

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN SCHOOL - RIYADH

FIRST TERM EXAMINATION JUNE 2014- 2015

CLASS: XI

SUB: ENGLISH

TIME: 3 HOURS

MARKS: 80

SECTION A – READING COMPREHENSION

(20 MARKS)

1. READ THE GIVEN PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW: 12 MARKS

1. We have been brought up to fear insects. We regard them as unnecessary creatures that do more harm than good. Man continually wages war on them, because they contaminate his food, carry diseases or devour his crops. They sting or bite without provocation; they fly uninvited into our rooms on summer nights or beat against our lighted windows. We live in dread not only of unpleasant insects like spiders or wasps but of quite harmless ones like moths.

2. Reading about them increases our understanding without dispelling our fears. Knowing that the industrious ant lives in a highly organized society does nothing to prevent us from being filled with revulsion when we find hordes of them crawling over a carefully prepared picnic lunch. No matter how much we like honey or much we have read about the uncanny sense of direction which bees possess, we have a horror of being stung. Most of our fears are unreasonable but they are difficult to erase. At the same time, however, insects are strangely fascinating, we enjoy reading about them, especially when we find that, like the praying mantis, they lead perfectly horrible lives. We enjoy staring at them, entranced as they go about their business, unaware (we hope) of our presence. Who has not stood in awe at the sight of a spider pouncing on a fly or a column of ants triumphantly bearing home an enormous dead beetle?

3. Last summer, I spent days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prize peach tree. The tree has grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several severe winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither. Clusters of tiny insects called aphids were to be found on the underside of the leaves. They were visited by a large colony of ants which obtained a sort of honey from them. I immediately embarked on an experiment which, even though it failed to get rid of the ants, kept me fascinated for twenty-four hours.

4. If bound the base of the tree with sticky tape, it would make it impossible for the ants to reach the aphids. The tape was so sticky that they did not dare to cross it. For a long time, I watched them scurrying around the base of the tree in bewilderment. I even went out at mid-night with a torch and noted with satisfaction (and surprise) that the ants were still swarming around the sticky tape without being able to do anything about it. I got up early next morning hoping to find that the ants had given up in despair. Instead, I saw that they had discovered a new route. They were climbing up the wall of the house and

then on to the leaves of the tree. I then realized sadly that I had been completely defeated by their ingenuity. The ants had been quick to find an answer to my thoroughly unscientific methods!

1.1 Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options: (6 MARKS)

1. Insects are regarded unnecessary creatures because:

- a. we are afraid of them    b. they devour the crops  
c. they contaminate food    d. they do more harm than good

2. Human beings get a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ when they watch insects:

- a. fear      b. fascination      c. revulsion      d. all of these

3. Knowing about the insects help man:

- a. to change his attitude towards insects    b. to increase his understanding  
c. to dispel his fears    d. to dispel his revulsion

4. The attitude of man towards insects as described in this passage is:

- a. scientific      b. based on facts      c. unreasonable      d. one of fear and revulsion

5. Ants were stopped at the base of the tree so that:

- a. they could scurry around in bewilderment    b. they should not cross the tape  
c. they should not reach the aphids    d. they should remain where they are

6. The phrase that has the same meaning as 'drive away' is:

- a. to prevent      b. difficult to erase      c. stood in awe      d. to get rid of

1.2 Answer these questions briefly: (6 MARKS)

- a. Why does man continually wage a war on insects?  
b. What is our attitude towards honey bees?  
c. Find a word from the passage which means 'highly appealing' (para 3)  
d. What did the author do at mid-night?  
e. Find a word from the passage which means 'cleverness to solve problems' (para 4)  
f. Why do we find insects fascinating?

2. READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE CAREFULLY: (8 MARKS)

Eng-14-2

