

**ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION (2018-19)**

**CLASS: VIII
SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

DATE OF EXAM: 26-09-18

**TIME: 3 HOURS
MARKS: 80**

General Instructions:

This paper contains four sections.

Section A-Reading 20

Section B- Writing 20

Section C- Grammar 15

Section D- Literature 25

All questions are compulsory.

SECTION - A (READING)

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

WATER: LIFE'S MAIN SOURCE

Man does not live by food alone. Water is vital to human health and fitness. Although it is not a nutrient per se as are carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins and minerals. It, in fact, is a key nutrient in as much as no life is possible without it. Whereas we can do for weeks without food, we cannot live without water longer than a couple of days.

Water approximates 60 per cent of the body weight of human adults. The total amount of water in a man weighing 70 kilograms is approximately a little over 40 litres. It is an excellent solvent-more substances are soluble in water than in any other liquid known so far. This makes it an ideal constituent of the body fluids which sustain life supporting chemical reactions. It dissolves varied products of digestion and transports them to the rest of the body. Likewise, it dissolves diverse metabolic wastes and helps drain them out of the body. Besides, it performs variety of functions-some well-known and well understood while other not so well appreciated yet vital. The no less important role of water is to distribute/dissipate the body heat efficiently, thereby regulating body's temperature. Water accomplishes this role ideally because it has high thermal conductivity ensuring rapid heat transfer from one part to the other.

Above all, water has a high specific heat, implying that it takes a lot of heat to raise the temperature of water and likewise much heat must be lost to lower its temperature.

Drinking a lot of water is an inexpensive way to stay healthy. Even excess of water is harmless. Water therapy-drinking a litre or so the first thing in the morning is kidney-friendly.

The water regulation in the body is affected by hypothalamus in two ways

i.e., (i) by creating the sensation of thirst which makes us drink water and

(ii) by controlling the excretion of water as urine. If water regulation fails, medical emergency ensues.

Based on your reading of the above passage, complete the following statements (8)

1. Water is vital to human health and fitness because-----
2. Water is called a key nutrient because-----
3. Water is an ideal constituent of the body fluids because-----
4. More substances are soluble in water than in any other liquid. This helps water to perform two important functions-
These are (1) ----- (2) -----
5. Water regulates body temperature efficiently as-----
6. Hypothalamus regulates water in two ways (1). ----- (2).-----

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

BLUE WHALES ---THE LARGEST ANIMALS

Blue whales are the largest of animals known, either living or extinct. About six metres long at birth, they grow rapidly-at peak rates they can gain up to three kilos in an hour and consume up to 90 kilos a day of fat-rich breast milk to reach up to 30 metres on maturity. Their social grouping is usually small, involving only pairs or a few individuals. They have no vocal cords, so their repetitive moaning, rumbling calls are made by vibrating nasal air sacs-a bit like the sound made when humans snore or blow their noses. Their calls are of such low frequency that they're mostly inaudible to human ears, but they can reach 188 decibels (far louder than a screaming jet engine or even rock music at peak intensity) and can be detected up to 400 kilometres away.

Despite its incredible size, few people have ever seen a blue whale. Official records show a mere 35 sightings in Australian waters between 1887 and 1999. Whaling is the reason: species after species were drastically over-hunted. Hump-back whales, blue whales, fin whales, sei whales and minke whales were targeted in turn as catches declined. Official estimates are that the original Southern Hemisphere blue whale population was once about 225,000 but only a few thousand remain.

The tell-tale burst of white spray cannons nine metres into the air when the whales exhale from twin blowholes atop their heads. Blue whales feed almost exclusively on swarms of krill, tiny prawns-like animals, scooping up several tonnes a day.

In one mighty mouthful these animals swallow as much as 50 cubic meters of water. It will slowly force all that water out through the baleen plates—stiff, feathery combs attached to its upper jaw. The plates filter out the thousands of krill it has just taken in with all that water. Then it will scrape off the krill with its tongue and that's breakfast, lunch and dinner for a blue whale.

Blue whales are still highly vulnerable. Large-scale commercial krill harvesting would deplete their sole food supply. Many blues must also deal with busy shipping traffic and other underwater noise issues like marine seismic exploration for oil and gas and navy sonar and submarine testing.

Whales rely heavily on sound to communicate at great distances and experts fear that noise pollution might disrupt whale social interactions, damage their sensitive ears or drive them away from vital feeding and breeding grounds.

1. The tables below contain facts related to blue whales. Pick out the relevant words and fill the blanks (4)

ITEMS	DETAILS
1. Size at birth-	-----
2-----	Thirty meters long
3 Rate of growth	-----
4-----	Usually small

2. Write functions of the following features of a blue whale. (4)
 (i) twin blowholes (ii) vibrating nasal air sacs

3. Complete the following statements. (3)

(a) Usually the calls of the blue whales are of such low frequency-----

(b) It is officially estimated that the blue whale population in the Southern Hemisphere is now-----

(c) Two factors which may drive the blue whales away from their vital feeding and breeding grounds are

(i)----- (ii)-----

4. Find a word from the passage which means (1)

(a) No longer in existence

SECTION - B (WRITING)

Q3 Your school has decided to present a programme on All India Radio, from AIR station of your city, in the popular programme 'Meet the Young Artists'. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board inviting talented students to appear for trial for different items on 26th November in the school's open-air theatre. The famous presenter Mr Alok Kumar is invited for the trial. Sign as Ankit/Ankita, Secretary, Cultural Club of the school. (4)

Q4 Man is becoming the victim of Nature's fury. It is because of his greed more than his needs. Write a letter to the editor of a National News Paper in 150 words, expressing your concern for the degrading environment and suggestions to protect it. You are Siddharth/Sudha. (6)

- Q 5** Varun decided to write a story, but after some time, he could not complete the story as he lost interest .Complete his story on the basis of the beginning given below
“Once a rich lady, who lived in a spacious mansion, became blind. She called in Specialist..... (10)

SECTION - C (GRAMMAR)

- Q 6. This passage has not been edited. There is one word missing from each line.
 Write the word before, the missing word and the word after. (½ x 6 = 3 Marks)**

Many people hung their heads to avoid work. eg: avoid the work

Sathya Kama got up said a) _____

“I will do this work.”
 Some advised him not to go as he will
 be all alone in forest without food. b) _____

The boy said, “ I will not alone for c) _____

I will have these cows to give me company.”

The Guru was happy that at least among his d) _____

many pupils volunteered to undertake job e) _____

as service toward Guru. He blessed f) _____

him for his service.

- Q 7 . Do as directed (4 Marks)**

- a) Fill the blanks with proper form of verbs.
 My little sister is very naughty. When she had (i) _____ (come) back from school yesterday, she (ii) _____ (tear) her dress. (1/2x2=1 Mark)
- b) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the bracket.
 (i) I _____ cut my hair every month.
 (ii) I _____ repair my bicycle yesterday.
 (Fill in the blanks using had to / have to / has to) (1/2 x 2 = 1 Mark)
- c) Write the noun forms of :
 (i) Maintain
 (ii) Persist (1/2 x 2 = 1 Mark)
- d) Make meaningful sentences with the idiomatic phrases given below.
 (i) At close quarters
 (ii) Beat about the bush (1/2 x 2 = 1 Mark)

Q 8. Rearrange the following words / phrases to form meaningful sentences.

(1x4=4Marks)

- a) poverty / the village people / from / most / suffer / of
- b) in rural areas / is / employment opportunities / there / of / lack
- c) come to cities / in / people / so, / of work / search
- d) appalling conditions/ cities/ in/they/live/ in

Q.9. Read the following conversation and complete the paragraph given below.

(1x4=4 Marks)

Ram : At last, you have decided to go to Kerala. Congratulations, you are going to God's own country.

Mohan : They say Kerala is one of the most beautiful places in India. People like its beaches, backwaters and canals.

Ram: Every inch of Kerala is lush green. Kerala has everything that soothes one's eyes.

Mohan: Hope you enjoy your holidays in Kerala.

Congratulating Mohan that at last he had decided to go to Kerala, Ram added (a)-----

Mohan replied that it is said that Kerala is one of the most beautiful places in India and added

that (b)-----.

Ram told Mohan that every inch of Kerala is lush green and added that (c)-----.

Mohan hoped that Ram(d)----- in Kerala.

SECTION -D LITERATURE

Q.10. Read the given extract of the poem and answer the questions that follow (4)

“Come and hire me,” I cried, while in the morning
I was walking on the stone-paved road.
Sword in hand the king came in his chariot.
He held my hand and said, “I will hire you with my power.”

- 1. Name the poem and the poet.
- 2. Who is the speaker in the poem?
- 3. Whom does ‘He’ refer to in line 4?
- 4. ‘the king, sword in hand’ suggests
 - a) Wealth
 - b) Power
 - c) More power than wealth

Q.11. Read the given extract and answer the questions (4)

“We met every day for a whole week. I arranged for a car to take you to Hudroofalls”

1. Who said this to whom?
2. Where did they meet?
3. In which year did they meet?
4. At that time according to the speaker, where did they stay?

Q 12. Answer the following questions (any four) (8)

- 1 Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?
- 2 What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?
- 3 In what ways did the British officers exploit Indians?
- 4 What are the three qualities that played a major role in the author’s climb?
- 5 What were the ‘symbols of reverence’ left by members of the team on Everest?

Q 13. Answer the following questions (any two) (4)

1. The camel said, ‘Humph’ repeatedly. How did it affect him?
2. Why did Velu run away from home?
3. Why was it still winter in one corner of the garden?
4. What was Mrs Gupta’s advice to Hafeez Contractor? What made her advise him so?

Q14. ‘Owning things is human; sharing them is divine’. Explain it taking the ideas from the story ‘The Selfish Giant’ (5)
