

# ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOOL NO.3, MUMBAI

## PERIODIC TEST-1 (2024-2025)

Class 10

English

MM: 40

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### SECTION A - READING (10 MARKS)

**Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

1 Swaminathan walked out of the examination hall after handing in the last exam paper. He felt happy that it was all over at last, but a little uneasy about having come out twenty minutes before time. Standing on the verandah, with his shoulder resting against the wall, he looked into the hall and saw his friends Sankar and Rajam still writing. Mani was scratching his chin with the pen. Pea was revising his answers. One supervisor was walking up and down, while the other dozed in his chair.

2 Swaminathan suddenly wished he had not finished so early. He began to think of the answers he had written. Out of the six questions, he had done well in the first, third and sixth; he was not sure of the second, while the fourth was clearly wrong. He had answered the sixth question about the Brahmin and the tiger in one sentence, and then sat back and wondered what he was going to do for the next half an hour. He now thought about the moral of the story of the Brahmin and the tiger. (A Brahmin was passing along a river. A tiger on the other side called him and offered him a gold bangle. The Brahmin waded through the water to take the bangle, but before he could hold out his hand for the bangle the tiger had swallowed him.) He never thought this story had a moral, but he had answered it nevertheless in one sentence: 'Love of gold bangle costs one his life'. He had looked at the clock and wondered what he could do for the next half hour.

3 He had wished the others would hurry up so that he would not be the first one to hand in his paper. He found it hard to pass the time. Why couldn't the paper have been set for two and a half hours instead of three? Why were the others taking so long?

4 He had seen the supervisor observing him, and had at once pretended to be busy with the answer paper. He went on improving the little dash under the last line showing the end, till it became an elaborate complicated pattern. When he had seen

some boys handing in their papers, he felt happy and folded his paper and gave it to the supervisor.

5 The bell rang, and the boys began to leave the exam hall in twos and threes. There was an excited hum of voices discussing the answers. When the boys came up to Swami, he asked them what their answers were for the sixth question.

One of them said, "Which one? The one about the moral? Don't you remember the teacher told us that it is 'Love of gold costs the brahmin his life'?"

Swami asked him, "How much did you write?" He said, "One page."

Swami did not quite like this. So he told him, "You should not have written so much."

6 A little later, he met Sankar and Rajam and asked them, "How did you find the paper?"

Rajam said, "I was afraid of the Tamil paper but now I think I'll get pass marks."

Sankar was happy and felt he would get a first class. When Swami remarked that some fools had written a whole page for the moral question, Rajam said he had written three-fourths of a page. Sankar said he had written half a page. Not to be left out, Swami lied that he too had written about half a page.

7 Then somebody said, "What are all of you going to do during the holidays?" "I'm going to use my books as fuel in the kitchen," said Swami.

"I'm going to read the story books that my father has brought me," said Sankar.

Just then Mani came up complaining that the time had not been enough for him to complete the paper. Pea came along with an ink stain on his cheek and asked, "First class, Sankar?"

"No, maybe just thirty-five," replied Sankar modestly. Mani said, "Liar! If you get a first class, can I cut off your tuft?"

8 Just then the bell rang again and everyone assembled in the school hall looking happy and relieved. Even the teachers were friendly and pleasant. Mr Ebenezer, seeing Mani, asked, "Hello, blockhead, how are you going to waste your vacation?"

Mani replied, "I'm going to sleep, sir," and then winked at his friends. When the teacher asked him whether he would improve his head by the time he returned to school, Mani said, "Impossible, sir, unless you cut off Sankar's head and put it in place of mine!" This was greeted with roars of laughter.

9 The Headmaster came on to the stage and made a short speech when the noise subsided. He said the school would remain closed till the nineteenth of June and reopen on the twentieth. He hoped that the boys would not waste their time, but read storybooks and glance through their books for the next class, to which he hoped most of them would be promoted. He ended his speech with a prayer. As soon as the prayer ended there was a storm of joyous cries, and the students rushed out of the hall.

**1.1. Find a word in the indicated paragraph which best fits each of the meanings given below and write them in your answer sheet. (1 x 5 = 5m)**

1. person in charge (1)
2. watching carefully (4)
3. talking about (5)
4. free of worry (8)
5. became less (9)

**1.2. Complete each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given. (1 x 5 = 5m)**

A. This story is about

- a) the last day of school, before the holidays.
- b) how Swami and his friends wrote their exams.
- c) both (a) and (b).

B. Swaminathan handed in his exam paper

- a) before any of his friends had finished.
- b) before any of the other boys in his class had finished.
- c) after the bell rang.

C. Swami's answer to the sixth question (about the Brahmin and the tiger) was

- a) half a page.
- b) more than half a page.
- c) less than half a page.

D. To complete the paper, Mani needed

- a) less time than Swami.
- b) more time than Swami.
- c) as much time as Swami.

- E. When they met the teachers at the Assembly after the exam, the teachers were all
- a) in a good mood.
  - b) worried about the students.
  - c) angry because the students had done badly.

### **SECTION B - WRITING (7 MARKS)**

Q2. You are Hritesh of 122, Arjun Nagar, New Delhi. A number of scooters and cars are parked in your locality without any order, causing blockage of the streets. Write a letter to the local Secretary of the Resident's Association complaining against this problem. (7 marks)

### **SECTION C - GRAMMAR (8 MARKS)**

**Q3. Now complete the following dialogues using only one modal for each blank.**

**(1 x 4 = 4m)**

- a) Manav: Suma is playing the violin very well.  
Priya : Yes; \_\_\_\_\_ you play any musical instrument?  
Manav: I can't. But I have learnt vocal music.
- b) Peter: It's suddenly become dark.  
Nandita: Yes; Thick clouds have gathered in the sky. It \_\_\_\_\_ rain this evening.
- c) Abdullah: Ma'm, I'm a little late. \_\_\_\_\_ I enter the class?  
Teacher: You may not. I'm afraid late coming has become a habit with you.
- d) Father: Take this. You \_\_\_\_\_ not forget to wear your helmet while riding your motorbike.  
Son: Thanks, Dad. I forgot to pick it up.

**Q4. Complete the following sentences using appropriate articles. (1/2 x 8 = 4m)**

- a) Bangkok is \_\_\_\_\_ capital of Thailand.
- b) Australia, \_\_\_\_\_ country in the southern Hemisphere, has produced some world-class sportspersons.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ electrician does not earn much in a small town.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ girl who lives at the corner of our street has been selected for the civil services.
- e) Many countries rely on \_\_\_\_\_ type of cocoa produced in Ghana for their chocolate products.

- f) The Amazon is considered to be \_\_\_\_\_ largest river in the world, in terms of volume of water.
- g) Punjab, \_\_\_\_\_ important state of North India, has five rivers flowing through it.
- h) 1950 is the year in which India became \_\_\_\_\_ republic.

**SECTION D - LITERATURE (15 MARKS)**

**Q4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**

**(1 x 3 = 3m)**

*Not marble nor the gilded monuments  
Of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme,  
But you shall shine more bright in these contents  
Than unswept stone besmeared with sluttish time.  
When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry,  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn  
The living record of your memory.*

1. What is the primary theme of the excerpt?
  - A) The futility of war
  - B) The enduring nature of written words
  - C) The inevitability of death
  - D) The grandeur of monuments
  
2. In the context of the excerpt, what does the phrase “sluttish time” imply?
  - A) Time is careless and dirty
  - B) Time is seductive and deceitful
  - C) Time is nurturing and healing
  - D) Time is slow and steady
  
3. How does the author contrast the “powerful rhyme” with “marble” and “gilded monuments”?
  - A) By suggesting that poetry is less permanent than physical monuments
  - B) By illustrating that poetry can preserve memory longer than physical structures
  - C) By emphasising the fragility of both poetry and physical monuments
  - D) By showing that physical monuments are more valuable than poetry

**Q5. Answer the following questions.**

**(2 x 4 = 8m)**

1. Why is the frog's joy both sweet and bitter in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'?
2. The story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is full of surprises. Briefly mentioned any two such instances.
3. Do you think the silent figure of Loona Bimberton in the background plays a crucial role in the story? Explain.
4. Why did Ali give up hunting?

**Q6. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in brief.**

**(1 x 4 = 4m)**

1. "Ali came out very slowly, turning after every few steps to gaze at the post office. His eyes were filled with tears of helplessness, for his patience was exhausted, even though he still had faith." Why were Ali's eyes filled with tears of helplessness? What had exhausted his patience but not his faith?

**OR**

2. Do you think the writer is trying to make fun of the main characters in the story i.e. Mrs. Packletide, Miss Mebbin and Loona Bimberton? Pick out instances from the story that point to this fact.