

**J B ACADEMY**  
**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2023**  
**CLASS X**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**Time: 3 hrs.**  
**M.M. : 80**

**1. Read the following passage carefully :**

**(10)**

1. Frankness may be among the most overrated of virtues! And here's why. Because unrestricted and unfiltered frankness is a recipe for breaking relationships, even the closest ones. Such frankness is understandable, acceptable and even 'cute' only in children under the age of five.

2. Thinking before one speaks and using restraint are hallmarks of growing maturity and preparation for life. Learning to put a filter between thought and spoken word (and, even more importantly, written word) is an important life skill. Think is a popular acronym for True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind. This would do wonderfully well as a filter in our minds.

3. It is good to speak what's true, but only along with the other attributes in the acronym, particularly the last one, kindness. In the righteous glow of speaking what we see as the truth, we often forget to be kind. We blurt out 'truths' even when it is totally unhelpful and unnecessary to do so, let alone inspiring! Too often, such truth-telling is destructive rather than noble. Only those who do not care about the consequences can afford the luxury of 'speaking their minds' whenever and wherever they please. When relationships are at stake, it is essential to choose the time, place and words appropriately when imparting unpleasant truths. And even then, only when absolutely necessary and with the utmost kindness.

4. Speaking without forethought can be even more dangerous in other circumstances, for example, when someone has entrusted us with a secret. A sign of maturity is the ability to keep a secret. Very young children are incapable of understanding the concept of a secret. To them, every piece of information is interesting, new and meant to be shared. As we grow older, we all learn how to keep a secret, but too often we keep only our own secrets and not those that others confide in us. We may blurt out something a friend told us in confidence, perhaps carelessly but often to appear important in other people's estimation. It gives us a sense of power to know something that our friends don't, and it requires conscious effort to keep the information to ourselves.

5. But this is the real test of an important life skill: self-restraint. Revealing a friend's secret is equivalent to betrayal of the friendship. Indeed, the consequences may well spread way beyond the friendship alone. It may lead to gossip spreading like a forest fire, destroying peace of mind and even lives.

6. Words have power to hurt or heal. They are not mere tools for tweeting and messaging. Before the tongue speaks, before the fingers fly over the keyboard, it is important to pause and apply the THINK acronym filter. Is this True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind?

7. Of course it is important to communicate. But it is far more important to be considerate and compassionate. Speaking well is a skill: speaking kindly is a life skill.

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.**

(a) The writer says that 'Learning to put a filter between thought and speech is an important life skill.' Which of the following options best encapsulates this principle? (1)

Pg. 1

(i) We should be sympathetic in our thoughts. (ii) Words can hurt or heal.

(iii) We should communicate with compassion . (iv) Speaking well is a skill.

(b) What is the tone of the writer in paragraph 1 ? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. (2)

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

**The author's use of vivid imagery in paragraph 5, such as "gossip spreading like a forest fire" is meant to reinforce the dangers of speaking without forethought in adults vis a vis children because .....**

(d) The passage includes some words that are similar in meaning to each other. From the sets 1-5 below, identify two sets of synonyms. (1)

1. considerate and compassionate

2.to hurt or to heal

3. tweeting and messaging

4. unrestricted and unfiltered

5. whenever and wherever

(i) 1 and 4

(ii) 3 and 5

(iii) 2 and 3

(iv) 1 and 3

(e) Supply one point to justify the following statement. (1)

**Adults are hypocritical beings and keep double standards.**

(f) Based on the reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words, the connection the writer draws between 'blurting out truths' and the feeling of 'righteousness'. (2)

(g) Evaluate which of the following reasons is not recommended by the author when it comes to truth-telling or the luxury of speaking one's mind. (1)

(i) Choose the time, place, and words appropriately .

(ii) Be callously frank.

(iii) Speak the truth kindly.

(iv) Think before you speak.

(h) The writer emphasizes that very young children are immature and behave without restraint or forethought, unlike adults. Select the reason which DOES NOT correspond to the way they share secrets. . (1)

(i) To them, every piece of information is interesting.

(ii) Every piece of information is new.

(iii) Every piece of information is meant to be shared.

(iv) Every piece of information gives them a sense of power.

**2. Read the following passage carefully.**

**(10)**

1. A day after Argentina won the World Cup, Messi's picture of kissing the trophy became the most-liked post on Instagram, surpassing likes on an egg! Then, a campaign to beat the egg started when a journalist noticed that Messi's photo was only 11 million likes away from being number one. "If you liked this egg, unlike it," he tweeted jokingly. But since it was right after the Cup, people went berserk.

2. Fans started to encourage friends and followers to unlike the "World Record Egg," a parody account. It lost 150,000 likes and Messi gained 6 million by evening. Twelve hours later, Messi stood at more than 74 million likes. The fans broke the records at such short notice with passion and eccentricity. It was a movement not only to overthrow the status quo but also a worldwide embrace of Messi by his fans.

3. A marketing agency created a website tracking the likes and allowing the users to subtract their like from the egg and then add one to Messi's post. It peaked at 6,000 users in real time and had over 50,000 visitors during that week. Then Ronaldo's supporters found out that he had moved down to third place in terms of likes, and started adding likes to the egg making it surge past the 55-million-likes mark within days.

4. The fact that the campaign was centered around Instagram was crucial. On Twitter, powerful bots can impact the turn out. On Instagram, at least in this case, there is no reason to believe any artificial users took part in the process. It was 100% the fans.

5. Analysts believe that what led supporters to engage in the campaign was linked to a deep-seated desire to be part of the triumph they'd seen on the football pitch and wished to contribute to this victory.

**Attempt the following questions on the basis of the passage you have read:**

**(10)**

(a) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2.

We can say that powerful bots impacting the turnout of popular and viral campaigns on Twitter is comparable with scripted reality shows on TV but the success of Messi's campaign on Instagram was driven..... (1)

(b) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 3. (1)

A marketing agency jumped into the melee to keep a track of likes both on the egg and Messi's picture and analysed the web traffic in real time is a.....fact/ opinion because it is a/an .....subjective judgement/ objective detail.

(c) Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2)

**Such is the power of social media that even trivial comments can go viral on these platforms.**

(d) Based on the results of various campaigns on social media as referred to in the passage, which of them display 'berserk fan behaviour' apart from the one with fans liking Messi's photo with the World Cup trophy. (1)

(e) The trending egg lost 150,000 likes and Messi gained 6 million by evening. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. (1)

(f) Select the option that correctly displays what 'peaked' signifies. (Refer Paragraph 2) (1)

(i) A and B                      (ii) Band D                      (iii) A, B and E                      (iv) C and E

(g) Infer one benefit and one drawback of trending or viral social media campaigns with reference to the passage. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(h) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks (1)

From the passage, we can infer that the die-hard fans relate to their idols and the ups and downs of their careers and lives with.....

- |                    |                   |              |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. distinctiveness | 2. conventionally | 3. Passion   |
| 4. eccentricity    | 5. Love           | 6. diversity |

(i) 1 and 2                      (ii) 3 and 4                      (iii) 5 and 6                      (iv) 1 and 6

**SECTION-B (20 Marks)**  
**(GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS)**

**(Grammar)**

**3. Answer ANY TEN of the twelve questions as directed. (1x10)**

(1). Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete

The Central and State Governments are expected to frame policies so that every citizen..... of a decent living standard irrespective of sex, caste, religion, language and region.

(i) is assured    (ii) shall be assured    (iii) has to be assured    (iv) might be assured

2. Read the conversation between two neighbours. Complete the sentence by reporting the dialogue.

Natalya: How much hay have you stacked?

Ivan: Ask Alex. He knows best.

On being asked by Natalya,.....Ivan encouraged her to ask Ivan because he knew best.

3. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a health magazine.

Those who never exercised before, too. ....some new habits of Yoga, Pranayam and exercises during the lockdown period.

(i) have developed                      (ii) had developed                      (iii) developed                      (iv) were developing                      Pg.4

4. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report:

The current scenario is affecting the central and state economies to the extent wherein many businessmen had to bear heavy losses in their businesses.

| OPTION NO. | ERROR        | CORRECTION   |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| (i)        | scenario     | scene        |
| (ii)       | Is affecting | Has affected |
| (iii)      | economies    | economy      |
| (iv)       | To bear      | To borne     |

5. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

The number of employed women..... rapidly in some states, while some states are still lagging behind in the terms of women empowerment.

- (i) had improved                                        (ii) are improving
- (iii)could improve                                        (iv) is improving

6. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word, for the given portion of a letter:

Sir

Subject: Problem of Beggars

I .....like to draw the attention of the authorities to the above-mentioned problem through the columns of your esteemed newspaper.

7. Report the dialogue between a recruitment manager and an interviewee by completing sentence:  
Manager: Miss Promilla! What are you doing at present?

Promilla: Sir, I am working with Mark and Spencer these days.

To the question of the recruitment manager put to Promilla.....at present, she replied that she with Mark and Spencer those days.

8. There is a report on dengue published in a magazine. There is a blank by mistake. Supply the correction to fill in the blank.

All regions in the world were affected, and dengue transmission..... (record) in Afghanistan for the first time.

9. Ms. Brown told Mr. Amherst that she was fully eligible for the job with her command over typing and knowledge of EPBX system. Write the question asked by Mr. Amherst.

10. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the statement given below.  
 People's increased focus on their health, wellness and immunity..... surely change the way they lead their lives even in future.

- (i) may                      (ii) will                      (iii) ought to                      (iv) have to

11. Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Sanya and Manvi

Sanya: What are you doing this weekend?

Manvi: I don't have any special plans.

When Sanya asked her friend.....weekend, Manvi replied that .....any special plans.

- (i) what was she doing that; she don't have                      (ii) what she was doing that; she didn't have  
 (iii) what were her plans this; she has not                      (iv) what was she going to do that; she had not

12. Identify the error on the hoarding of a doctor's clinic and supply the correction for the following:

**For a personal appointment, visit Monday to Sunday accept during lunch hours between 1pm to 3pm**

Use the given format for your response.

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Error | Correction |
| ..... | .....      |

**Q.4** Analyse the given data based on the schooling status and age group of students Of India and write an analytical paragraph on ‘**Education for all levels in India**’ in about 120 words. (5)

|           | NEVER ENROLLED |         | ENROLLED BUT CURRENTLY NOT ATTENDING |         | CURRENTLY ATTENDING |         |
|-----------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
|           | 2007-08        | 2014-15 | 2007-08                              | 2014-15 | 2007-08             | 2014-15 |
| Age group |                |         |                                      |         |                     |         |
| 6 to 10   | 8.8            | 6.0     | 1.6                                  | 1.0     | 89.6                | 92.9    |
| 11 to 13  | 6.2            | 2.9     | 7.5                                  | 4.3     | 86.3                | 92.9    |
| 14 to 15  | 8.5            | 4.4     | 20.0                                 | 12.4    | 71.5                | 83.2    |
| 16 to 17  | 8.7            | 6.0     | 36.5                                 | 25.6    | 54.8                | 68.4    |
| Over all  | 8.1            | 5.0     | 11.0                                 | 7.6     | 80.9                | 87.4    |

Source: Estimates based on NSS 64<sup>th</sup> and 7th round unit level data

OR

B. Study the table given below that shows holiday homework given to the students of class X in a city school. Analyse the table and write a paragraph as a representative of the PTA (Parent Teachers Association) on whether the volume of the holiday homework is practical and useful for the students.

| S. NO | SUBJECT        | TOPIC TEXTBOOK                             | ACTIVITIES                                       |
|-------|----------------|--|--|
| 1     | CHEMISTRY      | All chapters done in class                 | 1. 2 projects as done<br>2. worksheet on chap1-3 |
| 2.    | PHYSICS        | All chapters done in class NCERT           | 1.2 projects assigned<br>2. assignments as given |
| 3.    | BIOLOGY        | All chapters done in class NCERT           | Assignments and 2 projects as given by teacher   |
| 4.    | ENGLISH        | Subject verb, reading a novel, book review | 1. chapter1-5<br>2. diary entry as told          |
| 5.    | SOCIAL SCIENCE | India and contemporary world               | 1. All q. ans<br>2. Two projects assigned        |
| 6.    | MATHEMATICS    | Question bank                              | 30 questions each day                            |

Q.5A. You are Balveer/Ranjeet of 250 L, Shakti Nagar, Surat. You purchased an LED from MK Electronics, New Market Raj Nagar, Surat. Write a letter to the Manager complaining against the improper functioning of the LED. Mention the problem and ask for immediate replacement in about 120 words. (5)

OR

B. A large number of stray dogs wander about in your locality. They are a great nuisance and pose a threat to passers-by. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper highlighting the problem and giving some suggestions to solve the problem. You are Arunita/Rakesh of 100, Guru Nanak Dev Mohalla, Bathinda. (5)

### Section -C Literature

**Q.6 Read the following text and answer the questions that follow. (ANY ONE)**

**A. The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt.**

a. Choose the options that lists the statements that are NOT TRUE. (1)

1. The policy of apartheid left a deep and lasting wound.
2. The country and people were hurt by the policy of apartheid.
3. The people will spend years enjoying from that policy.
4. Many generations will hear of the policy of apartheid.
5. People will spend many years recovering from the hurt created by apartheid.
6. The wound of apartheid is many generations old.

(i) 1, 2 and 4

(ii) 3, 5 and 6

(iii) 3, 4 and 6

(iv) 1, 4 and 6

- b. Pick the option classifying Fact (F) from Opinion (O). (1)
1. I know Apartheid created a deep and lasting wound.
  2. I feel the people and the country were left wounded.
  3. Let's not forget it recovered gradually.
  4. Oh! But all this resulted over generations.

- (i) F- 1 and 3 O- 2 and 4  
 (ii) F- 1 and 4 O- 2 and 3  
 (iii) F- 2 and 3 O- 1 and 4  
 (iv) F - 1 and 2 O- 3 and 4

- c. Which word does 'profound' NOT CORRESPOND to? (1)
- (i) overpowering                      (ii) acute                      (iii) ardent                      (iv) appalling

- d. What was denied to a coloured man in South Africa during Apartheid? (2)

**OR**

**B. It was a quiet, kindly voice, but one with firmness in it. A woman was standing in the doorway and Sherry was rubbing against her. She was young, quite pretty and was dressed in red. She walked to the fireplace and straightened the ornaments there.**

**"Down, Sherry," She said. "Anyone would think I'd been away for a month!" She smiled at Horace.**

- a. How did the lady make Horace believe that she was the mistress of the house? (2)
- b. The woman standing in the doorway was..... (1)
- i. Young                      ii. Quite pretty  
 iii. Dressed in red      iv. All of the above.
- c. Addressing the pet dog by name convinced Horace that she was the..... of the house? (1)
- d. The lady in red seemed to be very innocent and nervous.(True/False) (1)

**Q.7 Read the following text and answer the question that follow. (ANY ONE)**

**A.People will take**

**Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.**

**And no one buys a ball back.**

- a.The poet uses the actions of people as a symbol of.... (1)
- i. the boy's companions      ii. Society                      iii. relationships                      iv. attitudes in society.
- b. The rhyme scheme of the lines is..... (1)
- i. aba                      ii. Abc                      iii. bbc                      iv. aab
- c. The word 'always' does not mean..... (1)
- i. consistently                      ii. invariably                      iii. considerably                      iv. constantly
- d. In the passage the phrase; 'balls will be lost always' signifies..... (2)



OR

**B. Though to distinguish beasts of prey  
A novice might nonplus,  
The crocodile you always may  
Tell from the Hyena thus:  
Hyenas come with merry smiles;  
But if they weep they're Crocodiles**

- a. Choose the option that DOES NOT describe a 'novice'. (1)
- Ravi has played cricket for the first time today.
  - Reena has been teaching for last ten years.
  - Shrishti went for her first French class yesterday.
  - Gautama baked a second cake to improve his skills.
- b. What according to the extract, would cause bewilderment? (1)
- Discovering the similarity between different preys of beasts.
  - Analysing habits of beasts that prey on hyenas.
  - Knowing the difference between several beasts of prey.
  - Drawing the similarities between crocodiles and hyenas.
- c. Choose the line from the given stanza that the poet takes liberty with, to fit to the rhyme scheme. (1)
- Though to distinguish beasts of prey
  - A novice might non-plus
  - The crocodile you always may
  - Hyenas come with merry smiles
- d. What humorous description do you find in the poem? (2)

**Q. 8 Attempt ANY FOUR (3×4=12)**

- In the poem 'Fire And Ice,' there is an apparent contrast but inherent unity' Illustrate with reference to the theme of the poem.
- What were Lencho's feelings when he found the letter with money in it? What did he do after opening the letter?
- What shocked the narrator after landing safely?
- How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly?
- Why did Amanda imagine herself as an orphan?

**Q. 9 Answer ANY TWO from the following questions based on the text. (3×2=6)**

- What did the narrator mean by saying that Tricki had never had such a time in his life?
- Why did Hari say that it was pleasant working for Anil?
- Why did no one believe Horace when he said that the wife of the owner of Shotover Grange had asked him to open the safe for her?

**Q.10. Attempt ANY ONE of the following long questions based on the text. (6×1=6)**

Anne Frank was an intelligent girl. Explain with reference to the text.

OR

You have been asked to write a paragraph on the approaches of the mothers of both, the baby Seagull and Amanda to help their children. Write a paragraph including your insights and observations in about 120-150 words comparing the approaches of both parents.

**Q11. Attempt ANY ONE of the following long questions. (6×1=6)**

Even after a great discovery, Griffin could not get the reader's praise and sympathy, Explain.

OR

Sometimes appearances can be very deceptive. How does this statement prove true in 'The Midnight Visitor'.

\*\*\*\*\*All The Best\*\*\*\*\*