

KOTHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NOIDA
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, SESSION: 2025-26
GRADE: 7 SUBJECT: ENGLISH
SET B (SUBJECTIVE)

DAY & DATE: THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

MAXIMUM MARKS: 60

TIME ALLOTTED: 2.5 HRS

NAME: _____

ROLL NO: _____

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This question paper consists of 5 pages and 9 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.

SECTION A-READING

Q1. Read the passage based on the chapter ‘Two Brothers’ and answer the questions that follow. (12)

Two brothers set out on a journey together. At noon they lay down in a forest to rest. When they woke up, they saw a stone lying next to them. There was something written on the stone, and they tried to make out what it was. "Whoever find this stone," they read, "let him go straight into the forest at sunrise. In the forest a river will appear; let him swim across the river to the other side. There he will find a she-bear and her cubs. Let him take the cubs from her and run up the mountain with them, without once looking back. On the top of the mountain, he will see a house, and in that house, he will find happiness." When they had read what was written on the stone, the younger brother said: "Let us go together. We can swim across the river, carry off the bear cubs, take them to the house on the mountain, and together find happiness. "I am not going into the forest after bear cubs," said the elder brother, "and I advise you not to go. In the first place, no one can know whether what is written on this stone is the truth --perhaps it was written in jest. It is even possible that we have not read it correctly. In the second place, even if what is written here is the truth -- suppose we go into the forest and night comes, and we cannot find the river. We shall be lost. And if we do find the river, how are we going to swim across it? It may be broad and swift. In the third place, even if we swim across the river, do you think it is an easy thing to take her cubs away from the she-bear? She will seize us, and, instead of finding happiness, we shall perish, and all for nothing. In the fourth place, even if we succeeded in carrying off the bear cubs, we could not run up a mountain without stopping to rest. And, most important of all, the stone does not tell us what kind of happiness we should find in that house. it may be that the happiness awaiting us there is not at all the sort of happiness we would want." "In my opinion," said the younger brother, "you are wrong. What is written on the stone could not have been put there without reason. And it is all perfectly clear. In the first place, no harm will come to us if we try. In the second place, if we do not go, someone else will read the inscription on the stone and find happiness, and we shall have lost it all. In the third place, if you do not make an effort and try hard, nothing in the world will succeed. In the fourth place, I should not want it thought that I was afraid of anything." The

elder brother answered him by saying, "The proverb says: 'In seeking great happiness small pleasures may be lost.' And also: 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.'

- a) What is the main reason the elder brother gives for not going into the forest? (1)
- He believes the bear cubs will be too heavy to carry.
 - He is not sure if the instructions on the stone are true.
 - He thinks the river will be too beautiful to leave.
 - He does not like climbing mountains.
- b) What can we infer about the younger brother's character from his response to the stone's message? (1)
- He prefers to stay in one place.
 - He is easily frightened.
 - He is adventurous and ready to take risks.
 - He avoids making decisions.
- c) **Part 1:** What does the word 'seize' mean in the context? (1)
- to ignore completely
 - to run away from a place
 - to make someone sleep
 - to grab or take hold of something quickly
- Part 2:** In which of these sentences is 'seize' used correctly? (1)
- The police tried to seize the stolen goods from the thief.
 - He decided to seize quietly on the chair.
 - She likes to seize her books on the table.
 - The children seized happily in the park.
- d) Give **two** reasons the elder brother thinks they should not follow the instructions on the stone. (2)
- e) Explain the proverb: *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.* (2)
- f) Write a brief summary of the above extract from the story 'Two Brothers' in 50 words. (4)

Q2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow. (8)

- Excitement is in the air for skywatchers this August because of a rare celestial event called a planet parade. Around dawn on a clear morning this month, several planets will appear close together in the pre-sunrise sky. Of these planets, the four brightest can usually be seen without any instruments; the others may need binoculars or a small telescope.
- Such gatherings of planets along one stretch of the sky are uncommon and give a wonderful sight to both amateur stargazers and professional astronomers. Events like this often encourage people to learn more about space and our solar system.
- The best time to see the planet parade is about one hour before sunrise, when the sky is still dark. Look toward the eastern horizon to spot the row of bright dots.
- This alignment is being called the last planetary parade of the year, which makes it extra special. Schools and families often use occasions like this as a chance to look up together and talk about planets.

5. Astronomers stress that while such alignments are visually impressive, they do not mean the planets are physically close to one another in space. In reality, they remain millions or even billions of kilometres apart, following their usual orbits. The ‘parade’ is more about how things appear from Earth than about any actual gathering of planets. This idea—that perspective can change how we interpret reality—is one reason astronomers find these events valuable for teaching science.

- a)** What is the ‘**planet parade**’ mentioned in the passage? (1)
- A group of planets orbiting together.
 - The alignment of several planets in the sky as seen from Earth.
 - A spaceship parade on Earth.
 - A festival celebrating planets.
- b)** According to the passage, which of these is **NOT true** about the planet parade? (1)
- The event is visible in the early morning sky.
 - The four brightest planets can be seen without any instruments.
 - It appears near the eastern horizon before sunrise.
 - All planets in the parade can be seen without instruments.
- c)** Why is the planet parade especially notable this year? (1)
- It is the first planetary parade in history.
 - It involves a solar eclipse.
 - It is the last planetary parade of the year.
 - It can only be seen with a telescope.
- d)** Which of these examples is most similar to how planets in a parade look close together but are actually far apart? (1)
- Streetlights along a road that look close together from far away.
 - Books stacked on top of each other.
 - Chairs arranged around a table.
 - Apples in a fruit basket.
- e)** Give **ONE** word from Paragraph 4 that means ‘unique.’ (1)
- f)** How does Paragraph 5 challenge a common misunderstanding about planetary alignments? (2)
- g)** State whether the given statements are True or False: (1)
- The planets in the parade are actually close to one another in space.
 - The parade can inspire people to learn more about space.

SECTION B- WRITING

Q3. Attempt any ONE. (5)

a) Write a **letter** to your cousin telling them about a new hobby you have started.

(Word Limit: 120 words)

In your letter:

- Explain what the hobby is and how you became interested in it.
- Describe what you do and how it makes you feel.

OR

b) Write a **descriptive paragraph** about a festival fair in your city/town.

(Word Limit: 100 words)

In your paragraph, mention:

- Colourful decorations, rides, and games.
- The aroma of food stalls and the sounds you hear.
- The most exciting moment you experienced there.

Q4. Story Writing: Attempt any ONE. (7)

Prompt 1: A strange app suddenly appears on your phone, even though you never downloaded it.

In your story, write about:

- What the app does and why it's unusual
- The first thing that happens when you use it
- How it changes your day or your life

OR

Prompt 2: You wake up one morning to find that everyone in your town can suddenly read each other's thoughts.

In your story, describe:

- How you realised this was happening
- What funny or surprising things you heard
- How people reacted and what you did about it

(Word Limit: 180-200 words)

SECTION D- LITERATURE

Q5 Refer to the given extract from the chapter, 'The Fun They Had,' and answer the following questions.

"I wouldn't want a strange man in my house to teach me."

Tommy screamed with laughter. "You don't know much, Margie. The teachers didn't live in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there."

a) What kind of school is Tommy talking about?

- A school where teaching is done by machines at home
- A traditional school with human teachers and many students
- An online school
- A school inside the house

(1)

- b) Why does Margie say she wouldn't want a strange man in her house? (2)
c) Why does Tommy laugh when talking to Margie about the school? (2)

Q6 Refer to the given extract from the poem, 'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad,' and answer the following questions.

What do you sell, O ye merchants?

Richly your wares are displayed.

- a) Which sense is mainly used in these lines to describe the bazaar? (1)
i. Sight
ii. Hearing
iii. Smell
iv. Touch

- b) Why does the poet use the word 'richly' to describe the wares? (2)
c) What feeling or mood does the display of wares create for the visitor to the bazaar? (2)

Q7 Answer ANY THREE of the following in about 40-50 words each: 3*3 = 9

- a) Why did the passenger decide to take a taxi to the office every day? (The Taxi Driver)
b) Why did Roger not run away when Ms. Luella Bates dragged him home and let go of his collar? (Thank You Ma'am)
c) What does the story tell us about schools in the past and the future? Give examples. (The Fun They Had)
d) How are flowers used in different ways in the poem? (In the Bazaars of Hyderabad)

Q8 Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 80-90 words: (4)

- a) Is 'Friendship' an important theme in the story? Explain your answer with examples from the story. (The Taxi Driver)

OR

- b) Write a detailed character sketch of Roger, describing his personality and how he changes in the story. (Thank You Ma'am)

Q9. Value Based Question (5)

Imagine you are Margie. Write a diary entry explaining why you find your mechanical teacher both helpful and frustrating. (The Fun They Had)