



Zagdu Singh Charitable Trust's (Regd.)
THAKUR PUBLIC SCHOOL

(Affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi)
ISO 9001 : 2015 CERTIFIED

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HALF YEARLT EXAMINATION

English Language

Answer to this paper must be written on the paper separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of a question are given in the brackets []

Question 1

Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- You visited the stadium on the day of an important match, with your family members or friends. Describe in detail the scene you witnessed and your feelings on the occasion.
- While travelling on a bus you notice a pick-pocket quietly removing a man's wallet. You immediately raise an alarm. Narrate what happened after that.
- 'The fallen leaves that you trample are the very same ones that gave you shade when they were green.' Write a short story based on this theme.
- Teenagers today are more worldly wise than their parents.' Express your views for or against this statement.
- Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

Select anyone of the following: [10]

- (a) You want to pursue your further education abroad. Write a letter to your parents explaining to them, how higher education abroad would be beneficial for you.
- (b) You and your friends are willing to volunteer for an ‘Old Storybooks Collection Drive’ on account of International Literacy Day. Write a letter to the Executive Director of the organization seeking permission to help. Describe how you can be useful and explain how you are keen on doing this charitable task.

Question 3 [10]

- (a) The Social Welfare Club of your school has organized a visit to the Old Age Home. As the secretary of the club, write a notice for the school notice board requesting the students of std. IX and X to give their names as volunteers. Also inform them that only fifty students will be chosen.
- (b) Write an email to the Principal of your school requesting her/him to get the arrangements done for the transportation of fifty student volunteers who would be visiting Old Age Home.

Question 4

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. [20]

It was half past nine on a dark April night that all the excitement began. The village of Pesterwood was perfectly quiet and peaceful, except for a dog barking somewhere.

Then suddenly, to the west of the village a great light **flared** up.

‘Golly! What’s that?’ Larry said. He called to his sister, ‘Daisy, there’s a funny flare-up in the village somewhere.’

‘It’s a fire!’ she said. ‘It looks pretty big, doesn’t it? I wonder what it is. Do you think it’s someone’s house on fire?’

Larry and Daisy dressed quickly and then ran down the stairs and out in the dark garden. As they went down the lane they passed another house and heard the sound of hurrying footsteps coming down the drive there. ‘It’s Pip, I bet,’ said Larry and shone his torch up the drive. The light picked out a boy about his own age and with him a small girl of about eight, named Bets.

‘Will they send for the fire engine?’ asked Pip.

‘The house will be burnt down before the fireman come all the way from the next village!’ said Larry. ‘Come on – it looks as if it’s down Haycock Lane.’

They all ran on together. Some of the villagers had seen the glare too, and were running down the lane as well.

‘It’s Mr. Hick’s house,’ said a man. ‘Sure as anything it’s his house.’

They all poured down to the end of the lane. The glare became higher and brighter. 'It's not the house!' cried Larry, 'It's the cottage he works in, in the garden – his workroom. Golly, there won't be much left of it!'

There certainly wouldn't. The place was old, half-timbered and thatched and the dry straw of the roof was blazing strongly. A shower of sparks flew up into the air as part of the straw roof fell in. there was a horrible smell of burning and smoke. There came the sound of a car down the lane. A shout went up. 'Here's Mr. Hick!' The car drew up in the drive by the house. A man got out and ran down the garden to where the burning cottage stood. He was tall and **stooping** and had a tuft of hair that stuck out in front. He had a long nose and eyes hidden behind big spectacles.

'Any idea what caused the fire sir?' said the policeman, Mr. Goon.

'How am I to know?' said Mr. Hick impatiently.

'Do you happen to know if you had a fire in the grate this morning, sir?' said Mr. Goon.

'Yes, I did,' said Mr. Hick. 'I was working here early this morning and kept the fire in all night. I was burning wood and I dare say that after I left a spark flew out and set light to something. It may have smoldered all afternoon without anyone knowing.

Where's Mrs. Minns, my cook?'

'Here, sir,' said the poor trembling Mrs. Minns. 'Oh, sir, this is a terrible thing, sir! You never like me to go into your work-cottage, sir, so I didn't go in, or I might have seen that a fire was starting!'

Then Mr. Hick suddenly seemed to go mad. 'My Papers!' yelled Mr. Hick and made a dart towards the burning workroom, as if he meant to search in the flames.

'Clear all these people away,' said Mr. Hick, looking at the villagers and the children. I don't want my garden **trampled** down all night long. 'There's nothing anyone can do now.'

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. (3)

(i) flared

(ii) stooping

(iii) trampled

(b) Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words.

(i) How did the children end up near the burning cottage? (2)

(ii) Why couldn't the villagers stop the fire? (2)

(iii) Why wasn't the fire engine sent for? (1)

(iv) What stopped Mrs. Minns from saving the workroom? (2)

(v) Describe Mr. Hick. (2)

(c) In not more than 50 words, describe how the workroom caught fire. (8)

Question 5

(a) Complete each of the following sentences with a suitable form of the word given in the brackets: Example : (0) was (4)
A minister in the government whose knowledge of English (0) ----- (be) very poor, (1) ----- (provide) with a secretary who (2) ----- (write) speeches for him. (3) '----- (Give) me a fifteen-minute speech on the non-aligned movement', ordered the minister. The text was prepared, to last fifteen minutes. But when the minister proceeded (4) ----- (make) his speech, it took him half an hour to do so. The organizers of the conference (5) ----- (upset) because their schedule (6) ----- (disturb). The minister was upset because his secretary had let him down. He upbraided him: 'I (7) ----- (ask) for a fifteen minute speech; you gave me a half-hour speech. Why?' he demanded. 'Sir, I gave you a fifteen minute speech. But you (8) ---- (read) out its carbon copy as well.'

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: (4)
- (i) The cook is putting something ----- the oven.
 - (ii) The play is ----- Monday.
 - (iii) The miser fell victim----- his own greed.
 - (iv) The government provides the school children----- free mid-day meals.
 - (v) The police came ----- heavily on the hoarders.
 - (vi) The convict begged ----- mercy.
 - (vii) I refrained ----- telling the truth.
 - (viii) The lightning flashed ----- the sky.

- (c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using 'and', 'but' or 'so'. (4)
- i) She is very late. That is unusual.
 - ii) I have seen many kind men. He is the kindest man I have seen.
 - iii) The child fell. The child did not cry.
 - iv) The news anchor was excited. He spoke very fast.

- (d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each of them. Make other changes necessary, but do not change the meaning of the sentence (8)
- i) My father said to me, "Let us go to the club". (Change into reported speech)
 - ii) As soon as he wins the race, he kneels on the track. (Begin: No sooner)
 - iii) Jasmine has probably forgotten her mother's birthday. (Begin: In....)
 - iv) I found a ten rupee note in the book. (Change the voice)
 - v) Be honest and you will be respected by everyone. (Use: Everyone...)
 - vi) Sanjana did not complete the exercise on time. (Rewrite using a question tag.)
 - vii) Ravi stopped working as soon as his mother's back was turned. (Begin: Hardly...)
 - viii) A dolphin is as intelligent as a human being. (Use 'intelligence' instead of 'intelligent')