

**FIRST TERM (SA-I)**  
**ENGLISH**  
**(Communicative)**

**CLASS IX**

*Time Allowed : 3 Hours]*

*[Maximum Marks : 70*

**General Instructions :**

*This question paper consists of three sections :*

Section A	—	Reading	(20 marks)
Section B	—	Writing and Grammar	(25 marks)
Section C	—	Literature	(25 marks)
		[Textbooks	(15 marks)]
		[Novel (Long Reading Text)	(10 marks)]

1. Attempt all questions.
2. Do not write anything in the question paper.
3. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answersheets provided to you.
4. Attempt all questions in each section before going on to the next section.
5. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.

**SECTION A — READING**

**(20 Marks)**

**1. Read the following passage carefully :**

**(8 marks)**

A bookshop is not something you find in every gali or mohalla these days. Books, which were once a staple diet for youngsters in their formative years, are fading out of their list of managements.

Ask any youngster which is the latest book he has read and he will be baffled. Apart from a few consistent readers, other just befool themselves with a best-seller's name or lament the curriculum load for justifying themselves, like this seventeen year old school goer who says, "I just read my physics book."

Television has been blamed much for this calamitous situation, which is producing square-faced people and a bookless society. Furthermore, today's children are under pressure to be smart and popular, to succeed on a social level. Moreover, the computers, video games, internet, swimming lessons, cricketing and every youngster's passion for hour long tete-a-tete on telephone with friends eat up all their leisure time.

A child who is constantly under pressure to live up to his parents' expectations, at times unreasonable, does not like to throw himself into another set of books after the laborious school

work unless the child comes from a family of readers where intoxicating works of Shakespeare and Dickens are just a matter of pulling them out from the shelves.

Many parents also believe that today's children have become aware and demand logical reasoning for everything. They can no longer be fooled by fairy tales or animal stories, as they have seen no fairies or animals except for those old tired ones in the city zoo.

(1 × 8 = 8 marks)

Answer the following questions briefly :

1. How do the youngsters react when asked which is the latest book they have read ?
2. What is today's child most interested in ?
3. Who has been blamed the most for this calamitous situation in producing the bookless society ?
4. What takes away the leisure time of youngsters ?
5. How are parents' expectations creating a problem for the youngsters ?
6. What is the reason today's youngsters are not interested in books other than textbook ?
7. Why are children no longer interested in fairy tales ?
8. What are the characteristics of today's youngsters ?

2. Read the following passage carefully :

Mr Oliver, an Anglo-Indian teacher, was returning to his school late one night, on the outskirts of the hill station of Shimla. The school was conducted on English public school lines and the boys, most of them from well-to-do Indian families, wore blazers, caps and ties. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called this school the "Eton of the East". Mr Oliver had been teaching in this school for several years. The Shimla bazaar, with its cinemas and restaurants, was about two miles from the school; and Mr Oliver, a bachelor, usually strolled into the town in the evening, returning after dark, when he would take a short cut through a pine forest.

When there was a strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. But Mr Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man. He carried a torch and, on the night I write of, its pale gleam—the batteries were running down—moves fitfully over the narrow forest path. When its flickering light fell on the figure of a boy, who was sitting alone on a rock, Mr Oliver stopped. Boys were not supposed to be out of school after 7 pm, and it was now well past nine.

"What are you doing out here, boy ?" asked Mr Oliver sharply, moving closer so that he could recognise the miscreant. But even as he approached the boy, Mr Oliver sensed that something was wrong. The boy appeared to be crying. His head hung down, he held his face in his hands and his body shook convulsively. It was a strange, soundless weeping, and Mr Oliver felt distinctly uneasy.

"Well—what's the matter ?" he asked, his anger giving way to concern. "What are you crying for ?" The boy would not answer or look up. His body continued to be rocked with silent sobbing. "Come on, boy, you shouldn't be out here at this hour. Tell me the trouble. Look up." The boy looked up.

He took his hands from his face and looked up at his teacher. The light from Mr Oliver's torch fell on the boy's face—if you could call it a face. He had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth. It was just a round smooth head—with a school cap on top of it. And that's where the story should

end—as indeed it has, for several people who have had similar experiences and dropped dead of inexplicable heart attacks. But for Mr. Oliver it did not end there....

**Short answer type questions :**

(2 × 4 = 8 marks)

1. Describe "Eton of the East"!
2. What was Shimla bazaar famous for ?
3. Why did Mr Oliver's anger transformed to concern ?
4. Describe in your own words Mr Oliver

**Very short answer type questions to test vocabulary :**

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

5. Which word in the passage means 'suburb' or 'periphery' ? (para 1)
6. Which word means 'to move leisurely' ? (para 1)
7. What is the synonym of 'glint' ? (para 2)
8. Find the antonym of 'laughter', (para 4)

### SECTION B — WRITING AND GRAMMAR

(25 Marks)

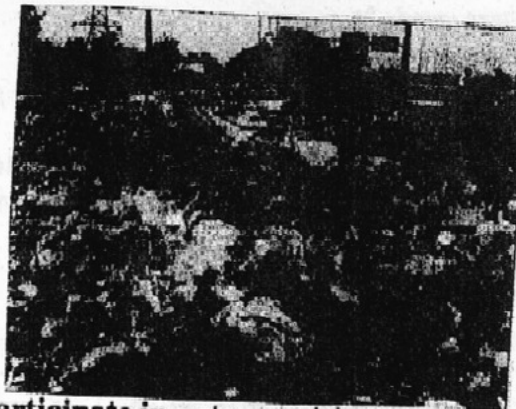
3. Your cousin whom you haven't seen for many years is coming to stay with you next week. You are very excited about his arrival. Write a page in your diary expressing your feelings. (100 to 120 words)

(5 marks)

**Hints :** Cousin coming from California – shared secrets – missed – plans – historical places – shopping – introduce friends – interact in English

Or

Though there is a ban on plastics it is available in large quantities in the market. Plastics pose a great health as well as environmental hazard. Taking ideas from the picture given below write an article in about 100-120 words on the danger of plastic products and the need to ban its manufacturing and sale in the market. You are Anjali/Ankit.



4. You decide to participate in a story-writing competition. You are supposed to write a story starting as – "It was late night when Tarun heard a loud thumping sound on his roof. It woke him up and his parents as well. He decided to ..." Limit your story in 200 words and form it along the given outline :

(10 marks)

**Hints :** Search – a bag with black powder – fallen with a parachute – informed police – explosive – important information – police caught terrorists – rewarded.



5. Complete the following passage by using one word only. Write the answer in your answer sheet : (3 marks)

Like many Indian children, I grew (a) \_\_\_\_\_ listening to the vast, varied and fascinating tales of the Mahabharata. Set (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the end of what the Hindu scriptures term Dvapara Yuga or the third age of the man, a time (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of (d) \_\_\_\_\_ Gods and people still intersected, the epic weaves myth, history, religion, science (e) \_\_\_\_\_ statecraft (f) \_\_\_\_\_ stories.

6. Edit the following passage by using correct words in place of the underlined words. (4 marks)

Blood letting was a common practice in ancient times. The doctors used to treat patients (a) by the help of leeches. It was generally believed that certain diseases (b) caused by too much of blood or by impure blood getting blocked in some parts of the body. The doctors (c) were make a slit on the body or attach leeches there. They sucked the blood (d) not prevented it from clotting.

7. Rearrange the following words into meaningful sentences. The first one has been done as an example. (3 marks)

e.g., humans/is/water/for/important/very

Water is very important for humans.

(a) is/the best/water/in its/quencher/thirst/natural form

(b) increase/the acid/summer/may/during/levels

(c) we/two liters/of water everyday/at least/must/drink

### SECTION C — LITERATURE

(25 Marks)

#### TEXTBOOKS

(15 Marks)

8. Read the given extract and answer the following questions :

(3 marks)

"You must allow me to keep this little picture."

Questions :

(a) Who speaks these words ?

(b) Why does the speaker want to keep the little picture ?

(c) What do you understand about the speaker's character from these words ?

Or

When I came back to my village, I saw my grandmother in tears. I was surprised, for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations. What had happened ? I was worried.

'Avva, is everything all right ? Are you ok ?'

Questions :

(a) Where had the narrator gone ?

(b) Why was the grandmother in tears ?

(c) What was the reaction of the narrator when she saw her grandmother crying ?

9. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each :

(2 × 4 = 8 marks)

(a) Why did Frost choose the road less travelled ?

(b) 'Kashi Yatre' was grandmother's favourite novel. Why ? Give two reasons.

(c) What are the two ways in which the brook is similar to life ?

(d) Why and how does the solitary reaper's song affect the poet ?

**VALUE BASED QUESTION**

10. Two roads diverged in wood, and I -  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  
Taking ideas from Robert Frost's poem 'The Road Not Taken', write a paragraph in about 100 words on the topic 'Life is full of choices'. (4 marks)

*Or*

Chuck had lost all his hopes after the accident, but Duke helped him to come back to life again. Duke was very loyal to his master. Based on your reading of the story 'A Dog Named Duke', write a paragraph in about 100 words on the topic : 'Animals can express better loyalty than humans'.

*Attempt any one Novel*

**NOVEL -- LONG READING TEXT  
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**

(10 Marks)

**THREE MEN IN A BOAT**

11. What is more important in social life — physical power or moral righteousness ? Explain with reference to the novel 'Gulliver's Travels'. (150-200 words)

*Or*

Write a character sketch of Gulliver in about 150 words.

**THREE MEN IN A BOAT**

11. Write briefly about the plot of the novel 'Three Men In A Boat'. (150-200 words)

*Or*

Write a character sketch of the dog 'Montmorency' in about 150 words.