

**FIRST TERM MODEL QUESTION PAPER 2024 WITH ANSWER KEY**

**ENGLISH - Standard IX**

**Time: 2½ hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**(Prepared by [www.educationobserver.com](http://www.educationobserver.com))**

- 
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.
- 

**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 walked alongside my father, holding his hand tightly as we made our way to school. I was wearing my new uniform and was filled with mixed emotions—anxiety about leaving home and excitement about the new world awaiting me."

- 1.1 What emotions did the narrator experience while walking to school?
- 1.2 Why was the narrator holding his father's hand tightly?
- 1.3 What is the significance of the school in the story?
- 1.4 Pick out a word from the passage that means "feelings of nervousness."
- 1.5 How does the narrator's perception of school change over time?

**2. Read the following lines from *The Ball Poem* by John Berryman and answer the questions that follow. (4x1 = 4 marks)**

*Poem:*

"And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.  
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,  
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up  
Knowing what every man must one day know  
And most know many days, how to stand up."

- 2.1 What lesson is the boy learning from losing his ball?
- 2.2 What does the phrase "money is external" signify in the context of the poem?
- 2.3 How does the poet convey the inevitability of loss in life?
- 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:*

"I sat quietly in the train compartment, lost in thought as the scenery outside blurred into the

darkness. I couldn't help but think of my mother, who had sacrificed so much for me. The debt of gratitude I owed her was something I could never fully repay."

- 3.1 What does the narrator remember while sitting in the train compartment?
- 3.2 Why does the narrator feel a debt of gratitude towards their mother?
- 3.3 How does the setting contribute to the narrator's reflective mood?
- 3.4 What does the word "blurred" suggest in the passage?
- 3.5 What is the main theme of the passage?

---

**PART B: WRITING (20 marks)**

4. Imagine you are the narrator in *Half a Day*. Write a diary entry describing your experience on your first day at school and how it changed your perspective about life. (7 marks)
5. Prepare a notice for your school's Independence Day celebrations, focusing on the importance of freedom and the role of students in preserving it. (7 marks)
6. Write a letter to your friend sharing your thoughts on the significance of gratitude as highlighted in *Debts of Gratitude*. (6 marks)

---

**PART C: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE ELEMENTS (15 marks)**

**7. Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete each sentence: (4x1 = 4 marks)**

- a) The teacher asked the students to \_\_\_\_\_ their homework before the deadline. (hand in / look after)
- b) He \_\_\_\_\_ his father when it comes to honesty and kindness. (takes after / puts up with)
- c) She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the offer after careful consideration. (turn down / give in)
- d) The children \_\_\_\_\_ their shoes and ran barefoot in the park. (took off / put on)

**8. Rewrite the following sentences using the passive voice: (4x1 = 4 marks)**

- a) The students are decorating the classroom.
- b) She wrote a beautiful poem.
- c) They will organize a charity event.
- d) The coach gave them instructions.

**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 always believe in the power of truth and non-violence. He was inspire by the teachings of great thinkers and leaders. His simple living and high thinking made him one of the most admire figures in the world. He continues to be an inspiration for peoples across the globe.

- a) believe → \_\_\_\_\_
- b) inspire → \_\_\_\_\_
- c) admire → \_\_\_\_\_
- d) peoples → \_\_\_\_\_

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

- a) Gandhiji emphasized that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building character.
  - b) He believed that moral values should be integrated into the educational system.
  - c) True education, according to Gandhiji, involves nurturing qualities like honesty, kindness, and empathy.
  - d) He often said that an educated person is one who uses knowledge for the betterment of society.
  - e) His views on education continue to influence educational philosophies even today.
- 

#### PART D: DISCOURSE QUESTIONS (10 marks)

11. Prepare a profile of Naguib Mahfouz, the author of *Half a Day*, using the following hints: (5 marks)

- Birth: 11 December 1911, Cairo, Egypt
- Major Works: *The Cairo Trilogy*, *Children of Gebelawi*
- Awards: Nobel Prize in Literature (1988)
- Known for: Depicting Egyptian society and culture
- Passed away: 30 August 2006

12. Write a character sketch of the boy in *The Ball Poem*, focusing on how he deals with the loss and what it teaches him about life. (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 experiences mixed emotions—**anxiety** about leaving home and excitement about entering a new world.

1.2 The narrator holds his father's hand tightly because he is nervous and seeks comfort.

1.3 The school symbolizes the transition from childhood to adulthood, marking the beginning of life's journey.

1.4 The word "anxiety" means feelings of nervousness.

1.5 Over time, the narrator realizes that school represents the challenges and responsibilities that come with growing up.

---

2. Read the lines from *The Ball Poem* and answer the questions:

2.1 The boy is learning about the inevitability of loss and the importance of accepting it as part of life.

2.2 "Money is external" signifies that material things cannot replace the emotional attachment or the life lessons learned through loss.

2.3 The poet conveys the inevitability of loss by showing how everyone eventually faces it and must learn to "stand up" after experiencing it.

2.4 The rhyme scheme is AABB.

---

3. Read the passage from *Debts of Gratitude* and answer the questions:

3.1 The narrator remembers their mother and reflects on the sacrifices she made for them.

3.2 The narrator feels a debt of gratitude because their mother devoted her life to ensuring their well-being and success.

3.3 The dark, quiet setting of the train ride allows the narrator to be introspective and think deeply about their emotions.

3.4 The word "blurred" suggests that the scenery outside the train is unclear, mirroring the narrator's emotional state.

3.5 The main theme is the recognition of the unconditional love and sacrifices made by parents and the sense of gratitude one feels for it.

---

PART B: WRITING (20 marks)

4. Diary entry from the perspective of the narrator in *Half a Day*.

The diary entry should include:

- The narrator's initial nervousness about starting school.
- How the experience made them feel more independent.
- Realization that life is a journey full of learning, growth, and responsibilities.
- Concluding thoughts on how the day marked a significant turning point in their life.

---

5. Notice for Independence Day celebrations:

The notice should include:

- The event details: Date, time, and venue.
- A brief message on the importance of freedom and patriotism.
- Encouragement for students to participate in cultural activities related to Independence Day.
- Formal language and clarity.

---

6. Letter sharing thoughts on gratitude based on *Debts of Gratitude*.

The letter should include:

- A description of the story's theme about the sacrifices made by parents.
- The writer's personal reflections on how important it is to acknowledge and be thankful for these sacrifices.
- A warm and conversational tone to engage the reader.

---

PART C: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE ELEMENTS (15 marks)

7. Choose the correct phrasal verb:

- a) The teacher asked the students to hand in their homework before the deadline.
  - b) He takes after his father when it comes to honesty and kindness.
  - c) She decided to turn down the offer after careful consideration.
  - d) The children took off their shoes and ran barefoot in the park.
- 

8. Rewrite the sentences using the passive voice:

- a) The classroom is being decorated by the students.
  - b) A beautiful poem was written by her.
  - c) A charity event will be organized by them.
  - d) Instructions were given to them by the coach.
- 

9. Edit the paragraph:

- a) believe → believed
  - b) inspire → inspired
  - c) admire → admired
  - d) peoples → people
- 

10. Rearrange the sentences in the correct order:

Correct Order:

- a) Gandhiji emphasized that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building character.
  - b) He believed that moral values should be integrated into the educational system.
  - c) True education, according to Gandhiji, involves nurturing qualities like honesty, kindness, and empathy.
  - d) He often said that an educated person is one who uses knowledge for the betterment of society.
  - e) His views on education continue to influence educational philosophies even today.
- 

PART D: DISCOURSE QUESTIONS (10 marks)

11. Profile of Naguib Mahfouz:

The profile should include:

- Naguib Mahfouz was born on 11 December 1911 in Cairo, Egypt.
  - He is famous for his works like *The Cairo Trilogy* and *Children of Gebelawi*, which provide deep insights into Egyptian society.
  - He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988 for his contributions to modern Arabic literature.
  - His novels are known for depicting social and cultural issues in Egypt.
  - He passed away on 30 August 2006.
- 

12. Character sketch of the boy in *The Ball Poem*.

The character sketch should include:

- The boy's initial innocence and attachment to the ball.
- His reaction to losing the ball, which symbolizes his first experience of loss.
- How he learns that loss is a part of life and that one must accept it and move forward.
- The poet's portrayal of the boy's growth as he learns to cope with life's realities.

## ANSWER KEY

### PART A: READING (20 marks)

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

1.1 The narrator experiences mixed emotions—*anxiety* about leaving home and excitement about entering a new world.

1.2 The narrator holds his father's hand tightly because he is nervous and seeks comfort.

1.3 The school symbolizes the transition from childhood to adulthood, marking the beginning of life's journey.

1.4 The word "anxiety" means feelings of nervousness.

1.5 Over time, the narrator realizes that school represents the challenges and responsibilities that come with growing up.

---

2. Read the lines from *The Ball Poem* and answer the questions:

2.1 The boy is learning about the inevitability of loss and the importance of accepting it as part of life.

2.2 "Money is external" signifies that material things cannot replace the emotional attachment or the life lessons learned through loss.

2.3 The poet conveys the inevitability of loss by showing how everyone eventually faces it and must learn to "stand up" after experiencing it.

2.4 The rhyme scheme is AABB.

---

3. Read the passage from *Debts of Gratitude* and answer the questions:

3.1 The narrator remembers their mother and reflects on the sacrifices she made for them.

3.2 The narrator feels a debt of gratitude because their mother devoted her life to ensuring their well-being and success.

3.3 The dark, quiet setting of the train ride allows the narrator to be introspective and think deeply about their emotions.

3.4 The word "blurred" suggests that the scenery outside the train is unclear, mirroring the narrator's emotional state.

3.5 The main theme is the recognition of the unconditional love and sacrifices made by parents and the sense of gratitude one feels for it.

---

### PART B: WRITING (20 marks)



4. Diary entry from the perspective of the narrator in *Half a Day*.

The diary entry should include:

- The narrator's initial nervousness about starting school.
  - How the experience made them feel more independent.
  - Realization that life is a journey full of learning, growth, and responsibilities.
  - Concluding thoughts on how the day marked a significant turning point in their life.
- 

5. Notice for Independence Day celebrations:

The notice should include:

- The event details: Date, time, and venue.
  - A brief message on the importance of freedom and patriotism.
  - Encouragement for students to participate in cultural activities related to Independence Day.
  - Formal language and clarity.
- 

6. Letter sharing thoughts on gratitude based on *Debts of Gratitude*.

The letter should include:

- A description of the story's theme about the sacrifices made by parents.
  - The writer's personal reflections on how important it is to acknowledge and be thankful for these sacrifices.
  - A warm and conversational tone to engage the reader.
- 

**PART C: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE ELEMENTS (15 marks)**

7. Choose the correct phrasal verb:

- The teacher asked the students to hand in their homework before the deadline.
  - He takes after his father when it comes to honesty and kindness.
  - She decided to turn down the offer after careful consideration.
  - The children took off their shoes and ran barefoot in the park.
- 

8. Rewrite the sentences using the passive voice:

- The classroom is being decorated by the students.
  - A beautiful poem was written by her.
  - A charity event will be organized by them.
  - Instructions were given to them by the coach.
- 

9. Edit the paragraph:

- a) believe → believed
  - b) inspire → inspired
  - c) admire → admired
  - d) peoples → people
- 

10. Rearrange the sentences in the correct order:

Correct Order:

- a) Gandhiji emphasized that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building character.
  - b) He believed that moral values should be integrated into the educational system.
  - c) True education, according to Gandhiji, involves nurturing qualities like honesty, kindness, and empathy.
  - d) He often said that an educated person is one who uses knowledge for the betterment of society.
  - e) His views on education continue to influence educational philosophies even today.
- 

PART D: DISCOURSE QUESTIONS (10 marks)

11. Profile of Naguib Mahfouz:

The profile should include:

- Naguib Mahfouz was born on 11 December 1911 in Cairo, Egypt.
  - He is famous for his works like *The Cairo Trilogy* and *Children of Gebelawi*, which provide deep insights into Egyptian society.
  - He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988 for his contributions to modern Arabic literature.
  - His novels are known for depicting social and cultural issues in Egypt.
  - He passed away on 30 August 2006.
- 

12. Character sketch of the boy in *The Ball Poem*.

The character sketch should include:

- The boy's initial innocence and attachment to the ball.
- His reaction to losing the ball, which symbolizes his first experience of loss.
- How he learns that loss is a part of life and that one must accept it and move forward.
- The poet's portrayal of the boy's growth as he learns to cope with life's realities.