

First Year Higher Secondary Improvement Examination

Part - I

ENGLISH

Maximum : 80 Scores

Time : 2½ Hours

Cool off time : 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates :

- There is a 'Cool off time' of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time of 2½ hrs.
- You are neither allowed to write your answers nor to discuss anything with others during the 'cool off time'.
- Read the questions carefully before answering.
- All questions are compulsory and only internal choice is allowed.
- When you select a question, all the sub-questions must be answered from the same question itself.
- Electronic devices except nonprogrammable calculators are not allowed in the Examination Hall.

1. Choose the correct cohesive devices from the box given to complete the sentences.

however, likewise, instead

When I was young, we were living in Chennai. Our flat was tiny.
...(a)....., we managed to live there for 5 years. When I was eight years old,
I stopped taking guitar lessons and ...(b).... I took up the piano.
...(c)....., a year later my brother also stopped learning the guitar and
joined me.

(3)

2. Your class is conducting a debate on 'Physical Education should be made compulsory to Higher Secondary students'. The following are a few of the arguments raised against the topic.

- Physical Education period is a waste of time, since majority of the students are not interested.
- There is no sufficient time to allot for Physical Education as the syllabuses of other subjects are vast.
- Students will be tired when they come for classes after the Physical Education period.

If you are to speak for the topic, what points will you raise? Write four such arguments.

(4)

3. Mrs. Clifford was down with illness, when there was no news of her son. Maggie gave a hard earned shilling to buy flowers to lay on her brother's grave.


Prepare a short write-up on family relationships as portrayed in the story, 'The Price of Flowers'.

(5)

(Q. 4 to 6) : Read the following excerpt from the story, 'Gooseberries' and answer the questions that follow.

Years passed; he completed his fortieth year and was still reading advertisements in the papers and saving up his money. Then I heard he was married.

4. Who is 'he' referred to here? (1)

5. Whom did he marry and why? 

6. How did he treat his wife after the marriage? (2)

7. "Two or three hundred people were looking at it, sitting or standing, and some were examining the basket, a nice little square basket for a human cargo, bearing on its side in gold letters on a mahogany plate the words :
Le Horla.

Suddenly the people began to stand back,"

Imagine you were one of the people standing there. You witnessed the preparation of the Le Horla and its take off. As a journalist you have to send a report to the editor. Prepare the report. (6)

(Q. 8 to 10) : Correct the following sentences.

8. Three fifths of the money have already been spent. (1)
9. Everyone at the supermarket were looking for the missing child. (1)
10. The team manager, along with the players are coming to the play ground. (1)
11. In the unit 'Glimpses of Greatness' you have read about the qualities of greatness. Now write a paragraph describing an ideal citizen. (4)
12. "Greta clicked and this time smiled when the word peaches appeared. It was a furtive smile-a smile she got when she pretended, she understood something that made no sense".
Write a short character sketch of Greta in the story, 'Conceptual Fruit'. (5)

(Q. 13 and 14) : Read the following lines from the poem 'To Sleep' and answer the questions that follow.

Without Thee what is all the morning's wealth?

Come, blessed barrier between day and day,

Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous health!

13. What is the figure of speech used in the expression 'blessed barrier'? (1)
14. Elaborate the idea in the above lines. (3)
15. Imagine yourself to be a villager at the Fijian village of Namuana. A group of tourists visits Namuana to see the turtle calling. Narrate to them the legend behind the turtle calling. (5)
16. "There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability or the curse of intoxicating drinks and drugs. Women will enjoy the same right as men. This is the India of my dreams".
Gandhiji had his own dreams about an ideal India.
As the NSS Volunteer Secretary of your school, you are asked to deliver a speech on Gandhiji's dreams about an ideal India and the role of students in realizing it. Prepare the script of the speech. (6)

OR

"And then Gandhi came".

What were the changes that took place in the attitude of the leaders and the people with the arrival of Gandhi? How did it influence the freedom struggle?

Write your ideas in the form of a short essay.

(6)

17. Complete the passage meaningfully, using the right form of the words given in brackets.

Sweet dishes (a)..... (cool) with snow and ice in ancient times. These (b)..... (enjoy) by the rich and powerful such as Alexander the Great, the Egyptian Pharaohs, and the Emperor Nero. However, real ice-cream, made with fresh cream or milk (c)..... (produce) for the first time in the 1630s by Gerald Tissain, the French chef of the British King, Charles I. Today excellent ice-cream (d)..... (make) all over the world. (4)

18. Read the poem given below and write a note of appreciation.

How did you Die?

Edmund Vance Cooke

Did you tackle that trouble that came your way
 With a resolute heart and cheerful?
 Or hide your face from the light of day
 With a craven soul and fearful?
 Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,
 Or a trouble is what you make it,
 And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,
 But only how did you take it?
 And though you be done to the earth, what then?
 If you battled the best you could,
 If you played your part in the world of men,
 Why, the Critic will call it good.
 Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce,
 And whether he's slow or spry,
 It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,
 But only how did you die?

(*craven – cowardly, lick – easily defeat, spry – lively*)

(8)

(Q. 19 to 23) : Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Natural disasters happen all over the world, and they can be utterly devastating for people's lives and environments in which they live. Although natural disasters are caused by nature and there is nothing that we can do to prevent them happening, there are many different natural causes that lead to natural disasters, and being aware of these causes enables us to be better prepared when such disasters do arrive.

One common natural disaster is flooding, which occurs when a river bursts its banks and the water spills out onto the floodplain. This is far more likely to happen when there is a great deal of heavy rain, so during very wet periods, flood warnings are often put in place. There are other risk factors for flooding too: steep-sided channels cause fast surface run-off. Drainage basins of impermeable rock also cause the water to run faster over the surface.

Earthquakes are another common natural disaster that can cause many fatalities. The movements of the plates in the earth's crust cause them. These plates do not always move smoothly and can get stuck, causing a build-up of pressure. It is when this pressure is released that an earthquake occurs. In turn, an earthquake under the water can also cause a tsunami, as the quake causes great waves by pushing large volumes of water to the surface.

19. The word impermeable means

- a) gigantic
- b) not allowing anything to pass through
- c) not tall enough
- d) too steep

(1)

20. Death that is caused in an accident or war, or by violence or disease is called (1)
21. How is a tsunami caused? (2)
22. Why is it said that we should be aware of the natural causes that lead to natural disasters? (2)
23. When and where are flood warnings often put in? (2)
24. The poem 'Sunrise on the Hills', presents the experience of the poet as he watches the sunrise amidst the hills. Haven't you observed the sunrise?
Write your observations of the sunrise in four or five sentences. (3)
25. Use the correct tense form of the verbs given in the brackets to complete the sentences.
- The children (a) *Do not* (play) outside at the moment. They always
(b)..... (come) back home when they are tired. (2 × 1 = 2)



26. Prepare a profile of the person using the information given below.

Charles Spencer Chaplin : British – US actor and director.

Birth : April 16, 1889, London

Parents : Charles Chaplin Sr. and Hannah

Childhood : Fought with poverty and hardship – early death of parents – started performing on the stage

Turning point : Tour in New York – signed film contract with Mack Sennet – developed his costume

Career : Directing and acting in his own films – The Tramp, The Gold Rush, The Kid, City Lights, Modern Times etc.

Honours : Doctor of Letters Degree by University of Oxford and University of Durham – Winner of 3 Academy Awards

Death : Christmas Day, 1977 (5)
