



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
HALF YEARLY EXAM, SEPTEMBER 2019
ENGLISH(SAMPLE PAPER)



Class: VIII
 Date: _____

Max. Marks: 80
 Time: 3 Hours

SECTION - A

Reading-20 Marks

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1.	Read the following passage.	8
	<p>1) People have been playing chess for over 500 years. The chess we play today came from Europe. Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces. The other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the King. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are few more rules, but these are the basics.</p> <p>2) The players of chess believe that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is like a workout for the brain.</p> <p>3) You don't always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It's called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-pace.</p> <p>4) Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first, they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on they grew stronger. In 1977, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006, a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure came a long way. Don't you think so?</p>	
1.1	Based on your reading of the above passage answer the questions that follow :	
a	Which is the most important piece in chess? i) King ii) Queen iii) soldier	
b	How does it effect brain?	
c	What is the relationship between chess and life?	
d	What is blitz chess?	
e	Modern chess was originated in _____.	
f	How much time does each player get in blitz chess?	
g	When did the computers start playing chess?	

h	How have computer chess programs changed over time?	
2	<p>Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long, long ago, in a big forest, there were many trees. Among the cluster of trees, there was a very tall pine tree. He was so tall that he could talk to the stars in the sky. He could easily look over the heads of the other trees. One day late in the evening, the pine tree saw a ragged, skinny girl approaching him. He could see her only because of his height. The little girl was in tears. The pine tree bent as much as he could and asked her : “What is the matter ? Why are you crying?” 2. The little girl, still sobbing, replied, “I was gathering flowers for a garland to goddess Durga, who I believe, would help my parents to overcome their poverty and I have lost my way.” The pine tree said to the little girl, “It is late in the evening. It will not be possible for you to return to your house, which is at the other end of the forest. Sleep for the night at this place.” The pine tree pointed out to an open cave-like place under him. The little girl was frightened of wild animals. The girl quickly crept into the cave-like place. 3. The pine tree was happy and pleased with himself. He stood like a soldier guarding the place. The little girl woke up in the morning and was amazed to see the pine tree standing guard outside the cave. Then her gaze travelled to the heap of flowers that she had gathered the previous night. The flowers lay withering on the ground. The pine tree understood what was going on in the girl’s mind. He wrapped his branches around the nearby flower trees and shook them gently. The little girl’s eyes brightened. But a great surprise awaited her. The pine tree brought out a bag full of gold coins which had been lying for years in the hole in its trunk and gave it to the girl. With teary eyes she thanked her benefactor and went away. 	12
2.1	Answer the following questions :	(2*4=8 marks)
a	Why was the girl crying?	
b	Where did the pine tree want the little girl to sleep for the night?	
c	Why was the little girl disappointed when she looked at the flowers and what did the tree do to make her happy?	
d	What lesson does this short story teach us?	
2.2	Do as directed.	(4 marks)
a	Which word in the passage means ‘ group ’. (para-1) i) Gathering ii) cluster iii) wrapped	
b	Find the word opposite in the meaning to “ richness ” (para-2) i) Wealthy ii) poverty iii) sobbing	
c	Find the word in the passage means, ‘ terrified ’ (para-2) i)frightened ii)sobbing iii) crept	
d	Give one word for (para-3) Something or someone that provides help or an advantage.	
SECTION –B		
WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR		
30 MARKS		

3.	You have joined your school hostel for the first time. Your mother is very apprehensive of your stay in the hostel but you like hostel life. Write a letter to your mother that you enjoy your life in the hostel and relieve her of her worries. (80-100 words)	6
4.	You have topped all the sections of class VIII in the final examination. You feel very happy and excited and decide to write a page in your diary expressing your feelings.(80-100 words)	6
5	You were a member of the team which represented your school in the “Linguaviz” English literary quiz and won the team trophy. Prepare a report about the event for the school magazine. (80-100 words)	6
6.	<u>Fill in the blanks with the correct tense forms of the verbs given in brackets.</u>	4
a	Rani and Rekha _____ (be) absent today. (Simple Present) (is, was, are)	
b	Don't go out. It _____(rain) outside. (Present Continuous)(is raining, was raining)	
c	I _____ (finish) my work just now. (Present Perfect)(had finished,have finished)	
d	They _____ (pray) to God every morning. (Simple present)(pray,prayed,are praying)	
e	Saritha _____(watching) television since 7 p.m. (Present Perfect Continuous)	
f	She _____ (meet) me last Sunday. (Simple Past)	
g	When my friend arrived I _____ (watch) television.(Past Continuous)	
h	The rain _____(stop) by six o'clock.(past perfect)	
7.	<u>Change the following sentences into passive voice.</u>	6
a	She helps the poor.	
b	The gardener is plucking flowers.	
c	I have done my duty.	
d	They built the bridge last year..	
e	All of us were cheering the team.	
f	The peon had opened the gate.	
8.	<u>Re-arrange the following words/phrases to make meaningful sentences.</u>	2
a.	have/today/credit/a/necessity/become/cards.	
b.	considered/are/they/a/for/boon/the/shoppers.	
SECTION C : LITERATURE		
30 MARKS		
9.	<u>Reference to context :</u>	
1	“ I know what the caged bird feels, alas! When the sun is bright on the upland slopes; When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass' And the river flows like a stream of glass; When the first bird sings and the first bud opes, And the faint perfume from its chalice steals-	3

	I know what the caged bird feels!”	
a.	Name the poem and the poet	
b.	The line ‘And the river flows like a stream of glass’ is an example of a 1.Simile 2. Metaphor 3. Personification	
c.	What is the effect of the refrain “I know what the caged bird feels!”?	
2.	“You might have done it. You must have done it.”	3
a.	Name the lesson and the author.	
b.	Who said the above words and to whom?	
c.	What did she do?	
10	<u>Answer any six of the following questions in 40-50 words.</u>	12
a.	Why does Miss Lucy believe that Christmas is the most important time?	
b.	Why did Swaminathan not deliver the letter to the headmaster?	
c.	What is Dr King’s purpose in giving the speech?	
d.	What was ‘near ecstasy’ for the raiders?	
e.	What had made Miss Wilson’s father become mentally disturbed?	
f.	Getting food out of the tent was not easy for Tuskless. Explain.	
g.	In Dr King’s opinion, what were the African-Americans deprived of?	
h.	Why did Uncle Kedar appoint the three boys as ‘game-watchers’?	
11	<u>Answer any one of the following in 90-100 words.</u>	6
a	The story ‘A Most Important Person’ teaches us something important about friendship. In what ways is the friendship between Miss Lucy and Chester unusual and remarkable? Write your own views on friendship.	
b	As the narrator of “Can We Change This?” justify the title of the narration and describe the discrimination you have undergone on daily basis at school.	
12	<u>Answer any one of the following in 90-100 words.</u>	6
a	Through the lesson ‘Father’s Help’, R.K. Narayan has given values to children. Explain with incidents what values did you inculcate from this story.	
b	Explain the reason behind the wonderful smile that spread across the old man’s face when the narrator of “The Corner Shop” told him about the money that he wanted to give them?	