

Name _____

Roll No. _____
A

Half Yearly Examination, 2026-27
Class - XI
ENGLISH

Time : 3:15 Hrs.

M.M. : 100

Note :-

- (i) This paper is divided into four sections of A, B, C and D.
- (ii) All the sections are compulsory.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section - A (Reading)

1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions that follow it :-

The path of devotion and dedication is the one and only means to save the country from the demonic grasp of the forces of self aggrandisement in all fields. That is the only hope. Love is the only saviour, the only refuge. Man may project many plans for securing world peace but it can be established only through a spiritual revolution by means of love. To set this sacred land free from the shackles of selfish, greed and demonic egoism every single son and daughter of Bharat has, at this juncture, to act with determination without sparing any effort. They must adopt the paths of love and renunciation; they must overwhelm

the debilitation disease, 'enjoyment' and become heroes of action, Stalwart Knights, revelling in good deeds, become distinguished as exemplary heroes of renunciation, as having hearts full of love. Do not turn yourself into protagonists of pomp or heroes in demonstrating vanity and envy. May all the world be happy - that is the message, the goal of this nation. We must sacrifice everything for realising the goal. That is the ideal set before us. "By sacrifice alone can immortality be reached".

- (a) How can world peace be achieved ?
- (b) How can all the world be happy ?
- (c) What does the narrator advise us ?
- (d) What type of heroes does the narrator not want the sons and daughters of India to become ?
- (e) Give the meaning of 'debilitating'.
- (f) Find the word which means 'conceit'.
- (g) Give the meaning of 'Exemplary heroes'.

2. Read the passage and make notes on it and also give a summary of the passage with the help of notes:

"We live in deeds and not in years." It is because of this that all of us prefer one hour crowded with glory to a whole life without fame. If providence were to put the choice before us, perhaps we should all exclaim. "Give us sixty exciting minutes and not countless millions of tame years without a name." A life, however short, spent in doing things useful to the world or humanity, is much better than living a hundred years and spending the time in vain and useless pursuits. It is not life that matters but noble actions. A man may have a short span of life,

but if within this period he has performed noble action, he may be said to have truly lived.

Love of fame is divinely implanted in the human soul. It is the divine spark which kindles all our latent faculties and arouses us to action. Before it, all obstacles and difficulties, inseparable though they may appear at first, melt into the nothingness of a dream. However steep and rugged the path, however full of thorns and stumbling-blocks it may be, it fills us with irresistible and super human power to struggle heroically, to act nobly and die honourably. There cannot be anything nobler in the world than this love of fame combined with love of humanity.

3. Write an article on 'Save Water: Save Life'. 8

OR

Write an essay on "Tourism in India".

4. Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, drawing the attention of the concerned authorities and giving your suggestions. 7

OR

Write a letter from a publisher to a bookseller for rejecting the order.

Section - C (Grammar)

5. Answer the following:- 20

(a) Give a synonym of 'Prolific'.

- (i) Plenty
- (ii) Competent
- (iii) Predominant
- (iv) Fertile

8. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40 words each:

- (a) Why was the grandmother not satisfied from the city schools ?
- (b) What was floating on the deck ?
- (c) Who was Zahi Hawass and what did he say ?
- (d) What is the idea of sustainable development ?

9. Read the given stanza and answer the questions:-

The Laburnum top is silent, quite still
in the afternoon yellow September sunlight
A few leaves, yellowing all its seeds fallen,
Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirup
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.

- (a) Describe the Laburnum tree.
- (b) What does the month of September signify here ?
- (c) What is the effect of the goldfinch's coming ?

10. Write the Central Idea of any one poem of the following:-
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- (a) A Photograph
- (b) The Laburnum Top

11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80 words:- **7**

- (a) Draw a character-sketch of Mourad.
- (b) What was the problem of Mrs. Pearson ? How did she think to solve it ?

12. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40 words each:- **8**

- (a) Who was uncle Khosrove ?
- (b) What was that woman's reply to the narrator ?
- (c) What did the girl tell her about the cutlery ?
- (d) What did Doris demand to her mother ?