Standard - IX

Max Score: 80

Time: 2.30 hrs

INSTRUCTIONS

- 15 minutes is given as cool off time.

- This time is to be used for reading the question paper.

- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Questions 1-5. Read the following excerpt from the story 'The Last Leaf' and answer the following questions. **(1 x 5 =5)**

At the top of an old three-storey brick house, Sue and Joanna had their studio. "Johnsy" was the familiar name for Joanna. One of them was from the state of Maine, the other from California. They had met in the restaurant of an Eighth Street hotel. Both were artists who had recently come to New York to make their living.

That was in May. In November, a cold, unseen stranger, whom the doctors called pneumonia, stalked about the city, touching one here and one there with his icy finger. He touched Johnsy and she lay, scarcely moving, on her painted iron bed, looking through the small window at the blank wall of the opposite building.

1. Who are the artists referred to in the passage?

2. Where do the artists belong to?

3. Why did Joanna and Sue come to New York?

4. How did Johnsy react when she was affected by pneumonia?

5. Which word in the passage means 'not long ago'?

Questions 6-9. Read the following lines from 'Song of a Dream' and answer the following questions. **(1 x 4 =4)**

> Lone in the light of that magical grove,
>
> I felt the stars of the spirits of Love
>
> Gather and gleam round my delicate youth,
>
> And I heard the song of the spirits of Truth;
>
> To quench my longing I bent me low
>
> By the streams of the spirits of Peace that flow
>
> In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

6. Who is the speaker in the poem?

7. 'Lone in the light of that magical grove.' What is the 'magical grove' referred to in the line?

8. What are the three spirits referred to here by the poet?

9. Pick out an example for alliteration from the given lines.

10. **Read the following lines from 'A Prayer in Spring' and prepare a note of appreciation focusing on its theme, images and poetic devices.** (5 x 1 =5)

> Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
> And give us not to think so far away
> As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
> All simply in the springing of the year.
>
> Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
> Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
> And make us happy in the happy bees,
> The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

Questions 11-15. Read the passage and answer the questions given below. (1 x 5=5)

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his family. He would miss the pay cheque, but he needed to retire. The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said 'yes', but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior material. It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the carpenter finished his work, his employer handed over the key of the house to the carpenter – "This is your house, my gift to you." What a shock ! What a shame ! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently ! Now he had to live in a poorly built house.

11. Why did the carpenter plan to retire ?

12. What did the employer request carpenter ?

13. What surprise did the employer have for the carpenter ?

14. Why was the surprise a 'shame' for the carpenter ?

15. Pick out a word which means 'skill with which a job is done.'

Questions 16-17. Answer any ONE of the following questions. (7 x 1=7)

16. Juliane Koepcke's matchless power of human mind creates awe and respect in every reader. **Narrate** the story "The Jungle Air Crash" in your own words.

[invisible power begins to shake – finds outside the plane – spends the night under the seat – avoids snakes, poisonous spiders and ants - walks down along the streams – reaches a hut – mestizo men brings her out]

17. 'Timely intervention of some persons in one's life helps them to make their life successful.' In the light of the lesson 'Learning the Game' prepare a **write-up** on how one can influence the life of others.

[plays cricket in early age – Ajit realises his talent – brings to Sharadashram Vidyamandir – Achrekar trains him – participates in camps – father's support – one rupee coin challenge – rigorous training]

Questions 18-20. Answer any TWO of the following questions.   **(5 x 2=10)**

18   Johnsy, in the story "The Last Leaf," was under the clutches of pneumonia and felt very disappointed. Her friend Sue always tried to engage and console her. Now, prepare a likely **conversation** between them. (Write at least five exchanges)

19.   Read the passage given below and prepare **five questions** based on it.

At his appeal, a lovely, dark woman appeared. She held in her arms an infant blissfully sucking the maternal breast, its eyes half-closed.

"Let's see the kid. Is it a boy or a girl?"

Mikali's heart trembled with joy. Several neighbours had come closer to see and they helped him to take from his shoulders the sack where the baby brother was held; with curiosity they leaned over. He drew back the cover.

The women gave vent to various cries of horror. The child had no longer anything human about it. The head had become enormous and the body, of an incredible thinness, was all shrivelled up. As until then it had sucked only its thumb, it was all swollen. It was dreadful to see! Mikali himself drew back in fright.

All of them together chased him away, threatening. His eyes filled with tears, he went off, bearing the little child still wailing in its hunger.

20.   Rajam and Mani resolve all their problems and they decided to become friends. Swaminathan was delighted at this. He pens down his emotions in the form of a diary. Prepare the likely **diary** entry.

Questions 21-25. Answer any THREE of the following questions.   **(6 x 3=18)**

21.   "Climate change is our single greatest security threat." Based on this statement, prepare a **speech** on climate change to be delivered at the school assembly.

22.   The literary club of your school is planning to stage the play 'Listen to the Mountain' in the literary fest. As the secretary of the club you are asked to prepare a notice with every detail. Prepare the likely **notice**.

23.   Tarun is a mediocre student who is always blamed by his parents. But, with his strong determination and hard work, he became a real life hero. Prepare the **character sketch** of Tarun.

24.   Write a short **profile** of R K Narayan using the following hints.

Name	:	Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan
Born	:	10 October 1906, Madras
Occupation	:	Short story writer
Spouse	:	Rajam
Notable works	:	*The Guide, Swamy and Friends, The English Teacher*
Awards and Honours	:	Padma Vibhushan (2000), Sahitya Academy Award (1960)
Died	:	13 May 2001

25. Leo Auffman invented happiness machine and it became a subject of sensational talk in the town. Your are asked to interview Mr. Auffman for a leading daily. Prepare **six questions** to ask him about the machine.

Questions 26-30. Read the given news headlines and answer the following questions.

(1 x 5 =5)

Higher Education enrolment in India crosses 4 crore mark

Go First airline to get Rs.210 crore under govt's credit line guarantee scheme: CEO

Vampire Diaries actor Annie Wersching passes away.

Indian women create history; win ICC Women's under-19 T20 World Cup

Google CEO Sundar Pichai to take pay cut after firing 12000 employees.

26. Which of the following headline indicates the death of a film actor?

27. The headline that comes under the category of sports is ————

28. Which headline is related with a serious labour issue?

29. The headline that is connected with a transportation company is ————

30. The news headline that gives hint to the educational sector is ————

31. **Read the following conversation and fill in the blanks.**   (1 x 2=2)

Tarun: Are you proud of me?

Mother: Yes. You are the best son in the world.

Tarun asked his mother ....(a)..

Mother replied ....(b)..

32. **Edit the following passage.**   (1 x 5 =5)

When he raised his head a man **stand**(a) before him gazing down upon him. Mikali **recognising**(b)the Chinaman who often came to the camp **for**(c)sell paper knick-knacks and charms which no one ever **buoght**(d) from him anyway. Often they mocked him because of **him**(e) colour and his squint eyes.

33. **Read the passage and replace the words given in bold with right phrases/phrasal verbs from the brackets.** (1 x 4 =4)

(put across, went on, put up with, came across, made up his mind)

Leo Auffman **decided** (a) to construct a happiness machine for his family. He **conveyed**(b) his idea to Lena, his wife and asked her a few questions regarding the same. Lena could not **tolerate**(c) her husband's crazy questions. However, Leo Auffman **continued** (d) with his work and completed the machine.

34. **Complete the following passage choosing the suitable words from the bracket.** (1 x 5=5)

(to, between, of, for, in, from)

When the work ......(a)..... the day was over, Swaminathan, Mani, and Rajam, adjourned ....(b)................a secluded spot to say what was ....(c)............their minds. Swaminathan stood ....(d).......... them and acted as the medium ....(e)..........communication.

35. **Read the conversation between Johnsy and Sue and complete it suitably.** (1 x 5 =5)

Johnsy	:	The leaves are falling faster, ...(a)...........................?
Sue	:	The cold breath of autumn are blowing the leaves from the vine.
Johnsy	:	There are only five left now.
Sue	:	....(b).......................................?
Johnsy	:	I count the leaves because when the last one falls I must go too.
Sue	:	That is pure foolishness. You had better ....(c).........................
Johnsy	:	There is no point in taking rest. Didn't the doctor tell you?
Sue	:	No. ....(d)................................
Johnsy	:	There goes another. That leaves just four.
Sue	:	If you have proper food and medicine, ...(e)........................
Johnsy	:	I'm not going to regain my health anymore.