

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT - II, 2013

15BQF7U

Class - IX ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

Instructions:

The question paper is divided into four sections.

Section A : Reading 15 marks

Section B : Writing 20 marks

Section C : Grammar 15 marks

Section D : Literature 30 marks

SECTION - A (Reading – 15 Marks)

1 Read the passage given below :

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ANIMALS IN PRISON

(1) For fourteen and a half months I lived in my cell or room in Dehra -Dun gaol, and I began to feel as if I was almost a part of it. I was familiar with every bit of it. I knew every mark and dent on the whitewashed walls and on the uneven floor and the ceiling with its moth eaten rafters. In the little yard outside, I greeted little tufts of grass and odd bits of stone as old friends. I was not alone in my cell, for several colonies of wasps and hornets lived there and many lizards found a home behind the rafters, emerging in the evening in search of prey. If thoughts and emotions leave their traces behind in the physical surrounding, the very air of that cell must be thick with them, and they must cling to every object in that little space.

(2) Spring was very pleasant in Dehra Dun; and it was a far longer one than in the plains below. The monsoon rains were always welcome, for they ended the summer heat. Autumn again was pleasant, and so was the winter, except when it rained.

(3) I remember one day particularly – it was the twenty-fourth of December 1932. There was a thunderstorm and rain all day, and it was bitterly cold.

(4) Prevented from indulging in normal activities outside, in the gaol compound we became more observant of nature's way. We watched also the various animals and insects that came our way. As I grew more observant, I noticed all manner of insects living in my cell or in the little yard outside. I realised while I was complaining of loneliness, that yard, which seemed empty and deserted, was teeming with life. All these creeping or crawling or flying insects lived their life without interfering with me in any way and I saw no reasons why I should interfere with them.

(5) Then there were squirrels, crowds of them, if trees were about. They would become very venturesome and come right near us. In Lucknow gaols, I used to sit reading almost without moving for considerable periods, and a squirrel would climb up my leg and sit on my knee and have a look around. And then it would look into my eyes and realise that I was not a tree or whatever it had taken me for. Fear would disable it for a moment, and then it would scamper away. Little baby squirrels would sometimes fall down from a tree. The mother would come after them, roll them up into a little ball, and carry them off to safety. Occasionally the baby got lost. One of my companions picked up three of these lost baby squirrels and looked after them. The problem of feeding them was however solved rather ingenuously. A fountain pen filter, with cotton wool attached to it, made an efficient feeding bottle.

(6) We often had animal visitors that were not welcome. Scorpions were frequently found in our cells, especially after a thunderstorm. It was surprising that I was never stung by one, for I would come across them in the most unlikely places, on my bed, or sitting on a book which I had just lifted up. I kept a particularly black and poisonous looking brute in a bottle for some time, feeding him with flies and then when I tied him up on a wall with a string he managed to escape.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

I. Fill in the blanks with one word :

The author spent fourteen and a half months in Dehra Dun gaol and realised he was (a) _____ with every bit of it. The author had several (b) _____ of ants and hornets as his companion. He often found lizards in the rafters which would (c) _____ in search of prey. In the yard outside he would (d) _____ tufts of grass and odd bits of stones as his friends.

II. Answer the following questions in brief :

(a) Where did the writer keep the black scorpion and how did he feed it ?

(b) How were the lost baby squirrels fed ?

III. Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following :

(a) being able to do something enjoyable (para-4)

(b) willing to take risks (para-5)

