

CLASS – VII
MID TERM EXAMINATIONS 2023-2024
SUBJECT – ENGLISH
MARKING KEY AND SOLUTIONS
(SET – B1&B2)

TIME DURATION – 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS – 60

General Instructions:

1. The paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Read the questions carefully and attempt them as instructed.
3. Adhere to the prescribed word limit wherever applicable.

SECTION A
READING (18 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

10

1. In the heart of the Indian Botanic Garden in Kolkata stands a tree so large and ancient that it looks more like a forest than a single tree. This is the Great Banyan Tree—one of the largest and oldest living trees in the world. Estimated to be over 250 years old, it spreads across more than 14,500 square meters of land.

2. What makes the banyan tree unique is its aerial roots. These roots grow downwards from the branches and, when they reach the ground, they thicken and harden to look like trunks. Over the centuries, the Great Banyan has developed more than 3,000 such roots, creating the illusion of a dense forest with thousands of trees. In reality, it all belongs to one enormous organism.

3. The tree has survived many cyclones and storms. In 1925, the main trunk was struck by lightning and became infected. To protect the tree, the damaged central trunk was removed. Amazingly, the tree survived and continued to grow even more branches and roots. Today, what we see is a circular canopy with a circumference of over 450 meters.

4. The Great Banyan is not just a botanical wonder but also a popular tourist attraction. Visitors from all over the world come to walk through the shade of its thick branches. It offers shelter to birds, insects, and squirrels, and serves as an outdoor classroom for biology students.

5. Scientists say the banyan tree is a symbol of resilience and adaptation. Though it lost its original trunk, its network of roots allowed it to survive and thrive. In Indian culture, the banyan tree is considered sacred and is often associated with longevity, wisdom, and life.

Q1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage choose the most suitable option to answer the following questions: **1x5=5**

i. What best explains the tone of the passage when describing the tree's survival after losing its trunk?

- a) Pessimistic
- b) Admiring
- c) Regretful
- d) Humorous

Answer: b) Admiring

ii. What does the banyan tree symbolize according to scientists?

- a) Power and protection
- b) Speed and growth
- c) Resilience and adaptation
- d) Fertility and strength

Ans: c) Resilience and adaptation

iii. The illusion of a forest is created by:

- a) Its circular canopy
- b) Its aerial roots that look like trunks
- c) Multiple trunks from different trees
- d) The shade of its leaves

Ans: b) Its aerial roots that look like trunks

iv. Assertion (A) and Reason (R):

Assertion (A): The Great Banyan Tree appears like a forest.

Reason (R): It has over 3,000 aerial roots that resemble trunks of separate trees.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

v. What is the correct meaning of the word resilience as used in the passage?

- a) Decorative appeal
- b) Ability to bounce back or recover
- c) Power to control nature
- d) Strength gained through age

Answer: b) Ability to bounce back or recover

Q1.2 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions briefly. **1x5=5**

i. Why do you think scientists describe this tree as a symbol of adaptation?

Answer: Because it survived the loss of its main trunk and continued thriving through its network of aerial roots.

ii. How do the aerial roots help the tree survive?

Ans: They grow down from branches and act like trunks, supporting the tree.

iii. What happened to the main trunk of the tree?

Ans: It was struck by lightning in 1925, became infected, and was removed.

iv. What word in the paragraph 2 means “a false appearance”?

Ans: Illusion

v. List two reasons why the tree holds cultural and symbolic importance in India.

Answer: It symbolizes longevity and wisdom, and is considered sacred in Indian culture.

Q2. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow:

8

I. 'Tis a lesson you should heed ,
if at first you don't succeed ,
try try again ;

II. Then your courage should appear ,
For if you will persevere ,
You will conquer, never fear
Try , try again ;

III. Once or twice, though you should fail ,
If you would at last prevail ,
Try , try again ;

IV. If we strive, 'tis no disgrace
Though we do not win the race ;
What should you do in the case ?
Try , try again

V. If you find your task is hard ,
time will bring you your reward ,
Try , try again

VI. All that other folks can do ,
Why , with patience , should not you ?
Only keep this rule in view ;
Try , try again .

Q2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the questions by choosing the most suitable option:

1x4=4

i. Assertion (A) and Reason (R):

Assertion (A): The poet encourages the reader to continue trying even after failing.

Reason (R): According to the poem, time rewards effort and courage.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

ii. When should one show courage, according to the poem?

- a) At the beginning
- b) When you feel discouraged
- c) After you succeed
- d) After your first failure

Ans: d) After your first failure

iii. What tone does the poet use throughout the poem?

- a) Humorous
- b) Inspirational and encouraging
- c) Critical and harsh
- d) Doubtful and uncertain

Answer: b) Inspirational and encouraging

iv. What poetic device is used in “Try, try again”?

- a) Metaphor
- b) Personification
- c) Repetition
- d) Simile

Ans: c) Repetition

Q2.2 On the basis of your understanding of the poem answer the following questions briefly.

1x4=4

i. What lesson does the poet teach in the poem?

Ans: To never give up and keep trying despite failures.

ii. What does the word “persevere” mean?

Ans: To continue with effort despite difficulties.

iii. Identify the rhyme scheme of stanza 4.

Ans: aaab

iv. Which word in stanza 4 means “dishonour”?

Ans: disgrace

SECTION B
GRAMMAR AND WRITING (22 MARKS)

Q3.1. Identify the type of sentences by their function and punctuate them correctly. **1x2=2**

a. how cleverly he solved the riddle

Ans: How cleverly he solved the riddle! (Exclamatory)

b. please pass me the salt

Ans: Please pass me the salt. (Imperative)

Q3.2. The underlined groups of words in the sentences given below are phrases or clauses. Rewrite the sentences changing the phrases into clauses, or vice versa. **1x2=2**

a. The girl who lives next door is my friend.

Ans: The girl living next door is my friend.

b. The man with the golden watch arrived late.

Ans: The man who had a golden watch arrived late.

Q3.3. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate idiomatic phrase from the given help box to make meaningful sentences: **1x2=2**

rat race	lion's share	chicken feed	bee in her bonnet	dead as a dodo
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a. After retiring from the ____, he chose a peaceful life in the hills.

Ans: rat race

b. She always has a ____ about keeping everything in perfect order.

Ans: bee in her bonnet

Q3.4. Change the following active voice sentences into passive voice: **1x2=2**

a. The chef is preparing a delicious meal.

Ans: A delicious meal is being prepared by the chef.

b. The gardener waters the plants every morning.

Ans: The plants are watered by the gardener every morning.

Q3.5. Select the most appropriate conjunctions from the options given to make meaningful sentences: **1x2=2**

a. You won't pass the test ____ you study sincerely. (unless/although/so)

Ans: unless

b. He was late to school ____ the traffic was terrible. (but/because/until)

Ans: because

B1

Q4.1. You are a lifestyle coach at a wellness centre. Design a poster in not more than 50 words, encouraging people to adopt healthy eating habits for better well-being. **5**

B2

Q4.1. Burning garbage is harmful to the environment. As a social activist, design a poster in about 50 words to discourage this practice and suggest safer alternatives. **5**

F- 1, C-2, E-2

B1

Q4.2. You are Prerna / Pratham Verma, a student of class VII of Global School, Delhi. Write a letter to the Principal requesting permission to submit your project late due to a family emergency. Give relevant details and assure timely submission. (100–120 words) **7**

F-1, C-3, E-3

B2

Q4.2. You are Pooja / Piyush Verma, a student of class VII of Delhi International School, Delhi. Write a letter to the Principal requesting another chance to participate in the inter-house debate competition as you were unwell during the first round. Mention the reason and express your interest. (100–120 words) **7**

F-1, C-3, E-3

SECTION C
LITERATURE (20 Marks)

Q5. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow: **3x3=9**

5.1 "Then the Babu cried, "Oh help, my moustache has been swiped."
Lost his moustache? Incredible! How could it be?
But his handlebars were just the same, plain for all to see."

i. Why did the situation seem "incredible" to everyone? **1**

- a) Because the Babu was always calm
- b) Because his moustache was still visible
- c) Because moustaches were valuable
- d) Because no thief had entered the office

ANS: b) Because his moustache was still visible

ii. The word "handlebars" in the stanza refers to— **1**

- a) Bicycle handles
- b) The Babu's moustache style
- c) The office chair arms
- d) His walking stick

ANS: b) The Babu's moustache style

iii. Why did Chief Babu refuse to believe others even after seeing his moustache in the mirror? 1

ans: Chief Babu refused to believe others because he was convinced that his real moustache had been stolen.

5.2 "Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance."
~Daffodils

i. What is being described in the lines? 1

- a) A crowd of people
- b) A group of school children
- c) A field of daffodils
- d) Stars in the sky

Ans: c) A field of daffodils

ii. What poetic device is used in "Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"? 1

- a) Alliteration
- b) Personification
- c) Metaphor
- d) Hyperbole

Ans: b) Personification

iii. What lasting effect did the sight of daffodils have on the poet? 1

Ans: The memory of the daffodils continued to bring joy and peace to the poet whenever he felt lonely or pensive. Nature's beauty became a source of emotional healing.

5.3 "What others only dreamed, they dared;
What others guessed, they proved."
~Wilbur Wright and Orville Wright

i. What is the central idea expressed in this couplet? 1

- a) The Wright brothers copied others
- b) They built a spaceship
- c) They achieved what others couldn't
- d) They were unsuccessful dreamers

Ans: c) They achieved what others couldn't

ii. Which quality of the Wright brothers is most evident here? 1

- a) Laziness
- b) Imagination and determination
- c) Carelessness
- d) Fear

Ans: b) Imagination and determination

iii. How does the poet contrast the Wright brothers with others in these lines? 1

Ans: The poet shows that while others only imagined or predicted flight, the Wright brothers had the courage and skill to turn those dreams into reality through action and invention.

Q6. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in 30-40 words each. 2x3=6

a. Describe the incident for which Ramdinthara received the Bapu Gaidhani award in 2016. (Bravehearts)

Ans: On seeing two boys electrocuted near a transformer fence, Ramdinthara risked his own life to pull them away with his bare hands. His bravery saved their lives and earned him national recognition.

b. What inspired Jimmy Valentine to give up his old ways? (A Retrieved Reformation)

Ans: Jimmy fell in love with Annabel Adams and decided to change. Her presence and kindness made him want to live an honest life and leave his criminal past behind.

c. How did Shirin and Stephen support each other despite being different? (A Beauty of Difference)

Ans: Shirin and Stephen, both feeling excluded, became friends through shared understanding. They accepted each other without judgment and learned that being different was something to be proud of.

d. How was Wajid Ali Shah's capture by the British army unusual? (The Chess Players)

Ans: Unlike typical conquests, his capture involved no resistance. The British army peacefully marched in and took him away, reflecting their strategy of control without violence.

Set B2

b. Jimmy Valentine undergoes a transformation. What inspired this change, and what does it reveal about human nature? (A Retrieved Reformation)

Ans: Meeting Annabel awakened a desire to live honestly, showing how love and trust can change even the most hardened people.

Q7. Answer the given question in about 80-100 word. 5

What was the important thing Shirin learnt from her new friend, Stephen? How does their bond reflect the idea of embracing differences? (A Beauty of Difference)

Ans: Shirin learned that it's okay to be different. From Stephen, she understood that not fitting in doesn't mean one lacks value. Their friendship grew from shared feelings of being outsiders. Stephen's quiet strength and acceptance helped Shirin see that she

didn't need to change to be liked. The story reflects how friendship can flourish when we appreciate people for who they are. The phrase "Beauty of Difference" captures the idea that diversity in culture, appearance, and background should be celebrated, not feared.
