

MATA JAI KAUR PUBLIC SCHOOL
ENGLISH
CLASS- XI
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION- 2014

MM—80

Time—3 hours

This paper is divided into 4 sections

Section A – 20 marks

Section B- 20+10 marks

Section C- 30 marks

General Instructions:

- 1. All sections are compulsory**
- 2. Read the instructions carefully**
- 3. Adhere to word limits in each question**
- 4. Present your work neatly**

SECTION A—READING

Q1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: (12)

Olympic Gold

1. Cassius Clay, known to us as Mohammed Ali, grew up in the city of Louisville. He had not achieved academic excellence, and came from a lower middle class black American family. Like the other blacks of the USA, Clay had also had to face racial discrimination. Clay achieved what all sportsmen dream of, but few can accomplish. He won in 1960 the Olympic Gold Medal in the heavy weight category of the Olympic Games, held in Rome that year.
2. Clay was overjoyed. He had done what he was sure would bring recognition not only for him but for all the blacks of America. He had represented his country and brought back a gold medal. Though it was a herculean task to accomplish an Olympic Gold Medal, yet he did it (with great motivational attitude and inspiration by kith and kin). This medal brought with it a white hope, a hope for all blacks to be treated on an equal footing with their white brethren. Clay felt that his achievement would do much to show the whites that the colour of a person's skin did not stand in the way when it came to winning laurels for the country. It was Clay's ardent desire that racism and antagonism against the blacks as well as the feeling that the blacks were inferior beings would be completely removed. Clay wished for acceptance for his people and he was hoping that his success would pave the way for that.
3. However, Clay had to face disillusionment when he discovered that the whites were ready to honour his medal, but had no respect for the man who had strived so hard to bring accolades to his country. Clay's medal was sponsored by millionaires who only wished to line their own pockets. Even the Pastor said that Clay should be grateful to the Christian millionaires who were doing so much for his black soul. Clay was not able to see through these gestures that ostensibly were favours, but in actuality, were for the benefits of those who wished to exploit the situation for their own selfish ends. Clay was compelled to see the light when he and his friend were refused service in an all-white restaurant. His effort and courage had received such a rebuke from established outfits. The ignominy and shame made Clay silent, though he wanted to say so much. At one time during the controversy, Clay even thought of calling on his sponsors to assist

him, but then he realised that to do so would be even more degrading. To compound the issue, a group of white ruffians chased him and attempted to wrest the medal from him. Clay's disillusionment was complete.

4. This was the final straw. Clay now looked at his medal as a phony. His glorious performance at the Olympic had earned him great reward but could not establish a personal identification with people. The dominant white class had shattered his dream. The gold had not won for him and his people the respect and social standing that he had hoped for. It was nothing but a worthless piece of metal. With this thought in mind, he threw the medal into the middle of the Ohio River. He now realised that he had been looking at the medal as a passport to acceptance for himself and his race. He now had to fight for this himself like a champion does. He wanted to be his own kind of champion.

a) Answer the following questions by choosing the most correct answer from the choices given below: (1x6)

1. Clay had to face racial discrimination because
 - i) he was a boxer
 - ii) he was very poor
 - iii) he was a black American
 - iv) he won a gold medal
2. Clay discovered that the white millionaires had invested in his medal
 - i) to make America proud
 - ii) to show off their money
 - iii) it was very expensive
 - iv) to make big profits for themselves
3. Clay became silent at one time because he was _____
 - i) Sad
 - ii) Ashamed
 - iii) Very happy
 - iv) The president did not want to talk to him
4. Clay did not want to ask his sponsors for help because _____
 - i) it would be very degrading
 - ii) they did not have time for him
 - iii) he did not want to disturb them
 - iv) they did not want to acknowledge him
5. 'This was the final straw.' This refers to _____
 - i) the people did not cheer him enough
 - ii) the president didn't want to meet him
 - iii) some white ruffians chased him and tried to snatch away his medal
 - iv) he was not allowed to eat in a hotel
6. His dream had been shattered. His dream was to _____
 - i) to win more Olympic gold medals
 - ii) to make an unbeatable record
 - iii) to become a rich man
 - iv) to win respect and recognition for the blacks of America

b) Answer the following question briefly:

- i) What was Clay's "White Hope"? (1)

- ii) What was Clay's ardent desire? (1)
- iii) Why did Clay throw the medal into the Ohio River? (1)

- c) Find the words from the passage which mean the same as (3)
 - i) Honour or praise (para 2)
 - ii) Disgrace (para 3)
 - iii) Not genuine (para 4)

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (8)

So often these days, we hear and speak of the conquest of nature, 'the taming of a river', 'the war against insects', and so on. These phrases are often used without consciously attaching any values to them, but they have an underlying attitude of hostility towards nature and nature's creatures, a viewpoint which seems to assume nature as an enemy that needs to be vanquished. Alternatively, nature is seen merely as a 'resource' to be 'exploited' --- take the maximum out of it, regardless of what this does to the natural processes and to other creatures which depend on these processes. It is this attitude which views fellow human beings as a resource to be exploited or other human communities as enemies to be conquered.

There is a growing lack of sensitivity and respect for our fellow creatures. This attitude is being drilled into a child by social forces, which can only be countered by environmental education. Yet, sadly, in most cases this is not done. What is done is to talk about the food web and the energy cycles and ecological balance and how removal of any elements disrupts the whole system and how this can affect human beings too.

What this approach lacks is this essential interaction with nature and with other human beings. Indeed, in many environmental activities, the opposite takes place. A classic example of this is the making of a herbarium, or even worse, an insect collection, as common in both formal and non-formal education in India. A child is often encouraged to pluck leaves and flowers and run after butterflies with a net, and is part of a large group of children similarly marauding a patch of nature. It is even worse, when the activity is also competitive, that is, who collects the maximum. A lot of knowledge maybe gained, but this knowledge emphasises exploitation and conquest, not sensitivity and respect. Learning under a tree rather than in a classroom, is far more effective and long lasting.

The alternative is to take up activities where ecological balance, ecological diversity, animal behaviour, human plurality and other such concepts and systems are introduced with the stress on their intrinsic worth. Materials, processes and living beings do not exist only for human use --- they are worthwhile in themselves.

1. On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5)
2. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION B—WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR

Q3. Your school is organising an outreach to Goonj, an NGO that takes help for the needy. You are Umang/Srishti, in charge of Outreach Department. Write a notice asking the students to contribute to this noble cause. Invent all necessary details. 4 marks

OR

You are setting up a showroom for readymade garments. You need smart and trained staff to run the showroom. Draft a suitable advertisement in up to 50 words for The Times of India, for a walk-in-interview for the various posts (at least 2 posts) 4 marks

Q4. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily stating your concern about the rising crime rate in your city. Also give suggestions to curb such increase. (125-150 words) 6 marks

OR

You are Suraj/Shravan staying at R.K.Puram, Secunderabad. Your locality, being away from the main city, the poor bus service adversely affects the life of residents. Write a letter to the Editor, Deccan Chronicle, highlighting the problems faced and also giving a few possible solutions.

Q5. You are Ravi Verma, the newly elected Head boy of Jyoti International School. Write a short report for the school magazine about the Investiture ceremony held recently in your school (word limit 150-200 words) 10 marks

OR

Today the 24-hour television news channels give us instant news, from every nook and corner of the world. But the fact remains that the importance of newspapers remains intact. Write an article for your newspaper in about 150-200 words, expressing your views on 'The Relevance of Newspapers'. You are Sunil/ Sunita, a correspondent. 10 marks

Q6. Read the following passage. There is one mistake in each line. In your answer sheets write the incorrect word followed by the correct one. $(\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2\text{marks})$

	Incorrect	Correct
Today's women is a highly self-directed person, alive to a sense of her dignity and the importance on her functions in the private domestic domain or the public domain of the world of work.	a. _____	_____
	b. _____	_____
	c. _____	_____
	d. _____	_____

Q7. Convert these sentences into the reported speech. (2x1)

1. Rakesh said, "Uncle are you going to Haridwar, next month?"
2. Tanu said, "It is so unfortunate that train is late today!"

Q8. Use the inputs given below to complete the following paragraph. (3x1)

The president cannot remove a judge; two-thirds majority voting in each House on a joint address of both houses makes it possible; constitution fixes salaries of judges; parliament determines allowances;

A judge cannot (a) _____ except on the joint address of both Houses of Parliament, based on two-thirds majority voting in each House. The salaries of judges are (b) _____ and the allowances (c) _____

- Q9. The following sentences are in jumbled form. Unjumble the words to form meaningful sentences. (3×1)
- is one/ summer/ the/ visitors/ of the/ swallow/ best known
 - a sheen/ and/ wings/ forked tail/ on/ it has/ the back/ and/ a long.
 - beneath it/ at/ with/ dark red/ its throat/ a/ it has/ blue band.

SECTION C—LITERATURE

- Q10. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow. (Any one) (1x3)

And all that in them without me were seeds only
latent, unborn;

And forever, by day and night, I give back life
to my own origin.

- How has the speaker helped the seeds?
- In what way does the speaker 'give back life to my own origin'?
- Who is the speaker? How can we understand his words?

OR

Some twenty—thirty—years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. "See Betty
And Dolly," she'd say, "and look how they
Dressed us for the beach."

- Who is laughing here? How old is she?
- Where were Betty and Dolly and the speaker? Who had taken the photograph?
- Why was the speaker embarrassed?

- Q11. Answer any three of the following questions. (3x3)

- What are the world's principal biological systems? In what way have they been destroyed?
- What changes did the young king Tutankhaten bring in? Why?
- Why did Albert Einstein hate Munich?
- In the lesson—The Address, the girl went to Mrs. Dorling's house, to get her mother's things back. Then why did she leave without them?

- Q12. What do you understand about Albert's nature from his conversation with his History teacher, Mathematics teacher and the head teacher? (6)

OR

Khushwant Singh says that his grandmother was never pretty. Yet he says she was very beautiful. Explain the reasons for this contradiction.

- Q13. a) Describe the way in which the Canterville Ghost is troubled by the coming of the Americans. (6)
- b) Give a character sketch of the Canterville Ghost. (6)

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Q1. a) 1—(iii) (1x6)

2—(iv)

3—(ii)

4—(i)

5—(iii)

6—(iv)

b) i. A hope for all blacks to be treated on an equal footing with their white brethren. (1)

ii. Racism and antagonism against the blacks as well as the feeling that blacks were inferior beings would be completely removed.

iii. Clay felt his medal was a phony as it did not establish a personal identification with the people.

c) i. laurels

ii. ignominy

iii. phony

Q2. Note making.

Title-1—Destruction of Nature (any other suitable heading)

Abbreviations-1—Minimum 5

Notes with proper indentation- 3—(3-5 main headings)

Summary-2—must be expanded form of the notes.

Clarity and grammatical correctness-1—spellings and other errors

Q3. Notice—4 marks—Format-1; content-2; expression-1

Format—name of institution, Notice, date, heading, name of signatory, designation

Content—all necessary information. Word limit- 50

Expression—formal language, no 1st or 2nd person pronouns, proper sentences,

OR

Advertisement—4marks—Situation vacant. Marks distribution- same as above

Q4. Letter to Editor-6marks—format-1.5; content-3; expression-1.5

Format—Addresses of sender and receiver, date, subject, salutation, complimentary close, name of sender, designation.

Content—all necessary information, instances from surroundings, news, suggestions for improvement, request to publish the letter. Formal language, polite tone, logical facts. Word limit-100-125

Expression—proper formal language, full grammatically correct sentences, spellings, etc.

Q5. Report—10 marks—Format-1; Content-5; Expression-4

Format—Heading, byline,

Content—Details like date, time, venue, those present (Chief Guest, Dignitaries), sequence of events, speeches, Head Boy and Girl, vote of thanks, any other details. Word limit-100-125

Expression—Very formal language, no first and second person pronouns, grammatically correct sentences, spellings and clarity.

OR

Article—10 marks—Format-1; Content-5; Expression-4

Format—Heading, Byline

Content—carefully laid out paragraphs with informative points and instances, logical arguments, polite and interesting language.

Expression—Formal language, grammatically correct sentences, clarity and spellings.

Q6. Editing –a). women—woman; b). a—the; c) on—of; d) or—and (4x1/2)

Q7. a) Rakesh asked Uncle whether he was going to Haridwar the following month. (1)

b) Tanu exclaimed that it was very unfortunate that the train was late that day. (1)

Q8. a) be removed by the president (1)

b) are fixed by the constitution (1)

c) are determined by parliament (1)

Q9. a) The swallow is one of the best known visitors of the summer. (1)

b) It has a long forked tail and a sheen on the back and wings. (1)

c) It has a blue band at its throat with dark red beneath it. (1)

Q10. a) The rain has helped in the germination of seeds, the growth of crops. (1)

b) The rain gives back life by refilling all water bodies and by replenishing underground water. (1)

c) The speaker is the rain. We understand his words because the poet explains them to us. (1)

OR

a) The poet's mother is laughing. She is between 32 and 42 years old. (1/2+ 1/2)

b) The three girl cousins were at the beach. The uncle had taken the photograph. (1/2+1/2)

c) She was embarrassed as she was also dressed in the same funny swimwear that the younger girls were wearing. (1/2+1/2)

Q11. a) The world's principal biological systems are;

Croplands—deteriorate due to overuse of chemical fertilizers

Grasslands—turned into barren wastelands due to overgrazing

Forests—cut down for timber and firewood

Fisheries—overfishing due to high demand for proteins

(1 mark for naming the 4 biological systems &1/2 mark for the reason for why each is deteriorated)

b) Changes brought about by Tutankhaten:

i. changed his name back to Tutankhamun

ii. Reverted back to worship of Amun, the Sun god

iii. Reopened temples of Amun

iv. Restored all the old ways

(any three) (1 mark for each point)

c) Albert Einstein hated Munich because:-

i. He lived in one of the poorest quarters of Munich

ii. The food was bad and there was lack of comfort

iii. There was dirt and squalor all around.

iv. The atmosphere of slum violence made him hate the city even more

(any three) (1mark for each point)

d) The author returned without her things because

i. she saw them being used in a distasteful way- not valued

ii. she wanted to move ahead in life, and her mother's possessions would not allow her to forget old memories of her mother

iii. she now lived in a small apartment and had not enough space to store so many things

(1 mark for each point)

Q12. History teacher—Albert didn't like to learn dates or cram facts. Honest and frank. Teacher called him ungrateful and shameless. (2)

Maths teacher—said Albert was more intelligent than most others. Excellent at Maths. Said soon Albert would be teaching him. (2)

Head teacher—said his work was terrible as he listened to other teachers. Albert actually felt relieved that he was being expelled. Refused to obey order of head teacher, to close the door. Didn't even look back at the school. (2)

OR

Khushwant Singh describes his grandmother as being old, short fat and slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles running from everywhere to everywhere. Her hair was white, lips puckered, and she hobbled about the house.

But he calls her beautiful because of his love and respect for her. She always wore spotless white, kept telling the beads of her rosary, she was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity, breathing peace and contentment. (any three points from both parts) (3+3)

Q13. Canterville Ghost:

a) The Ghost was troubled by the coming of the Americans because

- i. Washington regularly rubbed out the blood stain from the library floor
- ii. Mr. Otis was not afraid of him but gave him lubricating oil for his chains
- iii. Mrs. Otis was also not afraid of him but gave him a medicine for his indigestion
- iv. The twins threw pillows at his head.
- v. The twins shot him with their peashooters
- vi. The twins frightened him with a ghost they made themselves
- vii. They stopped him from going on his weekly and nightly rounds
- viii. The twins drenched him with water and he was ill for several days.

(Any 6 Or any other) (1x6)

b) Character of the Canterville Ghost:

- i. Very frightful; enjoyed terrorizing people
- ii. Revengeful; had taken revenge against many people
- iii. Master of disguises; often changed his dress and appearance
- iv. Egoistic- was easily offended when people were not afraid of him
- v. Consistent and persistent in his efforts to scare people
- vi. Proud of his past achievements in scaring people
- vii. Obsessive habit of keeping the blood stain on the library floor
- viii. He exhibited human behavior in everything he did and said.
- ix. Any other valid point.

(1x6)