ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, DEHRADUN
FIRST TERM ONLINE EXAMINATION 2020

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE **CLASS: VIII** **M.M: 60 TIME: 1 ½ HOURS**

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [20]

My favourite season has always been the monsoon. It is the time of refreshing, and all the nature rejoices in it, and I rejoice with nature. During this season, in the halls of the white ants there is eager excitement, for the young queens of the future, in their long and gauzy wings, like bridal veils, are crowding to the door, and each one starts on her long journey in ***quest*** of a new home. There is joy above ground; for, the crow and the kite, the lizard, the little owl have gathered to feast.

Within a few days of the first rain, the roadside rivulets are full of little fishes, arrived from I know not where, to grow fat on the earthworm. When night comes on, great moths fly past. The fireflies light their lamps and hold their silent concerts, the ***occupants*** of each tree flashing in unison and making sheet lightning in the woods. At every turn there is something new to see. Out of earth and rock the magic touch of the monsoon has brought life and greenery. You can see the broad-leaved vines grow and the twinning creepers work their snaky way, linking tree to tree and binding branch to branch. Nothing, however, lives for itself along. All this luxuriance of tender foliage has scarcely appeared when the caterpillar is ready to eat it, for the butterfly has laid her eggs on the naked branch before the leaves were out. Green crickets with ***insatiable*** appetites, are under the leaves, trying not to be seen, and birds with hungry families are hunting for them.
The monsoon however, brings with it some inconveniences; but they are for the most part connected with our civilisation. Books grow limp and their backs come off, leprosy attacks gloves and all manner of silk and satin finery, a marvellous forest of mould springs from the bodies of the tiniest butterflies in my collection, rats infest the house, and basins and soup plates stand about on the carpet to catch the drops from the leaky roof.

During monsoon, the fear of getting wet is universal –the gentleman runs because the rain will spoil his clothes, but the coolie runs as fast because he has none. And what you realise that at this time birds and beasts, sleep in the open air, you cannot help wondering how they manage. When the pitiless rain is pouring hour after hour, and the water is streaming down the trees, I wonder where the poor monkeys are and what they are doing. Are they all ***huddled*** together, with their heads buried in each other's bosoms, and the water sprouting from their long tails?

Many birds, lay their eggs during the heaviest month of rain, and sit in open nests, pelted with drops as big as their heads. It is true that the feathers of birds, oily and smooth and arranged one over another like tiles, with an underlayer of soft, warm down, form a costume for all weather, to which the art of man has never been able to make any approach. But a bird or beast can be wet to the skin when the weatherman is registering ten inches of rain in twenty-four hours.

(a) **Give the Synonym/meaning of each of the following word as used in the passage:** [4]
(i) quest (ii) occupants (iii) insatiable (iv) huddled

(b) **Answer the following questions:** [8]
(i) Which is the narrator's favourite season, and why? [2]
(ii) What do the moths and fireflies do during the monsoon nights? [2]
(iii) What does the narrator mean by saying -- "Nothing, however, lives for itself along." [2]
(iv) Mention the inconveniences caused by monsoon, as stated by the author. [2]

(c) **In not more than 50 words, describe the effect of monsoon on birds and beasts.** [1+5=6]

(d) **Provide a suitable title to your précis (Q1.c). Give the reason to justify your choice.** [2]

Q2. **(a)** Write a letter to the Superintendent of Police of your area, expressing your concern at the increase of attacks on senior citizens in your locality. Suggest some important measures to improve the situation. [15]

OR

(b) The people of your colony have been suffering from acute water shortage. Write to the Chairman of the Municipality to take some urgent steps to relieve the residents' distress.

Q3. Change the following sentences into the passive form: [8]

(i) A racing car hit the cyclist.
(ii) The workers have called off the strike.
(iii) We were decorating the living room.
(iv) Miss Smith will send the invitation cards today.
(v) Get out of my house right now.
(vi) Everyone respects an honest man.
(vii) They may revise the prices of these goods in a few days.
(viii) Please read these instructions carefully.

Q4. Rewrite these sentences by placing the adverb in the bracket in the correct position: [7]

(i) He spoke at the meeting yesterday. (well)
(ii) Mohan walked fast to reach the bus stop in time. (enough)
(iii) They went to the museum to see the artefacts. (yesterday)
(iv) We were in time for the match. (quite)
(v) The postman had delivered the mail. (just)
(vi) She ran to pick the telephone. (inside)
(vii) The bride looked beautiful. (very)

Q5. Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners: [6]

(i) _____medicines have serious side effects.
(ii) My father holds _____ M.A. in English.
(iii) _____car is parked in front of our gate?
(iv) Tanu's guru speaks very highly of _____ talent.
(v) _____side of the square has the same length.
(vi) Can you see the fire on _____mountain?

Q6. Punctuate the following: [4]

He said Dickens's David Copperfield is very popular among children modern children read only Harry Potter books said i.

==========