

## PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION-1 -NOVEMBER – 2019

CLASS: IX

ENGLISH

Time: 3hrs

MAX. MARKS : 80

## SECTION – A ( READING)

## 1.1 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

## ALONE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

1. In 1951 a young French doctor, Alain Bombard, remarked that shipwrecked men who found themselves afloat at sea without food or fresh water should be alive for a long time. They would live on the sea and its contents by eating raw fish and its juice. Planktons would prevent scurvy by providing Vitamin C. Dr Bombard decided to prove that he was right. He planned to put to sea in an air-filled rubber dinghy with a three-foot-square sail. This was the kind of raft on which a man might really find himself alone on the ocean after a shipwreck. The journey started from Las Palmas on a little raft named 'L' Heretique on October 18.
2. No sooner had he done so when he ran into trouble. First, a wave swept over the raft. The next day, the wind tore his sail. For the first two to three days he had no luck in catching fish and had nothing to drink but sea-water. He became depressed and feared failure in this test. As he became more hungry, he also became more determined to succeed. He had with him some fishing equipment in a sealed tin, but he wanted to avoid using it. His idea was to exist like a shipwrecked sailor. He bent the point of his knife against an oar and then tied it to the end of the oar. He tried to catch a fish but could not. At last, he caught a dorado and ate it.
3. After these first few days, he was never without a supply of fish. Flying-fish were the main source of this supply. Once he caught a seabird and thought its flesh would be a pleasant change, but he found that it tasted almost like fish. A terrifying visitor arrived one day. This was a huge and unfriendly fish. It followed the raft for twelve hours and sometimes bumped against it. If it had really attacked the rubber raft with its vicious sword, it could have cut it to pieces very quickly and that would have been the end of the experiment. Sharks also followed his raft.
4. The most frightening of all Bombard's experiences on the long Atlantic journey was not due to swordfish or sharks. One day he accidentally knocked his air-filled cushion overboard and saw it floating about a hundred yards behind the raft. He swam to it but when he started to swim back he was horrified to see that the raft was moving faster than him. He put all his strength but was unsuccessful. He saw himself drowning through trying to rescue a cushion. So only a miracle could save him and a double miracle needed if he had been attacked at that time by a shark. It happened; the anchor fell free and he pulled himself on board.
5. On the twenty-fourth day, Dr Bombard began to long for sonic fresh water. "Rain I" he cried aloud after seeing the sea strangely flattened. He undressed so that salt could be washed off his body. He collected rain-water into an inflatable rubber mattress. Following this, other rainstorms beat down on him. Tice rain which he had been so glad to see at first, now became one of his greatest difficulties. It was impossible to keep dry as everything was wet. "The last forty-eight hours", he wrote in his diary, "have been the worst of the voyage".

6. This same night, a great wave broke over L' Heretique and broke the oar he used as a rudder. Then, while trying to pull down the sail to save it from the storm, he tore a hole in his tent. He baled out as much water as he could. At last, the sun appeared and the brightness spread across the sky. "Thank God for the sun", he wrote, "I am covered with little spots but the sun has returned."

1.1 **On the basis of reading the passage choose the best options:** 1x8 = 8

- a He caught a seabird and thought its flesh would be a pleasant change, but he found that it tasted \_\_\_\_\_ 1
- i) not like fish.                      iii) almost like bird.  
ii) not like bird                      iv) almost like fish.
- b He wrote in his diary, \_\_\_\_\_ "have been the worst of the voyage". 1
- i) The last twenty-eight hours.    iii) The last forty-six hours  
ii) The last forty-eight hours.    iv) The last-eight hours
- c The unfriendly fish followed the raft for \_\_\_\_\_ and sometimes bumped against it. 1
- i) twelve hours                      iii) ten hours  
ii) eleven hours                      iv) twenty four hours
- d Which word in the passage means 'deliberately cruel or violent'? 1
- i) baled                                  iii) vicious  
ii) scurvy                              iv) terrifying
- e Which paragraph tells about the doctors effort in gathering the rain water in a material that must be filled with air? 1
- i) Paragraph 2    ii) Paragraph 3    iii) Paragraph 2    iv) Paragraph 2
- f Which paragraph mentions about the doctor's discovery of the survival of shipwrecked men? 1
- i) Paragraph 1    ii) Paragraph 3    iii) Paragraph 4    iv) Paragraph 5
- g Which paragraph mentions about the doctor's effort that turned out to be a failure? 1
- i) Paragraph 1    ii) Paragraph 3    iii) Paragraph 4    iv) Paragraph 5
- h Which paragraph mentions about the doctor's hope and gratitude towards Almighty and life? 1
- i) Paragraph 1    ii) Paragraph 2    iii) Paragraph 5    iv) Paragraph 6

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

### NAINITAL—NEARING ITS DOOMSDAY?

1. The 7869-ft high Sher-ka-Danda (Tiger's Ridge), one of the seven hills that surround the lake-town may come down roaring someday once again. It may result in a catastrophe, thousand times more in terms of magnitude and the resulting devastation than it had been in 1866, 1869, 1880, 1898 and 1924. An observation of the civil department of IIT Roorkee suggests this apprehension.

2. R. Balagan is a veteran geologist from IIT-Roorkee. He attributes the cause of the recent devastating erosion from the Varunavat hill in Uttarkashi to the random layout and alignment of the roads and unplanned construction on the face of the hill. He is as per a recently released report, of the opinion that in Nainital, roads have a rather straighter elongation at the foot and face of the referred hill. This increases the possibility of a landslide. Prof. Balagan is a member of the team that is to study the vulnerability of the referred ridge.
3. The study is being made on the request of the district administration. The professor states that alarming signals like the appearance of fissures and crevices on the expanse of the hill and seepage of water from the lower body of the rocks, which normally precede such a catastrophe have been crisscrossing Sher-ka-Danda. Mounting pressure on such hills, consequent on rapid construction is further increased when the surface runoff seeps into these fissures and exerts 'pore-pressure'. All this, says the expert, has been happening in Nainital since long. A senior member of the Department of Geology in the University of Kumaon states that most of the hills surrounding Nainital are constitutionally not stable. As for Sher-ka-Danda,—balancing the maximum load of concrete on its face—it has long been dubbed like a heap of “loose debris and rotten shale”. Exerting a considerable pressure, parts of it are shifting -” towards the lake.
4. Drifting of a stretch of Mall Road along the shoreline of the lake is perceptible to anyone and the tale of this drift is conspicuous enough at Saint Loo Ridge in Sher-ka-Danda 2000 ft above the shoreline. Geologists from the Kumaon University carrying out field researches in the region say that several cracks on the ridge are advancing from north to south. Their expanse may be seen right from compartment number seven, close to the ropeway system on the very ridge, to the Alukhet village on the outskirts of the town. For masses, the State Government and the district administration seem to have turned a blind eye towards this imminent danger.
5. In the Alukhet village, where because of the fissures being ever on increase partial evacuation takes place every year during the rainy season, no provision for disaster management has yet been provided. Such a promise was reportedly made by the district administration seven years back, though. On the most vulnerable Sher-ka-Danda, in spite of the directives of the apex court following a PIL filed by a renowned activist from the town, construction spree in complete disregard to the provisions for the derangement of natural drainage channels has been 'let loose'. Rajeev Lochan Sah, a veteran columnist, refers to the forgotten by-laws of Municipal Corporation and the Hillside Safety Committee, formulated following the massive landslide of 1880 and enforced strictly till the wake of independence. He asks, “Do we need warnings from experts to remind us that Nainital is heading towards the doomsday? Isn't it written boldly on the defaced expanse of hills? History is bound to repeat itself if we don't stop repeating our mistakes”. —

**2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| a | What increases the possibility of a landslide in Nainital?  | 2 |
| b | Elucidate the suggestions of the civil department of IIT.   | 2 |
| c | “For masses, the State Government and the district administration seem <b>to have turned a blind eye</b> towards this imminent danger.” Comment about the phrase in bold letters. What is the danger that has been mentioned? | 2 |
| d | “History is bound to repeat itself if we don't stop repeating our mistakes.” Explain.   | 2 |

**2.2 On the basis of your reading of the above extract, answer the following:**

- |                                    |   |                                    |                                     |                       |                   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| a                                  | The meaning of 'fissures' as given in paragraph 5 is _____.   | 1                                  |                                     |                       |                   |  |
|                                    | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">i) a crack or opening as in a rock</td> <td style="width: 50%;">ii) a crack or opening as in a tree</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii) a drastic change</td> <td>iv) a mild change</td> </tr> </table> | i) a crack or opening as in a rock | ii) a crack or opening as in a tree | iii) a drastic change | iv) a mild change |  |
| i) a crack or opening as in a rock | ii) a crack or opening as in a tree   |                                    |                                     |                       |                   |  |
| iii) a drastic change              | iv) a mild change   |                                    |                                     |                       |                   |  |

- b The antonym of 'rotten' as given in paragraph 2 is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 i) lack ii) rareness iii) beaten iv) fresh
- c The synonym of 'imminent' as given in paragraph 4 is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 i) evil ii) immediate iii) poisonous iv) imbalance
- d The synonym of 'apprehension.' as given in paragraph 1 is \_\_\_\_\_. 1  
 i) the act of understanding iii) the act of standing  
 ii) the act of listening iv) the act of giving

**SECTION B ( Writing and Grammar)**

- 3 By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, **write an article** on "Save water- are we doing enough?" for the local daily in 150-200 words. 8

**OR**

You are Yadav/ Yashu. Recently you happened to donate blood in a camp. **Write a diary entry** in about 100-120 words about your experience of donating blood.

- 4 Read the given line and **complete the story in 150-200 words**. Give a suitable title to your story. 10  
 Outline: Reyan heard a mewling sound outside the door. On opening the door he saw a small cat drenched in the rain

**OR**

**Write a story** in about 150-200 words on the basis of the outline provided.

Outline: We were playing football on the lawn. The ball hit a neighbour's window and broke the glass pane

- 5 **The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied as shown.** 4  
**1x4 =4**

	<b>Incorrect word</b>	<b>Correct Word</b>
It is truth that parents are	eg.. truth	true
1. more valueable then any other	(a) .....	.....
2. things in the world for a child.	(b) .....	.....
3. They are the more precious property.	(c) .....	.....
4. Under the care of their parents, a child feels secured.	(d) .....	.....

- 6 **Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below. Write your answers in the space given.** 4  
**1x4 =4**

Tokyo was rocked by its (a)..... earthquake in more than a year today but escaped with little damage because it (b)..... centred far beneath the floor of the Pacific Ocean. The quake which struck shortly before Root with a magnitude of 6.6, sent large buildings to sway back and forth. The intense (c)..... for almost one minute caught many people (d)..... guard in Tokyo and other cities towards the east.

- (a) (i) big      (ii) bigger      (iii) biggest      (iv) very big  
 (b) (i) is      (ii) was      (iii) has      (iv) have  
 (c) (i) shake      (ii) shaker      (iii) shaking      (iv) shook  
 (d) (i) in      (ii) on      (iii) of      (iv) off

7 **Rearrange the following sets of words and phrases to form meaningful Sentences:** **1x4 =4**

- a the temple architecture / form an / the sculptures and paintings / of / essential part 1  
 b the architecture / engineering marvel / is/ both / an artistic masterpiece / and an / in some temples. 1  
 c is / situated in / the Konark temple./ dedicated to / north-eastern corner of Puri, / the Sun God 1  
 d in bygone eras / stand testimony / many Indian temples / that existed / high level of art / to the 1

**SECTION-C (LITERATURE - Textbook and supplementary reader)**

8 **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**“Now in memory comes my mother,  
 As she used in years ago,  
 To regard the darling dreamers  
 Ere she left them till the dawn :  
 O! I feel her fond look on me  
 As I list to this refrain  
 Which is played upon the shingles.”**

- a Where is the poet’s mother now? 1  
 b Whose memory does come in the poet’s mind? 1  
 c What music is he listening? 1  
 d Name the poem and the poet. 1

**OR**

“Bruno soon took to drinking milk from a bottle. It was but a step further and within a very few days, he started eating and drinking everything else. And everything is the right word, for he ate porridge made from any ingredients, vegetables, fruit, nuts, meat (especially pork), curry and rice regardless of condiments and chillies, bread, eggs, chocolates, sweets, pudding, ice-cream etc., etc., etc. As for drink: milk, tea, coffee, lime-juice aerated water, buttermilk, beer, alcoholic liquor and in fact, anything liquid. It all went down with relish.”

- a What did Bruno soon take to? 1  
 b What did he start doing in a few days? 1  
 c What meat did he especially like? 1  
 d Find words from the passage which mean the same as (a) Soda water, (b) taste. 1

9 **Answer the following questions briefly: (30 to 40 words)**

- a When did the narrator take his wife to the Mysore zoo and why? 2  
 b How is the exposed root affected by the sun and air? 2  
 c What objection did the Kangaroo raise when the Duck requested him for a ride? 2

- d Right from his childhood Kalam was very enterprising. Discuss. 2
- e How does the wind make fun of the weaklings? 2
- 10 Answer any one of the following in detail (100-150 words )**
- a How does the author describe the flute seller? What does he say about the flute music? (with reference to “**Kathmandu**”). 8
- OR**
- b The best way to deal with a crisis is not to lose your calm. Discuss this statement with reference to the behaviour of Gerrard in the play “**If I Were You**”
- 11 Answer any one of the following in detail (100-150 words )**
- a How is a Home different from a House? Explain with reference to the lesson ‘**A House Is Not a Home**’. 8
- OR**
- b To reform a person, it is important to use both strictness and love. Discuss with reference to the lesson ‘**The Beggar**’.