



FUSCO'S SCHOOL (ICSE)

Indiranagar, Bangalore
Half Yearly Examination 2016-17
Subject : English Language

Class: VIII

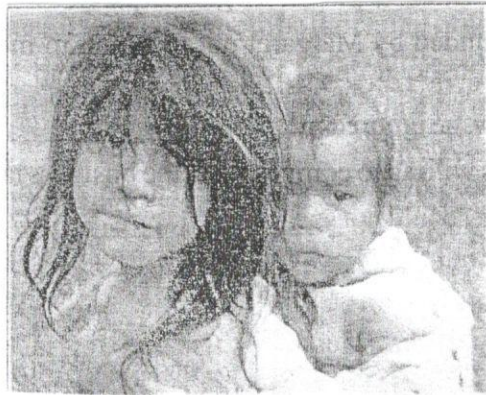
Marks:80

Question 1

[25]

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any ONE of the following:

- One faces many challenges in life. Give an account of any one challenge that confronted you and state how you faced it.
- Describe the India of your dreams.
- Do you think that parents are always right? Describe one incident of your experience to prove your point of view.
- Write a short story beginning, "I woke up one morning and couldn't feel"
- Study the picture given below. Write a story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

Select ONE of the following :

[10]

- Your final examination is just a month away and you are totally unprepared for it. Write a letter to your friend telling her about the problems you are facing.
- You have bought a new fashionable bicycle with the pocket money that you saved, but the bicycle does not meet your expectations and so you very disappointed. Write a letter to the manufacturer of the bicycle expressing your dissatisfaction, giving details of the purchase and the reasons for your disappointment.

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The rest-house stood on a ledge just above the river, and the sound of water rushing down the mountain could be heard at all times. The sound of the birds, which we had grown used to, was drowned by the sound of the water, but the birds themselves could be seen, many-coloured,

standing out splendidly against the dark green forest foliage - the red crowned jay, the paradise flycatcher, the purple whistling thrush and others we could not recognise.

Higher up the mountain, above some terraced land where oats and barley were grown, stood a small **cluster** of huts. This we were told by the watchman was the last village on the way to the glacier. It was, in fact, one of the villages in India, because if we crossed the difficult passes beyond the glacier, we would find ourselves in Tibet.

Anil asked the watchman about the Abominable Snowman. The Nepalese believe in the existence of the snowman, and our watchman was Nepalese.

‘Yes, I have seen the yeti.’ He told us. ‘A great **shaggy**, flat-footed creature. In the winter, when, it snows heavily, he passes the bungalow at night. I have seen his tracks the next morning.’

‘Does he come this way in the summer?’ asked Somi anxiously.

‘No,’ said the watchman. ‘But sometimes I have seen the lidini. You have to be careful of her.’

‘And who is the lidini?’ asked Anil.

‘She is the snow-woman, and far more dangerous. She has the same height as the yeti – about seven feet when her back is straight – and her hair is much longer. Also she has very long teeth. Her feet face inwards, but she can run very fast, especially downhill. If you see a lidini, and she chases you, always run in an uphill direction. She tires quickly because of her crooked feet. But when running downhill she has no trouble at all, and you want to be very fast to escape her!’

‘Well, we are quite fast,’ said Anil with a nervous laugh. ‘But it’s just a fairy-story; I don’t believe a word of it.’

The watchman was most **offended**, and refused to tell us anything more about snowmen and snow-women. But he helped us make a fire, and presented us with a black, sticky sweet, which we ate with relish.

It was a fine, sunny morning when we set out to cover the last seven miles to the glacier. We had expected a **stiff climb**, but the rest-house was 11,000 feet above sea level and the rest of the climb was fairly gradual.

Suddenly, abruptly, there were no more trees. As the bungalow dropped out of sight, the trees and bushes gave way to short grass and little pink and blue alpine flowers. The snow peaks were close now, ringing us in on every side. We passed white waterfalls, **cascading** hundreds of feet down precipitous rock faces, thundering into the little river. A great white eagle hovered above us.

The hill fell away, and there, confronting us, was a great white field of snow and ice, cradled between two shining peaks. We were speechless for several minutes. Then we proceeded cautiously on to the snow, supporting each other on the slippery surface. We could not go far, because we were quite unequipped for any high-altitude climbing. But it was a satisfying feeling to know that we were the only young men from our town that had walked so far and so high.

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following as used in the passage. [5]

- (i) cluster
- (ii) shaggy
- (iii) offended
- (iv) stiff climb
- (v) cascading

(b) Answer the following question in your words: [10]

- (i) What does the narrator have to say about the birds which could be seen?
- (ii) Where was the narrator going?
- (iii) What was special about the cluster of huts higher up the mountain?
- (iv) What was the watchman referring to as the 'yeti'? What did he have to say about it?
- (v) Explain why the narrator and his companions were 'speechless' for several minutes.

(c) In not more than 60 words of your own state why the watchman felt the lidini was far more dangerous than the yeti. [8]

(d) Give a title to your summary above and give a reason to justify your choice. [2]

Question 4

(a) Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from the brackets : [4]

- (i) Twenty thousand dollars ____ a good amount. (is/are)
- (ii) The quality of the pencils ____ not good. (was/were)
- (iii) Every non-Christian ____ to attend the class. (has/have)
- (iv) The Chairman and the Secretary ____ a walk daily. (take/takes)

(b) Fill each blank with a suitable word. [4]

- (i) He deals generously ____ his subordinates.
- (ii) Let us aim ____ doing good.
- (iii) He is intent ____ visiting Norway.
- (iv) He at last got the opportunity ____ meet him.

(c) Fill in the blanks with a suitable word from the brackets: [4]

- (i) The majority accepted the ____ proposal. (later / latter)
- (ii) I have no ____ motive in offering you help. (exterior / ulterior)
- (iii) The ____ church in town is near the railway station. (eldest / oldest)
- (iv) Greg's intelligence is ____ to Jack's. (prior / superior)

(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of any sentence. [8]

(i) But for his timely help, the boy would have perished.

(Begin : Had he _____)

(ii) He said, "I lived many years in India."

(Begin : He said that _____)

(iii) The oranges are too cheap to be fresh.

(Use : _____ so _____ that _____)

(iv) He asked me not to laugh at him.

(Begin : He said to me, " _____ .")

(v) If you return the book by morning, you can take it just now.

(Begin : Provided that _____)

(vi) I shall always remember your kindness towards me.

(Use : ' never')

(vii) As soon as he saw me he started complaining.

(Begin : No sooner did _____)

(viii) Hydrogen is the lightest of all the gases.

(Begin : No other gas _____)