CLASS-VIII
ANNUAL EXAMINATION (2023-24)
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
SET B2

Time allowed: 2.5 Hrs. **Maximum Marks: 60**

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: **A, B and C**. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A- READING (16 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully: **8**

1. Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania on November 29, 1832. She and her three sisters, Anna, Elizabeth and May, were educated by their father, philosopher and teacher Bronson Alcott, and raised on the practical Christianity of their mother, Abigail May. When Louisa was 35 years old, her publisher Thomas Niles in Boston asked her to write 'a book for girls.' *Little Women* was written at Orchard House from May to July 1868. The novel is based on Louisa and her sisters' coming of age and is set in Civil War New England.

2. Louisa spent her childhood in Boston and in Concord, Massachusetts, where her days were enlightened by visits to Ralph Waldo Emerson's library, excursions into nature with Henry David Thoreau, and theatricals in the barn at Hillside (now Hawthome's Wayside).

3. Like her character Jo March in *Little Women*, young Louisa was a tomboy. 'No boy could be my friend till I had beaten him in a race,' she claimed, 'and no girl if she refused to climb trees, leap fences…'

4. For Louisa, writing was an early passion. She had rich imaginations and often her stories became melodramas that she and her sisters would act out for friends. Louisa preferred to play the 'lurid' parts in these plays –'the villains, ghosts bandits, and disdainful queens.'

5. At age 15, troubled by the poverty that plagued her family, she vowed: 'I will do something little by and by. Don't care what, teach, sew, write anything to help my family; and I'll be rich and famous and happy before I die, see if I won't!' Confronting a society that offered little opportunity to women seeking employment, Louisa determined, '... I will make a battering-ram of my head and make my way through this rough and tumbled world.' Whether as a teacher, seamstress, governess, or household servant, Louisa did any work she could find for many years.

6. Louisa's career as an author began with poetry and short stories that appeared in popular magazines. In 1854, when she was 22, her first book *Flower Fables* was published. A milestone along her literary path was *Hospital Sketches* (1863), based on the letters she had written home from her post as a nurse in Washington, DC during the Civil War.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option: 1x4=4

i.The word 'raised' in the first paragraph means:

A. placed her children on a higher level
B. voiced her opinion
C. brought up her children.
D. took them to the mountains

ii.Louisa took up any job that she could get because

A. she was poor and needed to earn money.
B. she had decided to use her head as a battering ram.
C. she liked doing all kinds of jobs.
D. she wanted to achieve success

iii.The first book of Louisa May Alcott that was published was_____

A. Hospital Sketches.
B. Flower Fables.
C. Little Women.
D. Not such a 'Little Woman'!

iv.Which word is the synonym of the word 'promised' in paragraph 5?

A. enlightened
B. plagued
C. vowed
D. tumbled

1.2. Answer the following questions briefly: 1x4=4

v. Describe Louisa's childhood.

vi. What did Louisa have in common with one of the characters in her story, *Little Women?*

vii. How did Louisa use for her imagination in writing stories?

viii. What was she determined to do?

2. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow. 8

1. ***Oh! Defenders of borders***
You are great sons of my land
When we are all asleep
You still hold on to your deed.

5. ***Windy season or snowy days***
Or scorching sun's sweltering rays
You are there guarding all the time awake
Treading the lonely expanses as Yogis.
Climbing the heights or striding the valleys

10. ***Defending the deserts and guarding the marshes***
Surveillance in seas and by securing the air
Prime of your youth given to the nation!!
Wind chimes of my land vibrate your feat
We pray for you brave men!
May the Lord bless you all!

-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

2. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, answer the following questions: 1x8=8

i. The above poem is dedicated to _____
   A. teachers
   B. soldiers
   C. doctors
   D. singers

ii. What do they sacrifice for the nation?
   A. Their youth
   B. Their lives
   C. Their wealth
   D. Both option A and B

iii. What does Dr. Kalam express through the last two lines of the poem:
   We pray for you brave men!
   May the Lord bless you all!
   A. He expresses his tribute to the soldiers
   B. He expresses his anger
   C. He expresses his complaints
   D. He expresses his desire to be a soldier

iv. The word 'scorching' in the poem means__
   A. heating
   B. burning
   C. waiting
   D. developing

v. Identify the rhyme scheme of the Second stanza:

vi. Mention the two expressions from the poem which denote the weather conditions under which the soldiers work tirelessly.

vii. Identity the figure of speech used in the given line: ***When we are all asleep***

viii. In stanza two, the soldiers are compared to _____who walk up the mountains and valleys.

SECTION B – GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3. Attempt the following questions as per the specific instructions provided with each of them:

1x10=10

1. Complete the following sentence with the correct Question Tag.
   Raghav learns French, _____ ?

2. Change the voice of the following sentence:

   Please come early tomorrow.

3. Choose appropriate phrasal verbs from the box to complete each sentence:
   We asked the boss to _____ the meeting until tomorrow.

put off	*make do with*	*dropped by*

4. Fill in the blank with Past Continuous or Past Perfect Continuous Tense:
   Saima _____ (play) the violin when her father returned home.

5. Transform the following direct speech into reported speech:
   Naveen asked the dealer, 'Can I hire a car for a fortnight'?

6. Fill in the blanks to complete the given conditional clause.
   If Rohit repairs his bike, he _____ for his bike trip.

7. Identify the error in the given sentences and supply the correction.
   i. Rohan has lived in Sikkim since six years.
   ii. Cats are general attached to places.
   Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction
a.	
b.	

8. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate relative pronoun to complete the given clause:

a. The town _____ I was born had a beautiful Gothic church.
b. The woman _____ lives next door grows tomatoes in her garden.

SECTION B –WRITING SKILLS

4.1. A. You are Yuvna, the President of the Music Society of your school. Write a notice in 50 words inviting students to the special round of auditions to participate in an Inter-School Music Competition to be held as a part of the Cultural Fest. **5**

OR

B. You are Romir /Roohi, the secretary of the Environment club of your school. Design a poster for your school bulletin board on the conservation of soil. Word limit 50. **5**

4.2. A. Your area is severely affected by the menace of stray dogs. Write an article in about 100-120 words on the problem of stray dogs and other stray animals in your locality. **7**

OR

B. You are Saurabh/ Suravi, the editor of your school magazine. Write a report in about 80-100 words on the Inter Section English Debate held in your school last week. You may use the following hints. **7**

- The team of organizers.
- The venue, time and date of the debate competition
- The chief guest and judges
- The topic of the debate
- Cultural programme if any as part of the debate.

SECTION C- LITERATURE (22 Marks)

5. A. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (1+1+2=4)

We use our text messages,
Our computers, to speak for us,
We use our telephones,
And rely on our trust

i. Identify the poem and the poet of the given extract.
   A. The Communication, LE Thayer
   B. Communication, G.B Shaw.
   C. Communications, Kamala Das
   D. Communication, Aisha Sherazi,

ii. According the given extract, which of the following image aptly depicts the mode of communication people use these days?

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A.</td>
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B.</td>
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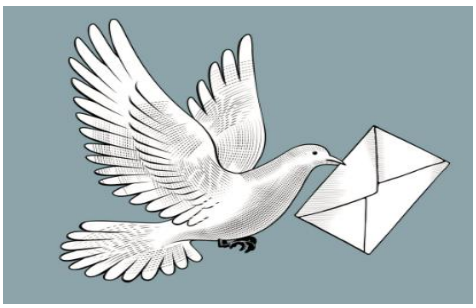
<td> 
C.</td>
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iii. What is lacking in these means of communication as mentioned in the given extract?

5. B. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (1+1+2=4)

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

i. Who is the worthy friend referred to here?

A. The doctor
B. The poet
C. The Village Blacksmith
D. The Blacksmith

ii. Why does his daughter's voice make his heart rejoice?

A. It reminds him of his school days
B. It reminds him of his dead wife.
C. It reminds him of his colleagues.
D. It reminds him of his childhood days.

iii. What do the first two lines of the above extract reflect about the Blacksmith's religious life?

5. C. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (1+1+2=4)

Today the world is a little more my own.
No need to remember the pain
A blue-frocked woman caused, throwing
Words at me like pots and pans, to drain
That honey-colored day of peace.
'Why don't you join the others, what
A peculiar child you are!'

i. What does the line, 'Today, the world is a little more my own' mean?

A. The world belongs to the poet.
B. The poet has gained more control over her feelings and emotions.
C. The poet lives in her imaginary world.
D. The poet is not satisfied with the world she lives in.

ii. The blue-frocked woman in the given extract is _____

A. the poet herself.
B. the poet's friend.
C. the poet's kindergarten teacher.
D. the poet's caretaker.

iii. Why does the poet refer to the children as 'funny things'?

6. Answer ANY THREE out of FOUR of the following questions in 30-40 words: 2x3= 6

i. What were the factors that prompted Deepak to return to Arun's house and replace the money he had stolen? Mention any two points.

ii. Why does Rowan Atkinson feel that he should not do any more Mr. Bean sketches or films?

iii. How does Luke's lack of confidence make life difficult for him at his work place?

iv. Why does Mr.Varma change his opinion about his son in the later part of the story named *A Devoted Son*?

7. Answer the following question in about 80-100 words. 4

i. Apart from the reaction of Nepommuck, is there any other evidence in the play to suggest that Eliza was a great success at the Ambassador's reception at the Embassy? Justify.