

**MONTHLY TEST – 1 (MARCH 2019)**

**ENGLISH CORE**

**Class: XII Max Marks: 80**

**Date : 09.04.2019 Time: 3 hrs**

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| **General Instructions**  **This paper is divided into three sections:**  **Section A: Reading – (20marks)**  **Section B: Writing – (30marks)**  **Section C: Literature & Long reading text - (30marks)**  **All sections are compulsory.**  **Separate instructions have been given for each section and each question.**  **Follow these instructions carefully.**  **Do not exceed the word limit.** |

**SECTION –A (READING) - 20MARKS**

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**Q1. Read the passage given below:**

1. The House sparrow and its subspecies are worldwide in their distribution, except in the polar regions. Sparrows have had a symbiotic relationship with humans for the past 10,000 years. Poets have sung of their trust and love for each other in all languages. But strangely, over the past 50-60 years, sparrows have been sadly deserting human company in urban areas, preferring suburban areas and the countryside, and only making brief visits to nearby human habitats. So bewildering and absolute was their alienation that in 2002, sparrows were included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the U.K. and since 2010, March 20 has been adopted as World Sparrow Day. In 2012m Delhi adopted the House sparrow as its State bird.

2. Sparrows, though tiny, are very sensitive and strongly immune birds, and their sudden disappearance as sentinels or as ecological indicators ; is a warning to humans about impending environmental hazards. Several speculations have been put forward to account for sparrows deserting our cities, but they all boil down to the simple fact that the rapid changes in the lifestyles of humans in urban areas.

3. Non-availability of tiny insects as food due to the loss of vegetation around our modern buildings, the excessive use of mosquito repellents indoors and insecticides outdoors, our concrete architectures with no nesting sites for sparrows, and air-conditioning which leaves no entry or exit points for feeding sparrow nestlings are some of the reasons for the dislocation of sparrows. Further, increasing noise from automobiles and their gaseous pollutants in our cities may be deterrents. Above all, the recent increase in electromagnetic radiations from cell phone towers outdoors and the explosive use of diverse wireless devices indoors have also chased away the birds.

4. The House sparrow in reality is one among the several other species of birds and biodiversity that have been declining in numbers for the past 60 years. The disappearance of sparrows – as they are closest to humans- is however the most obvious. Sparrows may not become extinct, but being resilient, they may migrate to safer zones, feed at public granaries, market places, ports and rail stations, nest at nearby sites and adapt to stabilize their population. As the famous evolutionist Charles Darwin said, “ It is not the strongest nor the most intelligent that will survive but those that can adapt to changes.” Sparrows are so adaptive that “not one of them shall fall to the ground.”

**(a)On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (minimum four), wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it. (5)**

**(b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)**

**Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12m)**

1. There were three kinds of boarders in the convent. The first class boarders, who were given a breakfast of cereal, eggs and toast, meat at lunch-time, snacks at tea and pudding after supper; the second class girls, who had only cereal at breakfast, rice and fish curry at lunch and no pudding at supper; the third class boarders, who got only a gruel made of maize in the morning, rice at lunch and gruel again at night. Worse off than even the third class boarders were the children without parents. They were the ones who cleaned the lavatories, swept the droppings of the turkeys and the dead leaves from the kitchen yard, chopped firewood, helped in the kitchen and ate only two meals of gruel a day.

2. They wore white and exuded the smell of rancid coconut oil which they had applied to their dusty hair. These children were nearly always busy filling up the wooden tubs in many bathrooms that they hated drawing water from the well for their own baths. They therefore bathed only once a week.

3. The oldest of these children was a 70year, old lady called Rocky Mariam who went to the bazaar with baskets to buy the provisions for the cruising - house. Whenever she came on the scene the turkeys chased her, making loud friendly sounds, and she spoke to them in Malayalam in a quavering voice full of affection. They are calling me Ammachi (mother) said the old lady one day pointing at the gawky birds.

4. The cook laughed and her laughter resembled the cackle of birds. She was called Felicitas and was respected by all the children. It was within her power to give them an extra ladle of gruel if they pleased her. She was weedy and emaciated. Her teeth looked like rusty nails, being pointed and discolored by the betel and tobacco she chewed the whole day long.

5. After each vacation each of us brought from our homes, sweets and fruits and banana-chips. Once, My grandmother had sent with me a bunch of ripe bananas which disappeared from our dressing room at night. It was obvious that someone very hungry had eaten them, creeping into our rooms while we were asleep, for we found the peels lying outside the window.

6. I did not want anyone to know about this petty theft but the assistant boarding-mistress somehow got wind of it and decided to make a huge fuss. After the prayer she told the children that St.Anthony was going to turn the culprit insane within three days. For two days we went around looking for lunacy in others’ faces.

7. Finally at dusk, a terrified girl went up to the plaster statue of St.Anthony in the chapel and began to sob hysterically. The nuns prayed to the saint and begged him to spare the young girl in view of her tender age. She was a plump girl, fond of eating and apparently the convent’s niggardly rations did not satisfy her hunger. She was let off with a gloomy warning from the Mother Superior. She developed convulsions soon after and went home for good.

**2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below with the help of options that follow: (4m)**

(a) The fact that the orphans were treated in such a harsh manner shows that the members running the convent were\_\_\_\_\_\_

(i) discriminatory (ii) miserly (iii) brutal (iv) unkind

(b) The orphans bathed only once a week because \_\_\_\_

(i) they had no time to bathe (ii) they were busy filling water for others

(iii) they did not have the energy left to fill water for themselves

(iv) they were not permitted to fill water for their baths

(c) Felicitas was\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(i) the cook at the convent (ii) the oldest orphan living in the convent

(iii) the banana thief (iv) the girl whose bananas were stolen

(d) The fact that the girls believed that the thief would become mad shows that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(i) they were very innocent (ii) they were not very intelligent

(iii) they were scared of the authorities (iv) they were very religious.

**2.2 Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:(6m)**

(a) Why do you think were the orphans treated differently from the others?

(b) How did Rocky Mariam treat the turkeys in the convent?

(c) Why was Felicitas so popular with the orphans?

(d) Why are the cook’s teeth compared to rusty nails?

(e) Do you think the narrator felt upset at the loss of her bananas? Give reasons for your answer.

(f) Why did the banana thief develop convulsions?

**2.3** **Find words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: (2m)**

 (i) rotten/stale (para-2)

(ii) miserly (para-7)

**SECTION –B (WRITING) – 30 MARKS**

Q3. Arihant Publications (India) Ltd situated in Delhi requires a Chief Editor for English. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words for the ‘Situation Vacant’ column of the Times of India, stating the requirement regarding age, qualification, experience etc. Sign yourself as the General Manager of the publication. (4marks)

Q4.The youth of the country are very vigilant these days and feel concerned about the problems being faced by the people. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily urging him to highlight the role of the youth in eradicating the problems of poverty, unemployment and corruption . You are Rani / Rohit, 15 Gulbarga Society, Surat.(6 marks)

Q5. You are Ram / Rajani an academic counselor. You have been invited to speak on the topic, ‘Books are Our Best Friends’. Prepare a speech in 150-200 words, giving your views on books , how they can be our best friends and how they happen to be better than real human friends and how they can lead us to the great hobby of reading. (10 marks)

Q6. According to 2017 census, literacy rate of hundred percent or around has been achieved by only a couple of states in India. Illiteracy is found mostly among the old and deprived sections of society. What can the youth do to spread literacy in society? Write an article in 150 – 200 words on ‘Role of students in eradicating illiteracy’(10marks)

**SECTION-C (LITERATURE AND LONG READING TEXT) – (30m)**

**Q6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4m)**

**I looked again at her, wan, pale**  
**as a late winter’s moon and felt that old**  
**familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,**  
**but all I said was see you soon, Amma,**  
**all I did was smile and smile and smile ………**

**(a) What was the poet’s childhood fear?**  
**(b) What were the poet’s parting words?**  
**(c) What is the poetic device used in these lines?**  
**(d) Why did the poet smile and smile?**

**Q7. “What a thunderclap these words were to me!”(4m)**

1. **Who is the speaker of the above line?**
2. **Which were the words that shocked and surprised little Franz?**
3. **Why was it a thunderclap?**
4. **Recall the word/phrase which means “the idea that one’s language is superior to that of others”.**

**Q8. Answer the following in 30-40 words each: (10m)**

(a) What words did M Hamel write on the blackboard before dismissing the last class? What did they mean?

(b) What do parting words of Kamala Das and her smile signify?

(c) How did M Hamel praise the French language?

(d)“We’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with” said M Hamel . Comment.

(e)Having looked at her mother, why does Kamala Das look at the young children?

**Q8. Answer the following in 180 to 200 words each: (30marks)**

(a) How was M.Hamel different in his last lesson ? Who did he scold and for what?(6m)

(b) Attempt the character sketch of M Hamel.(6m)