

## CLASS - VIII - ENGLISH

### SECTION-A (READING)

(15 Marks)

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (8 Marks)

The modern young man or woman seems to have dumped all ideals and moral values in the dustbin and has exclusively devoted himself or herself to the pursuit of money and what can buy. This is indeed a very practical generation. Our finest young men and women go into medicine, engineering and management, and their primary interest in life is money. The notion of professional excellence is old hat and the notion of commitment to the community means nothing to them. This explains at once the lure of bureaucratic jobs, i.e., civil service and management, inside the country and mad rush to the West, especially the U.S.A, where our bright young men and women hope to join the dollar race. A large number of I.I.T. graduates migrate to the West and others go into multinationals here. Similarly, medical graduates seek greener pastures abroad or join the rat race in India throwing all scruples to the wind.

It is not that our young men and women don't have cultural interests, but these for the most part consist of wearing faded jeans, visiting fast-food centres and listening to pop music. And when they are looking for something more exciting, they burn buses and molest girls.

P.T.

Modernisation, or modern values, mean only a selfish pursuit of pleasure best represented by gadgetry. The youth is eloquent about the models of the West, and now Japan. A Sony Walkman or a Honda bike is their badge of honour. Everything Indian is looked down upon. They little realise that if Indian products are inferior, it is a reflection on their integrity and competence as well that it compromises their self-respect. This is indeed a far cry from the young lad who was greatly distressed to know that Indian products were considered inferior because India was a slave country, and resolved to make India free. The young man was no other than Subhas Bose. But what does Bose mean to young men and women today? They concede the greatness of a Bose or a Gandhi, but their idols seem to be men or women who have achieved success in a tangible material sense. A Kapil Dev! An Amitabh Bacchan!

(Source : The Modern Youth by Ashok Celly)

**1. Answer the following questions briefly :**

- (a) How does the writer distinguish between the young people's love for pop music, and indulgence in burning buses and molesting girls? (1)
- (b) How do young people compromise their self-respect? (1)
- (c) In what way are the heroes of the modern youth different from the heroes of the past? (1)
- (d) The tone of the passage is : (1)
- (i) appreciative (ii) mildly critical (iii) condemnatory (1)
- (e) The expression 'greener pastures' means : (1)
- (i) a better situation
- (ii) a greener plot of land
- (iii) a better exciting job or place
- (f) The term 'eloquent' means : (1)
- (i) hardly expressive
- (ii) ardent
- (iii) annoyed
- (g) 'The notion of professional excellence is old hat.....' What does 'old hat' suggest? (1)
- (i) unwelcome (ii) out of date (iii) wanted
- (h) Pick out **two** phrases from para 1 which suggest that the modern youth is fiercely engaged in the competition for making money. (1)

**2. Read the following poem carefully :**

**(7 Marks)**

**The African Beggar**

Sprawled in the dust outside the Syrian store,  
 a target for small children, dogs and flies,  
 a heap of verminous rags and matted hair,

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he watches us with cunning, reptile eyes,  
his noseless, small-poxed face creased in a sneer.

Sometimes he shows his yellow stumps of teeth  
and whines for alms, perceiving that we bear  
the curse of pity, a grotesque mask of death,  
with hands like claws about his begging-bowl.

But often he is lying all alone  
within the shadow of a crumbling wall,  
lost in the trackless jungle of his pain,  
clutching the pitiless red earth in vain,  
and whimpering like a stricken animal.

(Raymond Tong)

**Read the questions given below and write the appropriate answers in your answer sheet :**

1. Where and in what posture do you find the beggar? (1)
2. Stanza 3 describes the pathetic condition of the beggar. Pick out two phrases/expressions which describe this condition. (1)
3. The expression 'whines for alms' means : (1)
  - (i) prays for money and help
  - (ii) cries in a pitiful tone for help
  - (iii) shouts for help
4. In stanza 2, the poet compares the beggar's hands with 'claws'. What is such a comparison known as? (1)
5. "Lost in the trackless jungle of his pain,"  
What is the poetic device used here? (1)
6. What do you think is the poet's attitude towards the beggar? Give examples. (2)

**SECTION-B (WRITING)**

**(25 Marks)**

3. As Secretary of the Red Cross Society of your school, write a notice in not more than 50 words, urging students to donate in cash or in kind for victims of earthquakes and floods. Put the notice in a box. (5)
4. Your school organised a 6 week course in Dress Designing during the summer vacation. Write a report in the school magazine on the course mentioning : (7)
  - (i) factual details
  - (ii) methods/techniques used
  - (iii) effectiveness and limitations of the course

5. Sakshi/Saksham reads the following news item in the paper : (8)

Every year the new budget brings a steep price hike in the essential commodities making the common man bewildered and worried. The root cause of rising prices is more demand and less supply. Less production and more population. Malpractices like black marketing, hoarding and smuggling adopted by dishonest businessmen continue to aggravate the problem. The result is a big gulf between the rich and the poor.

She/ he writes a letter to the Editor of a local daily expressing her/his views and offering suggestions for dealing with the problem. Write this letter in not more than 150 words. (5)

**JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN**

- 6. Oct 11, 1902 : Born in Sitabdiara, a border village between U.P. and Bihar.
- 1911 : Goes to Patna Collegiate School.
- 1921 : Leaves British School, joins Bihar Vidyapeeth run by Congress.
- 1922 : Goes to U.S.A for higher studies.
- 1929 : Returns to India, joins the nationalistic movement, went jail many times.
- 1933 : Forms Congress Socialist Party. After independence refuses Nehru's proposal of ministry.
- 1954 : Dedicates life to Sarodaya Movement. Awarded prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for his book 'Reconstruction of Indian Polity'.
- 1975 : Forms 'Janta Party' an alliance of many political parties.
- Oct. 8, 1979 : Passes away. Called Lok Nayak 'the leader of masses'.

The great socialistic leader and social worker Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan was born in Sitabdiara, a village on the border between U.P. and Bihar. After completing his primary education (a)..... in 1911. The poems of Maithilisharan Gupta and Bhartendu Harishchandra inspired a sense of love and sacrifice for the country in him. In those years he came in the contact of many of the congress leaders and in 1921 (b)..... by the congress. In 1922 he went to the U.S.A. for higher studies. After coming back to India in 1929 (c)..... Inspired by the socialistic ideas of many European philosophers he (d)..... However, he refused Nehru's proposal of joining the cabinet. In April 1954 he dedicated his life to Sarvodaya Movement. He was awarded (e)..... He made an alliance of many political parties as 'Janta Party'. On 8 Oct. 1979 this Lok Nayak passed away.

**SECTION-C (GRAMMAR) (15 Marks)**

- 7. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the future perfect tense, choose the correct option : (4)
- 1. By January, I.....my promotion. (1)
- (i) will have received (ii) can have received





- (b) The bus is very large. It can seat five people comfortably. (1)  
(c) It's wet. Do not walk on the grass. (1)

**SECTION-D (LITERATURE)**

**(25 Marks)**

11. (A) "Even the supercilious leopard and the owl I would not mind; compared to human company, they were pleasant, minding their own business." (4 Marks)
- (a) Name the author and the lesson. (1)  
(b) Who is the speaker in the above lines? (1)  
(c) What is his opinion about human beings? (2)
- (B) "Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace  
The day's disasters in his morning face;  
Full well they laughed, with counterfeited glee,  
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;" (4 Marks)
- (a) Name the poem and the poet. (1)  
(b) Name the poetic device used in the above lines. (1)  
(c) Which quality of the person described here has been mentioned? (1)  
(d) What is meant by 'boding tremblers'? (1)
12. Answer the following questions in three to four sentences each. All the questions are compulsory. (5 × 2 = 10)
- (a) How does Mr. Pink save Tipu from his sadness?  
(b) What is the 'logic' the poet wants to convey in 'Geography Lesson'?  
(c) What makes the appointment between Jimmy and Bob so special?  
(d) Describe the traveller's reaction when he found the house in the forest uninhabited?  
(e) What were the things the village schoolmaster was good at? Which of these impressed the villagers most?
13. (a) 'Never, judge a person by his/her appearance.' Justify this statement with reference to your reading of 'Chasing the rainbow.'

**Or**

- (b) "My master never explained to me the mystery or the process of his influence on me."  
Elucidate. (7 Marks)