

ENGLISH

Max. Score : 40

Time : 1½ hrs

Standard : VIII

INSTRUCTIONS

- 15 minutes is given as cool-off time.
 - This time is to be used for reading the question paper.
 - You are not supposed to write anythings during the cool-off time.
 - Attempt the questions according to the instructions.
-

1 to 5: Read the excerpt from the story 'The Mysterious Picture' and answer the questions that follow. (5 × 1 = 5)

Tyl, in the course of his wanderings from court to court, rode to the palace of the Archduke of Battenburg on his donkey. His clothes and appearance attracted everyone's attention. His cap was set smartly on his head and the three bright feathers on it danced in the breeze as he rode. At the main entrance to the palace, the Captain of the Guards called out to him, 'Hei there! You fellow on the donkey! We don't allow any loafers here. You and your donkey already look like skeletons

1. How did Tyl reach the palace ?
2. Who stopped him at the main entrance ?
3. What was attractive in Tyl's appearance ?
4. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'a person who wastes his time instead of working.'
5. 'His cap was set smartly on his head.' Identify the noun phrase in the subject position.

6 - 9: Read the lines from the poem 'Taj Mahal' and answer the questions that follow. (4 × 1 = 4)

You knew, Emperor of India, Shah Jahan,
That life, youth, wealth, renown
All float away down the stream of time.
Your only dream
Was to preserve forever your heart's pain.
The harsh thunder of imperial power
Would fade into sleep
Like a sunset's crimson splendour,
But it was your hope
That at least a single, eternally-heaved sigh would stay
To grieve the sky.

6. What is imperial power compared to ?
7. Pick out an auditory image from the lines?
8. What are the things that would float away down the stream of time ?
9. 'Your only dream
Was to preserve forever your heart's pain.'
Whose dream was to be preserved?

10 - 14. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (5 × 1 = 5)

There lived a carpenter with years of experience. He decided to retire and to live a more leisurely retired life with his wife and family. He told his contractor about his decision to retire from his job. The contractor felt a little upset that his good and experienced carpenter was leaving the job, but he requested the carpenter to build just one more house for him.

The carpenter agreed with the contractor but his heart was not in his work as it used to be. He resorted to cheap workmanship and used inferior materials for building the last house of his career. It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the carpenter completed the house the employer came to see it. He looked around the house and then handed the front door key to the carpenter. 'This is your house, my gift to you'. The carpenter was surprised. But he was not feeling good as he felt a deep shame inside him. If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home that wasn't built that well !

10. Why did the carpenter want to retire ?
11. What was the contractor's request ?
12. How did he build the last house ?
13. Was the carpenter happy to receive the house as a gift . Why?
14. Give a suitable title to the passage.

15-16 . Answer any one from the questions given below. (Each question carries 5 marks)

(1 × 5 = 5)

15. Imagine Tyl narrates the incidents that happened in the palace to one of his friends. Write the likely **narrative**.

(Hints – wish to be the court painter – impresses Archduke – asks to draw the picture of Archduke and the courtiers – threatens to paint them young and attractive – real picture – in danger – plays a trick – escapes)

16. Imagine that a meeting is arranged in your school to congratulate Velasco, on his adventurous escape from the Columbian shipwreck. Prepare the text of the **speech** to congratulate him.

You may begin the speech like – Respected teachers and dear friends, today we are

17-19. Answer any two from the questions given below. (2 × 4 = 8)

17. Prepare the **character sketch** of the boy in the lesson 'The Boy who drew cats'.
(Hints – weak and small – not fit for hard work – never grows big – clever – obedient – draw cats)
18. The Arts club of your school has decided to conduct a painting competition to find out the young talents. As the Arts club secretary, prepare a **notice** to inform the students. Give the details such as venue, time, date etc....
19. Velasco could not believe that he was alive! He wrote his feelings in his diary. Write the likely **diary entry**.

20. **Some parts of the conversation between the little boy and the mother in the lesson ' The little Round Red House' is missing. Complete it** (3 × 1 = 3)

Boy : Mom, I don't know what to do. I'm bored.

Mom : Why don't you draw pictures or read books ?

Boy : I've already done all these.

Mom : Oh! You want something new to do, (a)_____?

Boy : yes

Mom : OK, Then you may go out and find a little round red house with no windows and doors.

Boy : _____(b)_____?

Mom : I can't tell you. _____(c)_____

Boy : Yes. I will surely find it.

21. **Look at the following word pyramid.** (1 × 3 = 3)

House

The house

The big house

The beautiful big house

The beautiful big house in the street

Now construct a similar word pyramid using the word 'chair'

22. **Prepare a profile of Gabriel Garcia Marquez using the hints given below.**

(1 × 5 = 5)

Birth : March 6, 1927

Place : Colombia

Known as : Gabo

Famous as : novelist, short story writer and journalist

Notable awards : The Neustadt International Prize for literature in 1972.
Nobel prize for literature in 1982.

Best known novels : One Hundred Years of Solitude (1967)
The Autumn of the Patriarch (1985)
Love in the Time of Cholera (1985)

Died : 17 April 2014, Mexico, aged 87

23. Edit the following sentence

(2 × 1 = 2)

The boy painted a *grate* (a) many cats upon the screen, and then he began to *felt* (b) very sleepy.