

Half Yearly Examination 2024 – 2025**Time - 3:00 Hrs.****M.M. 80****SECTION – A: READING****Q.1 Read the following passage carefully:****10**

1. Crows are incredibly aware of their surroundings and have a way of observing humans. Corvids- a family of birds including crows, magpies, and ravens develop relationship with human beings. Once corvids accepts the friendship, it is expressed by bringing gifts for their human friends. This, crows lovers say, is a possibility but not a given. Some people feed crows as a meditative practice.
2. Crow behaviour varies from family to family and region to region. There are about 50 pieces of corvids around the world, and they behave differently from each other. They're not the only intelligent birds around, but in general, corvids are smart in a way that resonates deeply with humans, because they're good at some of the things that we are good at. Crows can think about their own thoughts. Crows can recognize individual human faces, associate them with friendliness or danger, and pass that knowledge along to their pals.
3. Their social system is the most like the Western human civilization of any animal that we know of. American crows have a family and a space that they defend, but they also have a neighbourhood that they pay attention to it. And crows will interact with larger groups of crows that they don't know as well, sort of the way how humans will engage with their communities beyond their closet relationships.
4. But they're also cautious. Crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird. PET scans reveal that when crows viewed human faces that they associated with threat or care, the birds had increased activity in the amygdala, thalamus and brain stem- areas related to emotional processing and fear learning. In responses to threatening faces, areas that regulate perception, attention and fleeing also lit up. Similarities to the human brain in this case are not striking.
5. They do have preferences in food. If you put out a pile of different foods, like a little buffet for the crows, they're all going to kind of home in on something. All one needs are patience and routine. Crows need to learn you're not a threat, that the food is safe, and that it will be there every day. Crows go viral for bringing their human friends gifts. But the reality of being a friend to corvids reflects a deeper responsibility.
6. Crows lovers have been encouraging humans to feed crows for decades. But there are ways for this practice to go wrong and make them a nuisance. Leaving out too much food can lead crows to mob your neighbourhood constantly. Just as the crows talk to each other, human crow friends need to be aware of how their habits affect their human neighbours.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

(a) The writer asserts in paragraph 3 that crows are socially responsible birds much like human beings. Which of the following statements agree with this assertion? 1

1. All 50 species of crows behave differently in different social settings.
2. Crows can be friendly with humans.
3. They pay attention to their neighbourhood.
4. They interact with larger groups of crows from other areas.
5. American crows have a family and a space that they defend.

(i) 1 and 4 (ii) 2 and 5 (iii) 3 and 4 (iv) 4 and 5

(b) What makes the writer compare 'the social system of the crows is close to the Western human civilization of any animal known to humans' in the given lines para

3? Rationalise your response in about 30-40 words.

2

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

1

The author's observation that crows have been paying attention to individual people more than perhaps any other bird is backed by.....

(d) The passage includes some words that are either opposites of or similar to each other. From the sets (i)-(v) below, identify two sets that belong neither to antonyms or synonyms.

1

(i) neighbourhood and family space (ii) communities and closest relationship

(iii) threat or care (iv) patience and routine

(v) emotional processing and fear learning

(e) The writer says in paragraph 2 that corvids are good at detecting friendship as well as danger – some of the things that we, humans are also good at but.....

2

(f) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 30-40 words, how does the author emphasize the most fascinating traits of crows.

2

(g) Evaluate the option below and pick out the one that is incorrect from the set and does not correspond to crow behaviour.

1

(i) Crows are independent thinkers. (ii) Crows are territorial

(iii) They process different emotions just like humans.

(iv) They can handle vast quantities of food.

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully-

1. The process of ageing starts with conception in the mother's womb. When we are young we don't recognize that there will come a time when our limbs will grow weak, our eyesight less keen and our body unable to function as smoothly as before. The state, the society and the family owe a responsibility towards senior citizens.
2. Unfortunately, of late, we have not been able to recognize the concept of respecting, caring and helping older generations in a systematic way as some of the countries have done. Although there have been many practices of caring and helping the elderly in our system but, with the dismantling of the joint family system, the problem has assumed a newer and more complicated shape. Although we have started recognizing the needs of the young, when it comes to the old, we have blissfully chosen to ignore them and left them to fend for themselves.
3. Of all the senior citizens of the world, one out of ten is an Indian. The population of old people in India is the 4th highest in the world. By official estimates, there are over 77 million old people in the country now.
4. However, not only are there insufficient old age homes in the country, but they are also ill-equipped to cater to the elderly. This should be the responsibility of the state since they need close and regular monitoring. The social welfare departments in the government have very little to boast about when it comes to caring for the older generations.
5. Government officials are apathetic to the welfare of the old people and are unimaginative. However, once the need for helping senior citizens is recognized not only by the society at large but also by the government and certain concessions are sanctioned for them, there may be some headway in this direction.
6. Society, too has an important role to play. It must do so by respecting the aged and placing their interests before anyone else's. In the west, if an old person is climbing down the stairs, he or she is helped. It is this kind of mindset that is the need of the hour. Offering seats to the old, helping them cross the roads, assisting them to carry their bags, fetching them water etc; are some features which increase the acceptability of the older people.

Based on your reading of the passage, choose the correct options-

1×8=8

(a) The presence of an old age home signifies our _____ towards the old people.

(i) Apathy

(ii) Concern

(iii) Love

(iv) Fickle mindedness

(b) Bureaucrats are _____ to the welfare of the old people.

- (i) Different (ii) Indifferent (iii) Responsible (iv) Humanitarian

(c) We must change our _____ towards old people.

- (i) Mind (ii) Mindset (iii) Thoughts (iv) behaviour

(d) The population of old people in India is the _____ highest in the world.

- (i) 2nd (ii) 5th (iii) 4th (iv) 3rd

(e) Society must respect the elderly by-

- (i) Giving them more importance
(ii) Forcing their children to look after them
(iii) Having a special police force for them
(iv) Making sure that more wheel chairs are available

(f) In the phrase 'respecting the aged', the word 'aged' means-

- (i) A young man (ii) An ageing person (iii) An old man (iv) None of the above

(g) What happens when a man starts ageing?

(h) Which word in para 2 means 'breaking down'?

Q.3 Read the following passage carefully –

1. The student community inhabiting our colleges has always tried to keep up with everything. This includes fashion. Fashion refers to the popular style of clothes, hair, etc. at a particular time or place and it does not remain static over time. There is immense craze for fashion among young people. Gone are the days when people believed in simplicity. Now a day young people everywhere are always seen to devote great attention to fashion. In fact, the fashion consciousness of our students has become so great that a trip to the university makes one think that one has arrived by mistake in a fashion boutique on a grand scale. Clothes are an all-engrossing topic of discussion. Who is wearing what, what are the newest styles in dress and coiffure, all are hotly discussed by these young enthusiasts.
2. Girls consider fashion as belonging to them exclusively. They spend long hours deciding colour combinations, styles, fits, lengths and a myriad other details of dresses, one catches sight of a group of girls hotly discussing something. "Ah! How enthusiastic they are in their studies", think the onlooker. However, on getting close enough to hear them, he discovers that the topic being discussed is fashion. Sometime back, our college girls were seen in churidars and kameez which seemed to be a second skin-so tight were they. Dupattas were used not for their original purpose, but as a sort of noose round the neck. Gradually, the kameez changed into a kurta loose enough for the girl to be a useless piece to be looked after. Now, we have a baffling variety-maxis, midis, salwars, churidars, leaggies et. Where one can go on and on.
3. Apart from clothes, girls also pay great attention to their coiffure. The crazy evolution which their hair has gone through is really alarming. Gone are the days where our college girls wore their hair in well-oiled plaits. Oil went out of fashion and the hair lost the benefit of its use. The long-suffering hair was raised up into edifices that seemed to go sky high. Now it has descended again, and is worn either loose and straight, or in casual little knots at the nape of the neck.
4. These young dress-conscious girls, who are often heavily made-up, in the bargain have boys as rivals in the field of fashion. The glaring colours and bizarre outfits they turn up in have to be seen to be believed. Their hair has now been grown long and the temptation is great to offer them hair clips and ribbons. What with their side burns and whiskers, they can find no time to do any study.
5. Clothes and coiffure are not the only items that come under the term 'fashion'. Fashion implies whatever is in vogue, and this makes it more alarming. Smoking used to be indulged in only by the boys, and that too on the sly. Now, it is common to see them openly smoking, accompanied by girl students. Drinking and gambling are considered fashionable. Another dangerous fashion is the use of drugs. Drugs are very injurious to health. They also

transform young men and women into inhuman monsters capable of committing any crime. A young boy addicted to drugs has no control over himself and can be lured into doing anything.

(a) Make notes on the given passage using proper format and abbreviations and also supply an appropriate heading. 5

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. 3

SECTION B: GRAMMAR & WRITING

Q.4 Complete the following para by filling in the blanks-(Any 3) 1×3=3

Letter writing is a skill which can (a) _____ (acquire) with a lot of practice. In a letter both the addresses (b) _____ (put) on the left side of the page. The subject should (c) _____ (underline) so that it (d) _____ (highlight) the contents of the letter are written briefly in a formal letter.

Q.5 Rearrange the following words or phrases to make meaningful sentences- 1×4=4

(a) It was/true /on the sofa/except/would/never sleep/that/we once/the pet dog/had/anywhere

(b) in the rock/of the crust/it is/embedded/to extract/because/ore is/difficult

(c) parts of Australia/live in/who/brown-skinned/the/people/are/Aborigines

(d) person/an inexperienced/ever to/helpful/therefore,/and is,/detailed/recipe/this is a

Q.6 Attempt any ONE of the following: 1×3=3

A. You are Harish / Harshita of 12, Seva Nagar, Pune. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city for work. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Pune Times under the classified columns.

B. Principal, Sunrise Global School, Agra requires a receptionist for her school. Draft a suitable advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a national newspaper giving all the necessary details of qualifications and experience required in the receptionist.

Q.7 Attempt any ONE of the following: 1×3=3

A. You are the school caption at Holy Heart School Vasant Nagar Lucknow. Your School is organizing a two-day fete and blood donation camp. Prepare a poster for the same, including all essential details.

B. Prepare a poster advising people not to smoke illustrating the danger of having smoke. Your illustration should be in conformity with the theme provided to you.

Q.8 Attempt any ONE of the following: 1×5=5

A. You are Anshu / Anita. You have secured 95% marks in English. Your English teacher has persuaded you to share the secret of your success with your schoolmates. You decide to deliver a speech "English is an extremely scoring subject" in the morning assembly in about 150 words.

B. You are Ankit/Ankita. You have to deliver a speech on the topic "Education Gives One Power". You have jotted down the following notes:
Education trains mind—sharpens skill and abilities—Education: a source of power—improve self—be independent—earn money—ignorance to knowledge—removes superstition—develops a free spirit—important for women: gives them freedom from social ills—-independent—responsible.

Write your speech in 120-150 words.

Q.9 Attempt any ONE of the following: 1×5=5

A. You are Mukul / Mahima of Alps Public School. Your school has organized a Debate on "Social Media and It's Effects" and you will be participating in your school. Prepare your views against or in favour of the motion. (120 – 150 words)

B. "Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career." Write a debate either for or against the motion. (120 – 150 words)

SECTION C: LITERATURE

Q.10 Read the extracts given below and attempts ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: 3×1=3

A She hobbled about the house in spotless white with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary. Her silver locks were

scattered untidily over her pale, puckered face, and her lips constantly moved in inaudible prayer. Yes, she was beautiful. She was like the winter landscape in the mountains, an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment.

1. **What does the narrator mean by 'Silver locks'?**
a) Lock and Key b) Grey Hair c) Attire of Silver colour d) None of these
2. **Which poetic device is employed in "Pale puckered face"?**
a) Simile b) Metaphor c) Alliteration d) D Zeugma
3. **Find out the antonym of 'Audible' from the following.**
a) Unhearable b) Unsounded c) Imperceptible d) All of these

B The night dragged on with an endless, bitterly cold routine of pumping, steering and working the radio. We were getting no replies to our Mayday calls — which was not surprising in this remote corner of the world. Sue's head had swollen alarmingly; she had two enormous black eyes, and now she showed us a deep cut on her arm. When I asked why she hadn't made more of her injuries before this, she replied, "I didn't want to worry you when you were trying to save us all."

1. **Who was hurt?**
2. **What is "Mayday call"?**
3. **What did their ship collide with?**

Q.11 Read the extracts given below and attempts ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: **3x1=3**

A. And who art thou? said I to the soft falling shower,
which, strange to tell, gave me an answer,
as here translated;
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain.

1. **Name the poem and the poet.**
2. **What does the phrase "strange to tell" mean?**
3. **Why does the rain call herself the "Poem of the earth"?**

B. The cardboard shows me how it was
When the two girl cousins went paddling,
Each one holding one of my mother's hands
And she the big girl some twelve years or so.

- 1 **The word 'card board' refers to _____**
(i) a stiff and thick paper (ii) old photograph of her mother and cousins
(iii) both (i) and (ii) (iv) none of the above
- 2 **How old was the poet's mother when this photograph was taken-**
(i)ten years (ii)twelve years (iii)fourteen years (iv)sixteen years
- 3 **What does the use of the word 'paddling' suggest?**

Q.12 Read the extracts given below and attempts ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: **(4x1=4)**

A. After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home. 'No' she said, 'my mother's doing an errand. 'No matter, I said, 'I'll wait for her.' followed the girl along the passage. An old-fashioned iron Hanukkah candle- holder hung next to a mirror.

1. **Who opened the door for the second time?**
A) Mrs. Dorling's daughter B) Mrs. Dorling's husband
C) Mrs. Dorling's mother D) Mrs. Dorling

2. What does the word 'Errand' mean?

- A) To bathe B) To eat out C) To go out for regular works D) To sit out

3. Find out the synonym of 'Old-fashioned' from the following?

- A) Mint B) Obsolete C) Modern D) Replicated

4. Who was the real owner of the Hanukkah hung over there?

- B.** No doubt about it at all. Who's the better for being spoilt, grown man, lad or girl? Nobody. You think it does them good when you run after them all the time, take their orders as if you were the servant in the house, stay at home every night while they go out enjoying themselves! Never in all your life. It's the ruin of them as well as you. Husbands, sons, daughters should be taking notice of wives and mothers, not giving them orders and treating them like dirt. And don't tell me you don't know what I mean, for I know more than you've told me.

1. Who is the speaker of these lines?

- (i) Cyril (ii) Doris (iii) George (iv) None of these

2. How do the children of Mrs. Pearson treat her?

- (i) Like servant (ii) Like dirt (iii) Pay no attention to her (iv) All of these

3. Why did Mrs. Fitzgerald have to speak the above paragraph to Mrs.

Pearson?

- (i) Mrs. Pearson's family was treating her poorly (ii) Mrs. Pearson was naïve
(iii) Mrs. Pearson's family paid no attention to her (iv) Only (i) and (iii)

4. Who deals poorly with Mrs. Pearson?

- (i) Cyril (ii) Doris (iii) George (iv) None of these

Q.13 Read the extracts given below and attempts ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow: 2x3=6

- A.** 1. What part did Jonathan and Sue play in the Treacherous Voyage?
2. What has been the role of Howard Carter in the discovery of Tut?
B. 1. The poet's mother laughed at the Snapshot. What did this laugh indicate?
2. How does the rain justify its claim, "I am the Poem of Earth"?

Q.14 Attempt ANY ONE out of the two questions given below, in 40-50 words each. 1x3=3

1. What were the narrator's views about 'stealing'? (The Summer of the Beautiful...)
2. Mention three things in the behaviour of mother astonished Doris? (Mother's Day)

Q.15 Attempt ANY ONE out of the two questions given below, in 100-120 words. 1x6=6

1. Aged people should not be left behind and every effort should be made that they live with their children and grandchildren. This will inculcate a proper understanding between the old and the new generation. Pen down your views with reference to the lesson "The Portrait of a lady"?
2. What values one can learn from the goldfinch in the poem "The Laburnum top"?

Q.16 Attempt ANY ONE out of the two questions given below, in 100-120 words. 1x6=6

1. We talk of women's liberation movement but it is a grin and sad reality that our women, except some, are slaves of the wheel as they were in the past. What place does women have in the Indian society. Discuss. (Mother's Day)
2. How did Aram and Mourad enjoy their time with the horse? What happened when they met John Byro?