

## HSL HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION - DECEMBER 2023

Standard: XII

English

Time Allowed : 3.00 Hours

Maximum Marks : 90

## PART- I

(i) Answer all the questions. (ii) Choose the most appropriate from the given four alternatives and write the option code and the corresponding answer. 20 x 1 = 20

Choose the most appropriate synonyms of the underlined words in the following sentences.

- We watched for a few moments; then as trade slackened we went over.  
(a) increased (b) heightened (c) reduced (d) multiplied
- Suffering seems so cruelly prevalent in the world today..  
(a) rare (b) common (c) interesting (d) unusual
- ..... then the end of such liberty would be universal chaos.  
(a) mystery (b) destruction (c) harmony (d) confusion

Choose the most appropriate antonyms of the underlined words in the following sentences.

- One does not feel wiser, braver or more optimistic.  
(a) cheerful (b) pessimistic (c) realistic (d) drastic
- With a sigh of delight, we collapsed into our sleeping bags.  
(a) sorrow (b) glee (c) pleasure (d) satisfaction
- Our father rejected it, saying it wouldn't be sturdy.  
(a) pretty (b) strong (c) fashionable (d) weak
- Form a new word by adding suitable prefix to the root word "friend".  
(a) be (b) re (c) non (d) dis
- Choose the meaning of the foreign word "status quo".  
(a) the situation as it is now (b) in disguise (c) in bad faith (d) at first sight
- Choose the correct expansion of the acronym 'PAN'.  
(a) Postal Assurance Number (b) Private Authentic Number  
(c) Permanent Account Number (d) Personal Account Number
- Choose the correct compound word that can be placed after the word "Master".  
(a) filler (b) wedding (c) piece (d) size
- Choose the suitable meaning for the idiom "Do the math".  
(a) to complete the sum (b) state of near collapse  
(c) to stop doing (d) think carefully about something
- Choose the correct American English word for "time table".  
(a) schedule (b) intermission (c) period (d) vacation
- Choose the clipped form of the word "teenager".  
(a) teen (b) ager (c) teeny (d) teener
- Choose the correct sentence pattern for the following sentence:  
He answered my question instantly.  
(a) SVOC (b) SVOA (c) SVOA (d) ASVC
- Replace the underlined word with a suitable phrasal verb.  
The meeting was postponed as the chairman was on an official tour.  
(a) put away (b) put off (c) put out (d) put on
- Choose the appropriate Question tag.  
I am a teacher \_\_\_\_\_?  
(a) am I (b) amn't I (c) aren't I (d) None of these
- Replace the underlined word with its polite form.  
Sona has a second-hand car.  
(a) used (b) pre-owned (c) owned (d) utilised
- Identify the correct blended form of 'binary + digit'.  
(a) bid (b) hit (c) bind (d) bigit



19. Identify the correct combination of the compound word 'world famous'.  
 (a) Noun + Verb (b) Verb + Noun (c) Noun + Adjective (d) Noun + Noun
20. Fill in the blank with the suitable prepositional phrase.  
 All the delegates attended the conference \_\_\_\_\_ heavy rains.  
 (a) in case of (b) in spite of (c) in favour of (d) in order to

**PART II - SECTION A**

Read the following sets of poetic lines and answer any four sets.  $4 \times 2 = 8$

21. "Like a huge Python, winding round and round  
 The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars"

a) What is winding round and round?

b) Identify the figure of speech.

22. "Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,  
 So smooth and high, no man could win."

a) How safe was the castle?

b) What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

23. "Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel  
 Seeking the bubble reputation"

a) Who is sudden and quick in quarrel?

b) Explain "Bubble reputation".

24. "..... for my purpose holds  
 To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
 Of all the western stars, until I die."

a) What was Ulysses purpose in life?

b) Pick out the words in alliteration.

25. "Life is a soft loan; be gentle; go easy."

a) Why does the poet suggest to take life easy?

b) Identify the figure of speech in the above line.

26. "Legs wide, arms locked behind,  
 As if to balance the prone brow  
 Oppressive with its mind"

a) Whose action is described here?

b) What is his state of mind?

**SECTION B**

Do as directed.

$3 \times 2 = 6$

Answer any three questions.

27. Change the following into Indirect speech.

Dinesh said to his friend, "I am learning French now."

28. Unless we plant more trees, we cannot save our planet

(Rewrite using 'If' without changing the meaning)

29. Please open the door. (Change the voice)

30. No other planet in the solar system is as cold as Neptune.

(Rewrite the sentence using the Superlative degree)

**PART III - SECTION A**

Explain any two of the following with reference to the context.

$2 \times 3 = 6$

31. "I'm killed, Sire!" And, his Chief beside,  
 Smiling, the boy fell dead"

32. "Our only enemy was gold"

33. "Is second childishness and mere oblivion;

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

**SECTION B**

Answer any two of the following questions.

$2 \times 3 = 6$

34. Does the author like drinking tea with sugar? Give reasons

35. What does Dr. Barnard compare the entertainment of the boys to?

36. Define 'Liberty' as perceived by the author.

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## SECTION C

Answer any three of the following.

3 x 3 = 9

37. The following graph depicts the result of a survey conducted among 120 students of class XII of a certain school. Study the table and the answer the questions given below.

NAME OF THE DISH LIKED BY NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Pizza	40
Burger	25
Dosa	10
Pasta	15
Biryani	30

- Which is the most favourite dish of the students?
  - How many students have 'Dosa' as their favourite dish?
  - What is the difference in the number of students who preferred Pizza to Burger?
38. Write a dialogue of at least three utterances between a teacher and a student about the 'Naan Mudhalvan Scheme'.
39. Describe the process of installing a computer.
40. Complete the proverbs by choosing the right words from the list.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not a bed of roses.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ once lost is lost forever.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ was not built in a day.  
(Rome, Time, Life)

## PART IV

Answer the following.

7 x 5 = 35

41. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 150 words.
- What message is conveyed through the narration "Two Gentlemen of Verona"?  
(OR)
  - Describe the struggles faced by Hillary and Tenzing in conquering Mt. Everest.
42. Answer the following in a paragraph of about 150 words.
- What are the poet's reminiscences of the casuarina tree?  
(OR)
  - Explain how the poet guides his son to face the challenges of life.
43. Write a paragraph of about 150 words by developing the following hints.
- Lord Weston - judge - piece of paper - remember - Caesar - self important - warning - assassinate him - 15<sup>th</sup> March - Caesar - assassinated - judge- enemies - Roger - precautions - ruined the floor - shut all - entries - velvet cloak - precious books - at the end - real - Caesar enters - Mr. Caesar a gardener - appointment with - absent mindedness - crux of the story.  
(OR)
  - Robert Baldwin an honest man - fraud in a bank - Gresham arrested - pressurised Baldwin - to falsely declare - offered huge bribe - Baldwin refused - family members tempted - ashamed of greed - stood for justice - Gresham confessed - Baldwin confessed - Baldwin rewarded

44. a) Summarize the following passage:

A vitamin is a chemical compound that is needed in small amounts for the human body to work correctly. They include Vitamin A, many B vitamins, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, and Vitamin K. For example, citrus fruits such as oranges and lemons contain vitamin C. The term was coined in 1912 by biochemist Casimir Funk, who isolated a complex of micro nutrients and proposed the complex be named *vitamine*. By convention the word *vitamin* does not include other essential nutrients, such as certain minerals, essential fatty acids and essential amino acids. Thirteen vitamins are recognized at present. Vitamins are classified by their biological and chemical activity, and not their



structure. Each vitamin name refers to a number of vitamins compounds which all show the same biological activity. For example, *vitamin A* refers to several different chemicals. Vitamins convert to the active form of the vitamin in the body. They are sometimes inter-convertible to one another as well.

(OR)

b) Write a paragraph of 150 words about the Need for Moral Education in Schools.

45. a) Write an application for the post of System Engineer to the Managing Director of ABC Company. Include the following details: Educational qualification, experience and other qualifications required for the post.

(OR)

b) Write a letter to your friend sharing your experience about the cricket world cup match that you watched recently.

46. a) Read the following sentences, spot the errors and correct them.

- (i) Though he is weak but he works hard.
- (ii) We needn't apply for a bank loan, do we?.
- (iii) She bought an useful gadget.
- (iv) Rani is junior than Kamala.
- (v) Neither of the two boys were late.

(OR)

b) Fill in the blanks appropriately.

- (i) Ms. Shalini \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in this school since 2021. (Use the right tense form)
- (ii) Many people \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money. (Fill in with 'yearn ; earn')
- (iii) I hope she \_\_\_\_\_ succeed. (Use a suitable modal verb)
- (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ I got up early, I managed to reach school on time. (Use a suitable linker)

47. a) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

The culture of nuclear families is in fashion. Parents are often heard complaining about the difficulties in bringing up children these days. Too much of freedom in demand, too much independence; overnight parties; excessive extravagance, splurging pocket money; no time for studies and family all this is a common cry of such families. Aren't parents, themselves, responsible for this pitiful state? The basic need of a growing youth is the family, love, attention and bonding along with moral values. One should not forget that 'charity begins at home'. Independence and individuality both need to be respected, in order to maintain the sanctity of family. Children, today, are to be handled with tact in order to bridge the ever widening generation gap. Only the reasonable demands need to be fulfilled, as there are too many expenses to be met and top many social obligations to be taken care of by the parents. Our forefathers lived happily in joint families. Children loved to live with their cousins, learnt to adjust within means. There was perfect harmony between the generations. There never existed the concept of old-age homes. There was deep respect for the family elders and love, care and concern for the youngsters. Even the minor family differences were solved amicably.

- (i) Mention any two major common concerns of a nuclear family.
- (ii) Who, according to the passage, are responsible for them?
- (iii) What are the basic needs of a growing youth?
- (iv) Describe the atmosphere in joint families.
- (v) Suggest a suitable title to the passage.

(OR)

- b) Develop the hints into a story of 150 words.

A fisherman - catches a gold fish - brings to the King - the gatekeeper stops him - wants half the reward - fisherman agrees - goes in - King happy - offers reward - the fisherman asks for fifty lashes on his back - King surprised - thinks the fisherman is mad - after getting twenty five lashes cries out - "stop! I have a partner" - the dishonesty of the gatekeeper comes to light - punished