

Half Yearly Exam- 2023

Class-XI

Set-A

Subject-English

Time: 3.00 Hours

Instructions: -

- All questions are compulsory.
- Marks are indicated in front of each question.

Section-A (Reading)

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions on the basis of comprehension of the passage.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is basking in the success of Chandrayaan-3, its lunar mission, which executed a flawless soft landing on the lunar surface. Adding to this triumph, ISRO has now accomplished a precision deployment of Aditya, India's inaugural mission to the sun. This mission is slated to orbit the Lagrange-1 vantage point, providing unprecedented insights into the workings of the celestial furnace that fuels our universe.

What sets these missions apart is the remarkable feat of manoeuvring these spacecraft from millions of kilometres away on Earth. These feats were directed from the Master Control Room in Bengaluru, while other spacefaring nations, including the US, Russia, France, and China watched in awe. Notably, Russia's lunar mission, a pioneer in planetary exploration, encountered complications moments before its intended lunar landing. Currently, India is deeply engaged in planning its next ventures: a manned space mission (Gagan Yaan) and missions to Venus (Shukrayaan), among others.

The surge in attendance at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota to witness live launches serves as a testament to the nation's fervent interest in space programmes. These events have become a national spectacle, rivaling the excitement of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

Reflecting back to the late 1990s and early 2000s, when India embarked on its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Missions and Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launching Vehicle (GSLV) programmes, only a handful of spectators from Sriharikota and neighbouring areas attended the launches. Today, the crowds have swelled manifold, even though they view the spectacle from a gallery six kilometres away. As the mission director initiates the final countdown over the public address system, palpable anticipation fills the air. While many may not discern the technical nuances between PSLV and GSLV, the pride and joy derived from these space endeavours, conceived and executed by Indian scientists, is unmistakable.

The nation's space programme is intricately woven into the fabric of everyday life. From mobile phone calls and Direct-To-Home television to critical weather forecasts that forewarn us of approaching cyclones and natural disasters, all owe their existence to ISRO's constellation of communication and remote sensing satellites. This means that ISRO touches every facet of an average person's life in some manner. Vikram Sarabhai, the visionary behind India's space

programme, envisioned space technology as a means to elevate the quality of life for every Indian, particularly those in need. Never did Sarabhai or his team envision vying for a space monopoly.

1×10=10

**Questions:**

- I. What is the recent success achieved by ISRO mentioned in the passage?  
(a) Flawless soft landing on Mars  
(b) Precision deployment of Aditya to the sun  
(c) Chandrayaan-2 mission to Venus  
(d) Manned space mission to Lagrange-1
- II. Where is the Master Control Room located for ISRO's space missions?  
(a) New Delhi (b) Sriharikota (c) Bengaluru (d) Chennai
- III. Which country's lunar mission faced complications just before its intended lunar landing?  
(a) China (b) India (c) Russia (d) France
- IV. What is the next planned mission mentioned in the passage after Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya?  
(a) Mars Rover Mission (b) Manned space mission (Gagan Yaan)  
(c) International Space Station (ISS) collaboration (d) Jupiter Exploration Mission
- V. What is the significance of the surge in attendance at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre mentioned in the passage?  
(a) It indicates a decline in public interest in space programs.  
(b) It demonstrates the growing national interest in space endeavours.  
(c) It highlights a decrease in the success rate of ISRO missions.  
(d) It suggests a lack of public awareness about space exploration.
- VI. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, what were the specific space missions mentioned as having low spectator attendance?  
(a) GSLV missions (b) Mars Orbiter mission  
(c) Lunar Rover missions (d) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle missions
- VII. What did Vikram Sarabhai envision for India's space program according to the passage?  
(a) space monopoly  
(b) elevating the quality of life for every Indian  
(c) world domination in space exploration  
(d) developing ballistic missiles for national defence
- VIII. Which of the following is the antonym of "flawless"?  
(a) perfect (b) faultless (c) imperfect (d) unblemished
- IX. What is the synonym for "triumph" as used in the passage?  
(a) failure (b) victory (c) complication (d) setback
- X. How does ISRO affect the average person's life in India?  
(a) through advancements in medical technology  
(b) through the provision of high-speed internet  
(c) by contributing to mobile phone communication, television broadcasting, and weather forecasting  
(d) through the development of electric vehicles for public transportation

**Q.2 Read the following passage and make notes on the basis of your comprehension of the passage. Give a suitable title.**

The most alarming of man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with lethal materials. This pollution is for the most part irrevocable; the chain of evil it initiates is for the most part irreversible. In this contamination of the environment chemicals are the sinister partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world; radiation released through nuclear explosions into the air, comes to the earth in rain, lodges into the soil, enters the grass or

corn or wheat grown there and reaches the bones of a human being, there to remain until his death. Similarly, chemicals sprayed on crops lie long in soil, entering living organisms, passing from one to another in a chain of poisoning and death. Or they pass by underground streams until they emerge and combine into new forms that kill vegetation, sicken cattle, and harm those who drink from once pure wells.

It took hundreds of millions of years to produce the life that now inhabits the earth and reached a stage of adjustment and balance with its surroundings. The environment contained elements that were hostile as well as supporting. Even within the light of the sun, there were short wave radiations with power to injure. Given time, life has adjusted and a balance reached. For time is the essential ingredient, but in the modern world there is no time.

### Section B- Writing

Q.3 You are Jyoti of class XI of School of Excellence, Gwalior. You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Draft a notice informing the students about the inter-school dance competition and request the interested participants to get them registered with you. **4**

Or

You are Mohan, student of Govt. Higher Secondary School Berkheda, Bhopal. Your school is going to organize a blood donation camp. Design an attractive poster to raise awareness for it.

Q.4 You are Anita Patel, residing at 254, Saket Nagar, Balaghat. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about deteriorating law and order situation in the city. **4**

Or

You are Manish, residing at 45, M.P. Nagar, Ujjain. Write a letter to your younger brother sharing your experiences of your visit to a hill station.

Q.5 Write an article on any one of the following topics in about 120 words. **4**

- I. Power of Press in Democracy
- II. The Problem of Pollution
- III. My Vision of Future India

Or

Your school organised an inter-school debate competition last month. Write a report of this event for your school magazine giving details like schedule, venue, topic, winners etc.

### Section- C (Grammar)

Q.6 Fill in the blanks- (Any five)

1×5=5

- (i) He is — MBA. (an/a/the)
- (ii) The man —the police arrested last night is a big thief. (who/ whose/whom)
- (iii) She often — us in the evening. (visiting/visits/visited)
- (iv) She was born and brought up — Ambala. (in/at /on)
- (v) The weather was cold but there was — wind. (any/no/none)
- (vi) He — walk fast when he was young. (can/may/could)

Q.7 Do as directed- (Any five)

1×5=5

- (i) He is always happy. (Change into negative without changing the meaning)
- (ii) Neeraj said, "Where does she live?" (Change the narration)
- (iii) He replied that he would come. (Identify the underlined clause)

(iv) As soon as the children saw the snake, they started to shout. (Rewrite the sentence using No sooner.....than )

(v) He was not teaching English. (Change the voice)

(vi) She will not tolerate this injustice. (Change into past indefinite tense)

#### Section-D (Textbook)

**Q.8 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below. 5**

People said that she had once been young and pretty and even had a husband, but that was hard to believe. My grandfather's portrait hung above the mantelpiece in the drawing room. He wore big turban and loose-fitting clothes. His long, white beard covered the best part of his chest and he looked like a hundred years old.

**Questions:**

(i) Who is the author of the above extract?

(a) Khushwant Singh (b) James Harriot (c) Gordon Cook (d) Alan East

(ii) Who has been referred as 'she' in above extract?

(a) sister of the author (b) mother of the author (c) grandmother of the author (d) aunt of the author

(iii) Which word in the extract means 'picture of face'?

(a) turban (b) beard (c) portrait (d) mantelpiece

(iv) According to the extract, how old did the grandfather look in his portrait?

(a) hundred years (b) less than hundred years (c) more than hundred year (d) none of these

(v) Which of the following has not been depicted in the portrait?

(a) beard (b) turban (c) clothes (d) ornaments

**Q.9(A) Read the following extract from the poem and answer the questions given below- 3**

The seed I spent or sown it where,  
The land is his and none of mine?  
We speak like strangers, there's sign  
Of understanding in the air,  
This child is built to my design  
Yet what he lives I cannot share,

**Questions:**

i) What does the father wish for?

(a) understanding

(b) financial support

(c) moral support

(d) none of the above

ii) What kind of a relationship the father and the son have?

(a) cordial

(b) strained

(c) warm

(d) good

iii) These lines show-

(a) friendship

(b) understanding

(c) grief

(d) happiness

**Q.9(B) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below - 4**

An hour elapsed. It was a long, harsh struggle. Then, as the first streaks of dawn strayed past the broken edges of the blind, the child was born, lifeless. As he gazed at the still form a shiver of horror passed over Andrew. After all that he had promised! His face, heated with his own exertions, chilled suddenly. He hesitated, torn between his desire to attempt to resuscitate the child, and his obligation towards the mother, who was herself in a desperate state. The dilemma was so urgent he did not solve it consciously. Blindly, instinctively, he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan who now lay collapsed, almost pulseless, and not yet out of the ether, upon her side.

His haste was desperate, a frantic race against her ebbing strength. It took him only an instant to smash a glass ampule and inject the medicine.

**Questions:**

- (i) How was the new born child?  
(a) healthy (b) lifeless (c) underweight (d) weak
- (ii) The dilemma doctor Andrew confronted was-  
(a) to save child or mother (b) to save mother  
(c) to inform father (d) to save child
- (iii) In the dilemma he faced, what did Andrew do?  
(a) check upon Susan first (b) check upon the child first  
(c) ran away (d) left it to handle to the nurse
- (iv) Which of the following is similar in meaning to the word 'desperate'?  
(a) composed (b) cheerful (c) fearful (d) frantic

**Q.10 Answer the following questions from Hornbill in about 30 words- (any five) 10**

- (i) Why was the grandmother upset with the author when he joined music classes?  
(ii) How did the sailors repair their ship when it was first attacked by winds?  
(iii) What is the Cemetery of Tut called? What was found with Tutankhamun's body?  
(iv) What does the notice "The world's most dangerous animals" at a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia, signify?  
(v) How can over-fishing and decimation of forests prove harmful?  
(vi) Where was Khan Sahib going? How did he intend to reach there?

**Q.11 Answer the following questions from poetry in about 30 words- (any three) 6**

- (i) What does the cardboard refer to in the poem? (The Photograph)  
(ii) How is the tree transformed during the bird's visit? (The Laburnum Top)  
(iii) What happens when the rain falls on the seeds? (The Voice of Rain)  
(iv) What according to the poem is involved in the process of growing up? (Childhood)

**Q.12 Answer the following questions from Snapshots in about 30 words- (any two) 4**

- (i) What happened when Aram tried to ride the horse?  
(ii) How did Mrs. Dorling treat the author when the author visited her?  
(iii) What was Mrs. Pearson's reaction to Mrs. Fitzgerald's advice?  
(iv) When and why did Shahid mention his death to the writer?

**Q.13 Answer the following questions in about 75 words-(any two) 6**

- (i) Describe the way in which the sparrows expressed their sorrow when the author's grandmother died. (The Portrait of a Lady)  
(ii) Why does Nani Palkhivala call the earth 'The Ailing Planet'? How can the ailing planet survive?  
(iii) Write a short note in 75 words about King Tut. (Discovering Tut)

**Q.14 Write the central idea of the poem 'Childhood.' 3**

Or

What happens in the beginning and in the end of the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?

**Q.15 Describe, how does the play "Mother's Day" end? 3**

3

Or

Give a brief character sketch of Shahid. What were the things he was most fond of? (The Ghat of the Only World)