



IAME SAHODAYA SCHOOL COMPLEX

FIRST SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT 2014-15

ENGLISH - STD : VIII

Time : 2½ hours

Max. Marks : 80

Name Div..... Roll No.....

SECTION-A—READING

A. Read the following passage carefully:

Change is often met with suspicion, and the rapidly raging SMS culture is no exception. As the world and its children went 'mobile', the cell phone's most loved feature-Short Message Service (SMS)- became the handiest tool of communication. Besides convenient templates like 'I'll be late', 'I'm busy right now', and even 'I'm sorry', SMS is now used to convey all kinds of emotions, jokes, SOS alerts, news and entertainment information. The language, which converted, too, to '2', 'you are' to 'ur' and take care to 'tc', among the million other smsisms, may well have begun to save space and cost. However, the conundrum of figuring out newly coined short forms caught on with such fervor that despite the rapidly declining rates offered by phone companies, the trend continues.

Students and young professionals often employ this 'half baked' language to almost all aspects of their lives. 'Five out of 10 resum'es I see are peppered with SMS language', reveals an HR executive adding, "Beside coming across as highly unprofessional, these CVs are instantly rejected, even though the qualifications may be up to the mark."

SMS lingo has also invaded the usually meticulous examination system, with students of all classes almost subconsciously using short forms in their answer papers. "We have made it a policy to cut half a mark per short form in class and unit tests. Children have failed, but the trend continues," laments an English teacher at a suburban school.

But are the youth in tune with these complaints? "I don't see any harm in using short forms, as long as the message is clear, and these days everyone does understand the commonly used SMS language," claims a 22 year-old young professional.

"Most English words are twice as long as they need to be, staggering under a weight of unvoiced vowels and surplus consonants. Surely pupils are saving paper and helping examiners with their brevity. All change must start somewhere and already a million fingers are tapping out a revolution."

Sitting on the other side of the fence, a journalist asserts. "That English is a funny language is the biggest cliché of all, but to lambast the rules of spelling in the manner that SMS does, is immature and despicable. We already have more forms of English than we can account for. Here we are trying to confer a common language on the globalising world in order to get all people to speak an understandable variety of the same basic language. And instead, we have to waste time and energy convincing people that further fragmentation of words, would be taking a long step back, and not forward."

Word-meaning : Razing - fury, craze, Conundrum - riddle, Meticulous - extra-careful, Laments – regrets, Brevity – brief, Despicable – hateful, Fragmenting – breaking into parts.

I. Answer the following question briefly:

(4marks)

- i. Most of the times change is not accepted
- ii. The most loved feature of the cell phone
- iii. The cellphone companies are offering rapidly declining rates but the trend of.....
- iv. Usually the meticulous examination system has been invaded by

II. Fill in the blanks with one word only:

(2 Marks)

There is no harm in using (a) forms, as long as the (b) is clearly understood by all.

These days most of us (c) the commonly used SMS language. All (d) must start somewhere.

III. Find a word in the passage that means the following:

(1 marks)

- (a) not a general rule (b) extra-care or vigilant.

B. Read the following passage carefully:

If you're faced with choosing a career you are certainly not alone. Although "career confusion" is a common phenomenon it is no longer difficult to make effective career decisions.

To select the right career path it's important to first assess one's skills and interests, keeping in mind what you enjoy, what you are good at, what kind of personality you are, and the values you hold.

After taking a good look at yourself it becomes easier for you to decide on the direction you wish to take. Finding out what kinds of occupations are there would be the natural next step. The world offers a plethora of opportunities.

Once the decision is made regarding one's choice of career, it is important to develop a career plan. Information about the kind of training, education, and skills needed to achieve the career goal can be easily gathered with some assistance.

Speaking to career advisers and recruitment specialists and employers are all ways to find out job market information. It would also do well to check out resources on the internet and in career centres.

There are plenty of books that can provide useful information on choosing career. These often help to get one thinking about the issues one needs to consider.

.For those who are unsure about the kind of career they want, and yet want a qualification, it is best to learn skills that will be useful for the job.

Word-meaning: Phenomenon – a fact in nature or society, especially one that is not fully understood,
Plethora – excess, Assess – estimate.

IV. Answer the following questions by choosing an appropriate option from those given below. (3 marks)

a. 'Career confusion' is a common phenomenon which makes it difficult to

- i. Make effective career decisions iii. concentrate on a job
- ii. Get a good job iv. Work sincerely

b. If you want to select the right career you

- i. Must work sincerely
- ii. Judge your aptitude
- iii. Should prepare yourself thoroughly
- iv. Should assess your skills and interests

c. A career plan helps in

- i. Achieving the career goal
- ii. Achieving your dreams
- iii. Achieving better results
- iv. Achieving more than your rivals

d. Books can also provide useful information.....

- i. On various issues
- ii. On all subjects
- iii. On all tricky problems
- iv. On choosing the right career

e. If you want a qualification then the best thing is to learn

- i. All technical aspects
- ii. Skills that will be useful for your job
- iii. Extracurricular activities
- iv. Leadership qualities

f. Plethora of opportunities means

- i. Different jobs

- ii. Different professions
- iii. Many opportunities and avenues for jobs
- iv. Limited opportunities for jobs

Read the poem carefully.

AT THE THEATRE

Dear Madam, you have seen this play:

I never saw it till today .

You know the details of the plot

But, let me tell you, I do not.

The author seeks to keep from me

The murderer's identity

And you are not a friend of his

If you keep shouting who it is.

The actors in their funny way

Have several funny things to say.

But they do not amuse me more

If you have said them just before.

. The merit of the drama lies

I understand, in some surprise ;

But the surprise now must be small

Since you have just foretold all

The lady you have brought with you

Is, I infer, a half-wit, too,

But I can understand the piece

Without assistance from your niece.

In short, foul woman, it would suit

Me just as well if you were mute;

In fact, to make my meaning plain,

I trust you will not speak again.

And-may I add one human touch ?

Don't breathe upon my neck so much.

V.Read the summary of the poem given and complete it in a word or in a sentence.

(5 marks)

The poet is watching a (a) Two ladies are sitting behind him. One of them has, perhaps, (b) She is narrating the details of the (c) The poet is getting irritated because he is not able to enjoy himself as he is watching a (d) The poet asks the lady not to (e)

SECTION-B—WRITING

VI. You are Mahendra Kumar, the Secretary of the science club of your school. Write a notice for the School Notice Board, informing the students about the Science Exhibition to be held and requesting them to participate in it wholeheartedly. Also inform them that outsiders are also welcome to this exhibition. Put the notice in a box. (5 MARKS)

VII. While going home you come across many children on the roads at crossroads with begging bowls in their hands. You are shocked and disgusted at this unflattering picture of a country which boasts of being a major economy in the world. Record your experience in your diary. (5 marks)

VIII. You are Head-boy of your school. You prepared notes on the inauguration of a new Reading Room in the Library. Describe the big event using the given notes. (5 marks)

- * Students always felt the necessity
- * A new reading room
- * Sh. O.P. Sharma, I.A.S., the Chief-guest
- * New Reading room—good furniture
- * All magazines, newspapers and periodicals.

IX. Newspapers play a pivotal role in the development of civilization. Every individual knows the significance of newspapers. Prepare a speech in 150 words on the topic “Advantages of Reading Newspaper”. (5marks)

SECTION-C- GRAMMAR

X. **Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in the brackets.** (6 marks)

A diesel tanker (a) (catch) fire last evening when it (b)(fill) up the underground tank of a petrol station situated on the G.T. Road. Soon the fire from the tanker

(C) (reach) the station's administrative block. Suddenly the driver of the tanker (d) (get) into it and (e)(drive) it 25 yards ahead of the station. A big tragedy (f)(avert) due to his brave act.

XI.. **Fill in the blanks in the following passage by writing the most appropriate non-finite forms of the verbs given in the brackets.** (6 marks)

While (a) (read) tips for health, I learnt that (b) (take) tea is not good for health. I tried (c) (think) about the ways of (d) (prepare) tea. Regular intake of tea is sure (e) (injure) one's health. I decided to leave my habit of (f) (consume) tea.

XII. **Put a full stop (.) after each Statement and Command, a question mark (?) after each Question and a mark of exclamation (!) after each Exclamation below.**

(8 marks)

- (a) Slow and steady always win the race
- (b) Why is truth always bitter
- (c) How nicely she explains
- (d) Don't speak unless you are asked to
- (e) What a painting
- (f) Oh he has expired
- (g) Talk to your father and apprise him of our plan
- (h) Why are you not studying nowadays

SECTION-D-LITERATURE

XIII. **Answer the following questions in two to three sentences.** (2x5=10)

- (a) **From the poem 'Arithmetic' pick out the lines or phrases which convey the idea that 'Memorizing tables is very difficult'.**
- (b) Do you think the Principal is both sensitive and fair to Pia? Discuss.
- (c) What do you think would have been the reaction of Gandhiji's teacher if he was asked whether Gandhiji had displayed any signs of greatness as a student?

- (d) In the poem 'Where the Mind is Without Fear', whom is the poet addressing here? How can you tell?
- (e) What does Ayurveda aim at?

XIV. Write elaborately about: (3x3=9)

- (a) Heroism involves courage, selflessness and presence of mind. Discuss how Erwin and Jack displayed all these qualities.
- (b) The poem begins with the line: 'I should like to rise and go

XV. Write in detail. (3x2=6)

- (a) Gulliver says that he owes his preservation to his nurse. What supports this observation.
- b) What were the effects of the 'Big Drake Shake' on the narrators and their parents?