MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Question Paper 2024-25

NCERT BASED SYLLABUS

FOR CBSE AND STATE BOARD
FOLLOWING NCERT

SESSION: 2024-2025

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS – VIII

Time Allowed: 3 hrs. 15 mins. **Max. Marks: 80**

General Instructions:

(i) First 15 minutes is allowed only for reading the question paper.
Students must NOT start writing during this time.
(ii) This question paper consists of 5 printed pages.

Section A-Reading

1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: **(1x10=10)**

Mirrors have been used since ages. It is said that Archimedes used huge mirrors to focus the heat of the sun's rays on enemy ships to burn them. The same principle is used in solar cookers, where mirrors are used to reflect and focus the sun's rays on to cooking containers.

Astronomers use huge concave mirrors to focus starlight. The mirrors used in telescopes polished by giving a thin coat of silver or aluminum to the glass. With the telescopes, astronomers can see the heavenly bodies, but even without the telescopes one can see the moon.

A full moon shining overhead is a beautiful sight. But it is also a puzzle, because if the sun and the moon both give the same light, then why is the moonlight more pleasant? The reason is that the moon reflects very little sunlight, in fact, it reflects only seven percent of the light it receives. The earth reflects about half of the radiation that it receives from the sun. Imagine how bright the earth must be looking from the moon! One can even read a book on the moon in the earthlight.

However, you do not have to travel all the way to the moon to realize how strong the earth light is. Observe the crescent moon soon after all the new moon. The bright crescent is illuminated by the sun. The rest of the moon is illuminated by earthlight. In other words, the light reflected by the earth is falling on the moon. This is being reflected back to us and is strong enough to show the moon faintly. As the crescent increases in size, this effect disappears.

Fresh snow is the best reflector of sunlight in nature. As a highly reflective substance, snow dramatically increases UV-B exposure near the Earth's surface, as it reflects most of the radiation back into the atmosphere, it is then scattered back toward the surface by aerosols and molecules. Fresh snow can reflect as much as 9.4 percent of the incoming UV radiation. The

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bright light reflected by it can dazzle and harm your eyes. Mountaineers, therefore, use dark glasses.

1. The principle of focusing the sun rays is used in:
a. Solar cooker b. Pressure cooker c. Inverter d. None of the above
2. The dim part of the crescent moon is lit by:
a. sunlight b. satellite c. stars light d. earth light
3. The earth reflects _____ of the radiation received from the sun.
a. about one-fourth b. about three-fourth c. about two-third d. about half
4. The principle of focusing the sun rays is used in:
a. Solar cooker b. Pressure cooker c. Inverter d. None of the above
5. The word 'crescent' means_____
a. demilune b. spherical c. joyous d. bright
6. Reflection of snow scattered back toward the surface by_____
7. Mountaineers wear _____ while climbing mountains
8. Why do mountaineers use dark glasses?
9. Why is the moonlight more pleasant?
10. Which is the best reflector of sunlight?

2. Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow: **(1x10=10)**

Gandhiji was an incurable and irresistible fund raiser. He found special relish in getting jewellery from women. Ranibala of Burdwan was ten years old. One day, she was playing with Gandhiji. He explained to her that her bangles were too heavy for her delicate little wrists. She removed the bangles and gave them away to Gandhiji.

He used to talk jokingly to small girls and created distaste for ornaments and created a desire in them to part with the jewellery for the sake of the poor. He motivated them to donate their jewellery for social usage.

Kasturba didn't appreciate this habit of Gandhiji. Once she stated calmly, "You don't wear jewels, it is easy for you to get around the boys. But, what about our daughters-in-law? They would surely want them."

"Well!" Gandhiji put in mildly, "Our children are young and when they grow up they will not surely choose wives who are fond of wearing jewellery." Kasturba was very upset with the answer.

Gandhiji was determined to keep the jewels to raise the community fund. He was of the opinion that a public worker should accept no costly gifts. He believed that he should not own anything costly, whether given or earned. Kasturba was a female with a desire to adorn. But Gandhiji moved towards renunciation and donated every penny earned in South Africa to the trustees for the service of the South African Indians.

a. How did Gandhiji create distaste for jewellery in Ranibala?
b. What solution did Gandhiji suggest for the problem posed by Kasturba?
c. What was Kasturba's apprehension about their daughters-in-law?

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d. According to you, is this a right way to raise fund? Explain.
e. Find the synonym of the word from passage which means 'delight'.
f. The noun form of the word 'adorn' is _____.
g. Why, according to Gandhiji boys would not choose wives who are fond of jewellery?
h. How were Kasturba and Gandhiji different from each other?
i. What was Gandhiji's opinion about costly gifts?
j. Do you support Gandhiji's views with reference to the passage?

Section B- Writing and Grammar

3. Write a story starting with 'It was pouring heavily, the street lights had gone off, tree branches were fallen on the road, the street was empty and I was returning…".
Complete the story in about 120-150 words, providing an appropriate title to it. **(5x1=5)**

4. You are Anagh/Anaisha. You recently attended a workshop in your town hosted by your favourite author. Write a diary entry in about 120-150 words recounting your experience about the entire event. **(5x1=5)**

5. Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject: **(1x6=6)**

a. Vaanya _____ (doesn't, don't) know the answer to the question.
b. One of my sisters _____ (is, are) going on a trip to Cyprus this summer.
c. The man with all the birds _____ (live, lives) on my street.
d. The movie, including all the previews, _____ (take, takes) about two hours to watch.
e. The players, as well as the captain _____ (want, wants) to win.
f. The cars _____ (were/was) parked opposite to each other in the valet parking

6. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct tense from the option given below: **(1x6=6)**

a. I _____ working all afternoon and have just finished the assignment.
A. have been B. had been C. shall be D. am
b. Rohan _____ the movie before he read the review.
A. watches B. have watched C. had watched D. was watching
c. He _____ in the States but he still does not have a command over the English language.
A. have been living B. has been living C. have lived D. living
d. By the next month, we shall _____ the project.
A. has completed B. completing C. completed D. have completed
e. Children _____ for this event for long and they're happy that they were able to perform.
A. has been planning B. are planning C. have planned D. had been planning
f. He _____ daily for a year now.
A. exercises B. was exercising C. has been exercising D. have been exercising

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Section C-Literature

7. Answer the following questions with reference to context:

A. "*Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards* **(1x5=5)**
He lingers where his children used to play,
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,
A famous high top-hat, and plain worn shawl
Make him the quaint, great figure that men love,
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.''

a. From which poem has the above extract been taken?
b. Name the poet of the above lines.
c. Why does the 'man' linger?
d. Describe any two physical features of the 'man'
e. What does the poet mean by 'prairie-lawyer'?

B. *"Good books your faults will never see* **(1x5=5)**
Or tell about them round the town.
If you would have their company
You merely have to take them down.
They'll help you pass the time away,
They'll counsel give if that you need.
He has true friends for night and day
Who has a few good books to read.''

a. What do you mean by 'true friends'? (write any 2 points)
b. Why is it easy to be friends with books?
c. Give another word for 'counsel' as used in the poem.
d. *'Good books your faults will never see.'* Do you agree with this statement? Why/Why not?
e. Name the poet of the above lines.

C. *"Macavity's a Mystery Cat: he's called the Hidden Paw-* **(1x5=5)**
For he's the master criminal who can defy the Law.
He's the bafflement of Scotland yard, the Flying Squad's despair:
For when they reach the scene of crime – Macavity's not there!
Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,"

a. Why is Macavity called the 'Hidden Paw'?
b. Who is Macavity?
c. Why is Macavity a mystery cat?
d. Give a synonym of 'defy' as used in the above lines.
e. State true or false: Macavity is always there on the scene of crime

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8. Answer **any six** of the following questions in 50-60 words: **(3x6=18)**

a. How does Macavity outwit the world's top investigation agencies?
b. Do you really think Macavity is a cat? Why/Why not?
c. What act did Sherlock Holmes put up when he visited the students' room and why?
d. If given a choice, which of the four March Girls would you want to be and why?
e. What is the role of the supernatural in 'The Egyptian Tomb'?
f. Enlist all the people who died mysteriously and state the reason of their death in 'The Egyptian Tomb' while excavating Men-Her-ra's tomb?
g. What did Mr. Aithappa do to get educated and successful when he went to Bombay?

9. Answer **any one** of the following questions in 100-120 words: **(5x1=5)**

a. Why do you think Abraham Lincoln was walking through the streets of Illinois at midnight? Answer this with reference to the theme of the poem.

b. Write in your own words how the mystery starte

d and finally solved in 'The Egyptian Tomb'?

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