

# Prabhat Academy Ashtbhuja Nagar, Pratapgarh

Half-Yearly Examination (2019-20)

Class : 11<sup>th</sup>

Sub. : English



Time: 2.30

M.M. : 100

## Question 1 [20]

Write a composition (in 400-450 words) on any one of the following subjects:

(You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.)

1. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Give a vivid description of a popular wayside restaurant and account for its popularity.
3. Today's generation creates pressure on itself by striving to achieve the highest and the best in every sphere. Argue either FOR or AGAINST the topic.
4. 'Words break no bones, but they do break hearts.' Discuss.
5. Music.
6. Write an original short story that begins with the words, "The flood waters swirled at our feet, rising and ebbing. We desperately looked for an escape route ....."

## Question 2 [15]

(a) Write the review of a play which you recently saw. Use the notes given below: Name of play and playwright – type of play – message / theme – plot – acting – directing – lights / sound / costumes / make-up / props and sets – reaction.

(b) A group of your friends have decided to start a Kindness club in your school where the students and teachers can donate books and other goods to be sent to underprivileged children. Draw up a proposal for the setting up of the club, in not more than 150 words, stating the steps you would take to successfully establish it. [10]

## Question 3 [10]

Answer sections (a), (b) and (c).

(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, but sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar in meaning as possible to sentence A. Write down sentence B in each case.

Example: (0) (A) Rita told me a story.

(B) A.....

Answer: (0) (B) A story was told to me by Rita.

1. (A) Few Indian actors are as good as him.

(B) He .....

2. (A) His bodyguards are checking out the bathroom.

(B) The bathroom .....

3. (A) "I'm ashamed of your behaviour!" shouted my father in anger.

(B) My father .....

4. (A) I realised later that the mistake had been mine.

(B) Only .....

5. (A) I admire Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

(B) Not only .....

6. (A) No sooner did Rajiv leave school than it started to rain.

(B) Hardly .....

7. (A) He won't get good marks in the examination if he doesn't get down to serious study.

- (B) Unless \_\_\_\_\_.
8. (A) Her real name is Rita, but her friends call her Cookie.  
(B) Although \_\_\_\_\_.
9. (A) She did not know that her best friend had been diagnosed with cancer.  
(B) Little \_\_\_\_\_.
10. (A) He admires his teacher immensely.  
(B) He has \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not copy the sentence)

[5]

1. It is not easy to get \_\_\_\_\_ with murder.
  2. Do you think you will be able to get \_\_\_\_\_ early from work?
  3. He has a reputation \_\_\_\_\_ honesty.
  4. He has the reputation \_\_\_\_\_ being a good officer.
  5. He supplied the poor \_\_\_\_\_ food and shelter.
  6. He supplied food and shelter \_\_\_\_\_ the poor.
  7. He exercises complete authority \_\_\_\_\_ his followers.
  8. Dr. Simons is an authority \_\_\_\_\_ English poetry.
  9. I have reconciled \_\_\_\_\_ my fate.
  10. The brothers reconciled \_\_\_\_\_ each other after the death of their father.
- (c) In the following passage, fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. (Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word appropriate to the blank space.)

[5]

Book review:

Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch \_\_\_\_\_ 1. (return) home from New York City \_\_\_\_\_ 2. (visit) her ageing father, Atticus. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. (set) against the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that \_\_\_\_\_ 4. (transform) the South, Jean Louise's homecoming \_\_\_\_\_ 5. (turn) bittersweet when she \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (learn) disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town and the people closest to her. Memories from her childhood \_\_\_\_\_ 7. (flood) back, and her values and assumptions \_\_\_\_\_ 8. (throw) into doubt. Go Set a Watchman perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ 9. (capture) a young woman and a world in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past – a journey that \_\_\_\_\_ 10. (guide) only by one's conscience.

**Question 4. [20]**

Read carefully the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

At eleven o'clock the worst happened – a tyre blew. It was a front tyre and I fought the wheel as we jolted to a stop. 'Let's make this fast,' I said, and grabbed the wheel brace.

If we had to have a puncture it wasn't a bad place to have it. The footing was level enough to take the jack without slipping and there was no mud at that point. I jacked up the front of the Land-Rover and got busy on the wheel with the brace. I took the wheel off, rolled it away and replaced it with the spare. The whole operation took a little under ten minutes, time we couldn't afford – not there and then.

Once we were farther south we could lose ourselves on a more-or-less complex road network, but these wilderness tracks were too restricted for my liking.

I tightened the last wheel nut and then looked to see what had caused a blowout and to put the wheel back into its rack. What I saw made my blood run cold. I fingered the jagged hole in the thick tyre and looked up at the high ridge which dominated the track.

There was only one thing that could make a hole like that – a bullet. And somewhere up on the ridge, hidden in some crevice, was a sniper – and even then I was probably in his sights.

How did Kennikin get ahead of me? That was my first bitter thought. But idle thoughts were no use and action was necessary.

I heaved up the wheel with its ruined tyre on to the bonnet and screwed it down securely. While I rotated the wheel brace I glanced covertly at the ridge. There was a lot of open ground before the ridge heaved itself into the air – at least two hundred yards – and the closest a sniper could have been was possibly four hundred yards and probably more.

Any man who could put a bullet into a tyre at over four hundred yards – a quarter mile – was surely a good shot. So good that he could put a bullet into me any time he liked – so why hadn't he? I was in plain view, a perfect target, and yet no bullets had come my way. I tightened down the last nut and turned my back to the ridge, and felt a prickling feeling between my shoulder blades – that was where the bullet would hit me if it came.

I jumped to the ground and put away the brace and jack, concentrating on doing the natural thing. The palms of my hands were slippery with sweat. I went to the back of the LandRover and climbed in and sat down. Sitting in that confined space gave a comforting illusion of protection, but that's all it was – an illusion. For the second time I wished the Land-Rover had been an armoured car. From where I was sitting I could inspect the slopes of the ridge without being too obvious about it and I made the most of the opportunity.

Nothing moved among those red and grey rocks. Nobody stood up and waved or cheered. If anyone was still up there he was keeping as quiet as a mouse which, of course, was the correct thing to do. If you pump a bullet at someone you'd better scrunch yourself up small in case he starts shooting back.

But – was anybody still up there? I rather thought there was. Who in his right mind would shoot a hole in the tyre of a car and then just walk away? So he was still up there, waiting and watching. But if he was still there why hadn't he nailed me? It didn't make much sense – unless he was just supposed to immobilize me. If that was so, then Kennikin had men coming in from both sides. It wouldn't be too hard to arrange if he knew where I was – radio

communication is a wonderful thing. That character up on the ridge would have been instructed to stop me so that Kennikin could catch up; and that meant he wanted me alive.

I wondered what would happen if I got into the driving seat and took off again. The odds were that another bullet would rip open another tyre. It would be easier this time on a sitting target. I didn't take the trouble to find out – there was a limit to the number of spare tyres I carried, and the limit had already been reached.

Adapted from **Running Blind** by Desmond Bagley

(a) (i) Given below are four words. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage:

- (1) Device to raise or lower a vehicle
- (2) Tight, narrow gap
- (3) Expert long-distance shooter
- (4) Without making it obvious

(ii) For each of the words given below write a sentence of at least ten words, using the same word

unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage.

(1) Brace (line 5)

(2) Nut (line 10)

(3) Bonnet (line 17)

(4) Blades (line 25)

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

(i) Why was the writer glad that the puncture had happened where it did?

(ii) What frightened the writer?

(iii) What made the writer so sure that the sniper was still hidden?

(iv) What reason do you think the sniper had for remaining hidden?

(c) Summarize, in not more than 100 words, the thoughts that arose in the writer's mind when and after he saw the damaged tyre.