** SINDHI HIGH SCHOOL**

**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2023-24)**

**SUBJECT – English**

**Class: VIII Marks: 80**

**Date: 07/10/2023 Reading Time: 8:30 to 8:45 am Number of printed sides: 08 Writing Time: 8:45 to 11:45 am**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

* Read the questions properly and answer them carefully.
* This paper consists of 3 sections :-
  + Section : A ( Reading ) is for 20 marks.
  + Section : B ( Writing and Grammar ) is for 20 marks.
  + Section : C ( Literature ) is for 40 marks.
* Please stick to the given word limit.

**SECTION : A (Reading ) 20 marks Q 1 Read the passage carefully :- 1x10=10M**

1. In the bustling buses of Delhi, a unique social dynamic emerges as passengers rely on each other during the chaotic commutes. Northern Indians, known for their difficulty in keeping steady in moving vehicles, often lean against each other to maintain balance. It is a common sight , using each other as cushions without any ill-natured objections. The concept of personal space takes a backseat as the need for stability takes precedence in these crowded buses.

2. However, this physical closeness is not limited to mere support. The buses are also filled with friendly talk, ranging from public topics to embarrassingly private ones. Strangers freely engage in discussions, breaking social barriers, and sharing personal anecdotes. It is not uncommon for jokes to be exchanged, even between acquaintances and total strangers alike. One incident involved a fellow-passenger noticing the weight of the narrator’s large topee (hat), remarking that it was heavier than his entire body.

3. The bus rides also present an opportunity for strangers to inquire about each other’s safety and security. The narrator recalls a time when they experienced an irritation at the back of their neck, causing them to jerk and perk their head like a bird. The narrator, initially taken aback by the question, sought clarification, leading to a comical exchange as the stranger mimicked their movements.

4. Despite the lack of personal space and the intimate interactions with strangers, the unwritten social norms of the Delhi buses are accepted with ease. In a city known for its chaotic traffic and overcrowded public transportation, passengers adapt to the circumstances and make the most of their journeys. The buses become a melting pot of diverse individuals, transcending social, cultural, and economic boundaries. It is a unique experience where the common goal of reaching their respective destinations overrides any notions of personal space or privacy.

5. Furthermore, these interactions in the buses of Delhi reflect the warmth and camaraderie that is inherent in Indian culture. Indians are known for their friendliness, hospitality, and a sense of community, and these qualities are reflected even in the chaos of daily bus rides. It is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the people, who find solace and connection in unexpected places, even amidst the chaos of a crowded bus.

**by Siddharth Sangvi**

The Editor of New Delhi Times

**Read the passage and answer the following question :-**

**i) In order to keep themselves steady, while travelling in the moving vehicles the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a) Strangers avoid each other to maintain personal space.

b) Passengers keep to themselves and do not interact with others.

c) Passengers rely on each other for bodily comfort and support.

d) Passengers compete for limited seating space in-order to travel comfortably.

**ii) What is the concept of ‘personal space’ in the buses of Delhi?**

**iii) List the two kinds of conversation that can be heard among passengers in the buses of Delhi?**

|  |
| --- |
| **i)** |
| **ii)** |

**iv) What do strangers in the buses of Delhi often inquire about each other?**

**v) How do passengers in the buses of Delhi adapt to the lack of personal space?**

a) They become uncomfortable and avoid all interactions.

b) They complain and express their discomfort.

c) They accept the situation and make the most of their journeys.

d) They demand for more personal space from the authorities.

**vi)The interactions in the buses of Delhi reflect about Indian culture’. Give reason to justify this statement.**

**vii) Comment on the tone of the editor when he describes the atmosphere in the buses of Delhi despite the lack of personal space.**

**viii) Which of the following is relevant for the title of the passage?**

a) Melting pots of diverse individuals.

b) Places of constant conflict and chaos.

c) Hubs of privacy and personal space.

d) Empty and uninteresting commute.

**ix) Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a unique social experience offered by buses in Delhi?**

a) Passengers relying on each other for bodily comfort.

b) Engaging in lively conversations.

c) Sharing personal anecdotes.

d) Riding in air-conditioned buses.

**x) What can be inferred from the statement, ‘Buses of Delhi offer a unique social experience’?**

**Q 2 Read the following passage answer the following :- 1x10=10M**

1. The next time you go to a theatre to watch a play, give the actors and the people involved in putting up the entire play the applause they truly deserve. The performance you get to see is the end product of a few months of hard work. The birth of a play lies in the mind of the playwright. He may have an interesting story to tell. He may also feel strongly about a recent debate on a topic like problems of

population, inhumane qualities in man, fake news propaganda and consequently, write a play about this.

2. Another crucial person involved is the director. He is the person who decides how the play should be acted out. Directors have different styles of presenting plays, even identical plays. That is why you sometimes get to see plays of the same title being staged by different theatre groups at different points in time.

3. The second stage of 'assembling' a play involves mainly the production team and the designers. The production team consists of the production manager, stage managers and the designers. Sometimes, the production manager and the stage manager may be the same person. This depends on the size of the theatre company and the budget for the entire production.

4. Stage managers sit in during rehearsals and take note of the director's wants. The light designers design the lighting to give the play its various moods and help convey the story behind it. They decide what colour and type of lights to use. Sound designers try to create the sound effects the director wants.

It is also at this stage that the actors are selected. If the company has its own team of actors and actresses, then time need not be wasted on auditions .Then audition advertisements will be placed in the newspapers.

5. Once the 'cast' is formed, rehearsals will commence. The cast usually continue with their rehearsals till the day before their actual performance. The day of performance is the busiest day for a particular group of people we call the 'crew' or . They help the stage managers ensure the costumes and props are put in place. In a  theatre, you watch the play without knowing that it might take months for putting it up.

**i) Complete the following :-**

It takes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to prepare a play for staging.

**ii) List any two possible reasons for a playwright to write a play.**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. |
| 2. |

iii) ‘The same play is staged by different directors at different points’. Justify the statement.

iv) Under what circumstance will the production manager and the stage manager will not be the same person ?

|  |
| --- |
| **v) Pick out line that suggests that the stage manager works more closely with the director ?** |
| **vi) List the two members in the production team who sets the tone and mood of the play.**   |  | | --- | | 1. | | 2. | |
| **vii) Why do some theatre companies need to organise an audition for actors ?** |
| **viii) ‘Rehearsals play a very significant role in the outcome of the play’. Analyse this statement** |
| **ix) List some of the unseen people involved in the production of a play.**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | 3. | | 2. | 4. | |
| **x) Pick out a collective noun from the above passage. (paragraph 5)** |

**SECTION : B Writing And Grammar 20 Marks**

(Q3 ) Write a formal letter to the country head , World Wildlife Web , New Delhi, about your concern and possible suggestions to overcome global warming and climatic change in about 100-120 words. **5M**

(Q4) You are a real estate agent .You came across a strange house. Complete the story in about 100- 120 words using the line beginning given. **5M**

**Q5) Complete the following tasks, as directed :- x10= 10 marks**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| i) | Answer the questions given, with reference to the context given below :-  You are Priyank/Priyanka, a resident of C.R. Park, New Delhi. You have to write an official letter complaining about the poor sanitary conditions in your neighbourhood.  **Choose the CORRECT start for the letter:-**  (a) Please look at the poor sanitary conditions prevailing in our area.  (b) I want to draw your kind attention towards the poor sanitary conditions prevailing in our area.  (c) Open your eyes to the bad condition of the area.  (d) I want to complain about the poor sanitary conditions. | **1m** |
| ii) | **Convert the following into reported speech :-**  **“We had a big argument”, said Abhishek .**  Abhishek said that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **1m** |
| iii) | **Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter :-**  Sir,  I am a student of class 8A of your school. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( suffer) from Dengue fever and have been admitted to Manipal Hospital. | **1m** |
| iv) | Read the sentence .Identify the error and supply suitable correction :-  Dear Diary ,  Today was a very eventful day yet my parents gave me a surprise !  Error Correction  ------------ ---------------- | **1m** |
| v) | Read the conversation between Sagar and doctor :-  **doctor** : Do you go for a morning walk ?  **Sagar** : I don’t have enough time in the morning .  **docto**r : Morning walk is very essential for you.  **Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue :-**  The doctor asked Sagar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Sagar told him that he did not have enough time in the morning.  a)If you went for a morning walk.  b)If he went for a morning walk.  c)If you go for a morning walk.  d)If he goes for a morning walk. | **1m** |
| vi) | Fill the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the concluding line :-  A handful of flour can prevent a fire disaster at home. Learn and teach others.  This shows that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ :-   1. knowledge is power. 2. little knowledge is dangerous. 3. ignorance is a bliss. 4. strike while the iron is hot. | **1m** |
| vii) | Fill the blank by choosing the correct option :-  You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( should , could) bathe everyday, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( shouldn’t ,couldn’t) you ? | **1m** |
| viii) | Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following :-  Supporting education within schools and communities  We believe that the power of change is the best gift we can gave to future generations. The most valuable legacy we can leave behind us, is to help empower students to be leaders by enhancing local education.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **option** | **error** | **correction** | | **a)** | believe | believes | | **b)** | gave | give | | **c)** | Most | more | | **d)** | enhancing | enhance | | **1m** |
| ix) | Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option :-  Kindness is a powerful force that has the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to change lives, both for the giver and the receiver.   1. able 2. ability 3. enable   d) enabled | **1m** |
| x) | **Identify the error and supply correction for the following signal rules issued by Indian Railways :-**  **RAILWAY SIGNALS**: -  The signals to be used of controlling the movement of trains should be followed.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | error | correction | |  |  | | **1m** |

**SECTION : C ( Literature ) 40 Marks**

Q6) Read the extracts and answer the following :-

**(A) ‘**I had no idea that affluence would bring about the kind of change in you that it has done. Was it so difficult for you to help out an old friend down on his luck? I have no money, so my resources are limited. What I have is imagination, a part of which I used in retribution of your unfeeling behaviour’. **1x4=4**

i) Who refers to ‘I’ in these lines :-

a)Bepin Choudhary b) Chunilal c)Dinesh Ghosh d)Bepin Babu

ii)Choose the meaning of the phrase ‘down on his luck’ in this extract :-

a)ill health b) going through rough times c) in the journey d)in detail

iii)What ‘change’ is the speaker describing :-

1. A change of job
2. A change in friend
3. A change in the friend’s temperament.
4. A change in money and resource management.

iv) Choose a synonym for the word ‘retribution:-

a)punishment b)feeling c) behavior d)change

(B) When the jet rose six miles high,

It was clear the earth was round

And that it had more sea than land.

But it was difficult to understand,

That the men on the earth found,

Causes to hate each other, to build

Walls across cities and to kill.

From that height, it was not clear why. **1x4=4**

i) Choose the synonym of the word ‘understand’ from the following :-

a)justify b)comprehend c) validate d) judgment

ii)What does the poet observe when the jet rose six miles high ?

1. When the jet rose high , it was difficult to see and understand.
2. The height of the jet from the earth.
3. The shape of earth clearly.
4. The hatred between people.

iii) Choose the word that means the same as ‘height’ as used in the passage :-

a) depth b) altitude c) low point d)base

iv) Here, the word ‘wall’ is used to refer to the borders . So the poetic device used

is :-

a) Alliteration b) personification c) anaphora d) symbolism

**(Q7) Answer the following in 20- 30 words :- 2x5=10**

1. Where did the author Michael find the letter and what was the date of the letter?
2. How would you justify the poem “The Ant and the Cricket” as a fable?  What have you learnt after reading this poem?
3. ‘Christmas for Almas Javed became a nightmare.’ How did the Tsunami affect this small girl’s life?
4. What did Jam Bazaar Jaggu do with the objects that Jaya gave to him ?
5. On the coast of India and Sri Lanka there were more loss of human life than animal deaths reported. Why ?

**(Q8) Answer the following in 50-60 words :- 4x3=12**

1. Compare the feelings of the narrator when he was hired by the king and by the child in the poem “ The Last Bargain”.
2. Neither Spring nor Summer entered the Giant’s garden, till the Giant experienced a change of heart. Explain.
3. Describe the character of Bepin Bapu in your own words.

**(Q9) Long Answer type :- (Word Limit : 80-100 words) 1x5=5**

Imagine you are Tilly Smith. Write a diary entry about how you saved the lives of many tourists when a Tsunami struck the beach, in about 100-120 words.

**(Q10) Long Answer type (Word Limit : 80-100 words) :- 1x5=5**

‘The hidden talent of every child who has his/her own style of learning and area of interest has always been successful’. Justify how this talent helped Mr. Contractor to be successful in his life.

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