



PANCHSHEEL PUBLIC SCHOOL

10+2 Senior Secondary School (Affiliated & Recognized by CBSE)

Jaitpur, Badarpur, New Delhi-44

Mid-Term Examintion 2023-24

Time: _____ **Subject: English** **Class: XI** **M. Marks: 60**
Name..... **Roll No.....** **Section** **Date:** _____

Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10)

1. Floods are not new to India and this sub-continent, but in recent years the problem has received much greater attention perhaps largely because it has led to much greater damage than in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimized. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessively heavy rain.
2. In the case of India flooding is very much a function of the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. But, flooding is not confined only to the main rivers of the country, often smaller tributaries and streams can cause heavy damage as well. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams particularly in mountain areas do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.
3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration, but far more intensive. In other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.
4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of flood through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In the case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. This leads to deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spill over of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the river beds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures, symbolized, for instance, by the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, which is merely a trickle most of the year, but bursting its banks during the monsoons as has been the case this year.
5. Flood forecasting is critical to minimizing the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood prone inter state rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

On the basis of the above passage answer the questions that follow:

1. The problem of floods has been considered important recently because.....
 - (a) there are flash floods
 - (b) floods are unpredictable
 - (c) the rivers change their courses
 - (d) these cause much greater damage
2. The danger of floods is not minimised as.....
 - (a) flood forecasting is inaccurate
 - (b) there is little time available for safety measures
 - (c) people are scared and act in panic
 - (d) support infrastructure is poor
3. India suffers from floods during monsoons because.....
 - (a) it rains very heavily and continually

- (b) the embankments of the rivers are weak
 - (c) the streams and rivers spill over
 - (d) the streams are full of silt
4. Climate change is the direct result of.....
- (a) increased concentration of green house gases
 - (b) explosion of nuclear devices
 - (c) fire in oil wells in the gulf region
 - (d) significantly changed pattern of monsoons
5. The worst hit people are slum dwellers because.....
- (a) they are stubborn and helpless
 - (b) they do not have means to move away quickly
 - (c) they have concentrated in large numbers
 - (d) they have settled on the banks of the rivers
6. The word 'precipitation' in para 3 means.....
- (a) forming a precipitate
 - (b) separation of solid material from liquid
 - (c) falling of rain in an area
 - (d) the quality of being exact or accurate
7. What is the result of greenhouse gases?
- (a) precipitation
 - (b) climate change
 - © flood forecasting
 - (d) harshness
8. Who are the worst hit people?
- (a) stubborn people.
 - (b) local people
 - © slum dwellers
 - (d) urban people
9. Write the words from passage which are similar in meaning.
- (a) Fall of rain in an area (para 3)
 - (b) Harshness (para 3)

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

1. The Mayan civilization of Mexico and Central America are one of the ancient world's most fascinating, prolific, and mysterious civilisations. They left their mark on the region's culture, architecture, cuisine, and language – and left an indelible impression on the imagination of the modern world. Who were they? How were they able to build such an impressive civilisation of towering temples and sophisticated artwork in the middle of the harsh rainforests of Mesoamerica? And why did they vanish?

2. The earliest Mayans lived along the Pacific coast of what is now Guatemala and can be dated to about 1800 BC; by 1000 BC they were also living in Guatemala's southern lowlands. The period from about 1800 BC to about AD 250 is referred to as the Pre – classic, a time when the early Mayans lived as farmers in small villages along rivers and other bodies of water, hunting game, tending gardens and making use of the abundant natural foods found in the region's marshes and seasonal swamps. In time, strong rulers began wielding power over these communities, and the Mayan culture grew in complexity. Cities rose from the forest floor, boasting stone temples with stuccoed and painted facades created at the behest of elite rulers. People in the new power centres communicated over long distances, and traders using the same routes carried luxury goods such as cacao beans, jade ornaments, quetzal feathers, and jaguar pelts.

3. The Classic period, AD 250 – 900, is the time of the civilisation's greatest glory – and of the greatest depths of political intrigue between rival cities. During these centuries, the Mayans erected countless stelae, stone monuments inscribed with portraits and hieroglyphs that recorded dynastic histories – the births, marriages and conquests of the ruling families. There were dozens of important regional capitals at the time, and among the most important were Tikal in Guatemala and its fierce rival Calakmul in Mexico, Palenque in southern Mexico, Caracol in Belize, and Copán in Honduras.

4. The Classic period is known for artistic and intellectual splendour. The Mayans developed a complex religious and ritual system that considered rulers divine beings and called for blood sacrifices. They also grasped the numerical notion of zero,

created agricultural timetables and sophisticated calendars to track the heavens, and made beautiful polychrome pottery as well as exquisite ornaments, murals, and carved decorations.

5. But the Classic Mayans were also known for their rancorous political fighting and for being extremely bellicose – warfare was always on the horizon. One by one, the cities in the southern Mayan lowlands fell to each other, their downfall often recorded on stelae in the conquering city. By AD 900 most of the important Classic period cities had collapsed, and their remaining populations had scattered into the surrounding forests. The last date recorded on stelae that archaeologists have found so far is from 909 in Toniná, in southern Mexico. Among the factors that help explain why the civilisation collapsed were the endemic warfare, overpopulation, degradation of the environment, and drastic climate change and drought.

6. While the cities and ceremonial centres of the southern lowlands were being reclaimed by the jungle, the Mayans living to the north were gaining prominence, rising to amazing heights during the post-classic period (900 – 1502). Wonderful and wealthy cities in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula flourished, most famous among them being Chichén Itzá. Yet it too fell victim to political infighting and by 1200 had collapsed.

7. "The Mayans never truly disappeared. Centuries after the major cities were abandoned, small groups of Mayans continued to live in the area. It was they who met and resisted the Spanish conquistadors after the first contact, in 1502. And today, more than six million Mayans live in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, speaking 28 languages, and blending ancient and modern ways.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a suitable format. Supply an appropriate title. (5)

(b) Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words. (3)

Q3. Design a poster on 'SAVE THE EARTH' on behalf of the Pollution Control Board, Rajasthan State. (3)

Q4. You are Milind of Delhi. You have lost your VIP briefcase while traveling in Metro from Azadpur to Punjabi Bagh. Draft an advertisement to be inserted in the classified columns of the newspaper. (3)

Q5. As Nitya of class XI, write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school on the topic, "Games are very important for the holistic growth of a child. (5)

Q6. Fill in the blanks with suitable forms of verbs given in the brackets. (4)

Games (a) _____ (make) the students physically strong and mentally well balanced. They (b) _____ (be) positive effect on the behavior also. A game should always be (c) _____ (play) with sportsman spirit of. In fact, work and play must (d) _____ (go) hand in hand.

Q7. Rearrange the words and phrases to form meaningful sentence : (3)

(a) the /Indian /British/exploited/the/farmers.

(b) Pay/the /had to/poor farmers /high taxes /very.

(c) also /cultivate/they/asked/ them to /had to/those/which /crops/the British.

Q8. Read the extract and answer the question : (9)

A. And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,

Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,

(i) Name the poem and the poet.

(ii) What does the phrase strange to tell mean?

(iii) Why does the rain call herself the 'Poem of the Earth'?

B. "Have you come back?" said the woman. "I thought that no one had come back." "Only me. A door opened and closed in the passage behind her. A musty smell emerged. "I regret I cannot do anything for you." "I've come here specially on the train. I wanted to talk to you for a moment. "It is not convenient for me now," said the woman. "I can't see you. Another time. She nodded and cautiously closed the door as though no one inside the house should be disturbed.

a) Who is the speaker of the line "Have you come back"?

b) Why did the narrator go to Mrs. Dorling's home?

c) What was the address of Mrs. Dorling's home?

C. Opening the first, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals, and cornflowers, the faded evidence of a burial in March or April. When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. "No amount of legitimate force could move them."

- a) Name the chapter.
- b) When was King Tut's mummy expected to be buried?
- c) Which literary device has been used in 'Ritual resins'?

Q10. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

(9)

1. Who was King Tut? What happened when his mummy was being CT scanned?
2. Which moment of the day used to be the happiest moment for the grandmother in the city?
3. Why did Marga want to finally forget the address which she visited twice?

Or

What are the unique traits of Garoghlanian tribe? Did Mourad possess the traits in him?

Q11. Answer the following questions in 80-100 words:

(1*6=6)

"We're Not afraid to die" is a saga of patience and bravery. Comment.