

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN LUCKNOW REGION

SEE/TERM-II 2023-24

CLASS: VIII

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

TIME: 2:30Hrs.

M M: 60

General Instructions;

1. All the questions are compulsory.
2. Question paper is divided into four sections;
(A) Reading Skills 15 marks
(B) Writing Skills 15 marks
(C) Grammar 10 marks
(D) Literature and Textbook 20 marks

SECTION A- Reading Skills (15 Marks)

1. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions: (10 X 1=10 Marks)** [10]

Overpowering prey is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. Some species like Russell's viper inject poison. Some others opt for an alternative non-chemical method – rat snakes, for instance, catch and push their prey against the ground, while pythons use their muscle power to crush their prey to death. But snakes can't be neatly divided into poisonous and non-poisonous categories.

Even species listed as non-poisonous aren't completely free of poison. The common Sand Boa, for instance, produces secretions particularly poisonous to birds. So the species doesn't take any chance – it crushes its prey and injects poison as an extra step.

Do vipers need powerful poison enough to kill hundreds of rats with just one drop? After all, they eat only one or two at a time. While hunting, animals try their worst to kill most efficiently, their prey use any trick to avoid becoming a meal, such as developing immunity to poison. For instance, Californian ground squirrels are resistant to Northern Pacific rattlesnake poison. Competition with prey is not the only thing driving snakes to evolve more and more deadly poison. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.

Some snake killers have partial immunity to poison. Famously, mongooses are highly resistant to cobra poison, and with their speed and agility, kill snakes fearlessly. It would be the death of cobras as a species if they didn't evolve a more deadly poison to stop mongooses. Poison has another important role. It's an extreme meat softener, specific enzymes break up the insides of the prey. Normally, a reptile depends on the sun's warm rays to aid digestion. But I wonder if we cannot use venom in our favor. In remote parts of India, local hospitality often involves leather tough meat. I chew and chew until my jaws ache. If I spit it out or refuse, our hosts would be offended, I swallow like a python stuffing a deer down its throat and hope I don't choke. If only I had poison.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions-

I. Overpowering _____ is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs.

- a) prey b) humans c) a python d) killer

II. How do pythons overpower their prey?

- a) Catch and push the prey to the ground b) Inject poison
c) Use Non-Chemical Method d) Use muscle power

III. Which reptile cannot be put into poisonous or non-poisonous categories?

- a) Russell Viper b) Rat Snake c) Python d) Snake

IV. What extra step does Sand Boa take to be sure of their prey's death?

- a) Inject Poison b) Push it to the ground c) Play with its prey d) Overpower it

V. What trick is used by the prey to avoid becoming a meal?

- a) Bite the reptiles b) Kill the reptiles before attacking them
c) Develop Immunity to poison d) Push back the reptiles

VI. Why would Indian hosts be offended?

- a) If one cooks meat b) If one spits out meat
c) If one sells meat d) If one buys meat

VII. What makes mongoose a snake predator?

- a) Their speed and agility b) High Resistance to cobra poison
c) All of these d) Kills snakes fearlessly

VIII. Which reptile is dangerous to birds, according to the passage?

- a) Sand Boa b) Cobra c) Russell Viper d) Mongoose

IX. Poison _____ meat.

- a) breaks down b) hardens c) softens d) enhances taste of

X. Californian squirrels are _____ rattlesnake poison.

- a) helpless against b) indifferent to c) afraid of d) resistant to

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions: - (CCT) (5 X 1=5 Marks)

[5]

Benjamin franklin was born in 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts. He came from a big family. He had 16 brothers and sisters. When Benjamin was 15, his brother started the first Boston newspaper. It was called *The New England Courant*. He worked for the newspaper for a short time, but he was not happy. So, he went to Philadelphia and work as a printer. In 1729, he bought a newspaper business. The newspaper was the *Pennsylvania gazette*. He was very busy. In 1733, he started **publishing** poor *Richard's almanac*. His pen name (The name he used as an author) was Richard Saunders. This book came out every year. Almanacs have information about weather and crops. They also have **wise** sayings. The wise saying "A penny save is a penny earned" come from poor Richard's almanac. Benjamin franklin was also an inventor. In 1743 he invented a very good stove called the franklin stove. He invented swim fins. He invented bifocal glasses. He also invented the first odometer. He retired from his newspaper business in 1749. He stopped working on it then become busy with science. Benjamin Franklin was also very interested in American politics. He helped Thomas Jefferson write the declaration of independence. In 1776, he and other people signed the declaration of independence. Franklin died on April 17, 1790. He was 84 years old.

I. Which newspaper did Ben Franklin buy?

- a) The News England Courant b) New England Gazette
c) Pennsylvania Courant d) Pennsylvania Gazette

II. What was Ben Franklin's pen name?

- A. Richard Franklin B. Richard Saunders
C. Thomas Jefferson D. Benjamin Saunders

III. When did his brother start the first Boston newspaper?

IV. What invention did Benjamin Franklin invent?

V. "A penny save is a penny earned." Do you agree with the statement? Why/why not?

SECTION B - Writing Skills (15 Marks)

3. You are Rohini Mittal, a student of Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad. Write an application to your principal asking him to sanction you medical leave for 2 weeks. Give reasons, why you need the leave. [5]

OR

You are Aakriti/ Abhinav. Write a letter to your friend describing your boarding school.

4. Meenakshi Goel is the sports captain of Navodaya school. The sports day is to be held on September 21st which is just two weeks away. She has to inform the house captains that they have to submit the names of the participants to her in a week's time. A student cannot take part in more than three events excluding the relay. Any delay or wrong information will lead to disqualification of the student. Write the notice for Meenakshi using not more than 40 words. [5]

OR

Yesterday it was your first day in your new school. You made new friends. Teachers were good to you and you liked the infrastructure of the school. Write about your experiences and feelings about the new school in your diary.

5. **Write a paragraph on any one of the following topics-** [5]
- a) The morning scene in a village. b) A Visit to the Zoo
c) Importance of Sports and Games

SECTION C -Grammar (10 Marks)

6. **Fill in the following blanks with the correct tense of the verbs given in brackets. (1x4=4)** [4]
(Past Tense)
- a) Mohan had already _____ his breakfast. (**take**)
b) If she _____ for the examination she would not have failed. (**prepare**)
c) The bell _____ before I reached the school. (**go**)
d) The patient _____ before the doctor arrived. (**die**)
7. **Re-arrange the following words/phrases to make meaningful sentences:** (1x3=3) [3]
- a) bring / festivals / life / colours / to / the / human / of / a
b) many / festivals / celebrated / in / types / India / of / are
c) these / Holi / some / Diwali / of / are / Eid / Christmas / and
8. **Write the sentences in passive voice.** (1x3=3) [3]
- a) We must write to him.
b) They are doing the work.
c) The car hit the man.

SECTION D -Literature and Textbooks (20 Marks)

9. **Read the stanza carefully and answer the question that follows:** (1x4=4) [4]
- O! Father and Mother, if buds are nip'd,
And blossoms blew away,
And if the tender plants are strip'd,

Of their joy in the springing day,
By sorrow and care dismay,
How shall the summer arise in joy,
Or the summer fruits appear?*
- a) Pick out the idiom from the stanza.

- b) What time of the season is replicated?
- c) Complete the sentence: Plants are stripped of _____.
- d) Who is the author of the poem?

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow choosing the correct options from among the given ones:

That is the grasshopper's - he takes the lead

In summer luxury - he has never done.

With his delights, for when tired out with fun

He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

- a) The word '**that**' refers to -
 (i) the voice (ii) the insect (iii) the bird (iv) the hedge
 - b) The grasshopper is happy in-
 (i) winter (ii) spring (iii) summer (iv) autumn
 - c) The grasshopper **has never done** means-
 (i) he is never crying (ii) he is never content (iii) he is always singing (iv) he is always on the move
 - d) The author of the poem-
 (i) Rabindranath Tagore (ii) Thomas Hardy (iii) John Keats (iv) Zulfikar Ghose
- 10. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 30 to 40 words each. (2x4=8)**
- a) What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it the best Christmas present in the world? [2]
 - b) Who was Ignacious? Why did he put his television down on the ground from table? [2]
 - c) What were the symbols of reverence left by members of the team on the Everest? [2]
 - d) What took the author Firdaus to England? Why did he wish to see Hawking? [2]
 - e) How do the hills look like in the mist? [2]
- 11. Answer any TWO of the following questions in 30 to 40 words each. (2x2=4)**
- a) What food did Velu and Jaya get from the garbage bin? [2]
 - b) What did the other Princesses do out of jealousy towards Princess September and her little bird? [2]
 - c) How did Ranji and Suraj become friends? [2]
- 12. Describe the various metaphors employed in the story. Write your answer in the context of Jalebis. [4]**

OR

In This is Jody's Fawn, Jody's father uses a 'home remedy for a snake bite. What should a person now do if he or she is bitten by a snake? Are all snakes poisonous? Write a short paragraph on – What to do if a snake chooses to bite you.