



ANGEL'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION

(SAMPLE PAPER)

SESSION 2026 – 27
SUBJECT : ENGLISH
GRADE – VIII

TIME : 03 HRS

M.M:80

General Instructions :

- (a) Section – A(Reading) 15 marks
- (b) Section – B (Creative Writing and Grammar) 35 marks
- (c) Section – C (Literature) 30 marks

SECTION – A (READING)

[15]

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Value of Curiosity

Curiosity is often described as the starting point of learning. It is the desire to ask questions, explore new ideas, and understand how things work. Every important invention and discovery has been made because someone was curious enough to ask, "Why?" or "How?" From childhood, curiosity encourages people to observe the world carefully and seek answers through reading, experiments, and discussions. It transforms ordinary experiences into opportunities for learning and personal growth.

In schools, curious students usually enjoy learning more than those who simply memorise facts. Instead of accepting information without thinking, they ask questions, compare ideas, and search for explanations. This habit develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential in everyday life. For example, a student who wonders why plants grow better in sunlight may conduct a simple experiment instead of relying only on textbook knowledge. Such experiences make learning meaningful and long-lasting.

Curiosity also plays an important role outside the classroom. It encourages people to understand different cultures, traditions, and viewpoints. Reading books, visiting museums, travelling, or even talking to people from different backgrounds can broaden one's perspective. Curious individuals are often more adaptable because they are willing to learn from new experiences instead of fearing change. They view mistakes as opportunities to improve rather than as signs of failure.

However, curiosity should always be guided by responsibility. Not every question can be answered by taking unnecessary risks or invading someone else's privacy. Responsible curiosity means exploring ideas in a respectful and ethical manner. Scientists follow safety rules during experiments, journalists verify facts before publishing reports, and students use reliable sources while completing projects.

These practices ensure that curiosity leads to knowledge rather than confusion or harm.

Parents and teachers play a vital role in nurturing curiosity. Instead of providing immediate answers to every question, they can encourage children to think independently, discuss possibilities, and search for

evidence. Schools that organise science exhibitions, debates, reading clubs, and project-based learning activities create an environment where curiosity flourishes. Such opportunities inspire students to become active learners rather than passive recipients of information.

In a rapidly changing world, knowledge becomes outdated quickly, but the ability to remain curious continues to be valuable throughout life. People who are eager to learn can adapt to new technologies, solve unfamiliar problems, and contribute positively to society. Curiosity, therefore, is not merely a habit of asking questions; it is a lifelong attitude that opens the door to discovery, creativity, and continuous learning.

A. Choose the correct option.

(4x1=4)

(a) What is the central idea of the passage?

- (i) Curiosity is a lifelong quality that promotes learning and responsible thinking.
- (ii) Curiosity is useful only for scientists.
- (iii) Memorising facts is more important than asking questions.
- (iv) Travelling is the best way to learn.

(b) According to the passage, curious students are more likely to

- (i) avoid experiments.
- (ii) ask questions and search for explanations
- (iii) depend only on textbooks
- (iv) dislike classroom discussions

(c) Why should curiosity be guided by responsibility?

- (i) to avoid learning new things
- (ii) to ensure learning takes place in a safe and ethical manner
- (iii) to reduce classroom activities
- (iv) to complete projects more quickly

(d) Which statement can be inferred from the passage?

- (i) Curiosity helps people adapt to change.
- (ii) Curiosity decreases creativity
- (iii) Only schools are responsible for developing curiosity.
- (iv) Asking questions is a waste of time.

B. Choose the correct option that is true for each assertion and reason given below.

(2x1=2)

a. Assertion (A): Curious learners develop better problem-solving skills.

Reason (R): They try to understand concepts by asking questions and exploring ideas.

- (i) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (ii) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (iii) A is true, but R is false.
- (iv) A is false, but R is true.

b. Assertion (A): Parents and teachers should always provide immediate answers to every question.

Reason (R): Independent thinking helps children develop curiosity.

- (i) Both A and R are true.
- (ii) Both A and R are false.
- (iii) A is false, but R is true.
- (iv) A is true, but R is false.

C. Answer the following questions.

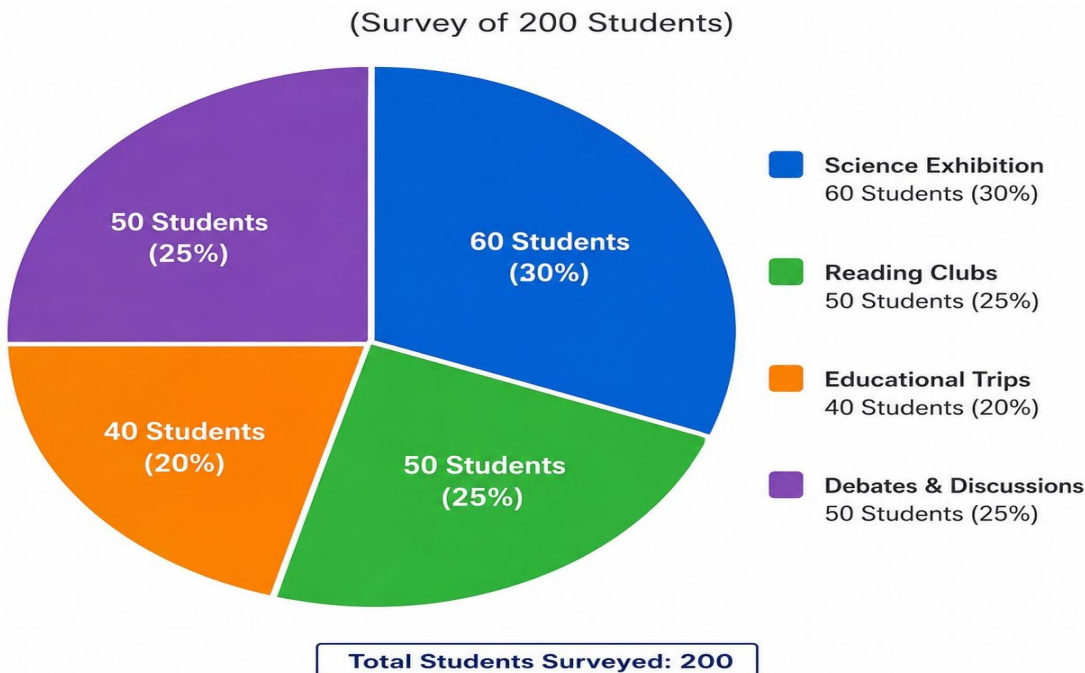
(2x2=4)

- (i) Explain how curiosity helps students become better learners. Give any two points from the passage.
- (ii) Why is responsible curiosity important?

D. Graphical Representation–Based Questions.

(5x1=5)

A school surveyed 200 students about the activities that most encouraged their curiosity. Use the data given to answer the questions that follow.



- (a) Which activity inspired the highest number of students?
- (b) What is the total number of students who preferred Reading Clubs and Debates & Discussions?
- (c) How many students preferred Science Exhibitions than Educational Trips?
- (d) Which two activities together account for 100 students?
- (e) Based on the data and the passage, what conclusion can you draw about the types of activities that encourage curiosity among students?

SECTION – B (CREATIVE WRITING AND GRAMMAR)

[35]

- 2. You are Raman Deep Kaur, the Head Girl of Guru Nanak Public School. Draft a notice in about 50 words for the House Captains and Vice Captains to attend a meeting with the House Incharges to allocate duties regarding the checking of the uniform on activity days. (3)
- 3. As Madhu / Madhuri of Grade 8, write a letter to the Principal of your school complaining against the rash driving of your school van driver. (80-100 words) (6)
- 4. You are shivalimalhotra@vnet.com. Write an email to be sent to your cousin mrinalica467@yahoo.com describing your new pet. (60-80 words) (6)

- 5. Fill in the blanks with suitable Determiners.** (2x1=2)
- (a) There are _____ students waiting outside the library. (many / much)
(b) I have only _____ information about the event. (a little /a few)
- 6. Fill in the blanks with suitable Articles.(a /an/the)** (3x1=3)
- (a) My father bought _____ umbrella because it was raining.
(b) Mount Everest is _____ highest peak in the world.
(c) Rohan wants to become _____ engineer.
- 7. Fill in the blanks with suitable Degrees of Adjectives.** (2x1=2)
- (a) This road is _____ than the one we travelled yesterday. (wide)
(b) Neha is the _____ player in the basketball team. (good)
- 8. Choose the correct option.** (2x1=2)
- (a) Neither of the boys _____ interested in the competition. (is / are)
(b) The bouquet of flowers _____ on the table. (was / were)
- 9. Fill in the blanks by choosing appropriate Modal from the brackets.** (2x1=2)
- (a) You _____ wear a helmet while riding a bicycle. (must / may)
(b) _____ you help me carry these books, please? (Could /Must)
- 10. Choose the correct option.** (2x1=2)
- (a) If you water the plants regularly, they _____ healthy. (will grow / would grow)
(b) If I had more time, I _____ another story. (would write / will write)
- 11. Fill in the blanks with the correct Passive Form.** (2x1=2)
- (a) The homework _____ by the students yesterday. (was completed /are completed)
(b) The windows _____ every Saturday. (are cleaned /were cleaned)
- 12. Fill in the blanks with suitable Forms of Adverbs given in the brackets.** (2x1=2)
- (a) The children listened _____ to the teacher's instructions.(carefully / careful)
(b) The train arrived _____ than expected. (earlier /early)
- 13. Choose the correct Prepositions from the given brackets.** (3x1=3)
- (a) The keys are _____ the drawer. (in /on)
(b) We have lived in this town _____ 2018. (since / for)
(c) The cat jumped _____ the wall. (over / across)

SECTION – C (LITERATURE)

[30]

- 14. State whether the following statements are true or false.** (7x1=7)
- (a) The narrator wanted to open a bank account.
(b) The manager immediately recognised the narrator.
(c) The manager thought the narrator was a detective.
(d) The narrator deposited only six dollars.
(e) The narrator accidentally wrote fifty–six dollars on the cheque.
(f) The bank staff laughed at the narrator after he left.
(g) The narrator continued using the same bank regularly.

15. Answer the following questions.

(5x2=10)

- (a) What does the place where the truth is found tell us about the kind of environment being explored?
- (b) What was Angie Loudon's purpose on her first and second visits to Antarctica?
- (c) How did staying in the fort help Aarow experience the connection between history, work and the local people's efforts to keep traditions alive?
- (d) Describe the narrator's entire experience at the bank. How does the episode reflect his discomfort in formal situations?
- (e) What does the 'guest house' metaphor in the poem represent?

16. Answer with reference to context.

(2x2=4)

- (a) "A large account, I suppose," he said.
 - (i) Who is the speaker of this line?
 - (ii) What was the actual amount to be deposited?
- (b) "Hey! That one is putting on my mum's sunglasses. Those monkeys must have taken my parents' things!"
 - (i) Who is the speaker talking to?
 - (ii) What clues does this give about Myla's parents?

17. Fill in the blanks.

(2x1=2)

- (a) Emperor Penguins are one of the Antarctica's most impressive_____.
- (b) The tooth in the cave belonged to a_____.

18. Write meanings of the following words.

(7x1=7)

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| (a) souvenirs | (b) raft | (c) jadoh | (d) safe |
| (e) malice | (f) striking | (g) spare | |