

SBOA SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGE, CHENNAI -101
HALF-YEARLY EXAMINATION 2016-17

ENGLISH
Time: 3 hours

CODE – A

Marks:80
STD:XI

SECTION – A (READING) – 20 MARKS

I) Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow: (12 marks)

There are several tribes living in East Africa, but the most famous among them is the Masai tribe. The Masais were famous fighters. They lived on the wide plains in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They used to raid the neighbouring tribes and carry away their cattle. All the other tribes were afraid of them because of their skill in war. The Kikuyu people who lived to the east of the Masais, had left a long strip of forest between themselves and the Masais, as protection against their enemies.

The Masais are a handsome people, tall and slim, with light brown skins, straight noses and long hair. They do not belong completely to the Negro race, as do most of the other African tribes; they are only partly Negro. They belong mostly to the same race as the people of ancient Egypt. The ancient Egyptians probably looked like the Masais of today.

The Masais live in a very beautiful part of Africa. It consists of miles and miles of rolling grassland, on which you can find thorny bushes and here and there a rocky hill. The people move from one place to another according to the season, looking for grass and other plants on which their cattle can graze. They have no permanent homes. When they want to settle in a place for some time they build a kind of camp called a 'manyatta', where a few families live for a few weeks or months. Then they move on again, taking their few belongings with them, and burning the old 'manyatta' to the ground.

To make a hut, they take a number of long, thin wooden poles and plant them in the ground in a circle. Then each pole is bent into the shape of a 'u', and its other end is also planted in the earth. Now the framework for the hut is ready. Next, the space between the poles is filled with leaves, small branches of trees and mud. Then, the outside of each hut is covered, or plastered, with cow-dung, which quickly becomes hard in the sun. An opening is left for the door, but there are no windows. The hut is about 5 feet high, so that a grown-up man cannot stand up straight inside his hut. There is no furniture, except perhaps a small wooden stool for the head of the family.

The huts are arranged in a big circle and around the outside of the circle the Masais build a thorn fence, about 7 feet high with several openings, so that the people can go in and out with their cattle. After dark, when all the cattle are inside, the openings are closed. Then all the people and cattle in the 'manyatta' are safe from wild animals.

When they are young, Masai children live a very free life in the open air. They wear no clothes when they are small, but as they grow older the boys and girls are given different kinds of clothes to wear. Few Masai children go to school, because their parents are not interested in the modern world. Instead, the children are taught by the elders in the tribe. They learn the customs and history of their tribe, and the skills which they will need when they grow up.

The girls help their mothers to collect wood for the fires on which their food is cooked. They bring water from nearby streams, and collect milk in pots made from the fruits of certain trees. They learn to sew and make ornaments for themselves out of copper wire. Sometimes they walk with their mothers to the nearest market-place to buy sugar, salt, matches, maize and vegetables. But even when they grow up and are married, the girls do not have to work very hard, for the hardest work, such as making huts and carrying loads, is done by the older women.

Boys are taught how to look after their cattle and to fight. At the age of 7 or 8 they go out with their fathers to take care of their herds of cattle and goats, and learn how to milk the animals. When a boy is about 13 or 14, he has to be able to look after a whole herd alone, without any help. The boys also learn from the older men how to use swords and spears, and they practise with wooden swords. When a boy becomes 15 years old, he is made a full 'warrior' or 'fighter'. There is a ceremony at which boys are made warriors, and for the next ten years they have to leave their families and live in a special hut, where they are trained in the skills of fighting.

During these years of training the young men are not allowed to marry or to have any belongings of their own. They live on a diet of milk and blood taken from the necks of living cows.

Nowadays, there are no wars between the different tribes, and the East African governments do not allow the Masais to raid their neighbours and take away their cattle. So a Masai warrior has very little to do now. But they sometimes go hunting. The Masais like to kill lions with spears, and a lion-hunt is a great test of courage. The warrior who first kills a lion is given great honour, and he wears the lion's mane round his neck, to show that he is a lion-killer.

When their training is over, the Masai men are allowed to marry and settle down. They look after their herds and join the elders in talking about the affairs of the tribe. The Masais are fairly well-to-do and intelligent, and live comfortable lives. However, most of them are happy to live as their fathers lived hundreds of years ago.

Questions:

- 1) Name some countries where the Masai people are found. (1)
- 2) Name another tribe which lives in East Africa. (1)
- 3) In what ways the writer says that the Masais are different from most of the African tribes? (1)
- 4) Why do the Masais keep moving from one place to another? (1)
- 5) What materials do the Masais use to build their huts? (1)
- 6) How long does the training in fighting skills last? (1)
- 7) Why do the Masais like to kill the lions with spears? (1)
- 8) Why do the Masais not send their children to school? (1)
- (9) The writer says that the Masais are 'well-to-do' people. Do you agree? If so, support your answer from the given passage. (1)

10) Choose the best answer: (1)

Their huts are built by

- (a) the young men
- (b) the young women
- (c) the old men
- (d) the old women

(11) Find the words from the above passage which mean the same as the following: (2x1=2)

- (i) to attack in order to steal (paragraph 1)
- (ii) public or private business (last paragraph)

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

The term dietary fibres refers collectively to indigestible carbohydrates present in plant foods. The importance of these dietary fibres came into the picture when it was observed that the people having diet rich in these fibres, had low incidence of coronary heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dental caries and gallstones.

The food stuffs rich in these dietary fibres are cereals and grains, legumes, fruits with seeds, citrus fruits, carrots, cabbage, green leafy vegetables, apples, melons, peaches, pears, etc.

These dietary fibres are not digested by the enzymes of the stomach and the small intestine whereas most of other carbohydrates like starch and sugar are digested and absorbed. The dietary fibres have the property of holding water and because of it, these get swollen and behave like a sponge as these pass through the gastrointestinal tract. The fibres add bulk to the diet and increase transit time in the gut. Some of these fibres may undergo fermentation in the colon.

In recent years, it has been considered essential to have some amount of fibres in the diet. Their beneficial effects lie in preventing coronary heart disease, and decreasing cholesterol level. The fibres like gums and pectin are reported to decrease post-prandial (after meals) glucose level in blood. These types of dietary fibres are recommended for the management of certain types of diabetes. Recent studies have shown that the fenugreek (methi) seeds, which contain 40 percent gum, are effective in decreasing blood glucose and cholesterol levels as compared to other gum containing vegetables.

Some dietary fibres increase transit time and decrease the time of release of ingested food in colon. The diet having less fibres is associated with colon cancer and the dietary fibres may play a role in decreasing the risk of it.

The dietary fibres hold water so that stools are soft, bulky and readily eliminated. Therefore high fibre intake prevents or relieves constipation.

The fibres increase motility of the small intestine and the colon and by decreasing the transit time there is less time for exposure of the mucosa to harmful toxic substances. Therefore, there is a less desire to eat and the energy intake can be maintained within the range of requirement. This phenomenon helps in keeping a check on obesity. Another reason in helping to decrease obesity is that the high-fibre diets have somewhat lower co-efficients of digestibility.

The dietary fibres may have some adverse effects on nutrition by binding some trace metals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and others and therefore preventing their proper absorption. This may pose a possibility of nutritional deficiency especially when diets contain marginal levels of mineral elements. This may become an important constraint on increasing dietary fibres. It is suggested that an intake of 40 grams dietary fibres per day is desirable.

(Extracted from 'The Tribune')

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it in points only, using recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Also suggest a suitable title. (5)
(b) Write a summary of the above in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION – B (WRITING) – 20 MARKS

3) You are Manoj/Monisha. You have been invited to attend a birthday party of your close friend. Respond to the invitation. (4)

4) You are Naveen of 75, Gandhi Road, Chennai. Recently you purchased an 'iPhone 6s plus' from Apple showroom. The phone instrument developed a problem within a month of purchase. Write a letter to the authorised dealer giving details of the nature of the problem and asking him/her to rectify the defect or replace the set. (6)

5) You are Anand/Ananti. Write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly in your school about the merits and demerits of demonetising Rs.500 and Rs.1000. Do not exceed 150 words. (10)

SECTION –C (Literature) - 40 Marks

6) Read the extracts given below and answer questions that follow: (4 marks)

'Silence surrounds us, I would have
Him prodigal, returning to
His father's house, the home he knew,
Rather than see him make and move
His world. I would forgive him too,
Shaping from sorrow a new love'

- a) Why does silence surround them?
b) What does the father want his son to do?
c) Find the word which means 'extravagant'.
d) Name the poem and the poet.

OR

'....."See Betty
And Dolly," She'd say, " and look how they
Dressed us for the beach." The sea holiday
Was her past, mine is her laughter."

- a) Who were Betty and Dolly?
b) Why did the mother laugh at the snapshot?
c) How did she react whenever she looked at the snapshot?
d) Explain: 'The sea holiday was her past.'

7) Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (6x3=18)

- a) What changes in the behaviour of Mrs.Pearson startle Doris and Cyril? What possible reasons do they suggest?
- b) How did Albert Einstein hope to get admission to an Italian college without a diploma from the German School?
- c)Why did Aram find it hard to believe that his cousin Mourad had stolen the horse?
- d)Why did grandmother not like the new English school?
- e) How does rain purify and beautify its original?
- f) How did Ranga honour the narrator and why?

8) Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 -150 words. (6)

- a) Who is the narrator of the story “The Address”?What makes the narrator go to 46, Marconi Street? How did Mrs.Dorling react and why?
- b) “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; We have borrowed it from our children”, Justify the statement.

9) Answer the following in about 120-150 words: (6)

- (a) Write a paragraph on “how to avoid talking about others in their absence” with reference to the lesson “The Browning Version”.

10) Answer the following in about 120-150 words. (6)

- (a) Discuss any three events in which the Canterville ghost became successful in frightening people.

OR

- (b) Give the character sketch of the twins.

SBOA SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE, CHENNAI-101
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION-2016

ENGLISH
CODE – B

STD: XI

MARKS: 100
TIME: 3 HRS

SECTION – A (READING)

(20MARKS)

1. READ THE PASSAGE GIVEN BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

1. Anyone who has met Marcus, my huge, handsome, lazy, stupid St. Bernard, will not believe that he recently had an idea. This idea was certainly the first he has ever had and I cannot think how he recognized it.
2. The idea had something to do with making life easy for St Bernards.
3. Roughly, then, his idea was this: "If I were deaf, I couldn't hear when they called me for my walk, and they wouldn't be able to move me, because nothing can move me. So I will pretend to be deaf."
4. The day on which he put his plan into action my wife came to me much disturbed. "Poor old Marcus has gone deaf!" she exclaimed.
5. "Deaf?" I cried. "But he could hear perfectly well last night." I went into the kitchen and addressed him. 'Coming for a walk, Marcus?' I said.
6. Marcus, like a perfect actor, gazed at me with eager devotion, as though he would have given his last bone to have heard what I said. After a good deal of shouting, we left him where he was, and he went to sleep smiling.
7. It was some days before we noticed that Marcus was only partly deaf, he was still able to hear anything connected with food. I was carving a joint one Sunday when a tiny scrap of meat slipped from the fork and dropped on the carpet. Although Marcus was asleep in the kitchen, some distance away, he heard it fall. He hurtled into the dining-room and gulped it down. 'Hey!' I said. 'I thought you were deaf!'
8. Marcus's jaw and tail both dropped. He seemed to remember that he was deaf.
9. Not much later he failed to hear three repeated commands to come out for a walk, then leapt to his feet at the arrival of the butcher. In the end, my wife and I agreed that he had to be cured.
10. The course we took was not, perhaps, entirely sporting. Marcus had gone deaf; we would go silent. When Marcus was about, we would now go through the actions of speaking but would not say a word.
11. Marcus's first reaction was to be lazily puzzled. Very soon he was really worried. Had he overestimated his power and gone really deaf? The horrible part was that, for all he knew, we might be talking about food. The thought of what he might be missing was real torture to him.
12. As we mouthed silently at one another, Marcus would stare painfully into our faces, trying, I swear to lip - read. Also, as he was never called now for meals, I doubt if he had fourteen hours real sleep out of the twenty-four, and he worried himself down to about three hundred pounds in weight.
13. We kept this up for several days. Then we decided to restore Marcus's hearing. I said in a loud voice one morning 'Come on, Marcus! Time for your walk, boy.'
14. An expression of beautiful relief spread over his vast face. He was not deaf at all! He bounced to his feet. He frisked to the gate like a lively pony. He joyously took one of the longest walks of his career - almost half a mile.
15. Marcus was not troubled again with his deafness; neither were we.

a. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: (2)

1. Marcus lost weight because
 - a) he slept for fourteen hours a day
 - b) he was worried about food
 - c) he could not understand his mater
 - d) he had overestimated his powers to be deaf
2. The word '*scrap*' in para 7 means
 - a) an unwanted thing
 - b) a short fight/ quarrel
 - c) a small piece
 - d) to remove/ cancel

b. Answer the following questions in brief:

(10)

3. What method did the Author adopt to cure the deafness of Marcus?
4. Why was the narrator's wife disturbed?
5. Why did Marcus decide to be deaf?
6. What happened when a piece of meat fell onto the carpet?
7. How much weight did Marcus lose?
8. How did Marcus react to the author's call?
9. Why did Marcus not like to be disturbed?
10. Why does the narrator say that Marcus was a perfect actor?
11. Find the words from the passage having opposite meanings to these words:
(a) Actively (para 11) (b) Lose (para 13)

2. READ THE PASSAGE GIVEN BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW: (8)

1. The epidemic of heart attacks has been attaining alarming proportion in recent times causing grave concern especially to the medical fraternity.
2. To contain and control increasing death and disability from heart attacks and to focus on public awareness and their involvement at global level, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Heart Federation observed September 24th as the World Heart Day.
3. What causes heart attacks? Dr. H.S Wasir, Chief Cardiologist and Medical Director, Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre lists 4 main habits which adversely affect the heart health. These are lack of physical exercise , wrong eating habits, cigarette smoking and excessive alcohol consumption and stressful lifestyle
4. The importance of physical exercise in minimizing the incidence of heart attacks cannot be underestimated. "Physical Exercise", says Dr. Wasir, "plays a major role in achieving a long and healthy life in general and prevention of heart attacks in particular". There are several studies showing that physically active people have higher longevity than those sedentary or physically inactive.
5. In fact, the review of modern medical literature sums up the role of physical activity in health as 'Regular physical exercise adds not only years to life but also life to years'. It is the experience of many modern day physicians that some patients of angina (chest pain or discomfort on physical or mental exertion or after meals)do get relief with regularly done physical exercise.
6. What type of physical exercise and how much one may ask. It is the isotonic (dynamic) exercise that is beneficial for the heart and not the isometric(static)exercise which should be avoided by heart patients .Weight lifting, carrying heavy suitcases while travelling , pushing a car are some of the examples of isometric exercises. Examples of the beneficial types of physical activity (dynamic exercise) are brisk walking, swimming, golf without power carts, badminton and tennis (doubles for those with old heart attacks but fully recovered, to be started only after physician's advice).
7. Walking is the best mode of doing regular physical exercise which requires no equipment, money, material or membership of a club! 30 to 60 minutes brisk walk even on alternate day has been proven to be beneficial. Stationary cycling or walking on a treadmill at home are the other alternatives.
8. Walking up the stairs instead of using a lift if going up to three or four floors or getting off the lift two or three floors before the destination and walking up the rest through stairs. Going up several floors in an overcrowded lift with limited fresh air to be shared by so many may also prove unhealthy
9. Park a little away from the work place and walk that healthy distance
10. Best time for brisk walks would be the early mornings before the traffic flow picks up and walking in the parks with thick plantation. Jogging on the roads with heavy traffic should be avoided as you will be inhaling air polluted with the toxins from vehicular exhausts such as dioxides of sulphur and nitrogen.
11. " before starting any physical exercise programs for the first time, one must get fully evaluated by a cardiologist so as to avoid any harm being done by exercise if there is serious underlying heart disease needing treatment," warns Dr. Wasir

a. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary **(5)**

b. Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title . **(3)**

SECTION – B (WRITING)

(20 MARKS)

3. You are Allen/Ann. Prepare an invitation inviting your friend for your little sister's 1st birthday party which to be held on the 15th of January, 2017. (4)
4. You are John/Tina, No:26, 'Thilak Avenue', Chennai. Write a letter to the General Manager, Electricity Board, complaining about the frequent breakdown on the supply of electricity in you locality. (6)
5. Write an article in about 150-200 words on, "The Role Of Youth In National Development", to be published in your school magazine. You are Miley/Douglas of std XI. (10)

SECTION-C (LITERATURE AND NON-DETAILED)

(40 MARKS)

6. READ THE GIVEN EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (4)

**'When did my childhood go?
Was it the day I seized to be eleven.
Was it the time I realized that Hell and Heaven,
Could not be found in Geography,
And therefore could not be,
Was that the day!'**

- a. What is the problem that grips the mind of the poet?
- b. Why does the poet mention the age of eleven?
- c. When did the poet know that 'hell' and 'heaven' are imaginary concepts?
- d. Name the poet of the given lines.

(OR)

**'Father and son, we both must live
On the same globe and the same land,
He speaks: I cannot understand
Myself, why anger grows from grief.
We each put out an empty hand,
longing for something to give.'**

- a. Where must they live together?
- b. Can the father understand his son? If not, why?
- c. What makes the father angry?
- d. How do they try to fill up the gap that separates them?

7. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ABOUT 30-40 WORDS EACH: (6X3=18)

- a. How does Mrs. Fitzgerald tell Mrs. Pearson's fortune?
- b. Who was John Byro? Why had he come to the narrator's house?
- c. Why did the grandmother stop talking to anybody before her death?
- d. What advice did Elsa give to Albert regarding passing the examination?
- e. Describe Rama Rao's niece, Ratna.
- f. Who is Mrs. Dorling? Do you justify her behavior?

8. ANSWER ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IN ABOUT 120-150 WORDS: (6)

- a. What do you understand of Einstein's nature from his conversations with his history teacher, his mathematics teacher and the head teacher?
- b. Why does Nani Palkhivala called the earth "The Ailing Planet"? How can the Ailing planet survive?

9. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN ABOUT 120-150 WORDS: (6)

Talking about another teacher, with the teacher, is not a very healthy and encouraging trend. Justify the statement in the light of Mr. Frank's encouraging Taplow commenting on Mr. Crocker Harris.

10. ANSWER ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IN ABOUT 120-150 WORDS: (6)

- a. Why did Virginia take the members of her family through Wainscoting? What did they see there?
- b. Describe the character of Sir Simon, the ghost.

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