**SINDHI HIGH SCHOOL**

**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2023-2024**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**CLASS : IX MAX. MARKS : 80**

**DATE : 14-10-2023 Reading Time : 8.30 – 8.45 am**

**No. of Sides : 9 Writing Time : 8.45 – 11.45 am**

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**General Instructions:**

**1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.**

**2. The Question Paper contains THREE Sections READING, GRAMMAR**

**& WRITING and LITERATURE.**

**3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

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**SECTION A- READING (20)**

**I. Read the passage given below. ( 1 x 10 = 10)**

1. Do you ever feel there’s a greater being inside of you bursting to get out? It is the voice that

encourages you to really make something of your life. When you act congruently with that

voice, it’s like you are a whole new person. You are bold and courageous. You are strong.

You are unstoppable. But, then reality sets in, and soon those moments are history. It is not

hard to put yourself temporarily into an emotionally motivated state. Just listen to that

motivational song for that matter. However, this motivation does not stay forever. Your great

ideas seem impractical. How many times have you been temporarily inspired with an idea

like, “I want to start my own business.” And then a week later it’s forgotten! You come up

with inspiring ideas when you are motivated. But you fail to maintain that motivation

through the action phase.

2. The problem we ask ourselves is: Why does this happen? You can listen to hundreds of

motivational speakers and experience an emotional yo-yo effect, but it does not last. The

problem is that as we are intellectually guided, we try to find logic in emotional motivation

and as we fail to find logic, eventually it all fizzles out. I used to get frustrated when my

emotional motivation fizzled out after a while. Eventually, I realised that being guided by

intellect was not such a bad thing after all. I just had to learn to use my mind as an effective

motivational tool. I figured that if I was not feeling motivated to go after a particular goal,

maybe there was a logical reason for it. I noted that when I had strong intellectual reasons

for doing something, I usually did not have any trouble taking action.

3. But when my mind thinks a goal is wrong on some level, I usually feel blocked. I eventually

realised that this was my mind’s way of telling me that the goal was a mistake to begin with.

Sometimes, a goal may seem to make sense on one level but when you look further upstream,

it becomes clear that the goal is ill-advised. Suppose you work in sales, and you get a goal

to increase your income by 20% by becoming a more effective sales person. That seems like

a reasonable and intelligent goal. But maybe you are surprised to find yourself encountering

all sorts of internal blocks when you try to pursue it. You should feel motivated but you just

don’t. The problem may be that on a deeper level your mind knows you don’t want to be

working in sales at all. You really want to be a musician. No matter how hard you

push yourself in sales career, it will always be a motivational dead end.

4. Further when you set goals, that are too small and too timid, you suffer a perpetual lack of

motivation. You just need to summon the courage to acknowledge your true desires. Then

you will have to deal with the self-doubt and fear that’s been making you think too small.

Ironically, the real key to motivation is to set the goals and scare you. You are letting fears,

excuses, limiting beliefs hold you back. Your subconscious mind knows that you are strong,

so it won’t provide any motivational fuel until you step up, face your fears, and acknowledge

your heart’s desire. Once you finally decide to face your fears and drop the excuses, then

you will find your motivation turning on full blast.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.**

i) What does the author want to convey when he says, “When you look further upstream, it

becomes clear that the goal is ill-advised”?

a) When you analyse your goal closely you realise that it is not what you thought it would

be.

b) When you work towards dealing with your problems eventually they disappear.

c) When you inspect the problem, you realise that the solution is within our reach.

d) When you devise a method of motivating self you must keep analysing it periodically.

ii) According to the passage, the key to motivation is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

iii) Replace the word ‘timid’ with the most suitable one identified from the passage.

So, he sat there trembling and afraid; for he was a timid, bashful man and did not like to be

noticed.

iv) Which of the following is the most suitable title for the passage?

(a) Living Life with Success (b) Why don’t we Feel Motivated?

(c) How to Achieve Intellectual Success? (d) Feel Motivated, Feel High-spirited

v) What does the author mean when he says, “It eventually fizzles out.”

(a) We need continuous focus on goals. (b) It reduces because of lack of practice.

(c) We become self-motivated with time. (d) It slowly goes away as time passes.

vi) Which amongst the following is the nearest to ‘congruently’ in meaning?(Para 1)

(a) Periodically (b) In delusion (c) In agreement (d) Progressively

vii) According to the passage, the author says about the emotional motivation that:

(a) it tends to be temporary. (b) it has the potential to mislead us.

(c) both (a) and (b) (d) neither (a) nor (b)

viii) “When you are setting goals that are too small, you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

ix) According to the passage, to get true motivation you first have to:

(a) acknowledge your true desires (b) deal with your self-doubt

(c) not let your fears hold you back (d) all of these

x. Complete the sentence as per your understanding of the passage. “Your subconscious mind

knows that you are strong, so it doesn’t let you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**II. Read the passage given below. (1 x 10 = 10)**

1. Elephant babies like coconut oil. This discovery has saved the life of hundreds of orphaned,

unweaned elephants, left behind when their mothers were killed, victims of the ivory wars

that have catastrophically reduced elephants’ populations across Africa.

2. The discovery came after two decades of efforts by the renowned conservationist Daphne

Sheldrick, who has died aged 83. She devoted most of her life rescuing young elephants and

releasing them back in to the wild.

3. When she first made attempts to keep the orphaned babies alive, often at one or two years

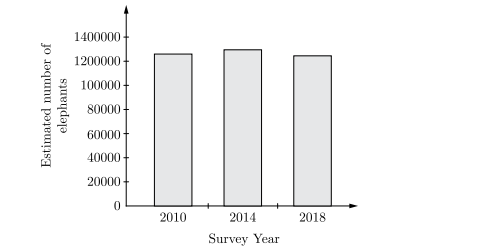
old, with other milk sources, they remained malnourished and faded into death. It was only

after trying every combination, she could find that she hit on one baby milk formula from

Europe, which contained coconut oil that seemed to work. She and the elephants never

looked back, and now more than 230 elephants in Kenya, and many others in Asia and other

parts of Africa, are alive, and mostly in the wild, thanks to her hand- rearing.



4. Her work grew from her care of orphaned elephants’ food by her husband, David Sheldrick,

chief warden at the Tsavo National Park in Kenya in the 1960s. By the time her sanctuary

was well-established, in the late 70s and 80s, each elephant had its own stall, as otherwise

they would disturb one another, was bottle- fed every three hours, and was given blankets,

raincoats and sunscreen as needed. A keeper slept with each animal under a year old,

alternating lest the babies grow too dependent.

5. Often, the elephants arrived traumatized, having experienced the lethal violence and cruelty

of poaching. It was crucial, in her view, to recognize their grief and help them to overcome

it. “They are emotionally human animals, she told journalists. “You have to think in human

terms. How does a child feel when it has lost its whole family and is suddenly in the hands

of the enemy?

6. Throughout her life, Sheldrick championed the ability of elephants to communicate and their

capacity for feeling. Once, she recounted, a female wrenched the tusks from a newly killed bull

elephant and threw them into the jungle, before the eyes of the poachers.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.**

i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in Paragraph 4.

Each elephant had its own stall.

ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank.

While referring to the emotional side of the elephants, Sheldrick said that \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) they are babies (b) they are weak

(c) they are like human beings (d) they are like women

iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from Paragraph 2:

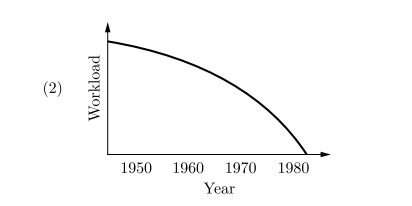
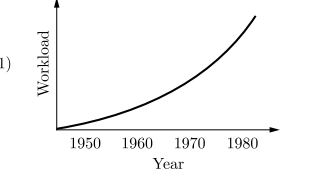
critical : crucial :: \_\_\_\_\_ : eminent

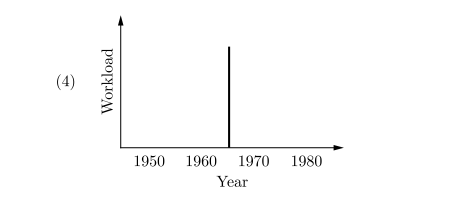
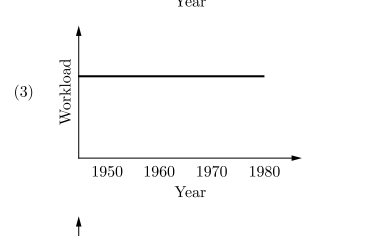
iv) Which of the following oil is linked by elephant babies?

(a) Coconut oil (b) Palm oil (c) Almond oil (d) Olive oil

v) Select the chart that appropriately represents the workload of the conservationist Daphne

Sheldrick through the given years, as per Paragraph 4





(a) Option 1 (b) Option 2 (c) Option 3 (d) Option 4

vi) How was Daphne Sheldrick able to save the lives of the orphaned elephants?

(a) By giving them a shelter (b) By giving them food

(c) By giving them formula milk (d) By giving them medicines

vii) The antonym of ‘***harmless***’ as given in paragraph 5 is :

a) lethal b) cruelty c) crucial d) enemy

viii. Based on your reading of the text, list any 2 attempts made by Daphne Sheldrick to keep

the orphaned elephant babies alive.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ix. List one reason why Daphne Sheldrick told journalists that “You have to think in human

terms”.

x. Select the option that titles paragraphs 4-6 appropriately, with reference to information in

the text.

(a) (1) National Park and Sanctuary, (2) Cruelty of poaching (3) Deep sympathy

(b) (1) Zoological Park, (2) Poaching as an art, (3) Deep sympathy

(c) (1) National Park and Sanctuary, (2) Concern for tigers (3) Love for animals

(d) (1) National Park (2) Passionate towards hunting (3) Bird Sanctuary

**SECTION - B GRAMMAR & WRITING**

**III. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions.**

i) Fill in the blank with the right option.

Last week I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ three pizzas.

a) ate b) have eaten c) had eaten d) would eat

ii) Convert the below given sentence into Passive Voice:

They have already discussed the book.

iii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence.

When I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home this evening, my parents had gone out for a walk.

a) came b) will come c) have come d) come

iv) Complete the slogan.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only weapon to fight injustice is education.

a) A b) The c) An d) There

v) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Shelly and her friend

Tanvi.

Shelly : Can you solve this particularly tough question in linear equations?

Tanvi : It would be a shame if I can’t because I have been taking tuitions all summer vacations.

Shelly asked Tanvi if she could solve that particularly tough question in linear equations. Tanvi

answered that it would be a shame if she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tuition all summer vacations.

a) can’t because she had been taking b) can’t because she has been taking

c) couldn’t because she had been taking d) couldn’t because she was taking

vi) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction from a school magazine report.

When I was a child, my grandmother often repeating the story of her childhood days.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|  |  |

vii) . Fill in the blank with the correct word.

You\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the terms and conditions before you signed the document.

a) could b) would c) should d) might

viii) Identify the error on a shop’s hoarding and supply the correction, for the following

sales offer:

|  |
| --- |
| **Gumnaam and Daughters Pvt. Ltd, Bindapur, Jharkhand** |
| Massive discount for all senior citizen vaccinated with the precautionary dose. |

Error Correction

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ix) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an online update:

The taxi driver spoke\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English. I couldn’t understand him.

a) many b) a little c) very little d) some

x) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

The Children cheers loudly when their captain scored the winning goal.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Option No.** | **Error** | **Correction** |
| A | cheers | cheered |
| B | when | by |
| C | scored | scoring |
| D | winning | winner |

xi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a

letter:

Subject : Increase of air pollution in East Hyderabad

Respected Sir/Ma’am,

I am writing to you to bring to your notice the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (increase) effect of air pollution in our

neighbourhood and in the surrounding area.

xii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

My writing is better than those of my friend.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|  |  |

IV.  **Attempt any one of the following in 100 to 120 words. (5 marks)**

**A. Write a brief description of Sudha Murthy, using the clues give below:**

Sudha Murthy\_\_\_ prominent impact on Indian society\_\_\_ writer, philanthropist \_\_\_\_ prolific

writer \_\_ education of poor children \_\_very simple \_\_\_\_ global recognition\_\_first female Engineer

\_\_\_\_chairperson and trustee of Infosys Foundation \_\_\_\_R.K. Narayan Award for literature\_\_\_

written many novels.

**OR**

You recently participated in a ‘Robot Making’ event in your school. Participants from as many as

30 schools in the city took part in the event. Write about the event in 80-100 words, describing how

many robots were made and who won the best prize etc.

**B. Attempt any one of the following in 100-120 words: (5marks)**

You became the proud winner of Flower Arrangement Competition organized in the school.

Write a **Diary entry** in about 100 words expressing your joy on winning the event.

OR

Complete the **Story** in 100 to 120 words from the outline given below. Give a suitable title.

It was 6 o’clock in the evening and there was a lot of traffic on the road. Mohan was driving his car,

when suddenly two teenagers on bike overtook his car…………………..

**SECTION C (LITERATURE)**

**V.** **Read the extract and answer the questions that follow: (1 x 5 =5)**

A. One day, he invited me to his home for a meal. His wife was horrified at the idea of a Muslim boy

being invited to dine in her ritually pure kitchen.

i) Who is ‘he’ and what did he do?

a) ‘He’ is Samsuddin and he invited Kalam for a meal to his home.

b) ‘He’ is Kalam and he invited Ramanand Sastry for a meal to his home.

c) ‘He’ is Sivasubramania Iyer and he invited Kalam for a meal to his home.

d) ‘He’ is Sivaprakasan and he invited Kalam for a meal to his home.

ii) Why did ‘He’ invite a Muslim boy to his Hindu home?

a) He wanted to challenge and change the rigid social norms.

b) He was a rebel who fought with the society.

c) He wanted to prove that he was a progressive man.

d) He wanted to bother his wife because she was a conservative woman.

iii) What is the significance of the words ‘ritually pure kitchen’?

a) Muslims were not allowed in the lady’s kitchen.

b) Hindus were not allowed in the lady’s kitchen.

c) The lady kept her kitchen protected from all outside influences for religious purposes.

d) The lady strictly followed social rules.

iv) The word ‘horrified’ here means:

a) liked b) appreciated c) critical d) scandalized

v) How did ‘He’ conduct himself in this tricky situation?

a) He sat separately from Kalam to please his wife.

b) His wife asked a servant to serve the guest.

c) He himself served food to Kalam.

d) He and Kalam ate from the same plate.

**VI. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow: (1 x 5 =5)**

**The wind blows out weak fires.**

**He makes strong fires roar and flourish.**

**His friendship is good.**

**We praise him everyday.**

i) What is the effect of the wind on weak fires?

a) The become bigger. b) They turn into embers.

c) They can’t withstand strong winds, they die. d) They pray to wind god.

ii) Which trait of the wind is revealed in its treatment of weak and strong fires?

a) It treats both weak and strong fires equally.

b) Being itself strong, the wind is friendly towards strong fires, but inimical towards weak fires.

c) Sometimes it favours weak fires and sometimes favours strong fires.

d) None of the above.

iii) Why do we praise the wind?

a) We praise the wind so that it may not harm us.

b) We praise the wind as we consider it to be God.

c) We praise the wind because it brings rain with it and does not harm if we are strong.

d) We praise the wind because we are afraid of it.

iv) The meaning of ‘flourish’ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) prosper b) die out c) weaken d) nourish

v) The poet has used wind as a metaphor for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) forest fires fanned by wind b) friends and foes of life

c) challenges that we face in our lives. d) achievements in life.

**VII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in 40 to 50 words. (3 x 4 = 12)**

i) Describe Ustad Bismillah Khan’s childhood days at Dumraon.

ii) What were the consequences of the publication of the General Theory of Relativity?

iii) What happened to the cake every time when the old lady tried to bake it, in the poem

‘ A Legend of the Northland’?

iv) Which path did the poet choose ultimately in ‘The Road Not Taken’? How do we know?

v) Explain what was going through the doctor's mind on his encounter with the Snake?

**VIII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40 to 50 words. (3 x 2 = 6)**

i) Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress? What does the swallow do in the

seamstress’ house?

ii) How alarmed was the child when he suddenly discovered that there was no sign of his parents

when he looked around him? *(The Lost Child)*

iii) “One day Mahendra went to his bed with a certain unease.” Do you think it was the influence

of Iswaran’s constant mention of ghosts?

**IX.** **Answer the following in 100 to 120 words. (6 x 2 = 12)**

i) The relationship between a parent and child should be 'distant and formal' or 'close and warm'.

State your opinion with reference to the reading of the story 'The Little Girl’.

ii) 'Greed leads to Grave' , Explain this statement in the context of the story 'In the Kingdom

of Fools'.

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