

Half Yearly Examination 2025 – 2026

Time - 3:00 Hrs.

M.M. 80

General Instructions:

1. This Question Paper has 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This Question Paper contains THREE Sections, Section-A: READING, Section – B: WRITING skills and GRAMMAR and Section- C: LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
4. Separate instructions are given with each questions/ part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

Q.1 Read the following passage given below : **10**

1. Happiness is like the sun; it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness. You don't have to create it, all you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness. It is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, object or events. Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desire and worries.
2. The mind is always in a constant race from one thought to another, from one worry to another. It constantly moves from one object or task to another. This restlessness hides the happiness that is within you. It is like a choppy sea that hides the bottom. When the sea gets calm, you can see the bottom. In the same way, when the mind gets quiet, you sense the happiness that is within you.
3. You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there. However, when the wind stops, the water becomes still and the mud sinks, you can see the treasure. The treasure is there, whether you see it or not. So is happiness. It is always here, only hidden in thoughts, desires and worries.
4. You can experience more happiness in your life. Only your thoughts stand in your way of experiencing it. Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind. You will be surprised to discover that it is calm, and there are almost no thoughts in your mind. Since the mind is not accustomed to stay in this peaceful state for long, it soon becomes active again, and the sense of happiness disappears.
5. Any people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals. This makes happiness a reward and not an emotion that must be felt. We forget that it is something that comes by looking inward rather than waiting for an external trigger. Once you start looking inwards, you will have to treat yourself as you would treat a valued friend. This will lead to happiness. Take time to appreciate yourself, your work and your accomplishments. Surround yourself with happy people and recall positive memories. It is important to recognize that you have the power to feel happy within you and with practice, it will be felt frequently.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1. Why does the writer say that you have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness? **1**
 - (a) Our thoughts and worries hide the true essence of our happiness
 - (b) Our inner peace has to be dissolved to enhance true happiness.
 - (c) Our desires, thoughts and worries are a part of our consciousness and bring happiness
 - (d) These clouds don't show us the real truth.
2. Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below: **1**

Happiness is like the sun, hidden by clouds of worry.

 - (a) Happiness is where there is a quiet mind and inner peace.

- (b) Less work is like a breeze which brings happiness.
 (c) The choppy sea hides the treasure of happiness.
 (d) The wind blows and brings happiness.
3. Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with the reference to the following.
 (Para 1) 1
 Happiness is not something far away and unattainable.
- (a) doubt (b) caution (c) conviction (d) denial
4. Select the phrase that states reference to the following reason (Paragraph 2) 1
- | OPINION | REASON |
|---|--------|
| The restlessness hides the happiness within | |
5. The writer compares the choppy sea hiding the bottom to _____. 1
6. Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness. 2
7. What connect does the writer draw out between the treasure that cannot be seen and happiness? (Paragraph 3) 2
8. The writer says, 'Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind.' The state of your mind will be: 1
 (a) resolute (b) calm (c) firm (d) decisive

Q.2 Read the following passage carefully –

- (1) The word 'diet' originates from the Greek word 'diaita', literally means 'manner of living'. In the contemporary language, dieting is synonymous with a quick fix solution for an overwhelming obesity epidemic. Dieting implies restriction, limitation of pleasurable foods and drinks, and despite of having no benefits, the omnipresent dieting mentality remains to be the norm.
- (2) Most diets fail most of the time. Repeated diet failure is a negative predictor for successful long term weight loss, Chronic dieters consistently report guilt and self blame, irritability, anxiety and depression, difficulty concentrating and fatigue. Their self esteem is decreased by continuous feelings of failure related to "messing my diet up again", leading to feelings of lack of control over one's food choices and further life in general. Dieting can be particularly problematic in adolescents and it remains a major precursor to disordered eating, with moderate dieters being five times more likely to develop an eating disorder than those who do not diet at all.
- (3) Aggressive dieting lowers the base metabolic rate, meaning one burns less energy when resting, resulting in significantly lower daily needs in order to sustain achieved weight after the diet is over. Returning to normalized eating habits at this lower base metabolic rate results in commonly seen post dieting weight gain. Biologically, dieting is perceived as harmful and physiology readjusts trying to get back to initial weight even after years, since the initial rapid weight loss.
- (4) Dieting emphasizes food as "good" or "bad" as a reward or punishment, and increases food obsessions. It does not teach healthy eating habits and rarely focuses on the nutritional value of foods and the benefit of regulated eating. Unsatisfied hunger increase mood swings and risk of overeating. Restricting food, despite drinking enough fluids, can leads to dehydration and further complications, like constipation, dieting and chronic hunger tend to exacerbate dysfunctional behaviours like smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol.
- (5) Dieting mentality tempts us into "If I am thin I will be happy" or "If I am not thin I am a failure" way of thinking but only provides a short term fictitious solution with long term harmful physical and mental consequences. Focusing on sustainable long term strategies

for implementing regulated eating habits with a variety of food choices without unnecessary restrictions will make a comprehensive diet and maintaining healthy weight a true part of our “manner of living”.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following question-

- (a) What is meant by dieting in the contemporary language? 2
- (b) What do chronic dieters consistently report?
- (i) Guilt (ii) Self blame (iii) Irritability (iv) All of the above 1
- (c) The intake of food should not be restricted because ----- . 1
- (d) What are the side effects of aggressive dieting? 2
- (e) How does dieting emphasise food?
- (i) As good or bad
- (ii) As a reward or punishment
- (iii) Increases food obsessions
- (iv) All of the above 1
- (f) Find the word from para 5 which means the same as following – Applying 1
- (g) Give one reason how dieting can be problem in adolescents? 1
- (h) Justify / Apply a suitable title to the passage? 1

SECTION – B

WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Q.3 Complete ANY TEN of Twelve of the following tasks, as directed. 10

- (i) **Fill in the blank with the correct modal auxiliary from the hints given in the bracket.**
Anvita was pleased to learn that she ----- (would/ could/ will) take several days off for their family vacation to Dubai.

- (ii) **Identify the error in the given sentence and supply its correction.**

The shephard took the cattles to the field.

Error	Correction

- (iii) **Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.**

Mr. Aggarwal _____ me to wait there till he _____.

- (a) tell, returned (b) requested, returned (c) asked, returns (d) asks, returned

- (iv) **Identify the error and supply its correction by choosing the correct option.**

The family picture onto the wall look beautiful.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	onto, beautiful	on, nice
B	onto, look	pictures, looks
C	picture, look	pictures, looks
D	family, the	families, a

- (v) **Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.**

This historic site in my hometown is a _____ visit for anyone interested in local history.

- (a) Can (b) May (c) Might (d) Must

(vi) **Fill in the blank by using correct form of the verb given in the bracket.**

We _____ (finish) our work when my friends showed up.

- (a) Finishing (b) Finished (c) Finish (d) Had finished

(vii) **Identify the error & supply its correction for the following sentence in a company's meeting.**

The leakage of these confidential information can be a sensitive issue that can lead to breakdown of safety of employees.

Error	Correction

(viii) **Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.**

There wasn't _____ traffic this evening due to riots happening in the outskirts of the city.

- (a) Much (b) Many (c) A lot of (d) Little

(ix) **Report the dialogue between a brother and his sister, by completing the sentence.**

Brother: Return my laptop if you have worked.

Sister: Here it is brother. Thank you!

Brother asked his sister to return his laptop if she had worked. The sister _____.

(x) **Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option.**

But I _____ myself- managing a company performing in public speaking engagements, and so on- for a month and got fed up.

- (a) was being pushed (b) am pushing (c) had pushed (d) kept pushing

(xi) **Complete the line from a song of open road, by filling the blank with the correct option.**

I do not want the constellations any nearer,

I know they _____ very well where they are,

I know they suffice for those who belong to them.

- (a) Had been (b) Were (c) Have been (d) Are

(xii) **Report the sentence to indirect speech.**

He said, "I'm going to call Alan"!

Q.4 (A) Attempt ANY ONE of the following :

5

One of your neighbours fell sick and has been detected of a serious illness. Doctor told him that if he had diagnosed the disease before, he could have prevented it. You feel the need for regular medical checkup for everyone to know the health problems. Express your feelings in for of a diary entry.

Hints: Health is wealth- one needs to be healthy for a happy living- nutritious food- physical activity- exercise- knowing one's health problem is also a necessity- regular medical checkup has benefits- once in a year- medical checkup- changing food habits- lifestyle- based on the advice of doctor will help- life expectancy is growing- so taking care is important- live healthy life with proper medical support.

OR

(B) Last month you had to go to Delhi by train in an emergency. You got on the train without buying the ticket. Describe your experience in 100-120 words mentioning the following points:

Hints:

- Travelling without a ticket is a crime, what made you travel in such a manner?

- Your feelings as you boarded the train.
- Your encounter with the ticket- checker.
- How much did you pay as fare and fine?

Q.5 Attempt ANY ONE of the following :

5

Develop a short story with the help of the given hints/ starting line. Give a suitable title to your story. (100-120)

(A) Last week I went to the market to buy some books on my bicycle. I placed my bicycle outside the shop_____.

OR

(B) There was a joint family of 6 members including grandparents. It was the 75th birthday of the grandmother and the family planned to celebrate_____.

SECTION – C LITERATURE

Q.6 Read the given extracts and answer ANY ONE of the two questions given below.

5

The sound of the Shehnai began to be considered auspicious. And for this reason it is still played in temples and is an indispensable component of any North Indian wedding. In the past, Shehnai was part of the Naubat or traditional ensembles of nine instruments found at royal courts. Till recently it was used in temples and weddings.

- Give examples to prove that the sound of Shehnai is considered auspicious.
- What is naubat?
- Who is credited with the invention of Shehnai?
- What special credit goes to Bismillah Khan with regards to 'Shehnai'?
- Write a synonym for the word 'component'?

OR

A Panic- stricken, he ran to one side first, then to the other, hither and thither in all directions, knowing not where to go. "Mother, Father," he wailed.

His yellow turban came untied and his clothes became muddy.

Having run to and fro in a rage of running for a while, he stood defeated, his cries suppressed into sobs. At little distance on the green grass he could see, through his filmy eyes, men and women talking.

- The child is panic- stricken because_____.
 - he has seen a snake
 - of the huge crowd around him
 - of being separated from his parents
 - of the sight of a policeman
- What is the mental status of the child at this point in the story?
 - he is agitated
 - he is full of sorrow
 - he is panic- stricken
 - all of the above
- He felt defeated because_____.
 - he could not buy things of his choice
 - he was deadly tired
 - he couldn't find his parents
 - he wanted to spend more time here
- His eyes have been termed filmy because_____.
 - of tears
 - of his sweet dreams
 - they are beautiful
 - all of the above
- Write the opposite of "rage".

Q.7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given.

5

*I will arise and go now,
and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there,*

*of clay and wattles made:
 Nine bean- rows will I have there,
 a hive for the honeybee,
 And live alone in the bee- loud glade.*

- (a) What does the poet wish to do?
- (b) What is Innisfree?
- (c) What will the poet do once he reaches Innisfree?
- (d) Why does the poet want to go to Innisfree?
- (e) Find out the rhyme scheme used in the above stanza?

OR

*Every tinkle on the shingles.
 Has an echo in the heart;
 And a thousand dreamy fancies.
 Into a thousand recollections
 Weave their air threads into woof,
 As I listen to the patter
 Of the rain upon the roof*

- (a) Who makes an echo in the poet's heart?
- (b) How does the rain effect the poet's imagination?
- (c) 'A thousand recollections' refers to_____.
- (d) An echo in the poets heart is due to
 - (i)his feeling of regret
 - (ii)rain drops falling on the wooden tiles of his roof
 - (iii)his pensive mood
 - (iv)his feeling uneasiness
- (e) Weave their air threads into a woof...
 - (i)metaphor
 - (ii)alliteration
 - (iii)repetition
 - (iv)simile

Q.8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12

- (a) What was the fun about the old schools, according to Margie?
- (b) What is the secret behind Evelyn's success.
- (c) How did Kezia's father react when he found his important papers lost?
- (d) Describe the two roads that the author comes across.
- (e) How does wind deal differently with the weak & strong fires respectively?

Q.9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

- (a) When & where did the child realise that his parents were not with him?
- (b) Give a brief description of Toto, the monkey?
- (c) In what ways is Ishwaran as asset to Mahendra?

Q.10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. 6

- (a) Santosh Yadav lived a life of her own choice. Discuss.
- (b) How does Abdul Kalam describe his three close friends?

Q.11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. 6

- (a) Describe briefly how Behrman saved Johnsy's life.
- (b) Draw a brief character sketch of the Happy prince.
