

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
CLASS IX



TIME – 3 HOUR

MAXIMUM MARKS- 80

The Question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A	: Reading	15marks
Section B	: Writing & Grammar	30 marks
Section C	: Literature	35marks

Maximum Marks 80

Section – A READING (15 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. A fisherman, enfeebled with age, could no longer go out to sea so he began fishing in the river. Every morning he would go down to the river and sit there fishing the whole day long. In the evening he would sell whatever he had caught, buy food for himself and go home. It was a hard life for an old man. One hot afternoon while he was trying to keep awake and bemoaning his fate, a large bird with silvery feathers alighted on a rock near him. It was Kaha, the heavenly bird. “Have you no one to care for you, grandpa?” asked the bird. “Not a soul.” “You should not be doing such work at your age,” said the bird. “From now on I will bring you a big fish every evening. You can sell it and live in comfort.” True to her word, the bird began to drop a large fish at his doorstep every evening. All that the fisherman had to do was take it to the market and sell it. As big fish were in great demand, he was soon rolling in money. He bought a cottage near the sea, with a garden around it and engaged a servant to cook for him. His wife had died some years earlier. He had decided to marry again and began to look for a suitable woman.

2. One day he heard the royal courtier make an announcement. Our king has news of a great bird called Kaha,” said the courtier. “Whoever can give information about this bird and help catch it, will be rewarded with half the gold in the royal treasury and half the kingdom!” The fisherman was sorely tempted by the reward. Half the kingdom would make him a prince!

3. “Why does the king want the bird?” he asked. “He has lost his sight,” explained the courtier. “A wise man has advised him to bathe his eyes with the blood of Kaha. Do you know where she can be found?” “No...I mean ...no, no...” Torn between greed and his sense of gratitude to the bird, the fisherman could not give a coherent reply. The courtier, sensing that he knew something about the bird, informed the king. The king had him brought to the palace.

4. “If you have information about the bird, tell me,” urged the king. “I will reward you handsomely and if you help catch her, I will personally crown you king of half my domain.” “I will get the bird for you,” cried the fisherman, suddenly making up his mind. “But Kaha is strong. I will need help.” The king sent a dozen soldiers with him. That evening when the bird came with the fish, the fisherman called out to her to wait. “You drop the fish and go and I never get a chance to thank you for all that you’ve done for me,” he said. “Today I have laid out a feast for you inside. Please alight and come in.” Kaha was reluctant to accept the invitation but the fisherman pleaded so earnestly that she finally gave in, and alighted. The moment she was on the ground, the fisherman grabbed one of her legs and shouted to the soldiers hiding in his house to come out. They rushed to his aid but their combined effort could not keep Kaha down.

5. She rose into the air with the fisherman still clinging onto her leg.

By the time he realised he was being carried away, the fisherman was too high in the air to let go. He hung on grimly, and neither he nor Kaha were ever seen again.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (5 × 1 = 5)

- (a) Why was the king desperately looking for Kaha the bird?
- The king wanted a pet bird.
 - A wise man advised the king to capture the bird for good luck.
 - Kaha was the only heavenly bird with silvery feathers.
 - The king was blind and required Kaha's blood for his eyes.
- (b) Why did the bird volunteer to bring fish for the old man?
- The old man was inexperienced at fishing.
 - The bird took pity on the old man and wanted to help him.
 - The bird had caught more fish than required.
 - The bird wanted to make the old man rich.
- (c) What led the courtier to sense that the fisherman might know something about Kaha ?
- The courtier had observed Kaha alight at the fisherman's house every evening.
 - The courtier had seen the fisherman talk to Kaha.
 - The fisherman fumbled when asked about Kaha.
 - Word went around that the fisherman was in contact with Kaha.
- (d) Which of the following is not true about Kaha ?
- Kaha was a very considerate bird.
 - The blood of Kaha was precious.
 - Kaha was a strong bird.
 - Kaha saved the fisherman from the King's wrath.
- (e) What does the phrase 'rolling in money' in the passage refer to?
- i. wealthy ii. Poor iii. poverty iv donating



Q2. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions. (5 marks)

The Fallen Leaves
*Why should I be the first to fall
Of all the leaves on this old tree?
Though sadly soon I know that all
Will lose their hold and follow me.
While my birth-brothers bravely blow,
Why should I be first to go?
Why should I be the last to cling
Of all the leaves on this bleak bough?
I've fluttered since the fire of Spring
And I am worn and withered now.
I would escape the Winter gale
And sleep soft-silvered by a snail.*



- a) The fallen leaf laments in the first stanza because:
- i) It has turned yellow
 - ii) It is the last to fall
 - iii) It is the first to fall
 - iv) Other leaves have fallen
- b) The two seasons that have been mentioned in the poem are _____ & _____
- i) Summer & winter
 - ii) Spring & Winter
 - iii) Autumn & Summer
 - iv) Summer & Spring
- c) The term 'birth-brothers' refers to:
- i) Snow
 - ii) Leaves
 - iii) Grass
 - iv) Gale
- d) A synonym for the word 'bough' is:
- i) Twig
 - ii) Tree
 - iii) Weather
 - iv) Branch
- e) The leaf will cover both the trees and the _____ with snow.
- i) stem
 - ii) ground
 - iii) branch
 - iv) root

Q3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: 5 marks

- 1 Most people read and hear regularly about the importance of staying healthy and living longer through diet and exercise. While it's definitely smart to follow that advice, you can do something else to help keep your mind and body in optimum condition. Connect with a critter — it goes a long way toward making you happy and healthy.
- 2 Studies have shown that forming a relationship with an animal can have important health and psychological benefits. Owning a pet or interacting regularly with animals can lower humans blood pressure, reduce anxiety and depression, and increase their social interaction. People who have dogs also tend to get more exercise from regular walks.
- 3 It doesn't really matter what kind of pet you have, whether it's a cat or a dog, a fish or a ferret, an iguana or a horse. What's important is developing a relationship with an animal. Having a pet often provides people with a reason for enjoying life and connecting with others. This can be especially critical for older adults, who sometimes get socially isolated or struggle with finding a sense of purpose. It commonly happens after seniors retire, their spouses die, their children and grandchildren grow up, or their families move away.
- 4 Owning a pet serves as a wonderful way to rediscover a sense of purpose. It helps people feel needed and wanted. After all, most people can't help but smile when their dog greets them with its tail wagging or their cat curls up cozily on their lap.
- 5 Providing for an animal's needs by going to the pet store or taking a dog for a walk helps reduce seniors' social isolation by encouraging them to get out into the world. They may meet new friends at a dog park or at the pet store when they go to buy more birdseed.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer the questions: 5 x 1= 5

- (a) What are the health benefits of owning a pet?
- (b) Why is developing a relationship with an animal important for older adults?
- (c) How does a pet give its owner a sense of purpose?
- (d) In what ways does a pet help reduce seniors' social isolation?
- (e) The synonym of the word "Critical" _____
(i) crucial (ii) good (iii) useful (iv) beneficial

SECTION - B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR**(30 Marks)**

4. You are Priya/Priyan living in the students' hostel of Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Bhopal. Write a letter to your father sharing your first day hostel experience after your parents left and how you met a friend.

OR

You are Swaroop/Swaroopaa, a student of a School in Delhi. You have come across the following data of internet users in India. You feel 'Excess of Anything is Bad'. Chatting on Internet, using social sites such as Facebook, what's app, we chat, Yahoo etc., lead to neglect of studies and wastage of time on the part of students. **Draft a letter to the editor of a national daily** citing the evils of addiction to social networks online.

6 Marks

5. You are Chandru/Chandra. You have been asked to deliver a speech on 'Health is Wealth' on World Health Day. Write the speech in about 120 words.

(Hints: All components of balanced diet – a good night sleep – physical exercises – smart -active – disease free life-)

You are Sumitra / Suresh. You observe how children try to imitate the acts that they see in video games which result in major or minor injuries. Write an article in about 120 words for your school magazine on the topic, 'Harmful Effects of Video Games'.

(Hint: Play video games – unrealistic stunts – try to imitate – Fall from height – meet with accidents – cause death or injuries – time wastage – affect eyes)

6 Marks

6. Your sister has got state rank English Olympiad Exam. You and your father want to give her a surprise party. Write a dialogue in about 80 words with your father describing your plans for the party.

OR

A little boy saw a monkey hanging in a tree. He was amused to see it floating in the air. He gazed at it constantly when suddenly the monkey.....

3 Marks**Q7. Choose the most appropriate option from the ones given below to complete the passage: (3)**

A seventy-year-old man _____ (a) with an accident, When he _____ (b) the road, near his house. A speeding car _____ (c) him. The Police _____ (d) the place of accident and _____ (e) the driver of the car. The oldman _____ (f) to the local hospital.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| a) (i) meet | (ii) met | (iii) meeting | (iv) meets |
| b) (i) cross | (ii) crossing | (iii) was crossing | (iv) in crossing |
| c) (i) hit | (ii) hits | (iii) hitted | (iv) is hitting |
| d) (i) reach | (ii) reached | (iii) reaching | (iv) has reached |
| e) (i) arrest | (ii) arresting | (iii) has arrested | (iv) arrested |
| f) (i) admitted | (ii) is admitted | (iii) was admitted | (iv) admit |



Q8. In the given passage, there is one word missing in each line. Write the missing word with the word that comes before and after that. Underline the word supplied by you. 1/2 x 6 = 3 marks

	Incorrect	Correct
Owls spends most of their time in the	a) _____	_____
dark and has an acute sense of	b) _____	_____
hearing. They can detect there prey just	c) _____	_____
by hear them move in the complete darkness.	d) _____	_____
Owls have two ears, one on neither side	e) _____	_____
of a head. They also have	f) _____	_____
a dish like structure on the face.		

Q9. Re-arrange the jumbled words of the following sentences in correct order: 3x1=3

Example: Oldest/ the ship/means of/is/transportation/man's

The ship is man's oldest means of transportation.

- a) Cross/today/oceans/ships/thousands of
- b) Heavily/among/depends/on/trade/countries/ships
- c) Used/ships/to/people/and/many /carry/kinds of/goods

Q10. Read the dialogue given below and complete the passage that follows 3x1=3

Shopkeeper : What would you like to buy, madam?
Customer : A saree
Shopkeeper : Which one do you like – silk or synthetic?
Customer : Neither. Give me a cotton saree

The shopkeeper asked the customer politely (a) _____. The customer replied (b) _____. The shopkeeper enquired (c) _____. The lady replied that she wanted a cotton saree.

Q11. Given below is conversation between Sedhu and his friend, Vishnu. Complete the dialogue by choosing the correct option from those given. 3 x 1 =3

Sedhu : Hello, Sedhu. Have you completed your homework?
Vishnu : Yes. (a) _____
Sedhu : (b) _____
Vishnu : Yes. It's my pleasure.
Sedhu : Can I borrow your notebook? (c) _____
Vishnu : Yes. You may come.



- (a) i. I completed my homework
- ii. I have completed my homework
- iii. I had completed my homework
- iv. I complete my homework
- (b) i. Please help me
- ii. Could you help me?
- iii. May I help you?
- iv. Will you help us?
- (c) i. May I come to your house?
- ii. Will you come to my house?
- iii. Can I come to your house?
- iv. Could you come to my house?

SECTION - D (LITERATURE 35 MARKS)

Q12. Read the extract given below and answer the questions: 8x1=8

- a) *"The sound was a familiar one."*
- i. What sound did the doctor hear?
 - ii. What did he think it was?
 - iii. How many times did he hear it?
 - iv. When and why did the sounds stop?

b) *They called her name and she didn't move. I suddenly realized she hadn't heard," says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist.*

- i. What made Isabel suspect Evelyn's hearing ability?
- ii. Why did Evelyn's headmistress advise her parents to consult a specialist?
- iii. Find the word from the passage which means the same as "to hide".
- iv. Who is 'I' in the above lines?

13. Read the extract given below and answer the questions: (Any two)

6 marks

a) *I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
Took the one less travelled by,*

- a) What does 'ages and ages' refer to?
- b) What does the metaphor 'road' stand for?
- c) What is the theme of the poem?

b) *Now in memory comes my mother
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers Ere she left them till the dawft:*

- a) Which sound is the poet listening to?
- b) The sound reminds the poet of _____
- c) Which word in the extract means "the ability to remember things"?

c) *The wind blows out weak fires
He makes strong fire roar and flourish His friendship is good
We praise him everyday*

- a) How does the wind affect the weak fires?
- b) What is the effect of the wind on strong fire?
- c) Trace a word from the extract that means "prosper."

Q14. Answer any three of the following questions in 40-50 words each.

3x2=6

- a) Why did the doctor run from his house?
- b) Why did Einstein hate school?
- c) Why did Keiza stammer in front of her father?
- d) What kind of book did Tommy show to Margie?

Q15. Answer the following questions in about 80 words. (Any one)

1x5=5

- a) Do you think schools today are more fun than schools in the story? Give reasons. (OR)
- b) The relation between a parent and child should be distant and formal or should it be close and warm.

Q16. Answer the following questions in about 80 words. (Any one)

1x4=4

- a) How did the little Swallow carry out the wishes of the happy prince? (OR)
- b) Iswaran was a fascinating storyteller. What other skills he had? How was he an asset to Mahendra?

Q17. Answer any three of the following questions in 40-50 words each.

3x2=6

- a) Why was Evelyn nervous while going to Royal Academy of music?
- b) How did the doctor show the presence of mind when he encountered the snake?
- c) Why did Keiza avoid her father?

