

Std: IX

Time: 2½ hrs.
Total Score: 80

INSTRUCTIONS:

- The cool off time of 15 minutes is to be used for reading the question paper.
- You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Questions 1 – 5: Read the excerpt from the story *Half a Day* and answer the questions that follow. (5x1=5)

I had never imagined school would have this rich variety. We played all sorts of games: swings, the vaulting horse, ball games.... In the music room we chanted our first song. We also had our first introduction to language. We saw a globe of the Earth, which revolved and showed the various continents and countries. We started learning the numbers. We ate delicious food, took a little nap, and woke up to go on with friendship and love, play and learning.

As our path revealed itself to us, however, we did not find it as totally sweet and unclouded. Dust-laden winds and unexpected accidents could happen suddenly, so we had to be watchful, and very patient. It was not all a matter of playing and fooling around. Rivalries could bring about pain and hatred or give rise to fighting. And while the woman would sometimes smile, she would often scowl and scold. Even more frequently, she would resort to physical punishment.

1. What does the speaker mean by 'rich variety'?
 - A) Playing various games, enjoying food and taking a nap
 - B) Learning arithmetic, geography and music
 - C) Experiencing friendship and love
 - D) All of the above
2. What did the children see in order to learn about the continents and countries?
3. Why didn't the boy find school as 'totally sweet and unclouded'?
4. What does 'Dust-laden winds and unexpected accidents' symbolise?
 - A) Weather changes and natural disasters in the school area.
 - B) Problems, struggles and unexpected challenges in life.
 - C) The poor condition of the school building and playground.
 - D) The technological progress of modern society.
5. Identify the **Noun Phrase** in the subject position and the **Verb Phrase** in the sentence given below.

Dust-laden winds and unexpected accidents could happen suddenly.

Questions 6 – 9: Read the lines from *Nothing Twice* and answer the questions that follow.

(4x1=4)

Nothing can ever happen twice.
In consequence, the sorry fact is
that we arrive here improvised
and leave without the chance to practise.
Even if there is no one dumber,
if you're the planet's biggest dunce,
you can't repeat the class in summer:
this course is only offered once.

6. What does the expression 'the planet's biggest dunce' mean?
A) The wisest person in the world
B) A person lacking intelligence or understanding
C) A scholar
D) The biggest animal in the world
7. Why does the poet say that 'we arrive here improvised'?
8. What does the expression 'this course is only offered once' suggest about life?
9. Identify the rhyme scheme of the second stanza.
10. Read the lines from the poem *Nothing Twice* and write an **appreciation** of the lines focusing on the theme and poetic techniques. **(1x5=5)**

No day copies yesterday,
no two nights will teach what bliss is
in precisely the same way,
with precisely the same kisses.

One day, perhaps some idle tongue
mentions your name by accident:
I feel as if a rose were flung
into the room, all hue and scent.

Questions 11 – 14: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

(4x1=4)

In 2015, Kerala achieved a remarkable milestone when Cochin International Airport became the world's first airport to operate entirely on solar energy. What began as a small solar project gradually expanded into a massive network of solar panels capable of generating enough electricity to meet all the airport's energy needs.

The airport's success attracted international attention. In 2018, it received the prestigious 'Champions of the Earth' award from the United Nations for its contribution to sustainable development and environmental protection.

Today, the airport produces clean energy while reducing carbon emissions and electricity costs. Its achievement has inspired airports and organisations around the world to adopt renewable energy solutions. The project demonstrates how innovation and environmental responsibility can work together to create a sustainable future.

11. What made Cochin International Airport famous around the world?

12. Which of the following best explains the significance of the airport's achievement?

- A) It became the largest airport in India.
- B) It showed that large institutions can operate using renewable energy.
- C) It was the first airport to offer international flights.
- D) It showed that large institutions can operate using conventional energy.

13. Which of the following statements are TRUE?

- i) The airport became fully solar-powered in 2015.
- ii) The airport received international recognition for its environmental efforts.
- iii) The project increased the airport's dependence on conventional energy.
- iv) The airport's success inspired others to consider renewable energy.

Choose the correct option:

- A) i and ii
- B) ii and iii
- C) i, ii and iv
- D) All the statements given above.

14. How does the airport's solar power project contribute to environmental protection?

Questions 15 – 18: Answer either (A) or (B).

15. [A] The story *Half a Day* by Naguib Mahfouz presents the narrator's journey from a young boy to an old man, which symbolically reflects the different stages of human life and the swift passage of time. Throughout the journey, the narrator meets many people, goes through different experiences, and undergoes a big transformation. Based on your reading of the story, prepare a **write-up** on the topic 'The Fleeting Nature of Time and Life'. (1x7=7)

[Hints: The boy's first day at school - school as a symbol of life - meets many people - different stages of life - the rapid passage of time - old age - life's changes and challenges]

OR

[B] Your school has decided to commemorate Selma Lagerlof, the Nobel Laureate on her birthday. As the secretary of the Literary Club, you are asked to deliver a speech on her life and achievements, and her unique way of expressing gratitude to her well-wishers. Based on the reading of the excerpt *Debts of Gratitude*, prepare a script of the **speech**.

[Hints: Swedish writer - first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature (1909) – first novel – *Gosta Berling's Saga* - literary works inspired by Swedish folklore and rural life – greatly influenced by her father - believes in the value of gratitude - source of inspiration for young writers – humble and compassionate personality]

16. [A] The narrator of *Half a Day* notices heavy traffic on the way home. Even a fire engine is caught in the traffic jam. You witness the scene. Draft a **letter** to the Regional Transport Officer requesting immediate intervention to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours. (1x6=6)

OR

[B] Selma Lagerlöf's speech *Debts of Gratitude* highlights her sense of gratitude, her affection and respect for her father and her development as a writer. Prepare a **character sketch** of Selma Lagerlöf.

17. [A] During his visit to London, Gandhiji met the world-famous actor Charlie Chaplin. Imagine that you are a reporter who is reporting the event. Prepare a **news report** describing the meeting and the discussion between the two famous personalities. (1x6=6)

OR

[B] In the story *Half a Day* by Naguib Mahfouz, the narrator is shocked to find that everything around him has changed in half a day. He narrates the changes to one of his friends. Write the likely **narrative**.

18. [A] The boy in the story *Half a Day* understands that the school has rich variety. In the light of your reading, write a **paragraph** on the topic 'How School Prepares Children for Life.' (1x4=4)

OR

[B] The news of winning the Nobel Prize in Literature fills Selma Lagerlöf with immense joy and pride. She jots down her feelings in her diary. Write the likely **diary entry**.

Questions 19-21: Answer all questions

19. Prepare a **profile** of Mahadev Haribhai Desai using the details given below. (1x6=6)

Birth	:	1 January 1892, Surat
Famous as	:	Writer, journalist, freedom fighter, Mahatma Gandhi's personal secretary
Education	:	Elphinstone College
Spouse	:	Durgabehn
Major works	:	<i>Gandhiji in Indian Villages</i> (1927), <i>With Gandhiji in Ceylon</i> (1928), <i>The Story of Bardoli</i> (1929) and <i>The Gita According to Gandhi</i> (1946), Translation of Gandhiji's autobiography
Awards	:	Posthumously awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1955
Death	:	15 August 1942, Pune

20. Read the picture given below. Using the visual hints and your imagination, write a **story** not exceeding 100 words. (1x4=4)



21. Read the passage given below and frame **three Wh-questions** and **one Yes/No question**. The questions should be based on the theme and content of the passage. (1x1=4)

Chaplin had evidently heard of Gandhiji's spinning wheel and the very first question he asked was why Gandhiji was against machinery. The question delighted Gandhiji who explained to him in detail why the six months' unemployment of the whole peasant population of India made it important for him to restore them. Gandhiji said, "In cloth and food every nation should be self-contained. We were self-contained and want to be so again."

Questions 22 – 25: Read the news headlines given below and answer the questions that follow. (4x1=4)

BBC to Cut 550 Jobs in Cost-saving Drive

India's New Missile can Strike 1500 km Away

G7 Leaders Push Global Cooperation

Youth-led Green Initiative Transforms Town with 500 New Saplings

India Bans Sale of Cough Syrups without Prescription

22. Which of the following headlines involves actions not taken by governments or national leaders?

- i) India's New Missile can Strike 1500 km away
- ii) G7 Leaders Push Global Cooperation
- iii) Youth-led Green Initiative Transforms Town with 500 New Saplings
- iv) India Bans Sale of Cough Syrups without Prescription

Choose the correct option:

- A) i and ii
- B) ii, iii and iv
- C) i, ii and iv
- D) iii only

23. Which organisation plans to cut 550 jobs as part of a cost-saving drive?

24. Which headline is related to international relations?

- A) India Bans Sale of Cough Syrups without Prescription
- B) G7 Leaders Push Global Cooperation
- C) BBC to Cut 550 Jobs in Cost-saving Drive
- D) India's New Missile can Strike 1500 Km away

25. What action has India taken regarding the sale of cough syrups?

26. Complete the following passage choosing appropriate words from those given in brackets. (6x½=3)

Real education consists not in packing the brain(a)..... facts and figures, not in passing examinations by reading numerous books, but(b).....developing character. If we explore the possibilities (c) non- violence, you will find that(d)..... character it will prove(e)..... profitless study. In a movement such as we are conducting in India, we need (f)..... intellectual sympathy of the whole world.

(without, of, the, by, a, in, with)

27. Edit the passage below. The errors are in bold.

(6x½=3)

In the story *Half a Day* by Naguib Mahfouz, we meet a young boy **which** (a) is nervous about going to school, thinking of it as a punishment. However, his father assures him that education **was** (b) essential for personal growth. As the boy walks to school, he **notice** (c) the beautiful streets on the way, full of fruit-bearing trees. Throughout the day at school, he **experiances** (d) new things, meets teachers, and makes friends. At the end of the **days** (e) he finds that the world has changed **complete** (f).

28. Complete the paragraph using the appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs given in brackets. (4x1=4)

I bade farewell to my friends and (a).....my father. Even though, I waited for a long time, he did not (b)..... Then I (c)..... a middle aged man who was an old acquaintance of mine. He tried to(d)..... the fact that he was going through a tough time.

(come across, look for, turn up, put across, make out)

29. Report the following dialogue. (2x1=2)

Father : Why are you here?

Selma : I am in debt. I need your help.

a)

b)

30. Complete the conversation between the child and his father. (5x1=5)

Child :(a).....?

Father : You should go to school to become a good citizen.

Child : I am a good boy,(b).....?

Father : Of course. But you have to grow up.

Child : If I am not at home,(c).....

Father : No dear. Your mother won't be sad.

Child :(d).....?

Father : Yes son. There are teachers at school to take care of you.

Child : Would you mind(e).....?

Father : No, I would wait for you.

31. Fill in the blanks using the words given in brackets. (2x1=2)

He gifted his (a)..... mother a(b)..... necklace on her birthday.

(tree-lined, diamond-studded, kind-hearted)

32. Rewrite the sentences given below without changing the meaning. (2x1=2)

a) We played all sorts of games.

b) They introduce languages.

a) All sorts of games

b) Languages