are pious and good even Nature mourns their death". Justify with reference to 'The Portrait of a Lady'.
- b) Compare and contrast the reactions of the children and the adults when faced with extreme danger in "We're not Afraid To Die.....Together."

- c) "A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart." In what context was this observation made and by whom? (The Summer of The Beautiful White Horse)
- d) What was Einstein's view about education? How far do you endorse it?

Q.11. Answer any **ONE** of the following in about 100- 120 words. **(6x1=6 Marks)**

Which are the Earth's principal biological systems? What is their current ecological status?

OR

Why did the narrator want to forget the address? (The Address)

SECTION E - LONG READING TEXT (12 Marks)

Q.12 Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words. **(6 x 2 = 12 marks)**

- i) Describe the Otis family .What do you think of them ?
- ii) The blood stain in the Canterville Chase kept on changing colours. How did this change the belief of the Otis Family?

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MARKING SCHEME

SECTION A-READING -20Marks

Q.1.A.a—(iv); b)—(iii); c)—(ii); d)—(i); e)—(iv); f)—(iii)

1 mark for each correct answer—1 x6=6 marks.

Q.1.B. a) Dr.Kalam wants India's freedom to be protected and nurtured.

b) India needs to stand up to the world—to gain respect of the world—Military and economic growth should go hand in hand .

c) i) Dr.Vikram Sarabhai; ii)Prof.Satish Dhawan; iii) Dr.Brahm Prakash

d) to be self-reliant—to prove to the world that India does not depend on foreign goods

e)The happiness and surprise on the face of the orthopaedically disabled patients and the tears of joy of their parents – gave an extreme sense of joy, satisfaction and happiness to the author—felt extremely self satisfied at having partially lessened their pain and suffering—his contribution to make their life better gave the author a great sense of joy.

f) Nurture.

1 mark for each correct answer—1 x 6=6 marks(No marks to be deducted for errors in construction, grammar and expression)

Q.2. a) Note Making Title—1 Mark;

Abbreviations/Symbols(with/without key)-any four—1Mark ;

Content—3 Marks (3-5 headings & 0-3 sub-headings with proper indentation and notes

- If a student has attempted only summary or only notes, due credit should be given
- 1 mark allotted for the title be given if a student has written the title either in Q.2(a) or Q.2(b)
- Content must be divided into headings and sub-headings.
- Complete sentences not to be accepted as notes

- Numbering of headings and sub-headings may be indicated in different ways as long as a consistent pattern is followed

Q.2.b) Summary- Content- 2 Marks ; Expression—1 Mark

SECTION B- WRITING SKILL-20 Marks

Q.3 Notice --- Format-1 Mark; Content—2 Marks; Expression –1 Mark

OR

Poster-----Content—2 Marks; Expression—2 Marks

(Should be eye-catching, pithy and appropriate language to be used ;use of slogans, illustration is not mandatory)

Q.4 Speech---Content ---3 Marks; Expression –3 Marks

OR

Report----Format(heading,name of the reporter, place, date)—1Mark;

Content—3 Marks; Expression –2

Q.5 Formal Letter(Letter of Placing Orders OR Letter to Editor)

Format(Sender’s address, Address of addressee, date, subject, salutation, body and complimentary close)—2 Marks

Content or Body of the letter---4marks ; Expression----4marks

SECTION C-GRAMMAR-10 Marks

Q.6 Error Correction

Incorrect Correct

- hold-----held
- Or-----and
- confess-----confessed
- his-----their

1 mark to be awarded for each correction

Q.7. Editing

Before Missing After

- a) will be held
- b) In-charges are requested
- c) have been already
- d) students are advised

1 mark to be awarded for correct answer.

- Q.8.** a) Good friends make our life extremely happy.
 b) But now a days it is not easy to find good friends./But it is not easy to find good friends now a days.

SECTION D –LITERARY TEXT BOOKS-18 Marks

- Q.9** Extract -1 a)---(iii); b)---(iii); c)--- (ii)

OR

- Extract -2 a)---(i) ; b)---(iii); c)--- (ii)

- Q.10.** Content—2 Mark ;Expression –1Mark

Value Points:-

- a) Sparrows-came to mourn the death of the grandmother. They came in thousands – sat silently—did not touch bread crumbs—offered their silent homage and flew away silently
- b) Children-Six year old Jonathan and seven year old Suzzane-showed mature reactions in the face of danger-very optimistic-encouraged and motivated their parents to give their best-did not lose hope-had complete faith and trust on their parents' expertise in handling the situation successfully-very understanding-Sue did not complain of her injury-had a sense of humour even in the situation of danger-thankful to their parents-above all, they were not afraid of approaching death—had a strong belief of their unity as a family

- c) Observation made by Assyrian farmer John Byro—after looking into the mouth of the horse—matched tooth for tooth—would have claimed it as his own horse if he had not known their parentage—believed that the boys were honest and could not steal as they belonged to the Garoghlanian tribe which was famous for their honesty—the resemblance was so striking that he called it the twin of his horse.
- d) Einstein’s idea of education—based on ideas and not facts—factual education is no education at all—facts can always be found in books—learning ideas was true education—not concerned with number of soldiers killed in a battle—more concerned about why the soldiers were trying to kill each other. .

Q.11. Content-4 marks; Expression-2 marks

Value Points:-

The earth’s principal biological systems are four---fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands. Fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands, croplands deteriorate—animal and plant life are facing extinction as a result of their destruction.

OR

The narrator wanted to forget the address-no.46, Marconi Street—she had remembered the address as the place was emotionally linked to her memory as all her mother’s belongings were kept in there.—her mother was no more present in this world—when she visited the address she found all her mother’s things were kept in a distasteful manner—the things had lost their emotional value as the objects which are linked in our memory immediately lose their value when those objects are seen after sometime in strange surroundings—the things had lost their charm—if taken back the things would again seem strange in her new small rented room—moreover without her mother, the objects have lost their emotional attachment.

Q.12 Content-3 marks; Expression—3 Marks

Value Points:-

- i) Otis family – the family members are all unique---Mr.Hiram B.Otis –a brusque American Minister—very practical—does not believe in the existence of supernatural—purchases the haunted Canterville Chase inspite of being informed of the existence of a ghost-moves into the haunted house with his family—Mrs.Otis –perturbed by the blood stains on the floor--the Otis twins are pranksters—make life miserable for the ghost—Washington,elder son-like father-very practical and logical –energetic family---supports each other when in need—very dignified. Virginia Otis—very important character who helps in bringing a logical end to the story.

- ii) The Otis family purchases the Canterville Chase and moves into the house even though warned about the existence of a ghost—very practical family—does not believe in the existence of supernatural—but their perception about the supernatural changes with the reappearance of the blood stains on the floor even when it is repeatedly washed away by Pinkerton’s Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent –Mr.Otis ,who was the most practical-minded of all family members,begins to suspect that he had been too dogmatic in his denial of the existence of ghosts-he starts believing that Canterville Chase is really haunted-decides to join the Psychical Society--Washington Otis, who had unsuccessfully tried to remove the blood stain, also suspects the existence of the ghost in reality.

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