

School Certificate Examination, 2017

English

Time : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 80

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin.

1. Read the following extract from *Adolf*.

My mother hastily poured out his tea. He went to pour it out into his saucer. But instead of drinking he suddenly put something on the table among the tea-cups. A tiny brown rabbit! A small rabbit, mere morsel, sitting against the bread as still as if it were a made thing.

‘A rabbit! A young one! Who gave it to you, father?’

But he laughed enigmatically, with a sliding motion of his yellow-grey eyes and went to take off his coat. We pounced on the rabbit.

‘Is it alive? Can you feel its heartbeat?’

My father came back and sat down heavily in his armchair. He dragged his saucer to him and blew his tea, pushing out his red lips under his black moustache.

‘Where did you get it, father?’

‘I picked it up,’ he said, wiping his naked forearm over his mouth and beard.

‘Where?’

‘It is a wild one!’ came my mother’s quick voice.

‘Yes, it is.’

‘Then why did you bring it?’ cried my mother.

‘Oh, we wanted it,’ came our cry.

‘Yes, I’ve no doubt you did-’ retorted my mother. But she was drowned in our clamour of questions.

On the field path, my father had found a dead mother rabbit and three dead little ones - this one alive, but unmoving.

‘But what had killed them, daddy?’

‘I couldn’t say, my child. I should think she’d eaten something.’

‘Why did you bring it?’ again my mother’s voice of condemnation. ‘You know what it will be!’

My father made no answer, but we were loud in protest.

‘He must bring it. It’s not big enough to live by itself. It would die,’ we shouted.

(A) Write whether the following statements are True or False.

1×5=5

(a) The father mysteriously introduced a rabbit on the table.

(b) The children knew about the rabbit before their father got it.

(c) The children were careless about the rabbit.

(d) The mother had no objection to the rabbit.

(e) The rabbit’s mother was not alive.

(B) Where had the father picked up the rabbit from?

2

(C) Make a list of the physical actions made by father after putting down the rabbit on the table. 2

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)

(D) Find out words from the extract which mean the following. 0.5×2=1

- (a) a loud and confused noise :
- (b) an expression of very strong disapproval :

2. Read the following extract from *Journey by Night*.

Sher Singh's father was known far and wide as Sher Singh Bahadur — the Brave — a famous hunter with the title Bahadur added to his name like a medal because of all he had done. He lived his life here in Laldwani village, grazing his animals, cultivating his bit of land. But whenever an expedition entered the jungle in search of big game, they sent for Bahadur the Brave. All along his skull and back and shoulder went a scar where claws had opened his flesh to the bone when he was pulling a comrade away from a tiger.

Now he was away in the jungle with an expedition. All the men of Laldwani village too were away, as beaters.

In this mud-and-grass hut, upon the floor of trodden earth, Kunwar lay crying sometimes, but mostly glazed and silent. Sher Singh saw death in his young brother's eyes.

'There are no men in the village,' he said. 'I will take him.'

His mother must stay behind to mind the cattle and work on the land without which they would all starve; and he and she both understood this without saying so. She took one of her two *saris* and making a sling for Sher Singh, lifted up Kunwar, and put him into it. Sher Singh could feel immediately the heat of the boy's body burning through the cotton cloth on his back. He felt the weight too and wondered how he was going to manage.

'He is too big for you,' his mother whispered in despair. 'You will never get there.'

Sher Singh said nothing. He set off into the jungle in the orange glow of evening.

Answer the following questions.

(a) How had Sher Singh's father injured himself? 2

(b) Where had all the men of the village gone?

2

(c) Why could Sher Singh's mother not accompany him to the hospital?

2

(d) How did she prepare for the journey that Sher Singh was about to undertake?

2

(e) Sher Singh "wondered how he was going to manage." Why?

2

3. Andre, in 'The Boy and the Swallow' meets the top officer of the power station. They enter into a conversation. Complete the dialogue. 8

Andre : A little swallow is hanging from a live wire.

Officer : _____

Andre (crying): Can't you do anything?

4. Read the poem ‘Miracles’ by Walt Whitman.

Why, who makes much of a miracle?
As to me I know of nothing else but miracles,
Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan,
Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses toward the sky,
Or wade with naked feet along the beach just in the edge of the water,
Or stand under trees in the woods,
Or talk by day with anyone I love, or sleep in the bed at night with anyone I love,
Or sit at table at dinner with the rest,
Or look at strangers opposite me riding in the car,
Or watch honey-bees busy around the hive of a summer forenoon,
Or animals feeding in the fields,
Or birds, or the wonderfulness of insects in the air.
Or the wonderfulness of the sundown, or of stars shining so quiet and bright,
Or the exquisite delicate thin curve of the new moon in spring;
These with the rest, one and all, are to me miracles,
The whole referring, yet each distinct and in its place.
To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,
Every cubic inch of space is a miracle,
Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same,
Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.
To me the sea is a continual miracle,
The fishes that swim — the rocks — the motion of the waves — the ships with men in them,
What stranger miracles are there?

Answer the following questions.

(a) Name four miracles of everyday life that are mentioned by the poet.

2

(b) What do the following phrases mean? (i) 'dart my sight' and (ii) 'edge of the water' 1×2=2

(c) Name two activities of the animal world that the poet considers as miracles. 1×2=2

(d) Why does the poet consider the sea a miracle? 2

(e) Does the poet think 'miracles' to be something extraordinary? Support your answer with three instances. 2

5. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**The Magic Garden**

She was now only ten inches high- the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden. She waited for a few minutes to see if she was going to shrink any further. She felt a little nervous about this.

After a while, finding that nothing more had happened, she decided to go into the garden at once. But, alas for poor Alice! When she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the little golden key. She went back to the table to get it. Though she could see it quite plainly through the glass, she could not reach it. She tried very hard to climb up one of the table legs, but it was too slippery. She tired herself out with trying and then sat down and cried.

Suddenly, her eyes fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table. She opened it, and found a very small cake in it. On it, the words 'EAT ME' were beautifully marked in currants.

'Well, I'll eat it,' said Alice, 'and if it makes me larger, I can reach the key. If it makes me smaller, I can creep under the door; so either way I'll be able to go into the garden.'

She ate a little bit, and said anxiously to herself, 'Which way? Which way?' holding her hand on the top of her head to feel which way it was growing. She was quite surprised to find that she remained the same size. That is what usually happens when one eats cake, but Alice had become used to unusual things happening to her.

She set to work, and very soon finished the cake.

Answer the following questions.**A. Tick (✓) the correct alternatives.**

1×4=4

(i) The door leads to —

(a) room with the table. ☐ (b) the room with a cake. ☐ (c) a beautiful garden. ☐

(ii) Initially Alice was —

(a) growing. ☐ (b) shrinking. ☐ (c) remaining same. ☐

(iii) The glass of the table top was —

(a) transparent. ☐ (b) semi-transparent. ☐ (c) opaque. ☐

(iv) The first bite of the small cake made Alice —

(a) frightened. ☐ (b) worried. ☐ (c) relaxed. ☐

(B) Complete these sentences.

1×4=4

(a) You should not be more than _____ tall to go through the door to the magic garden.

(b) Alice returned after reaching the door because _____

(c) Alice began crying because _____

(d) Inside the box, there was _____ with _____ written on it.

$1 \times 4 = 4$

- (i) generally _____
- (ii) small dried fruits _____
- (iii) become smaller in size _____
- (iv) developing _____

$$0.5 \times 12 = 6$$

‘A few years ago the sea _____ (be) a beautiful blue. Look at it now!’ exclaimed Kaushik. Kaushik and his sister, Kusum _____ (walk) along the seashore, one evening, when they _____ (spot) a Siberian crane lying on the sand. It seemed to be in some difficulty.

They _____ (come) closer and _____ (see) that the seawater had an oil floating on it. The oil had _____ (soak) into the bird's feathers. It could not _____ (fly).

They _____ (carry) the crane home and Mother helped _____ (clean) the feathers. Then they _____ (take) the bird back to the seashore and set it free.

‘May be it _____ (come) back again someday,’ said Kusum.

4

Rita : That was an exciting film, wasn't it?

Dev : Oh, do you think so? I'm surprised you liked it. I thought it was rather disappointing.

Rita : Well, I was puzzled once or twice. I didn't understand the whole story. It was confusing in places. But the end was good.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- [illegible]

[illegible]

