

AMALORPAVAM LOURDS ACADEMY, PUDUCHERRY.

II MID - SEMESTER 2020 – 2021.

19.01.2021

SUB : ENGLISH

STD : VIII

Marks : 80

Time : 2.30 hours

**Note :**

1. Mention the **roll no., name, class & sec., date and subject name** in the space provided on the first page of the booklet.
2. Write down all the answers with the questions.

SECTION – A (READING)

- I 1. Read the paragraph given below and choose the correct answer from the options given : (7x2=14)**

Students tend to lose their pencils, break them without thinking, and find all sorts of non – writing uses for them. The pencil in your hand is one of the most remarkable and useful tools in the world. A man named Friedrich Staedtler invented the modern “lead” pencil in about 1622 in Germany.

He was the first person to produce them on such a large scale. Staedtler did not use lead, and there is no lead in your pencil. However, some pencils did use lead until the early twentieth century. Lead will make a mark, but it is toxic and not safe to use in the hands or around the face and mouth where many pencils sometimes stray.

Staedtler used black graphite, a soft form of carbon. Graphite is still used today. It is mixed with clay and wax and heated to high temperatures. The modern pencil is a superb piece of technology. The pencil is less messy than ink, can be easily erased, and makes clear, dark, smooth, and smudge – free lines. The modern pencil can produce a continuous line twenty – two miles long. That’s a distance of 116, 160 foot – long rulers laid end to end. Enjoy your pencil. For a few rupees each, it is a remarkable bargain.

**Questions :**

1. .... is the most remarkable tool in your hand.  
(a) Mobile phone (b) Pencil (c) Paint brush (d) Sword
2. The modern lead pencil was invented in .....  
(a) Germany (b) Paris (c) England (d) China
3. Staedtler used ....., a soft form of carbon.  
(a) lead (b) coal (c) charcoal (d) black graphite
4. The word ‘toxin’ means .....  
(a) healthy (b) pure (c) poisonous (d) clean
5. The antonym of the word ‘modern’ is .....  
(a) ancient (b) current (c) fresh (d) present
6. Rearrange the given words into a meaningful sentence modern / a / superb / the / piece / of / pencil / technology / is .....  
(a) Superb piece is a pencil the modern of technology.  
(b) The modern pencil is a superb piece of technology.  
(c) A superb pencil is the piece of modern technology.  
(d) a superb technology is the piece of modern pencil.
7. The work done with pencil can be .....  
(a) messy (b) untidy (c) unclear (d) erased

**2. Read the extract and answer the question that follows :**

**(5x1=5)**

The tree was young and strong and it took a long time to kill. It took two workmen with axes, two days, including tea breaks. Which without conscious irony, they took in the shade of the leafy branches of the tree they were chopping down. It was a Gulmohar I had planted 13 years ago, along with several other saplings, when Bunny and I moved into the National media centre. The NMC is built on a little over 22 acres and many hundreds of the local babul trees that used to cloak that part of the Haryana countryside like smoke from evening chullas must have been cut down to make way for the brick and cement of our colony. I'm not a tree hugger but still felt that some restitution was due. So Bunny and I planted several saplings.

The two Gulmohars at the rear were foot high saplings when we put them in the soil. In a few years their branches aflame with scarlet flowers in summer, rose above the first floor window, flooding the room with afterglow and screening from view the ugly scars of new construction in what had once been open fields behind our house. I felt the smugness of satisfaction, of having done the right thing. I'd given back, in however small a way, a little bit of what we take away from the earth everyday, everywhere. Righteousness invites its own revenge. The roots of one of the trees had spread, crushing the sewage system. The handyman gave us the choice of either cutting down the tree or its roots would endanger the foundations of the house.

Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate option from the ones given below:

1. The irony in the first para is that the .....
  - (a) The tree was planted by the author but cut by the workmen
  - (b) The workmen chopped the tree that gave them shade.
  - (c) It took 13 years for the tree to grow
  - (d) The author was not passionate about trees yet he planted them
2. When the colony was settled, the author decided to .....
  - (a) make the outskirts greener
  - (b) plant a few saplings around the house
  - (c) sulk in depression
  - (d) start a movement
3. The feeling the newly grown Gulmohar trees evoked in the author was of .....
  - (a) remorse
  - (b) pride
  - (c) self - satisfaction
  - (d) regret
4. The writer had to get the tree felled because .....
  - (a) he was being righteous
  - (b) the house was in danger of being destroyed
  - (c) the tree had grown too tall
  - (d) the sewage system was damaged
5. Being righteous means .....
  - (a) Doing things the correct way
  - (b) Being aware of your rights
  - (c) Following your heart
  - (d) Conscious of the ways of the world

**3. Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions that follow : (6)**

Man does not live by food alone. Water is vital to human health and fitness. Although it is not a nutrient as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins and minerals it is a key nutrient; 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 a variety of functions-some well-known and well understood while others not so well appreciated yet vital. The no less important role of water is to distribute/dissipate the body heat efficiently, thereby regulating the body's temperature. Water accomplishes this role ideally because it has thermal conductivity ensuring rapid heat 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 the 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 and urine. If water regulation fails, medical emergency ensues.

**Questions :**

1. Man cannot live for more than a couple of days .....  
(a) without food    (b) without water    (c) without oxygen    (d) without fruits
2. Water is an excellent solvent because.....  
(a) It regulates excretion of urine  
(b) It dissolves metabolic wastes  
(c) It drains wastes out of body  
(d) More substances are soluble in it than in any other liquid.
3. The high thermal conductivity of water helps to.....  
(a) Dissolve food    (b) Dissolve metabolic wastes  
(c) Regulate body temperature    (d) Sustain life-supporting chemical reactions
4. The word ' ideal' means.....  
(a) lazy    (b) most suitable    (c) valuable    (d) good
5. The total amount of water in a man weighing 70 kg is.....  
(a) Approximately 70 litres    (b) Approximately 60 litres  
(c) Approximately 40 litres    (d) Approximately 50 litres
6. High specific-heat of water means.....  
(a) It has high thermal conductivity    (b) It takes less heat to raise its temperature  
(c) It takes more heat to raise its temperature    (d) It distributes the body heat efficiently
7. Drinking a litre of water in the morning is called .....  
(a) Hypothalamus    (b) water regulation    (c) kidney therapy    (d) water therapy

**SECTION – B (WRITING AND GRAMMAR)**

**II Answer the following :**

4. Write a letter to your friend describing a cricket match that you witnessed in the stadium. (7)

(Or)

You are Rohit / Rohini monitor of class 8 of Blue Bells Public School, Chennai. Write a letter to your Principal asking him to arrange special coaching in Science. Give reasons why you need this.

5. Write a paragraph in about 100 to 150 words from the following : (any one) (8)
- (i) Honesty is the best policy.
  - (ii) Importance of work in our life.
  - (iii) My daily routine

**III Rewrite as directed :**

6. Rearrange the jumbled words to form a meaningful sentence : (2x1=2)

- a. a lot of / requires / mountaineering / expedition / planning / careful / a
- b. of / kings / Akbar / greatest / was / the / all

7. Write the noun forms of the following words by adding -ness or -ity : (4x1=4)

- a. lofty                      b. able                      c. happy                      d. noble

8. Complete the sentences below using the appropriate forms of the verbs in the brackets : (4x1=4)

- a. When I opened my eyes, I ..... (see) a strange sight.
- b. Every morning she ..... (wake) up early and gets ready for work.
- c. I ..... (teach) English for twelve years.
- d. She ..... (write) a novel.

9. Rewrite the following as directed : (5x1=5)

- a. Her friend said to Rani, "Whom did you meet yesterday"? (into indirect speech)
- b. Anu said, "Will you return the book tomorrow"? (into indirect speech)
- c. The teacher said to the students, "We are going on an excursion to Kerala next week". (into indirect speech)
- d. Daya wanted to know if tickets were available for the music concert. (into direct speech)
- e. Gopi requested Suresh to lend him a pen. (into direct speech)

**SECTION – C (LITERATURE)**

- IV 10. Read the stanza carefully and answer the questions that follows : (4x2=8)**

When I returned from Lyonesse  
With magic in eyes  
All marked with mute surmise  
My radiance rare and fathomless

- a. Write the name of the poet and the poem of the above extract.
- b. Name the lesson in your text book where you come across the poet's name.
- c. Write the meaning of the following words : (a) surmise                      (b) fathomless
- d. What changes did the speaker feel after returning from Lyonesse?

**11. Answer the following questions : (any five)**

**(5x2=10)**

- a. How did the doe save Penny's life?
- b. What is the gratitude that the writer expresses to Stephen Hawking?
- c. What is the Metaphor Firdaus Kanga used for England?
- d. What advice did Stephen Hawking give the disabled people?
- e. Jody was filled with emotion after he found the fawn. Write three words or phrases which show how he felt.
- f. What did Doc Wilson mean when he said, "Nothing in the world ever comes quite free"?

**12. Write any one in a paragraph (100 – 150) words :**

**(7)**

Compare and contrast the character traits of the two contestants in the story 'The Fight'.

(Or)

Who was Vera? What joke did she play? What was its outcome?

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