

Class VIII

English Language

Online Assessment, September 2020

ANSWER KEY

MM: 60

Time: 90 min

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (20)

(A1) 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. *just*

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. (A2) 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 *green crickets* insatiable appetites, are under the leaves, trying not to be seen, and birds with hungry families are hunting for them.

(A4) 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 *and it is* how they manage. When the pitiless rain is pouring hour after hour, and the water is

difficult for them to

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 under layer 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 meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: (4)

- i. quest – **search, pursuit**
- ii. occupants – **those who occupy or stay in a place** *tenant household owners occupied area by someone.*
- iii. insatiable – **incapable of being satisfied**
- iv. huddled- **crowded together**

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) **Nothing is permanent, everything is temporary...**
- 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)

d. Provide a suitable title to your précis. Give the reason to justify your choice. (2)

2. 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. (15)

3. Change the following sentences into the passive form:

(8)

- a) A racing car hit the cyclist.
The cyclist was hit by a racing car.
- b) The workers have called off the strike.
The strike has been called off (by the workers).
- c) We were decorating the living room.
The living room was being decorated.
- d) Miss Smith will send the invitation cards today.

The invitation cards will be sent (by Miss Smith) today.

- e) Get out of my house right now.

You are ordered to get out of my house right now.

- f) Everyone respects an honest man.

An honest man is respected by everyone.

- g) They may revise the prices of these goods in a few days.

The prices of these goods may be revised (by them) in a few days.

- h) Please read these instructions carefully.

You are requested to read these instructions carefully.

4. Rewrite these sentences by placing the adverb in the bracket in the correct position: (7)

- a) He spoke **well** at the meeting yesterday. (well)

- b) Mohan walked fast **enough** to reach the bus stop in time. (enough)

- c) They went to the museum **yesterday** to see the artefacts. (yesterday)

- d) We were **quite** in time for the match. (quite)

- e) The postman had **just** delivered the mail. (just)

- f) She ran **inside** to pick the telephone. (inside)

- g) The bride looked **very** beautiful. (very)

5. Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners:

(6)

- a) **Some** medicines have serious side effects. *these*

- b) My father holds **an** M.A. in English.

- c) **Whose** car is parked in front of our gate?

- d) Tanu's guru speaks very highly of **her** talent. *his*

- e) **Each** side of the square has the same length.

- f) Can you see the fire on **that** mountain? *the*

6. Punctuate the following:

(4)

He said, "Dickens's David Copperfield is very popular among children." "Modern children read only Harry Potter books," said I.

He said, "Dickens's David Copperfield is v p a c."
"W's
What's the matter Tom he asked."