

M.P. BIRLA FOUNDATION H.S. SCHOOL
SELECTION EXAMINATION 2020-21

CLASS X

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MAX MARKS- 80

TIME- 2 HRS.

Do not copy the questions while writing the answers.

Attempt all 5 Questions.

NEAT and TIDY work needed.

1. Write a composition (300-350 words) on ANY ONE of the following topics: **20**
 - a) Write an **original** short story beginning with "It was in the middle of the forest...".
 - b) "Failure teaches success". Express your views **for** or **against** this statement.
 - c) Traffic jams are a common sight now. You also must have experienced it. Describe the scene, your experience, reaction of people and the traffic police on duty.
 - d) Describe "A terrifying experience". Give an account of the experience in details, what led to it, how it made you feel and how it had changed your life.
 - e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or description or account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



2. Select ANY ONE of the following: **10**
 - a) Imagine that there has been a burglary in your house and that quite a few expensive items have been burgled. Write a complaint to the Officer-in-charge of the nearest police station in your area describing the items that have been stolen and the circumstances of the burglary.
 - b) Your friend who stayed with you for a fortnight has left behind a gift for you, which you have discovered after her departure. Write a letter to her expressing thanks and surprise. Also mention how useful the gift is to you.



3. a) You are the secretary of the Social Activities Club of your school. The club has decided to launch a cleanliness drive in a slum area near your school. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board informing the students of Class X about the drive and urge them to volunteer their names for the programme. 5
- c) Write an E-mail to the principal of your school requesting him to send some teachers with this group of children to supervise this event. 5

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Local residents have got fed up offering me lifts on the road to our hilltop bank and post office. As they drive up the steep road to Landour in third gear, they see me *plodding* along on foot and out of goodness of their heart stop and open the door for me. Although I hate to disappoint them, I close the door, thank them profusely, and insist that I am enjoying my walk. They don't believe me naturally; but with a shrug, the driver gets into gear again and drives off, although sometimes they have difficulty getting started, the hill being very steep. As I don't wish to insult them by reaching the bank first, I sit on the parapet wall and make encouraging sounds until they finally take off. Then I renew my leisurely walk up the hill, taking note of the fact that wild Geraniums and Periwinkles have begun to flower and that the whistling thrushes are nesting under the culvert over which those very cars pass every day.

Most people, car drivers anyway, think I am a little *eccentric*. So be it. I am probably eccentric. But having come to the Himalayan foothills over 25 years ago in order to enjoy walking among them, I am not about to stop now, just because everyone else has stopped walking. The hills are durable in their attractions, and my legs have proved durable too, so why should we not continue together as before?

The friends who walked besides me, like Ganesh who once took photographs now have their shiny new cars or spacious vans and seldom emerge from them unless it be to seek refreshment at some wayside teashop or café. When I invite them to walk a few meters with me, they complain of breathlessness or of twinges in their hinges and rents in their ligaments.

Now I'm no fitness freak. I don't jog either. If I did I would almost certainly miss the latest wildflower to appear on the hillside and I would not be able to stop a while and talk to other people on the road...villagers with their milk and vegetables, all-weather postmen, cheeky school children, *inquisitive* tourists...or to exchange greetings with cats, stray cows and runaway mules. Runaway mules are friendly creatures except towards their owners. I chat to their owners too, when they come charging up the road. I try to put them in good humour so as to save the mules from a beating; but mule-owners are generally short-tempered and would have me mind my own business.

Most of the people I have mentioned are walkers from necessity. Those who



walk for pleasure grow fewer by the day. I don't mean long-distance trekkers or high altitude climbers, who are almost professional in their approach to roads and mountains. I mean people such as myself who are no great athletes but who enjoy sauntering through woods on a frosty morning or leaving the main road and slithering downhill into a bed of ferns, or following a mountain stream to reach the small spring where it begins...But no...everyone must have a destination in mind, for this is the age of destinations, be it the Taj Mahal, the casino at Cannes, or the polar ice-cap. I glanced into a bestselling book of records the other day and my eye alighted on an entry which stated that somebody's grandmother had knitted a scarf that was over 20 miles long. Where was it going, I wondered, and who would be wearing it? The book didn't say. It was just another destination, another "first" to be recorded.

[adapted from "Mussoorie and Landour by Ruskin Bond]

a) Give the meanings of the following words as given in the passage: 3

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

i) plodding, ii) eccentric, iii) inquisitive

b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words: 9

i) Why do you think that the local residents stop and offer lift to the author? 2

ii) Why does the writer not stop walking, even though everyone else has? 2

iii) Quote the line which shows that the author is healthier than his car-owning friends. 1

iv) Why does the author not jog? 2

v) What does the author mean by the "age of destinations"? 2

c) Write a summary in not more than 50 words describing how the writer enjoys himself while walking for pleasure. 8

5. a. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with correct form of words given in the brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space: 4

The children__1__(sit) in a neat circle and __2__ (begin) __3__(copy) their multiplication tables. Most __4__(scratch) in the dirt with sticks they had __5__(bring) for that purpose. The more fortunate __6__(has) slate boards that they __7__(write) on with sticks __8__(dip) in a mixture of mud and water.

b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: 4

i) December is the month when winter sets ____.

ii) His speech worked ____ the mob into a frenzy.



- iii) The client had failed to make ____ the case properly.
- iv) He came ____ the appointed time.
- v) I knew nothing ____ athletics.
- vi) They hid the money ____ the carpet.
- vii) Ravi was accurate ____ his calculations.
- viii) She is not aware ____ the danger.

c. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so.** 4

- i) The minister was wise. The king did not trust him.
- ii) The lady is laughing. She is with the group.
- iii) He came home. He began to work.
- iv) The climb was not enjoyable. It was not easy.

d. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. 8

- i) You will lose marks and you will be punished as well. (Begin: Not only...)
- ii) We must rush or we will be late for the movie. (Begin: If...)
- iii) The policeman said to the man, "I do believe you". (Begin: The policeman told...)
- iv) That was the longest weekend of my life. (Use: longer)
- v) It is never too late to start. (Use: 'so')
- vi) We had not even walked one kilometer when they stopped us. (Begin: Hardly...)
- vii) As soon as the curtain came down the applause rang out. (Begin: No sooner)
- viii) Study hard or you will regret it. (Begin: Unless...)

