

**Half Yearly Examination - 2017****ENGLISH****Part - I****HSE XI****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. 1-6 are compulsory. Each question carries 2 scores.****(2x6=12)****Qns. 1-3. Read the excerpt given below and answer the questions that follow.**

Jawaharlal Nehru was taking a stroll along the path that ran around the trees and the shrubs of the open grounds in Teen Murti, the official residence of the Prime Minister. Then he heard the cry of a baby. Where did it come from? Nehru stopped, he looked all around. His eyes focussed on a baby of two months, howling at the top of its voice. Nehru went closer. Where was the mother? She was nowhere around. Nehru guessed that the baby's mother must be working on the grounds. She must be a member of the team of gardeners who worked at Teen Murti. She must have put the baby to sleep and gone to the work spot. The more he went on with the guessing game, the louder and louder became the cry of the baby. He walked close to where the child lay, bent, picked the baby in his arms and rocked it gently. The child's wails ebbed and petered off. A toothless smile lit up its lips. That was a smile that cheered Pandit Nehru. He played with the baby, tickled it, and had fun till the baby's mother, covered with dust and sweat ran in. She could not believe her eyes. Her beloved child was in Pandit Nehru's arms. For the mother, it was her proudest moment ever. Her baby had been rocked and soothed by none else but the Prime Minister of India.

1. Identify words from the passage which are related to the verb 'cry'.
2. Why did the mother leave the baby alone in the garden?
3. Pick out the most interesting sentence of your choice from the passage. Why is it interesting?

4. "Did you ever in your life see such an absurdly comic creature!" This was the comment made by Miss Jope Smith on Hasan. If you were in his position and had heard this comment, how would you respond? Write two responses.

**Qns. 5 & 6. Read the lines from the poem 'Sunrise on the Hills' and answer the questions that follow.**

The veil of cloud was lifted, and below  
 Glowed the rich valley, and the river's flow  
 Was darkened by the forest's shade,  
 Or glistened in the white cascade...'

5. When could a traveller enjoy the richness of the valley?  
 6. Comment on the images used in describing the flow of the river.

**Qns. 7-10. Answer any THREE questions. Each question carries 4 scores. (4x3=12)**

7. Before the trip of Le Horla begins, Captain Jovis addresses the crowd assembled there. He tells them about the places they intend to fly over and also introduces his fellow travellers to the adventure. Prepare the short speech that Captain Jovis might make.  
 8. Complete the passage using appropriate cohesive devices like 'otherwise', 'but', 'therefore', 'so', etc.

Frank and Isobel Hawking, Stephen's parents were not wealthy, \_\_\_\_\_ they believed in the value of education. \_\_\_\_\_ they planned for Stephen to go to Westminster, a famous public school in the heart of London. \_\_\_\_\_, Stephen was ill at the time of the scholarship examination. \_\_\_\_\_, he attended the local Saint Alban's School.

9. Re-read the passage given in question no. 1 (about Pandit Nehru and the baby). Reduce the passage to one third of its length.  
 10. Given below are three couplets from the poem *Death the Leveller*.

"Sceptre and Crown  
 Must tumble down,"

"Early or late  
 They stoop to fate,"

"Your heads must come  
 To the cold tomb..."

Comment on the idea conveyed in these couplets.

**Qns. 11-20. Answer any EIGHT questions. Each question carries 5 scores. (5x8=40)**

11. Prepare a profile of Captain Smith using the information given.

Edward J Smith

- Birth - 27 January 1850
- Birth place - Staffordshire, England
- Education - Etruria British School
- Career - Commodore of White Star Line Company -successfully commanded its ships

Captain of the R.M.S Titanic

- Died along with 1500 passengers on 15 April 1912
  - 'Be British, Be True', he exhorted his crew.
  - Icon of national spirit, discipline and courage
12. Mr Gupta visits Maggie's poor home, and is deeply touched by the way the family lives. He decides to send an email to his friend about the miserable life of Maggie and her mother. Write the likely e-mail in around 80 words.
13. You get an opportunity to interview one of the maidens who participate in the ritual of turtle calling in the Fiji islands. What questions would you ask her? Prepare five questions.
14. Heavy rain and flood in Chennai and Uttarakhand has caused huge economic loss and misery to millions of people. People are doubtful as to whether the country is prepared to face such disasters. Write a letter to the editor of any leading daily expressing your concerns.
15. The statements given below are made by Mr. Gupta in various circumstances in the story *The Price of Flowers*.
- '...we are Indians, you know. We know about the future and all kinds of magic.'
  - 'I have done my sinful things. So I decided to do this. It would be the least of my offences.'
  - 'Why should I deprive her of the joy this sacrifice would give her?'

Prepare a character sketch of Mr. Gupta based on your understanding of his character and the statements given above.

16. The tracheotomy operation put an end to Stephen Hawking's scope for oral communication. However, Walt Woltoz a computer expert, sent him a programme called the Equalizer, which allowed Hawking to communicate using a screen. Imagine you are a news reporter assigned to cover this story. Write your news report in a paragraph.
17. 'Is being UNIQUE the watchword in a successful person's life? Do you agree with APJ Abdul Kalam's views? Answer in a paragraph.
18. You are a news reporter who witnesses the unusual turtle calling ceremony in Namuana. Draft a live TV report of the event.  
(Hints: greeting, main points of the news, the people involved, the closing)
19. Even while facing adversities in life, Stephen Hawking realizes that he has yet to do many worthwhile things. Write a paragraph highlighting his positive attitude and will power.
20. 'Family is a link to the past and a bridge to the future.' Express your views on this statement in a paragraph, with reference to the story *His First Flight*.

**Qns. 21-23. Answer any TWO questions. Each question carries 8 scores. (8x2=16)**

21. "Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty." Hasan, in the story *The Serang of Ranaganji* is the embodiment of true humanity. Prepare a write-up on Hasan's noble and heroic character.
22. "Women will enjoy the same right as men.....This is the India of my dreams," exhorts Mahatma Gandhi. Do the women in present-day India enjoy freedom in the real sense of the term? You are asked to make a speech on this topic to the school assembly. Prepare the script of the speech.
23. Read the lines given below and attempt an appreciation of the poem.

### Nature Trail

- Benjamin Zephaniah

At the bottom of my garden  
 There's a hedgehog and a frog  
 And a lot of creepy-crawlies  
 Living underneath a log,  
 There's a baby daddy long legs  
 And an easy-going snail  
 And a family of woodlice  
 All are on my nature trail.

There are caterpillars waiting  
 For their time to come to fly,  
 There are worms turning the earth over  
 As ladybirds fly by,  
 Birds will visit, cats will visit  
 But they always chose their time  
 And I've even seen a fox visit  
 This wild garden of mine.

Squirrels come to nick my nuts  
 And busy bees come buzzing  
 And when the night time comes  
 Sometimes some dragonflies come humming,  
 My garden mice are very shy  
 And I've seen bats that growl  
 And in my garden I have seen  
 A very wise old owl.

My garden is a lively place  
 There's always something happening,  
 There's this constant search for food  
 And then there's all that flowering,  
 When you have a garden  
 You will never be alone  
 And I believe we all deserve  
 A garden of our own.

- hedgehog - a small mammal similar to a porcupine
- nick (v) - to steal
- daddy long leg - a type of spider
- ladybird - a small brightly coloured beetle