Meghalaya Board of School Education

QUESTION PAPERS

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Total No. of Printed Pages—15

X/24/E

2024

ENGLISH

(FOR CANDIDATES WITH INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)

Full Marks : 80
Pass Marks : 24

(FOR CANDIDATES WITHOUT INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)

Full Marks : 100
Pass Marks : 30

Time : 3 hours

(FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF CANDIDATES)

General Instructions :

(i) The candidates are advised to attempt all the questions accordingly.

(ii) Marks allocated to every question are indicated against each.

(iii) Question Nos. **1** to **15** are to be answered by all candidates.

(iv) Question Nos. **16** to **19** are to be answered only by **Candidates without Internal Assessment**.

SECTION—A

(Reading)

(Do not spend more than 15 minutes on this Section)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

Research has shown that the human mind can process words at the rate of about 500 words per minute, whereas a speaker speaks at the rate of 150 words a minute. The difference between the two at 350 is quite large.

So a speaker must make every effort to retain the attention of the audience and not let his own mind wander. Good communication calls for good listening skills. A good speaker must be a good listener. Listening starts with hearing but goes beyond. Hearing is necessary but is not a sufficient condition for listening. Listening involves hearing with attention. Listening is a process that calls for concentration. While listening, one should also be observant. In other words, listening has to do with the ears, as well as with the eyes and the mind.

Good communication is essentially an interactive process calling for participation and involvement. It is quite often a dialogue rather than a monologue. Good listening is an art that can be cultivated. A good listener knows how to prompt, respond, persuade but not interrupt the speaker.

For listening to be effective, it is also necessary that barriers to listening are removed. Such barriers can be both physical and psychological. Physical barriers generally relate to hindrance to proper hearing whereas

psychological barriers are more fundamental and relate to the interpretation and evaluation of the speaker and the message.

On the basis of your reading the above passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options given : 6

(a) How many words does a speaker speak in one minute? 1

(i) 500 words

(ii) 150 words

(iii) 350 words

(b) Good _____ helps in good communication. 1

(i) listening skills

(ii) reading skills

(iii) writing skills

(c) According to the passage, a good listener must

(i) have the ability to interrupt the speaker

(ii) be a good speaker

(iii) be focused and observant 1

(d) What does good communication call for? 1

(i) Participation and involvement

(ii) Participation and learning

(iii) Hearing and learning

(e) How many types of barriers to listening are usually identified? 1

(i) One type

(ii) Two types

(iii) Three types

(f) Which words in the passage mean the same as the following? ½+½=1

(i) Systematic investigation

(ii) One person doing all the talking

SECTION—B

(Writing and Grammar)

(Do not spend more than 60 minutes on this Section)

2. *Either*

You are Sam/Sarah and you are highly concerned over the problem of broken and leaked water pipes in your locality. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper stating the problems faced by the residents and the need for immediate action in this regard. 6

Or

Time management is the key to success and as a student you are aware of the value of time management. Write an article (in about 120 words) to be published in your school magazine highlighting the importance and benefits of time management for success. 6

3. *Either*

You are Raj/Rita and you are concerned about your brother's lack of interest in studies. Write an e-mail to your brother Mohan explaining the importance of studies and knowledge to prosper and secure stability in future. 6

Or

Write a story in about *150–200* words which begins with the words given below. Give a suitable title too : 6

One winter evening, I was gazing at the setting sun when suddenly I hear....

4. Read the passage given below and fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate words from the given options : ½×8=4

I am sorry to *(a)* _____ about the watch which I *(b)* _____ from you last month. The watch *(c)* _____ not show correct time. I *(d)* _____ it since the day of purchase. I *(e)* _____ that it *(f)* _____ four minutes a day. I *(g)* _____ you the watch through my brother. I *(h)* _____ much obliged if you will either set it right or supply a new watch in its place.

(a) *(i)* complain *(ii)* complains *(iii)* complained *(iv)* complaining

(b) *(i)* buy *(ii)* have bought *(iii)* bought *(iv)* shall buy

(c) *(i)* do *(ii)* does *(iii)* did *(iv)* doing

(d) *(i)* use *(ii)* am using *(iii)* was using *(iv)* have been using

(e) *(i)* finds *(ii)* have found *(iii)* had found *(iv)* was finding

(f) *(i)* gains *(ii)* is gaining *(iii)* has gained *(iv)* had gained

(g) *(i)* sent *(ii)* shall send *(iii)* am sending *(iv)* have sent

(h) *(i)* am *(ii)* be *(iii)* was *(iv)* shall be

5. *(a)* Construct suitable sentences with the following idioms (any *two*) : 1×2=2

(i) at arm's length

(ii) part and parcel

(iii) French leave

(iv) gift of the gab

(b) Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions : ½×4=2

(i) The boys are confident _____ a huge victory.

(ii) We should abstain _____ junk food.

(iii) This is the book I was looking _____.

(iv) The glass broke _____ small pieces.

6. Rewrite the following as directed : 1×4=4

(a) He kept me waiting.
(Begin with : I ....)

(b) He said, "My son is fond of sports."
(Begin with : He said that ....)

(c) By whom was the parcel opened?
(End with : .... parcel?)

(d) "Please wait here till I return", said Emma to me.
(End with : .... returned.)

SECTION—C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(Prose and Poetry)

(Do not spend more than 60 minutes on this Section)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow (any *two*) : 3×2=6

(a) "I don't know who has this map; but I make it a point, it shall be kept secret even from me and Mr. Arrow."

(i) Who is the speaker of the above line? 1

(ii) Who is Mr. Arrow? 1

(iii) Why does the speaker want the map to be kept secret? 1

(b) "The firm wished me to convey their sincere sympathy with you in your great loss."

(i) Who speaks the above line and to whom? 1

(ii) Which firm is being referred to? 1

(iii) What 'great loss' is being talked about? 1

(c) "Great Caesar, now what have I done!"

(i) Who exclaims the above line? 1

(ii) To whom has the speaker been speaking prior to this? 1

(iii) What has the speaker done to react in this way? 1

8. Choose the correct answer : 1×5=5

(a) The first guest to cancel Mrs. Pringle's invitation was

(i) Mr. Morgan

(ii) Mr. Harper

(iii) Mr. Farnsworth

(b) Romeo was banished for

(i) killing Count Paris

(ii) killing Mercutio

(iii) killing Tybalt

(c) The convict was a fearful man, with no hat and wore

(i) no shoes

(ii) broken shoes

(iii) brown shoes

(d) The Demon had the face of a

(i) hawk

(ii) vulture

(iii) falcon

(e) Long John was appointed as the

(i) mate of the ship

(ii) cook of the ship

(iii) captain of the ship

9. Answer the following in about *30–40* words (any *three*) : 2×3=6

(a) What kind of spell did the fakir put on the paw and why?

(b) What promise did Pip make to the convict?

(c) What did Friar Lawrence suggest Juliet to do in order to avoid getting married to Count Paris?

(d) What was Mrs. Pringle's main purpose of hosting the dinner?

10. Answer the following in *80–100* words : 8

Either

What did the Prince learn during his stay with his teacher? How did his learning help transform the Demon? 4+4=8

Or

What complaints and suggestions were made by Captain Smollett to the squire and the doctor? 6+2=8

11. Choose the correct answer : 1×3=3

(a) According to Charlotte Bronte, one can suppress despair by being

(i) pessimistic

(ii) courageous

(iii) cowardly

(b) And your love shall offer _____ thanks.
Which word completes this line?

(i) grateful

(ii) honourable

(iii) memorial

(c) In the poem, *The Village Schoolmaster*, the word 'counterfeited' means

(i) pretended

(ii) genuine

(iii) careless

12. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow (any *two*) : 3×2=6

(a) "Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!"

(i) Who is the 'Highland Lass'? 1

(ii) What work is she doing? 1

(iii) What draws the poet's attention to the girl? 1

(b) "And still they gaz'd, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew."

(i) Who does 'they' refer to here? 1

(ii) When do they express their wonder? 1

(iii) What is the thing that they wonder about? 1

(c) "Scattered like shells on Egyptian sands,
They lie with pale brows and brave, broken hands."

(i) Who were lying scattered like shells? 1

(ii) What happened to them? 1

(iii) What does the expression 'broken hands' signify? 1

13. Answer the following in *80–100* words : 6

Either

In the poem, *Exiled*, the poet feels stifled and homesick. How does she express her longingness for the sea?

Or

The village schoolmaster was known to be stern but highly committed to education. Describe his character and abilities.



SECTION—D

LONG READING TEXT

(Rapid Reader)

(Do not spend more than 15 minutes on this Section)

14. Choose the correct answer : 1×3=3

(a) The Artful Dodger had stolen a _____ out of Mr. Brownlow's pocket.

(i) wallet

(ii) pocketbook

(iii) handkerchief

(iv) five Pound note

(b) "…. a stout old gentleman, dressed in a blue coat and striped waistcoat and supported himself on a thick stick."

The above description refers to

(i) Dr. Losberne

(ii) Mr. Grimwig

(iii) Mr. Brownlow

(iv) Mr. Bumble

(c) Who was sentenced to die by public hanging?

(i) Monks

(ii) Sikes

(iii) Fagin

(iv) Jack Dawkins

15. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : 7

Either

(a) "Oh, lady! If there were more like you,
there would be fewer like me!"

(i) Who said this and to whom? 1

(ii) How was the listener's life different from the speaker's life? 2

(iii) What information did the speaker share? 4

Or

(b) "They've hit him! Damnation! How the boy bleeds!"

(i) Who is the speaker? 1

(ii) Who was hit and by whom? 2

(iii) Describe what happened to 'the boy' after this incident. 4

[For Candidates without Internal Assessment]

(*Marks* : 20)

16. Answer the following in a sentence or two (any *five*) : 2×5=10

(a) Who was Pip's brother-in-law and what was his profession?

(b) Who was Elaine?

(c) Why did the King send the Prince away to Takkasila?

(d) "Or I'll have your heart and liver out." Who said this and to whom?

(e) Who persuaded Romeo to go to the Capulet's ball and why?

(f) What was the first wish of Mr. White? Was it granted?

17. Match *Column—A* with *Column—B* : 1×5=5

Column—A	*Column—B*
(a) That I am weary of words and people	*(i)* *The Gift of India*
(b) The village master taught his little school	*(ii)* Life
(c) And you honour the deeds of the dauntless ones	*(iii)* A man severe he was, and stern to view
(d) Yet hope again elastic springs	*(iv)* William Wordsworth
(e) Will no one tell me what she sings?	*(v)* Sick of the city, wanting the sea

18. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the choices given in the brackets : ½×4=2

(a) O, why _____ its fall?
(lament/rejoice)

(b) And yielded the sons of my _____ womb.
(injured/stricken)

(c) If I could see the _____ mussels.
(weedy/mossy)

(d) Stop here, or _____ pass!
(softly/gently)

(Oliver Twist)

19. Answer the following in a sentence or two (any *three*) : 1×3=3

(a) What was the real name of the Artful Dodger?

(b) What proofs of Oliver's identity were destroyed by Monks?

(c) What was the name of Oliver's father?

(d) Whom did Nancy meet at the London Bridge?

(e) Why did Mr. Bumble marry the matron of the poorhouse?

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