

FIRST TERM MODEL QUESTION PAPER 2024 WITH ANSWER KEY SET 1

ENGLISH - Standard IX

Time: 2½ hours

Max. Marks: 80

(Prepared by www.educationobserver.com)

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1. 15 minutes is given as cool-off time.
 2. This time is to be used for reading the question paper.
 3. You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
 4. Attempt the questions according to the instructions.
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PART A: READING (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage from *Half a Day* by Naguib Mahfouz and answer the questions that follow. (5x1 = 5 marks)

Passage:

"I proceeded alongside my father, clutching his right hand, running to keep up with his long strides. All my clothes were new: the black shoes, the green school uniform, and the red tarboosh. My delight in my new clothes, however, was mixed, for this was no feast day, but the day on which I was to be cast into school for the first time."

- 1.1 Why does the narrator have mixed feelings about his new clothes?
- 1.2 Who is accompanying the narrator to school?
- 1.3 Why does the narrator feel apprehensive about going to school?
- 1.4 What does the word "tarboosh" refer to in the passage?
- 1.5 How does the narrator describe the school day?

2. Read the following lines from the poem *Nothing Twice* by Wislawa Szymborska and answer the questions that follow. (4x1 = 4 marks)

Poem:

"Nothing can ever happen twice.
In consequence, the sorry fact is
that we arrive here improvised
and leave without the chance to practise."

- 2.1 What does the poet mean by "nothing can ever happen twice"?
- 2.2 Why does the poet describe life as "improvised"?
- 2.3 What does the phrase "leave without the chance to practise" imply?
- 2.4 What is the rhyme scheme of this stanza?

3. Read the following passage from *Debts of Gratitude* by Selma Lagerlof and answer the questions that follow. (5x1 = 5 marks)

Passage:

“A few days ago I was sitting in the train, bound for Stockholm. It was early evening. There was little light in my compartment and none at all outside. My fellow passengers were dozing, and I was very quiet, listening to the rattling of the train.”

- 3.1 Where was the narrator headed?
 - 3.2 How does the narrator describe the atmosphere inside the train?
 - 3.3 What does the journey symbolize for the narrator?
 - 3.4 Pick out a word from the passage that means “half-asleep.”
 - 3.5 Why is the narrator reflecting on their past experiences?
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PART B: WRITING (20 marks)

4. Write a letter to your friend describing your experience of visiting a historical place mentioned in the textbook. (6 marks)
 5. Prepare a conversation between Gandhiji and a student where they discuss the importance of non-violence. (7 marks)
 6. Imagine you are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Write a notice inviting students to participate in a poetry competition based on the theme “Change and Hope.” (7 marks)
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PART C: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE ELEMENTS (15 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions: (4x1 = 4 marks)
 - a) Gandhiji believed in non-violence, _____ he faced strong opposition.
 - b) The boy was nervous, _____ he trusted his father’s words.
 - c) The teacher explained the lesson, _____ the students listened attentively.
 - d) You can join the contest, _____ you complete the registration.
8. Complete the sentences using suitable forms of verbs given in brackets: (4x1 = 4 marks)
 - a) The children _____ (play) in the garden when the bell rang.
 - b) She _____ (read) the story in the textbook yesterday.
 - c) By this time tomorrow, they _____ (finish) their project.
 - d) He _____ (attend) the meeting next week.
9. Edit the following paragraph. There is one error in each line. Identify the error and write the correct word. (4x1 = 4 marks)

Passage:

Gandhiji believed that education was not just about memorize facts. He thought it was about building character and learn to live in harmony with others. He emphasis the need for practical knowledge and values.

- a) memorize → _____
- b) learn → _____
- c) emphasis → _____
- d) values → _____

10. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph: (5x1 = 5 marks)

- a) Gandhiji addressed the students and shared his thoughts on non-violence.
- b) The students were eager to listen to Gandhiji.
- c) He encouraged them to build their character through non-violence.
- d) He explained how non-violence is the weapon of the strong.
- e) The session ended with a round of applause from the audience.

PART D: DISCOURSE QUESTIONS (10 marks)

11. Prepare a profile of the poet Wislawa Szymborska using the following hints: (5 marks)

- Born: 2 July 1923, Poland
- Major Works: *Calling Out to Yeti*, *Salt*, *People on a Bridge*
- Awards: Nobel Prize in Literature (1996)
- Known for: Thought-provoking poems, intellectual depth
- Passed away: 1 February 2012

12. Write a character sketch of the father in *Half a Day*, focusing on his role as a guide and mentor to the narrator. (5 marks)

ANSWER KEY

PART A: READING (20 marks)

1. Read the passage from *Half a Day* and answer the questions:

- 1.1 The narrator has mixed feelings because, although he is excited about his new clothes, he is anxious about going to school for the first time.
 - 1.2 The narrator is accompanied by his father.
 - 1.3 The narrator feels apprehensive because it is his first time going to school, and he is uncertain about what lies ahead.
 - 1.4 "Tarboosh" refers to a traditional hat worn by the narrator.
 - 1.5 The narrator describes the school day as a significant experience that marks his transition from childhood to the adult world.
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2. Read the lines from *Nothing Twice* and answer the questions:

- 2.1 The poet means that no event or moment in life can ever be exactly repeated. Every experience is unique.
 - 2.2 Life is described as "improvised" because we live it without prior preparation, facing situations as they come.
 - 2.3 "Leave without the chance to practise" implies that life doesn't give us the opportunity to rehearse or try things again; once a moment passes, it's gone forever.
 - 2.4 The rhyme scheme is ABAB.
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3. Read the passage from *Debts of Gratitude* and answer the questions:

- 3.1 The narrator was headed to Stockholm.
 - 3.2 The narrator describes the atmosphere as quiet, with the passengers dozing and the light dim both inside and outside the train.
 - 3.3 The journey symbolizes a moment of reflection on the narrator's past experiences and relationships.
 - 3.4 The word "dozing" means "half-asleep."
 - 3.5 The narrator reflects on their past to come to terms with the emotions they are experiencing and to express gratitude.
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PART B: WRITING (20 marks)

4. Letter to a friend:

The letter should describe the writer's experience visiting a historical place such as a fort or ancient temple, include details about what was learned during the visit, and express the writer's feelings and thoughts. The tone should be friendly and engaging.

5. Conversation between Gandhiji and a student:

The conversation should include Gandhiji's explanation of the principles of non-violence, the importance of character-building, and the value of peace in society. The dialogue should be respectful and reflective of Gandhiji's philosophy.

6. Notice for poetry competition:

The notice should include the event name, date, venue, theme (e.g., "Change and Hope"), and instructions for participation. It should be concise, formal, and informative.

PART C: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE ELEMENTS (15 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions:

- Gandhiji believed in non-violence, **but** he faced strong opposition.
 - The boy was nervous, **yet** he trusted his father's words.
 - The teacher explained the lesson, **and** the students listened attentively.
 - You can join the contest, **if** you complete the registration.
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8. Complete the sentences using suitable forms of verbs:

- The children **were playing** in the garden when the bell rang.
 - She **read** the story in the textbook yesterday.
 - By this time tomorrow, they **will have finished** their project.
 - He **will attend** the meeting next week.
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9. Edit the following paragraph:

- memorize → **memorizing**
 - learn → **learning**
 - emphasis → **emphasized**
 - values → **valuable**
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10. Rewrite the sentences in the correct order:

Correct Order:

- The students were eager to listen to Gandhiji.
- Gandhiji addressed the students and shared his thoughts on non-violence.
- He explained how non-violence is the weapon of the strong.
- He encouraged them to build their character through non-violence.
- The session ended with a round of applause from the audience.

PART D: DISCOURSE QUESTIONS (10 marks)

11. Profile of Wislawa Szymborska:

The profile should include the details provided in the hints:

- **Wislawa Szymborska** was a Polish poet born on 2 July 1923. Her major works include *Calling Out to Yeti*, *Salt*, and *People on a Bridge*. She received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996 for her thought-provoking poetry that combines intellectual depth with simplicity. She passed away on 1 February 2012.
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12. Character sketch of the father in *Half a Day*.

The father in *Half a Day* is depicted as a guiding figure who helps the narrator transition from childhood to the responsibilities of adulthood. He is gentle yet firm, emphasizing the importance of education and experience. The father's role as a mentor is highlighted through his comforting yet instructive approach, making him a symbol of wisdom and parental care.