

**KOTHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NOIDA**

**TERM END, 2023-2024**

**GRADE 8: SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**SET: A**

**SECTIONS A, B & D (SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS)**

**DAY & DATE: MONDAY,11/03/2024**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2.5 Hrs**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 60**

**GRADE/SEC: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. This question paper consists of 8 pages and 8 questions with sub-parts.**
  - 2. The paper contains three sections: A, B & D**  
**Section A-Reading is of 20 marks.**  
**Section B-Writing is of 12 marks**  
**Section D-Literature is of 28 marks.**
  - 3. It is compulsory to attempt all the questions.**
  - 4. Read the question paper carefully and then attempt it.**
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**SECTION A- READING**

**20 MARKS**

**SEEN PASSAGE (12 MARKS)**

**Q1. Read the given extract from the story, 'The Landlady' and answer the given questions:**

"Mr Temple, of course, was a little older," she said, ignoring his remark. "He was actually twenty-eight. And yet I never would have guessed it if he hadn't told me, never in my whole life. There wasn't a blemish on his body."

"A what?" Billy said.

"His skin was just like a baby's." There was a pause. Billy picked up his teacup and took another sip of his tea, then he set it down again gently in its saucer. He waited for her to say something else, but she seemed to have lapsed into another of her silences. He sat there staring straight ahead of him into the far corner of the room, biting his lower lip.

"That parrot," he said at last. "You know something? It had me completely fooled when I first saw it through the window from the street. I could have sworn it was alive." "Alas, no longer."

"It's most terribly clever the way it's been done," he said. "It doesn't look in the least bit dead. Who did it?"

"I did."

"You did?"

"Of course," she said. "And have you met my little Basil as well?" She nodded towards the dachshund curled up so comfortably in front of the fire. Billy looked at it. And suddenly, he realized that this animal had all the time been just as silent and motionless as the parrot. He put out a hand and touched it gently on the top of its back. The back was hard and cold, and when

he pushed the hair to one side with his fingers, he could see the skin underneath, greyish-black and dry and perfectly preserved.

"Good gracious me," he said. "How absolutely fascinating." He turned away from the dog and stared with deep admiration at the little woman beside him on the sofa. "It must be most awfully difficult to do a thing like that."

"Not in the least," she said. "I stuff all my little pets myself when they pass away. Will you have another cup of tea?"

"No, thank you," Billy said. The tea tasted faintly of bitter almonds, and he didn't much care for it.

"You did sign the book, didn't you?"

"Oh, yes."

"That's good, because later on, if I happen to forget what you were called, then I can always come down here and look it up. I still do that almost every day with Mr. Mulholland and Mr. .Mr ..."

"Temple," Billy said. "Gregory Temple. Excuse my asking, but haven't there been any other guests here except them in the last two or three years?"

Holding her teacup high in one hand, inclining her head slightly to the left, she looked up at him out of the corners of her eyes and gave him another gentle little smile. "No, my dear," she said. 'Only you.'

### **Glossary:-**

**taxidermy** - the craft of preparing the skins of dead animals and birds and filling them with a special material to make them look as if they are alive.

- a. **Based on the passage, what cannot be the reason for which the woman offers Billy another cup of tea?** [1]
- i. She wants to poison him.
  - ii. She wants to keep him occupied.
  - iii. She wants to continue their conversation.
  - iv. She wants to apologise for the strange pets.
- b. **What can be inferred about the woman's character?** [1]
- i. She is fond of all kinds of people.
  - ii. She is loud and annoying.
  - iii. She is inhospitable and sullen.
  - iv. She is secretive and mysterious.
- c. **According to the passage, why did Billy initially mistake the stuffed parrot for a live bird?** [1]
- i. because it was sitting perfectly still.
  - ii. because it was making lifelike sounds.
  - iii. because it had been recently stuffed.
  - iv. because it had feathers missing.
- d. **What does Billy realise about the dachshund?** [1]
- i. It is alive.
  - ii. It is stuffed.
  - iii. It is sleeping.
  - iv. It is injured.

- e. In the passage, what does the word 'blemish' in Para 1 most likely mean? [1]
- i. compliment
  - ii. flaw
  - iii. ornament
  - iv. enhancement
- f. What does Billy mean when he says, "It's most terribly clever the way it's been done"? [1]
- i. The parrot looks remarkably lifelike.
  - ii. The parrot is unconvincing as a stuffed animal.
  - iii. The parrot is poorly preserved.
  - iv. The parrot is in need of repair.
- g. Why do you think the woman wanted Billy to sign the guest book, according to the given passage? [1]
- i. her attempt to not follow the law
  - ii. her need for validation
  - iii. her desire to keep in touch with her guests
  - iv. her forgetfulness
- h. How does Billy react to the taxidermy? [1]
- i. He is fascinated by it.
  - ii. He is disgusted by it.
  - iii. He is indifferent to it.
  - iv. He is scared of it.
- i. Describe two characteristics of the woman that you can infer from the passage. [2]
- j. According to the passage, what fascinated Billy and why? [2]

**UNSEEN PASSAGE (8 MARKS)**

**Q2. Read the passage given below.**

**Life Under the Big Top**

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Welcome to the mesmerising world of the circus, where every day is a spectacle of wonder and excitement. Underneath the grand, billowing canvas of the big top lies a bustling community of performers, animals, and workers who bring magic to life.

In the heart of the circus, the performers, clad in vibrant costumes adorned with sequins and feathers, practise their acts with precision and flair. The acrobats soar through the air with graceful ease, their movements defying gravity as they twist and twirl on the trapeze. The daring tightrope walkers balance high above the ground, their focus unyielding as they navigate the slender rope with unwavering determination. Meanwhile, the clowns, with their colourful makeup and oversized shoes, bring laughter and joy to the audience with their antics and slapstick humour.

Amidst the excitement, the animals of the circus add their own enchanting allure. Majestic elephants parade around the ring, their powerful strides commanding attention as they perform astounding tricks with their trainers. Tigers, lions, and bears captivate onlookers with their fierce yet elegant movements, showcasing their strength and agility in carefully choreographed routines.

Behind the scenes, a bustling hive of activity unfolds. Workers scurry about, ensuring that every detail is in place for the upcoming performances. From rigging the towering circus tent to grooming the animals to perfection, each task is carried out with dedication and precision to create a seamless spectacle for the audience.

Yet, beyond the glitter and glamour, life in the circus is also one of camaraderie and resilience. Performers and crew members form tight-knit bonds, supporting one another through long days of rehearsals and performances on the road. Together, they create a magical experience that captivates audiences of all ages, leaving them spellbound by the enchanting world under the big top.

So, as the lights dim and the music swells, prepare to be transported to a realm of wonder and awe, where the impossible becomes possible, and dreams take flight under the magical canopy of the circus. Welcome to the greatest show on earth!

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT out of the nine questions by choosing the correct option.**

**a. What role do animals play in the circus? [1]**

- i. They serve as food for the performers.
- ii. They add enchanting allure to the performances.
- iii. They perform administrative tasks.
- iv. They assist in ticket sales.

**b. In the context of the passage, what does 'choreographed' in Para 3 refer to? [1]**

- i. spontaneous movements
- ii. carefully planned and arranged movements
- iii. random actions
- iv. uncoordinated performances

**c. Part of speech of "majestic" in the sentence: 'Majestic elephants parade around the ring.' [1]**

- i. noun
- ii. adjective
- iii. verb
- iv. adverb

**d. Describe the roles of the performers in the circus. [1]**

- i. They sell tickets.
- ii. They entertain the audience with acts and performances.
- iii. They groom animals.
- iv. They handle administrative tasks.

**e. Why do you think the author uses descriptive language to portray the circus? [1]**

- i. to confuse the readers
- ii. to bore the readers
- iii. to create a vivid and immersive experience for the readers
- iv. to make the readers laugh

- f. **How do you think the performers feel about their work in the circus based on the passage?** [1]
- uninterested
  - passionate and dedicated
  - frustrated
  - indifferent
- g. **What can you infer about the relationship between the performers and the crew members based on the passage?** [1]
- They have a distant and cold relationship.
  - They have a competitive relationship.
  - They have a close-knit and supportive relationship.
  - They have a hostile relationship.
- h. **What is the role of the clowns in the circus, as described in the passage?** [1]
- selling tickets
  - performing acrobatics
  - providing comic relief
  - training animals
- i. **What is the main purpose of the circus, as described in the passage?** [1]
- to make money
  - to provide entertainment
  - to promote animal rights
  - to educate the audience

### **SECTION B- WRITING**

**12 MARKS**

**Q3. You have a choice between Formal Letter and Article Writing. Choose ANY ONE. [7]**

#### **Formal Letter**

Write a formal letter to the editor of The News Times expressing your concerns about an unauthorised weekly market set up in your locality every Wednesday. This market causes inconvenience to the residents and commuters.

In your letter-

- express your concerns regarding the traffic congestion, noise, parking issues, waste and litter caused due to the market
- suggest solutions
- show faith in the publication capacity.

(Hints: Write in 3-4 paragraphs, Word limit- up to 200 words)

**OR**

#### **Article Writing**

Write an article on 'The Importance of Environmental Conservation in our Community'.

(Hints: Title your article, Write in 4 Paragraphs, Word limit- up to 200 words)

Value points are given on the next page.

You may use the given Value Points in your article:

- Mention the impact of human activities on the environment, such as pollution and deforestation.
- Highlight the importance of clean air, water, and biodiversity for the well-being of all living beings.
- Explanation of practical ways individuals can contribute to environmental conservation.
- Include actions like reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives.
- Discuss the power of collective efforts in organising clean-up drives, tree planting events, and recycling programs.
- Conclude emphasising the urgency of taking action and inspiring readers to become stewards of the environment. Encourage readers to take responsibility for protecting the environment for future generations.

**Q4. You have a choice between Anecdote Writing and Notice Writing. Choose ANY ONE. [5]**

**Anecdote Writing**

Write an anecdote about a time when someone unexpectedly showed you kindness or helped you in a difficult situation. Describe the scenario, how the person's actions made you feel, and the impact it had on you. (Word limit- up to 100 words)

**OR**

**Notice Writing**

You are the Head Boy/Girl of your school. Write a Notice inviting students to participate in a Debate Competition organised to celebrate International Youth Day. Invent necessary details.

**SECTION D- LITERATURE**

**28 MARKS**

**Q5. Reference to Context**

**[3]**

**“Do you know a great load is gone from me today? I thought I had the blood of a man on my hands all these years. That was the reason why I ran away from home, settled here, and married you. He is alive.”**

- a. Who is the speaker of the given lines, and who is he speaking to?
- i. The astrologer, his wife
  - ii. The astrologer, his client
  - iii. Guru Nayak, his wife
  - iv. Guru Nayak, his client

- b. In the context of the story, what symbolic meaning might be associated with the blood on the person's hands?
- Sacrifice and pain
  - Family ties and loyalty
  - Blood and injury
  - Guilt and remorse
- c. How did the revelation about the man being alive affect the individual's emotions?
- Heightened fear and anxiety
  - A sense of relief and liberation
  - Deep sorrow and regret
  - Indifference and detachment

**Q6. Reference to Context**

**[3]**

Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

- a. What is the predominant emotion expressed in the lines?
- Admiration
  - Mourning
  - Awe
  - Indifference
- b. What does the metaphor 'the deck my Captain lies' symbolize in the lines?
- The ship's destination and final port
  - The Captain's eternal rest and peace
  - The crew's responsibility
  - The end of the Captain's dream
- c. Which literary device is used in the given lines? Choose TWO.
- Personification
  - Imagery
  - Anaphora
  - Simile

**Q7. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 30-40 words each.**

**[4\*3=12]**

- a. How did the astrologer's appearance help him to build an impression on his clients.
- b. Why did Della and Jim's modest gifts hold such profound significance?
- c. Describe the imagery created by the lines 'The woods are lovely, dark and deep.' How does it evoke a sense of beauty and mystery?
- d. The 'domestic walls' are usually associated with safety, comfort and love. What is the meaning of 'narrow domestic walls' in the poem, 'Where the Mind is without Fear'?
- e. State the literal and metaphorical meaning of the expression, 'its voyage closed and done' in the poem, 'O Captain! My Captain!'?

**Q8. Answer the following in about 80-100 words each.**

**[2\*5=10]**

- a. Write a character sketch of Della from the story, 'The Gift of the Magi'.
- b. Elaborate on 'loss and mourning' as the primary theme of the poem, 'O Captain! My Captain!'.