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SAMPLE PAPER UNIT TEST 2025-26

Subject: ENGLISH

MM: 50

SECTION A READING

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

- 1 Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.
2. With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson - to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots, and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into who we are.
3. Then there is the message of peaceful coexistence. 'I am because we are.' Nature provides every creature a chance to exist. However, the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope, the tiger wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the over-abundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.
4. I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay.
5. The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn these leaves age into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.
6. Keep in mind life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live. Take a break-stop being a workaholic, and smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.

1 Answer the following questions, based on your understanding of the above passage:
10M

1 Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage.

- A. Nature: She pardons no mistakes. Her yea is yea, and her nay, nay. -Ralph Waldo Emerson
- B. Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. - A. Einstein
- C. Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves. -Jean Jacques Rousseau
- D. All the ugliness of the world can best be forgotten in the beauty of nature! -Mehmet Murat

2 Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to para 2.

Jai: I've done well for myself in this school. I'm the best they have. I can get admission anywhere. This is my moment!

Sid: Congratulations! Just remember, we should

- A. become strong despite our weakness.
- B. be kind and supportive towards everyone.
- C. respect the origins from where we have grown.
- D. nurture ourselves well from the beginning.

3 Choose the option that best conveys the message in - 'I am because we are.'

- A. Tigers are dependent on antelope
- B. Antelope are dependent on tigers
- C. Humans are dependent on animals
- D. Everyone is dependent on each other

4 Which of the following is shown by the changing of seasons?

- A. The beauty of nature.
- B. Nature's creativity.
- C. All seasons are equal.
- D. Nothing lasts forever.

5 Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace lurking (paragraph 4).

- A. The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
- B. The thief knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
- C. The policeman was caught on camera while pouncing with force to grab the fleeing culprit.
- D. The thief was walking boldly into the house thinking it was devoid of residents.

6 A Portmanteau words like smog (smoke + fog), is a blend of words in which parts of multiple words are combined into a new word.

From the options given below, select a Portmanteau word that appears in the para 6

- A. coexistence
- B. workaholic
- C. full-grown
- D. flourish

7 What does the writer advise, in paragraph 6 ?

- A. Indulging in competition with others.
- B. Making priority lists.
- C. Taking life seriously.
- D. Having free time for ourselves.

8. Provide a suitable title for the passage.

9. How does the passage support the fact "the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other". 2m

SECTION B GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS(16M)

3 Answer the following questions as directed: 1X5=5

I Transform into Past Perfect Tense

She was writing a letter to her grandmother yesterday.

- A She wrote a letter to her grandmother yesterday.
- B She has written a letter to her grandmother yesterday.
- C She had written a letter to her grandmother yesterday.
- D None of the above.

II Identify the tense:

Both the stern and the cockpit were shattered

- A Simple Past
- B Present Continues Tense.
- C Simple Present Tense
- D Future Tense

III Complete the sentence by choosing appropriate answer:

I _____ for half an hour when it suddenly started to rain.

- A have walked
- B have been walking
- C had been walking
- D None of the above

IV Reorder the words to form meaningful sentences

1. determination / the / with / impossible / turned / young scientist / almost / his / task / into / success / sheer

2. meeting / the / postponed / important / due to / heavy rains / unexpected / had to be

4 You are Sameera/Sameer the owner of Pink Power, a cafe run only by women. You are looking for an interior designer to design the interiors of the cafe. Draft a suitable advertisement for the same, in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of the National Daily, the local newspaper. 3M

5. As a student of your school, prepare a poster to spread awareness about the harmful effects of plastic and encourage people to use eco-friendly alternatives. 3M

6. The construction sector is believed to be quite hazardous and has the maximum number of fatal work injuries because apart from other causes, stakeholders in this sector tend to ignore safety regulations. Write a speech to be delivered on the occasion of Labour Day, on the theme of the importance of worker safety in construction zones. Explore possible reasons for the prevailing situation and include suggestions for addressing it. 5M

SECTION C LITERATURE 16 M

6 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: 3M

The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chapattis we threw to them

What did the grandmother do in the temple?

A) Read scriptures B) Play with the kids C) Feed the dogs D) All of these

“When we had both finished, we would walk back together.” Poetic device used in these lines is the same as in which of the following

- A) The leaves were dancing in the breeze
- B) We ran on hearing the buzzing sound that came from the mango tree
- C) The noisy traffic of the city is deafening us
- D) Hard work is the stepping stone to success

Which literary device has been used in the line ‘They followed us to our home growling’?

A) Onomatopoeia B) Transferred epithet C) Epithet D) Repetition

7 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow 3M

*B All three stood still to smile through their hair
At the uncle with the camera. A sweet face,
My mother’s, that was before I was born.
And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
Washed their terribly transient feet.*

I What does ‘Terribly Transient Feet’ mean in the poem?

- A. her feet represent the mother, who changed with time while the sea remained the same
- B. temporary situation
- C. age is temporary
- D. None of the above

- II What was the age of the poet's mother when the photograph was taken?
- A. eleven years old
 - B. thirteen years old
 - C. twelve years old
 - D. fourteen year old

III Name the poetic device used in the last line.

- A Transferred Epithet
- B Metaphor
- C Hyperbole
- D None of the above

8 Answer any three of the following questions in 50-60 words: 2X3= 6M

I What made the two Armenian boys return the horse to its owner, near the end of the story?

2 "How does the author use subtle irony to describe his relationship with his grandmother in *The Portrait of a Lady*?"

3 What did the author Khushwant Singh think was the last physical contact with his grandmother? Was it really so?

4 What moment does the photograph depict?

9 Answer the following question in 120 words: 4M

1 Mourad showed special concern for animals. Do you agree.? Support your answer by drawing illustrations from the text.

OR

'The Portrait of a Lady' partly dwells on the loneliness and insecurity of the old age and effort of the old to fit in. Driven by such thoughts while reading the lesson, you think about the life of many old men and women in India, who lead a lonesome existence in the end of their life. Write an article in 120-150 words on "Life of Old People".
