

## H.S. 1st Year English - Half Yearly Examination Solutions held in November 2025

### SECTION-A (Reading)

1. On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions:

- ◆ (a) Cite the reasons as to why some species of wild animals are on the verge of extinction. [Mark: 2]

The primary reasons include environmental pollution and the widespread use of pesticides. Additionally, the disturbance of natural habitats, combined with human greed and thoughtlessness, has pushed many species to the brink.

- ◆ (b) What has brought about the destruction of much of the countryside? [Mark: 1]

A rapid increase in the human population has necessitated more building construction, which directly destroys the countryside that provides habitats for wildlife.

- ◆ (c) Why are the polar bear and the whales under threat? [Mark: 2]

The polar bear is under threat in North America because it is hunted by sportsmen for selfish desires. Whales are under threat because they are being massacred globally for their oil and the food they provide.

- ◆ (d) Which animal is hunted for its fur? [Mark: 1]

In South America, the Chinchilla is hunted specifically for its fur, making it almost extinct.

- ◆ (e) Mention the ways in which wild life is currently helped. [Mark: 2]

Current efforts include the reduction of sewage pollution in rivers like the Thames and the implementation of bans on trading certain furs. Organizations like 'Friends of the Earth' are also doing valuable work to protect endangered species.

- ◆ (f) Give the adjective form of 'habitat'. [Mark: 1]

Habitable.

- ◆ (g) Find a word in the passage which means "a great slaughter"? [Mark: 1]

Massacre (or massacred).

### SECTION-B (Writing)

2. You are Gopal/Anita of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karimganj. Your School has recently organized a Blood Donation Camp on the occasion of its golden jubilee celebrations. Write a report in 100-125 words as an editor for your School magazine, on this widely acclaimed activity. [Mark: 8]

A Noble Cause: Blood Donation Camp Marks Golden Jubilee

By Anita, Student Editor

Karimganj, Dec 20: As part of the grand Golden Jubilee celebrations of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karimganj, a Blood Donation Camp was organized on the school premises yesterday. The event was inaugurated by the District Civil Surgeon, who lauded the school for integrating social service into its milestone celebration.

The response was overwhelming, with over 150 volunteers, including teachers, alumni, and senior students, stepping forward to donate. A specialized medical team from the local Civil Hospital managed the proceedings, ensuring high standards of hygiene and safety. Donors were provided with refreshments and certificates of appreciation. This initiative not only contributed to the local blood bank but also successfully instilled a sense of empathy and civic

duty among the student community. The camp was widely acclaimed by parents and local authorities alike.

OR

Cultural Extravaganza Marks School Annual Day

By a Staff Reporter

Guwahati, Dec 20: [School Name] recently celebrated its Annual Day with a vibrant cultural function held at the school auditorium. The event was graced by the Director of Education as the Chief Guest. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp, followed by a series of mesmerizing performances including Bihu dance, a short patriotic play, and a classical musical ensemble.

The Principal presented the annual report, highlighting the year's academic and sporting achievements. In his address, the Chief Guest encouraged students to maintain a balance between studies and co-curricular activities. The evening concluded with the distribution of prizes to meritorious students and a vote of thanks, leaving everyone inspired and entertained.

SECTION-C (Grammar)

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners: (All solved) [Mark:  $1/2 \times 4 = 2$ ]

- ◆ (a) Could you help me with a little money?
- ◆ (b) Did you have any difficulty in finding the house?
- ◆ (c) Each of the boys was given a pen.
- ◆ (d) First read the few books you have with you.
- ◆ (e) This is the European lady I was talking about.
- ◆ (f) Few men are free from faults.

4. Rewrite all of the following sentences with the correct tense forms: (All solved) [Mark:  $1/2 \times 6 = 3$ ]

- ◆ (a) We have known each other for the last ten years.
- ◆ (b) She has been in Delhi since 2015.
- ◆ (c) He behaves as if he knew everything.
- ◆ (d) I have my hair cut whenever it gets too long.
- ◆ (e) If you had practised more, you would have won the match.
- ◆ (f) Have you ever read 'War and Peace'?
- ◆ (g) What have you been doing since morning?
- ◆ (h) He will stay here until you return.

SECTION-D (Textbooks)

5. Read both stanzas and answer the questions: (All solved)

Stanza A (The Voice of the Rain):

- ◆ (a) From where does the rain originate? [Mark: 1]

The rain originates "impalpably" from the land and the bottomless sea.

- ◆ (b) What is meant by 'altogether changed and yet the same'? [Mark: 1]

It refers to the water cycle. In the sky, water changes its form into vapor and clouds ("altogether changed"), but its fundamental essence remains water ("yet the same").

- ◆ (c) Find a word in the passage that refers to "Something that can not be touched"? [Mark: 1]

Impalpable.

- ◆ (d) How does the rain go up and come down again on droughts, atomies and dust layers? [Mark: 4]

The rain rises as invisible water vapor from the earth and sea toward the sky ("upward to heaven"). Once there, it forms clouds. Eventually, it descends back to earth to "lave" or wash away the dry conditions (droughts), tiny particles (atomies), and the layers of dust that settle on the globe, thereby rejuvenating the planet.

Stanza B (Father to Son):

- ◆ (a) Where do these lines occur? [Mark: 1]

These lines occur in the poem "Father to Son" by Elizabeth Jennings.

- ◆ (b) Why does the speaker say that he doesn't know this child? [Mark: 1]

The speaker says this because a massive communication gap has developed between them. Despite their biological connection, he no longer understands his son's thoughts or feelings.

- ◆ (c) For how long have the father and son lived together? [Mark: 1]

They have lived together in the same house "for years."

- ◆ (d) What idea do you form about the relationship between the father and son from the quoted lines? [Mark: 4]

The relationship is strained and marked by emotional distance. There is a sense of regret and helplessness on the father's part. He realizes that although they share a physical space, they are like strangers. He is desperate to "build up a relationship" from scratch, trying to find the connection they had when the son was still a small child.

6. Answer all of the following questions: [Mark:  $2 \times 2 = 4$ ]

- ◆ (a) What does "this circumstance" refer to in the poem "A Photograph"?

It refers to the death of the poet's mother and the painful silence and loneliness it has created in the poet's life.

- ◆ (b) Why does the poet call the photograph a "Cardboard"?

The word "cardboard" suggests that the photograph is merely a stiff, lifeless piece of paper that holds a captured moment of a past that can never return.

- ◆ (c) What does the phrase "Strange to tell" mean in the poem "The Voice of the Rain"?

It indicates the poet's amazement and wonder that the rain seemed to respond to his question in a language he could interpret.

- ◆ (d) Why does the rain describe itself as the 'Poem of Earth'?

Just as a poem provides aesthetic joy and emotional nourishment, the rain brings life, beauty, and rhythm to the Earth, which is its place of origin.

- ◆ (e) "I would have him prodigal". What does the father mean by this in the poem "Father to Son".

He means he would prefer his son to return home after wasting his inheritance (like the biblical prodigal son) rather than have him live a successful but separate life where they remain strangers.

7. Answer all of the following questions: [Mark:  $2 \times 5 = 10$ ]

- ◆ (a) Why was the grandmother disturbed when the narrator started going to the English school in the city?

She was disturbed because she could no longer help him with his lessons (English and Science) and was distressed that there was no teaching about God or religious scriptures.

- ◆ (b) How did the grandfather look in the portrait?

He looked very old with a long white beard that covered his chest. He wore a big turban and loose clothes, appearing as though he could only have hundreds of grandchildren.

- ◆ (c) Explain the concept of "Shanshui".

"Shanshui" literally means "mountain-water." In Daoism, the mountain (Yang) represents the stable, warm, vertical element, while the water (Yin) represents the moist, horizontal element. Their interaction is the source of all creation.

- ◆ (d) What made the writer Verrier Elwin feel delighted in Assam?

He was delighted by the "unspoilt" natural beauty of the region and the incredible hospitality shown by the Assamese people.

- ◆ (e) What is the difference between the game sanctuaries of Africa and India as described in the essay "My Impression of Assam".

The author notes that while African sanctuaries are often viewed from cars, in Assam (India), one experiences the wilder, majestic presence of the Rhino in its natural, swampy forest habitat.

- ◆ (f) When was the green movement started and where was it founded?

The Green Movement started in 1972 and was founded in New Zealand.

- ◆ (g) "Development is the best contraceptive"-----Discuss the statement.

This means that as a country develops—leading to higher incomes, better education, and improved health—the birth rate naturally declines as people become more aware and economically stable.

8. Answer both of the following questions: [Mark:  $6 \times 1 = 6$ ]

- ◆ (a) Name the four principal biological systems of the earth. Discuss their significance and the threats they are facing today.

The four principal biological systems are fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands.

Significance: These systems form the foundation of the global economic system. They provide nearly all the food we eat and supply the raw materials for most of our industries (except minerals).

Threats: Due to excessive human demands, these systems are becoming unsustainable. Fisheries are collapsing due to over-fishing; forests are being decimated for firewood and timber; grasslands are turning into barren wastelands from overgrazing; and croplands are losing their productivity due to the heavy use of chemicals and population pressure.

- ◆ (b) Describe the unique relationship of the grandmother with the sparrows. How did the sparrows mourn her death?

The grandmother's relationship with the sparrows was her only remaining source of joy in the city. Every afternoon, she would sit in the veranda and break bread into hundreds of little crumbs for the birds. Hundreds of sparrows would collect around her, some perching on her legs or shoulders. It was the happiest half-hour of her day.

Mourning: When she passed away, thousands of sparrows arrived and sat silently all over the veranda and on her shroud. There was no chirping. When the author's mother threw bread crumbs to them, they ignored the food. As soon as the grandmother's body was carried away, they flew away quietly, showing they had come only to pay their last respects.

Next Step: Would you like me to help you create a formal Letter to the Editor or a Notice based on any of the school themes mentioned in this paper?