

ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOOLS, RAWATBHATA  
POST - MID TERM EXAM (2018-19)

CLASS – VIII  
SUB – ENGLISH

TIME – 1 ½ HOURS  
MAX MARKS- 40

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SECTION –A: READING

(10 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Crocodiles are survivors from the age of dinosaurs – powerful, heavily armed reptiles that can devour any animal they seize in their fearsome jaws. Crocodiles, alligators and their close relatives are the biggest living reptiles. Although they look rather like lizards they are actually more closely related to birds and to the giant dinosaurs that disappeared from the Earth about 66 million years ago. The earliest crocodiles lived alongside the dinosaurs, and probably preyed on them using the same ambush tactics that modern saltwater crocodiles use to kill buffalo. They have not changed much since then, because they have not needed to – they have always been perfectly adapted for their way of life.

A crocodile is specialized at hunting in the water. It lurks in ambush, half – submerged and by simply breathing out it can sink like a submarine. Any prey that wades into the water risks being suddenly seized and dragged under to drown. The crocodile then rips the prey apart and swallows it in big chunks, relying on its powerful stomach juices to digest every scrap.

The various characteristic features of a crocodile includes: A saltwater crocodile has 64 to 68 stout, pointed teeth that overlap each other (i.e., interlocking teeth) when it closes its mouth. New teeth grow inside the old ones and replace them as they wear out. Powered by massive cheek muscles the crocodile’s jaws snap shut with colossal force, giving its victim no chance of escape. A crocodile has eyes like a cat, with big pupils that close to vertical slits in sunlight, but open wide to increase sensitivity at night. They also reflect light like cats’ eyes. An extra transparent eyelid flips across each eye to protect it when submerged but this stops it focusing properly underwater.

There are 24 species of crocodile and their relatives living in the warmer parts of the world. As well as 15 crocodiles species, there are eight species of alligators and caiman, and one species of Gharial. Compared to crocodiles, alligators and caiman have broader snouts with wide upper jaws that cover their lower teeth. The fish eating gharial has a slender snout with 110 sharp teeth, ideal for catching its slippery prey. The saltwater crocodile is the biggest of all crocodiles, with some males probably growing to 7m (23 ft) or more.

Answer the following questions.

(5 Marks)

- Which are the biggest living reptiles?
- Crocodiles are closely related to which fauna?
- Which is the largest of the crocodiles?
- What do you mean by interlocking teeth?
- Find the synonym of the words from the passage :  
a) sunk                      b) nose

(2 x ½ = 1 Marks)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Towards evening, there was a storm and it started to rain heavily. The wind was so strong that all the windows and doors in the old house shook and rattled. In fact, it was exactly the sort of weather that the ghost loved. This is what he planned to do. He would first go quietly to Washington Otis’s room, gibber at him from the foot of the bed. Then the ghost would stab himself three times in the throat to the sound of soft music. He was particularly angry with Washington, because he knew that it was Washington who kept on removing the famous Canterville blood-stain by using his Pinkerton’s Paragon Detergent.

Having thoroughly terrified the reckless and foolhardy young man, the ghost planned to proceed to the room of Mr. Otis and his wife. While he was there the ghost was going to put a clammy hand on Mrs. Otis’s forehead. At the same time he was going to hiss into her trembling husband’s ear the awful secrets of the grave. He was not sure what he was going to do about little Virginia. She had never insulted him in any way, and was pretty and gentle. A few groans from the wardrobe, he thought, would be quite enough for her, or if that didn’t wake her up, he might pull at the counterpane with palsy-twitching fingers. But the ghost was very determined to teach the twins a lesson they would never forget.

1. The ghost loved the stormy weather because .....
  - a) he liked the rain
  - b) he liked the strong wind that shook and rattled at the window and doors of the old house.
  - c) his plan would fail otherwise.
  - d) such weather was ideal for frightening the people in the house.
2. The ghost was particularly angry with Washington and wished to frighten him because.....
3. The ghost did not wish to frighten Virginia because .....
4. The ghost was most angry with .....
  - a) Mr. and Mrs. Otis
  - b) Virginia
  - c) Washington
  - d) The Twins
5. Write two striking qualities of the Ghost as are revealed in this extract.

SECTION B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR

(15 Marks)

Q3. You are Mr. Gathergold. You want to sell your Gold Chariot. Write a notice mentioning the details about the chariot as well as informing the details related to the auction which is supposed to happen on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

(3 Marks)

Q4. Write a story starting with/by using the lines given appropriately. 'The rain had stopped after continuously pouring for last 4 days. The telephones line was dead and there was no means of communication with the outside world. We had waited for Rajat, but .....

(5 Marks)

Q5. Complete each sentence below using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets.

(2x ½ =1Marks)

- a) Do you want to hang the portrait ..... the fireplace. (above/over/beside)
- b) He just left .....Christmas. (during/before/in)

Q6. Rearrange the following word clusters to make meaningful sentences.

(2x 1 =2Marks)

- a) low/ can/ quite/ temperatures/ water/ vapour/ at/ turn to
- b) boiling/ doesn't/ it/ to be/ need.

Q. 7 Change the given sentences from Active voice to Passive voice.

(2x 1 =2Marks)

- a) He had already killed a snake.
- b) Always obey the law of your country.

Q. 8 Change the sentences from Direct speech to Indirect speech.

(2x 1 =2Marks)

- a) He said to Sohan, " I am going away tomorrow."
- b) "Which way did the thief go?" asked the policeman.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

(15 Marks)

Q7 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. Write the answer in your answer sheet in one or two lines only.

(1x3 = 3 marks)

"The poetry of earth is ceasing never:  
On a lone winter evening when the frost  
Has wrought a silence, from the stone there shrills  
The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever."

- i) Name the poem and its poet?
- ii) What do you mean by the line 'when the frost has wrought a silence'?
- iii) What is the meaning of the word 'ceasing'?

Q8 Answer any THREE of the following Questions in 30-40 words each

(2x3 = 6 Marks)

- a) Children learn many things from their parents. Give 2 examples for the same in reference to the chapter 'This is Jody's Fawn'
- b) What is your opinion with the regards to the choice of names for the characters in the story – The Great Stone Face?
- c) Why does the author compare Stephen Hawking to a lantern?
- d) What is the significance of cobra lily in relation to the monsoon season, its beginning and end?

Q9. Answer any THREE of the following Questions in 30-40 words each.

(2x3 = 6 Marks)

- a) What did the author mean by sentence 'Romance at short notice was her speciality'?
- b) How was Ranji able to prove his superiority over the older boy?
- c) Which situations in 'The Open Window' are good examples of the use of irony?
- d) If God were to grant all the wishes that the human beings what would have been its consequence? Give reasons in reference to the Chapter 'Jalebis'.