

# Half Yearly Examination - 2017-2018

## ENGLISH

### Part - I

HSE XII

Maximum Score: 80

Time: 2½ hrs

#### Instructions

- There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time of 2½ hours.
- Use the cool-off time to get familiarised with the questions and to plan your answers.
- Read the questions carefully before answering.
- Certain sections of the questions have choice. Follow the choice regulations.
- When you select a question, all its sub questions (if any) must be answered from the same question itself.

**Qns.1-3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

**Each question carries one score.**

**(1 x 3 = 3)**

The term digital divide refers to the gap between those who have ready access to computers and the Internet, and those who do not. More precisely, it is the economic and social inequality with regard to access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Research shows that the digital divide is more than just an access issue and cannot be alleviated merely by providing the necessary equipment.

The digital divide may exist within the same country or between different countries or regions of the world. In fact, within many countries including the industrialized ones there are inequalities. For instance, the marginalized members of society, such as the poor, rural, elderly, and disabled portions of the population do not have adequate access to computers or the Internet.

At the global level, the digital divide may refer to the divide between different countries or regions of the world. This divide is also called the 'global digital divide' and it exists mainly between developing and developed countries on an international scale.

1. Pick out the meaning of the word 'alleviate' from the following options.  
(a) to lessen      (b) to defend      (c) to avoid
2. How, according to the speaker, does digital divide become an economic divide?
3. What does the term 'global digital divide' imply?
4. **Complete the paragraph below choosing appropriate words from those given.**

**(4)**

*Matchbox*, written by Ashapura Debi, a .....(a)..... Indian writer, tells us the story of a .....(b)..... couple. It unveils the .....(c)..... man-woman relationship existing in most families. She compares women to matchboxes. Matchboxes have great potential. They look .....(d)..... meek and harmless but they can light up anything or set it on fire.  
(unhealthy, married, employed, prolific, quite, perfect)

5. Edit the following passage. (4)

The real journey to Irfan's success begins with water. When he was seventeen years old, he hires a rickshaw on a hot summer afternoon. He was thirsty and asked the rickshaw puller whether he will provide him water. The man answered politeness that he did not have the money to buy and stock bottles of water.

**Qns. 6-12. Answer any FIVE of the following questions, each in two or three sentences. Each question carries three scores. (3 x 5 = 15)**

6. It is said that women are the first to become aware of environmental damage. Do you agree with this statement? Present three points agreeing or disagreeing with the statement.
7. The story, *Amigo Brothers* ends with this sentence: "Arm in arm, the champions had already left the ring". What does their action reveal - true sportsman spirit or firm friendship? Give your answer with supportive points.
8. The academic system at Xavier's was different from the system in the US. Here, a far more bookish form of learning replaced the academic rigour and intellectual stimulation I had received in Massachusetts. I quickly realized that I'd be able to learn more in the city, beyond the classroom.

How does Shaheen Mistri look at the practice of learning in India?

9. 'Real learning takes place not in the classroom, but beyond it'. Comment on this remark on the basis of Shaheen Mistri's experience in India.
10. Read the lines from the poem *Stammer* and answer the given question.

That's why everything he utters  
from his prayers to his commands  
stammers  
like poetry.

How are 'stammer' and 'poetry' equated in these lines?

11. You are asked to prepare a poster for an anti-drug campaign. Prepare three statements for the poster reminding people of the dangers of drug abuse.
12. In the poem 'Rice', the speaker portrays different aspects of his father's character. Write four sentences on your understanding about the speaker's father.

**Qns.13-18. Answer any FIVE of the following questions, each in 60 words. Each question carries six scores. (6x5=30)**

13. In today's world, children have become more and more enclosed in their digital cocoons. Is it because of the absence of 'Horegallus'? Prepare your arguments for a panel discussion on the topic 'Social interaction and electronic gadgets'.

14. What are the qualities of an entrepreneur? Do you think enterprises like 'Sammaan' and 'Akansha' can be built in a day? Analysing the qualities of Irfan Alam and Shaheen Mistri, write a paragraph on the qualities of an entrepreneur.
15. Given below is a brochure on Irfan Alam's arrival in Kerala for an interaction with students. Prepare a short speech introducing him to the audience.

**15**  
DECEMBER  
2017

Gang Next Step  
Beyond the Text

**IRFAN Ignition**  
A series of interactive workshops  
GIRISH PALAKKAD

**IRFAN** in every district

Founder, Chairman of Sammaan Foundation, India's largest foundation for the welfare of rickshaw pullers. Guest lecturer at seminars and in various universities invited to the Presidential Summit 2010 by Barack Obama. One of the 24 Youth Icons of India. Featured in "The Guardian" and "The Economist" many other newspapers and Journals.

16. With a view to presenting the diverse areas of Irfan's social interventions, the following areas of importance have been identified.
- Social outlook in business
  - Need for novelty and innovation
  - Rickshaws and their relevance
  - Advice on entrepreneurship

Prepare four questions based on the above points.

17. Draft an email informing your friend about the programme, *Irfan Ignition* and inviting him to attend it.
18. Read the paragraph given below and make a note based on it in the given format.

Today science is advancing at an amazing speed and everything in our life has changed beyond recognition. It attempts to conquer the forces of nature and aims to give man increasing power over his surroundings. Science is visible everywhere in the daily life of man. For instance, he can travel much faster and more comfortably than in the past.

Bullock carts in villages and horse carriages in small towns are being replaced by tractors, trucks, auto rickshaws and cars. Similarly, quick means of communication have brought the people of the world together. We can talk to any person on the telephone or mobile phone. Electronic mail (e mail) has made possible the transmission of news and messages across the internet to anywhere in the world.

### Advancements of science

- At an amazing speed
- (a) .....
- (b) .....
- (c) .....

### Science in daily life

- Faster travel
- (d) .....
- (e) .....
- (f) .....

**Qns.19-22. Answer any THREE of the following, each in 300 words. Each question carries 8 scores. (8x3=24)**

19. The collage given presents various challenges to the environment caused by changing lifestyles in modern society. Analyse the collage and prepare an essay on the topic, *For a Greener Earth*.




20. Read the short story given below and attempt a critical write up on the sufferings of Indian women as revealed in this story, comparing it with *Matchbox* by Ashapura Debi.

### THE ANKLETS

Her parents gifted her with three hundred sovereigns of gold at her wedding.

Her hands and neck were covered in ornaments. But they forgot to gift her one thing - anklets. Looking at her bare ankles he asked, "Didn't they gift you anything to wear on your legs?" Blushing in shy dismay she said, "None." He consoled her, "Don't worry." Then he bound her legs with the chain he had kept for her.

- P K Parakkadavu

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21. Chemmanam Chacko's poem *Rice* is a satirical depiction of present day consumerist society of Kerala. Prepare the script of a speech on the necessity of bringing back forgotten agricultural practices to make our state self-reliant.

*(Hints: Present agricultural status of Kerala – depends on other states for food – transfer from food crops to cash crops – looking down on agriculture – need for regaining food security, school level initiatives in agriculture...)*

22. Shaheen Mistri went to Sandhya's house and helped the children there to learn the basics of English, a little maths or a song. From this single class her initiative has spread out into a large network of learning centres. What is your opinion on such non-formal centres? Prepare an essay on the importance of non-formal education in Kerala.

*(Hints: 'Literacy movement' (Saksharatha), Single teacher schools in tribal areas, Kudumbasree schools...)*

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