

**CLASS VIII**  
**ANNUAL EXAM (2023-24)**  
**SUBJECT-ENGLISH**  
**SET -A1 & A2 MARKING SCHEME**

**Time Allowed: 2½ Hours**

**Max Marks: 60**

**General Instructions:**

1. The paper is divided into three sections: A,B and C
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Read the instructions very carefully and follow them.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION- A**  
**READING -16 MARKS**

**1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. 08**

1. Does smoking really help a person think more clearly? From recent scientific studies, the answer is a clear 'No'.
2. Recent scientific studies unequivocally refute the notion that smoking enhances cognitive abilities. Psychologist George Spilich conducted a series of tests involving three groups: non-smokers, active smokers, and smokers deprived of nicotine before and during testing.
3. Initially, the groups performed equally well in the basic task of identifying target letters among arrays flashed on screens. However, as tasks increased in complexity, distinctions emerged. In a test requiring the rapid identification of changing letters in sequences, non-smokers reacted the fastest, followed by active smokers stimulated by nicotine, and then deprived smokers.
4. Further, in a short-term memory assessment involving recalling specific sequences amid arrays, non-smokers excelled, with deprived smokers making fewer errors than active smokers. Analytical thinking and memory tasks highlighted that non-smokers consistently retained 19% more information than active smokers, while deprived smokers also outperformed active smokers.
5. The pinnacle trial, a driving simulation, mirrored prior outcomes. Non-smokers displayed superior performance, experiencing fewer collisions compared to deprived smokers and notably more than active smokers.
6. Spilich's observations revealed a pattern: as tasks grew more intricate, non-smokers consistently outshone smokers by widening margins. He concluded that smokers might handle routine tasks adequately but struggled with complexity. A smoker's response to emergencies, such as a blown tire while driving or unforeseen complications in professions like piloting, could significantly suffer due to impaired mental capacity induced by smoking. Crucially, deprived smokers exhibited clearer thinking in intricate scenarios compared to their actively smoking counterparts.
7. In summary, Spilich's comprehensive tests underscored that smoking hindered cognitive performance, particularly in demanding and complex tasks, while highlighting the clearer thinking of non-smokers and deprived smokers in such situations.

**Q1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the questions by choosing the correct option:** **1x4=4**

**1. What was the primary objective of the tests conducted in this passage?**

- a) It was to determine whether smoking helps anyone think more clearly.
- b) It was to investigate the impact of smoking and nicotine on cognitive abilities.**
- c) It was to examine the effects of computer use on cognitive abilities.
- d) It was to compare the cognitive abilities of non-smokers and smokers.

**2. What was the main equipment utilized in all the tests?**

- a) Televisions
- b) Computers**
- c) Tablets
- d) Smartphones

**3. What does "nicotine-deprived" signify in the context of the tests?**

- a) Overexposure to nicotine
- b) Nicotine addiction
- c) Not allowed to smoke, hence lacking nicotine in the body**
- d) Experiencing withdrawal symptoms

**4. Which group performed the best in the first test involving identifying target letters?**

- a) Non-smokers
- b) Active smokers
- c) Nicotine-deprived smokers
- d) All three groups performed equally well.**

**Q1.2. Answer the following questions in one sentence**

**1x4=4**

5. What did recent scientific studies reveal about smoking and cognitive abilities?

**Ans: Recent studies unequivocally refute the idea that smoking enhances cognitive abilities.**

6. What did Spilich conclude about smokers' ability to handle complex tasks?

**Ans. Spilich concluded that while smokers might handle routine tasks, they struggle significantly with complexity, especially in emergencies or intricate scenarios.**

7. Find the word that is similar in meaning to the word '*contradict*' in paragraph 2 — **Refute**

8. Find the word that is opposite in meaning to the word '*promoted*' in paragraph 7 -**Hindered**

*Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
Bake a cake or plant a seed;  
Ponder the difference between want and need.*

*Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb;  
Music to hear and books to read;  
Friends to cherish and life to lead.*

*Dust if you must, but the world's out there  
With the sun in your eyes and the wind in your hair;  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come around again.*

*Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come, and it's not kind.  
And when you go (and go, you must)  
You, yourself, will make more dust.*

**Q 2.1 On the basis of your reading of the poem, answer the questions by choosing the correct option:**

**1x4=4**

- (i) What is the primary message conveyed in the poem "Dust If You Must"?
- a) The importance of keeping a clean home
  - b) The significance of embracing life's experiences**
  - c) The necessity of avoiding responsibilities
  - d) The joy of collecting assorted items
- (ii) What is the poet urging people to prioritize in the poem?
- a) Accumulating possessions
  - b) Pursuing career goals
  - c) Enjoying life's moments**
  - d) Maintaining a rigid schedule
- (iii) What does the line "With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb" suggest?
- a) A call for extreme sports
  - b) A metaphorical representation of life's challenges and adventures**
  - c) An environmental conservation message.
  - d) Encouragement for travelling.
- (iv) What does the poet imply by "This day will not come around again"?
- a) Every day is unique and should be valued.**
  - b) One should never revisit past experiences.
  - c) Time passes quickly, so enjoy the present.
  - d) Each day offers the same opportunities.

**Q2.2 Answer the following questions in one sentence**

**1x4=4**

(v) According to the poem, mention the alternative activities suggested instead of dusting.

**Ans: Painting, writing, baking, planting, and pondering.**

(vi) What does the poet emphasize about time in the poem?

**Ans: The uniqueness and value of each day.**

(vii) How does the poem urge individuals to approach life?

**Ans: By cherishing moments and experiences.**

(viii) Identify the poetic device in the line, "With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb"?

**Ans: The poetic device used here is a metaphor. It compares life's challenges and adventures to rivers to swim and mountains to climb, emphasizing their depth and difficulty.**

**SECTION- B**

**GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS–22 MARKS**

**Q3. Do as directed:**

**10**

**Q 3.1. Fill in the blanks with a suitable Question Tag:**

**1x1=1**

(a) She is coming to the party, isn't she?

**Q 3.2. Rewrite the following sentence in passive voice:**

**1x1=1**

(a) They are building a new bridge.

**A new bridge is being built by them.**

**Q 3.3. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate Phrasal Verb from the bracket:**

**1x1=1**

(a) Rhea \_\_\_\_\_ a coin from her pocket .(carried out/fished out)

**Q 3.4. Fill in the blanks with the Past continuous/ Past Perfect Continuous tense of the verb given in the bracket to make a meaningful sentence:**

**1x1=1**

a) We had been working (work) on the project for five hours before taking a break.

**Q3.5. Rewrite the sentence using Reported Speech:**

**1x1=1**

a) He said, "We are going to the beach. "

**He said that they were going to the beach.**

**Q3.6. Fill in the blank with the correct tense form of the verb given in bracket complete the conditional clause:**

**1x1=1**

a) If Zia had asked (ask) her teacher, he would have answered her questions.

**Q3.7. There is an error in each line. Identify the error and write the incorrect word along with the correct word.**

**1x2 = 2**

	<u>Incorrect</u>	<u>Correct</u>
Once upon a time, their lived a very poor girl.	their	there
who had very big dreams but didn't work hard enough to achieve it.	it	them

**Q3.8. Complete the following sentences using suitable Relative Clauses:**

**1x2=2**

- a) The car **that broke down** was very old.
- b) The woman **who is my neighbour** helps everyone.

**Accept all grammatically correct, meaningful answers.**

**Q4.1. (SET A1) Attempt any one of the following:**

**Q.** You are Mrinal Ahuja, leading the Cultural Club of Spring Dales Public School. Draft a notice urging students to immerse themselves in the upcoming 'Cultural Fiesta.' Encourage participation in cuisine stalls, traditional dance spectacles, and a lively costume parade. **Create a concise 50-word interesting notice.**

**5**

**Format – 1, Content – 2, Expression – 2**

**OR**

**Q. Develop a poster** for the school notice board spreading awareness for reforestation efforts. Use approximately 50 words to convey the critical need for planting trees and restoring green spaces to prevent environmental degradation.

**5**

**Format – 1, Content – 2, Expression – 2**

**Q4.1. (SET A2) Attempt any one of the following:**

**Q.** Imagine you are the Head of the Dramatics Club. Create a compelling notice announcing the much-awaited 'Dramatics Week.' Highlight the excitement with vivid descriptions of theatrical marvels, engaging acting workshops, and the thrill of a drama competition. **Frame all this within an expressive notice in 50 words.**

**5**

**Format – 1, Content – 2, Expression – 2**

**OR**

**Q. Create a poster** for the school notice board, encouraging the reduction of plastic usage. Craft a persuasive message within 50 words to inspire students to adopt eco-friendly practices and minimize plastic waste.

**5**

**Format – 1, Content – 2, Expression – 2**

**Q4.2(SET A1) Attempt any one of the following:**

**Q.** Addressing air pollution is crucial to safeguard public health and reduce its adverse effects on society. **Write an article, within 100-120 words,** outlining the harmful effects of air pollution on human health.

**7**

**Format – 2, Content –2, Expression – 3**

**OR**

**Q.** As the Head of the Environmental Club, **write a report** for the school newsletter summarizing the "Green Initiative Week" recently conducted by your school, emphasizing its efforts in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness among students. (100-120 words).

*showcased a commitment to -students actively participated - eco-friendly workshops -The week emphasized - fostering a sense of responsibility towards our planet- enthusiasm displayed - collective dedication to preserving the environment.*

**Q4.2(SET A2) Attempt any one of the following:**

**Q.** Junk food and fast food have conquered the taste buds of the young and the old. You are disturbed by the consequences of consuming them. **Write an article, within 100-120 words**, highlighting the importance of a balanced diet. 7

**OR**

**Q.** As a student representative, **draft a report for the school magazine in 100-120 words** detailing the cultural exchange programme recently hosted by your school, emphasizing its significance in fostering cultural harmony and understanding among students from diverse states. Use the following hints:

*School corridors buzzed- excitement -cultural fervour -enthraling cultural exchange programme - united students -Celebration of cultures and traditions- Participants showcased captivating performances- Vibrant attires -interactive sessions -event served as a bridge fostering mutual respect.*

**Format – 2, Content –2, Expression – 3**

**SECTION-C**  
**LITERATURE – 22 MARKS**

**Q5. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow. (4+4+4 = 12)**

**5.1** *Communication Breakdown,* **(1+1+2)**

*What's happening today?  
We don't say what we mean,  
And we don't mean what we say*

- a) Communication breakdown refers to (*choose the best option*): **(1)****
- (i) breakdown of gadgets (ii) breakdown of network  
(iii) **lack of interaction between human beings** (iv) breakdown of vehicles

**b) The main point made by the poet in this poem is (*choose the best option*): **(1)****

- i) People are not engaging in meaningful communication these days, and this needs to change.  
ii) Modern technology has made it easier for us to communicate with one another.  
iii) **Everyone is so busy these days that proper communication is not possible, and we have to accept this situation.**  
iv) None of these

**c) Who does 'we' refer to in the above lines? What is wrong with them? **(2)****  
**'We' here refers to us/present generation. We have become so busy that there is very little human interaction; we fail to establish eye contact with the people to whom we are speaking, and we rarely smile.**

5.2 *His hair is crisp and black, and long* (1+1+2)  
*His face is like the tan;*  
*His brow is wet with honest sweat,*  
*He earns whatever he can,*  
*And looks the whole world in the face,*  
*For he owes not any man.*

- a) Identify the poetic device in the second line (**choose the best option**) : (1)  
(i) Personification (ii) Metaphor (iii) **Simile** (iv) Alliteration
- b) The rhyme scheme of the above lines is (**choose the best option**) : (1)  
(i) abbaab (ii) **abcdbd** (iii) ababab (iv) abcabc
- c) Why is the blacksmith able to look the whole world in the face? (2)  
**The blacksmith is able to look the whole world in the face because he is an honest man, so he doesn't owe anything to anyone.**

5.3 *Today, the world is a little more my own.* (1+1+2)  
*No need to remember the pain*  
*A blue-frosted woman caused throwing*  
*Words at me like pots and pans to drain*  
*That honey-coloured day of peace,*  
*"Why don't you join the others, what*  
*A peculiar child you are!"*

- a) What pain has a 'blue-frosted' woman caused (**choose the best option**). (1)  
(i) She has beaten the child (ii) **She has scolded the child**  
(iii) She has scolded the child's friend (iv) She has not given the desired toy to the child
- b) Who is being called as a peculiar child in the above lines? (1)  
(i) The classmates (ii) **The poet**  
(iii) The blue-frosted woman (iv) The poet's friends
- c) '*Honey-colored day*' is an example of which poetic device? What drained the peace of the honey-coloured day? (2)  
**'Honey-colored day' is an example of a Metaphor. The teacher's angry words drained away the peace of the honey-coloured day.**

Q6. Answer the following questions briefly in 30-40 words. (Attempt any three only) 2x3=6  
(Set A1& A2)

- i) **Why, according to Deepak, was he unable to make up his mind to rob Arun?** (*The Thief*)

Deepak was unable to make up his mind to rob Arun because he found Arun to be the most trusting person he had ever met. Living with Arun had shown Deepak what a good-hearted and trusting person Arun was. So, Deepak felt concerned and sympathetic for Arun and found it difficult to rob him.

ii) **Why does Rowan Atkinson feel that he should not do any more Mr. Bean sketches or films?** (*Mr Bean's Interview*)

**Ans.** Rowan Atkinson has always regarded Mr Bean's character as an ageless and timeless sort of person, and he didn't particularly want to see him looking or acting too old. Moreover, he is not sure if he could still do it in the following two-three years' time.

iii) **In what way is Luke's wife different from him?** (*My Friend Luke*)

By nature, Luke is a sweet and shy person who speaks in a thin, soft voice. His wife, on the other hand, is a thin, irritable woman who has a shrill voice, a razor-sharp tongue, and a bad temper that cannot be controlled.

iv) *'Yes, and do you know what was the first thing he did when he saw the results this morning?*

**Who is being spoken about and why in the above lines?** (*A Devoted Son*)

Rakesh is being spoken about in the context of what he did when he said his medical exam results. His father is speaking about him with reference to how he rushed to show him respect by touching his feet when he found out the good news. He was saying all this to the neighbours in pride.

**Q7. Answer the following question in 80-100 words.**

**1x4=4**

**(SET A1)**

**Q)Who is Nepommuck? What do you think he means when he says, 'I can place a man anywhere in London the moment he opens his mouth?'** (*Eliza*)

**Ans.** Nepommuck is a Hungarian nobleman who has come to attend the party at the London Embassy. He claims to speak 32 languages and introduces himself as the interpreter at such functions.

When he says he can place a man anywhere in London the moment he opens his mouth, he means he can identify where a man hails from by listening to him speak. He means that he can identify the diction, words and pronunciation specific to a particular area in London.

**(SET A2)**

**Q) Why does Higgins feel he 'couldn't have asked for a harder test for Eliza!''?** (*Eliza*)

**Ans.** Henry Higgins feels that he couldn't have asked for a harder test for Eliza because Nepommuck is good at identifying people and where they are originally based on how they speak. Eliza is only a flower girl who has been trained to speak good English over the last six months.

Higgins felt that Nepommuck would easily be able to place Eliza as being a commoner and not a Duchess based on how she spoke and carried herself at the party.