

SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR HSC EXAMINATION-2020

English First Paper

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Seen Passage

Read the passage and answer the question A and B.

Coleridge's poem, a ballad, narrates the harrowing sea-voyage of an old mariner who at one point of his journey didn't have any water to drink because of a curse. Cursed or not, we know how important drinking water is in our life. We know we cannot survive without it. In fact two-thirds of our body is made up of water. Not for nothing is it said that the other name of water is life. Is there a crisis in our time with regard to access to clean drinking water? The United Nations in a meeting on the eve of the new millennium identified the drinking water problem as one of the challenges for the future. But do we need to worry about the problem as ours is a land of rivers and we have plenty of rainfall? Besides, we have a sea in our backyard too.

One of the sources of water in our country is the rivers. Rivers are everywhere in our life, literature, economy and culture. But are the rivers in good shape? Unfortunately, they are not. A few are already dead and several are going through the pangs of death. The river Buriganga is an example of a dying river. A report published in the Daily Sun describes what has happened to the river Buriganga and why. Its water is polluted and a perpetual stench fills the air around it. But that is not what it was like before.



A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1×5=5

(a) What would be the closest meaning for 'ballad' in the first paragraph?

- (i) epic poem
- (ii) mock-epic song
- (iii) parody
- (iv) simple narrative poem

(b) The word 'curse' in the first paragraph refers to _____.

- (i) discharge
- (ii) devilish act
- (iii) divine decree of destruction
- (iv) angel's bounty

(c) 'Survive' in the first paragraph could be best

replaced by _____.

- (i) exist
- (ii) attend
- (iii) appear
- (iv) revive

(d) The old mariner had a very _____ sea voyage?

- (i) pleasant
- (ii) agonizing
- (iii) wonderful
- (iv) memorable

(e) The best synonym of 'perpetual' is _____?

- (i) continuous
- (ii) stable
- (iii) entire
- (iv) temporary

B. Answer the following question. 2×5=10

(a) What, according to you, are the significances of water?

(b) Why have the United Nations identified drinking water problem as a challenge?

(c) Narrate the conditions of the rivers in Bangladesh in your own words.

(d) What has been depicted in a report published in the Daily Sun?

(e) Do you think Buriganga river is dying? If so, why?



(A): (a) (iv) simple narrative poem

- (b) (iii) divine decree of destruction
- (c) (iv) exist
- (d) (ii) agonizing
- (e) (i) continuous.

(B): (a) Water is very important in our life because we cannot survive without it. Besides, two-thirds of our body is made up of water. In fact, the other name of water is life.

(b) The United Nations have identified drinking water problem as a challenge for future as there is a crisis with regard to access to clean drinking water across the world.

(c) Ours is a land of rivers. One of the sources of water in our country are the rivers. But the rivers are not in good shape. A few are already dead and several are going through the pangs of death.

(d) The present condition of the river Buriganga has been depicted in a report published in the Daily Sun.

(e) Yes, I think that the Buriganga river is dying as its water is polluted and a perpetual stench fills the air around it.

English Second Paper

Read the following text and use modifiers as directed in the blank spaces.

0.5×10=5

1. We should not eat just (a) _____ (post-modify the verb with an infinitive phrase). We should eat to preserve (b) _____ (pre-modify the noun with a possessive) health. We need to eat (c) _____ (pre-modify the noun) food. Sometimes, it so happens that people (d) _____ (post-modify the noun with a present participle) in the midst of plenty do not eat (e) _____ (pre-modify the noun with a determiner) food they need for good health. That is why they suffer from (f) _____ (pre-modify the noun) diseases. If they know how (g) _____ (post-modify the verb with infinitive) balanced diet, they can remain fit. For this, they should have (h) _____ (pre-modify the noun) knowledge about health and nutrition. If they were educated, they could live a (i) _____ (pre-modify the noun) life. Only a healthy man is a (j) _____ (pre-modify the noun) man.

2. Water is a (a) _____ (pre-modify the noun) substance. It has no colour of (b) _____ (possessive to pre-modify) own. The (c) _____ (determiner to pre-modify the noun) name of water is life. By drinking water, we can quench (d) _____ (possessive to pre-modify the noun) thirst. Thus, we can survive on earth. But (e) _____ (pre-modify the noun) water is life killing. By drinking contaminated water, we suffer from diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid, etc. We may (f) _____ (pre-modify the verb) face (g) _____ (pre-modify the noun) death by drinking such type of water. We are responsible for (h) _____ (noun adjective to pre-modify the noun) pollution. Waste materials from mills and factories are thrown here and there. Farmers use fertilizers and insecticides in their land. During the rainy season, they are mixed with ponds and rivers. Besides, latrines (i) _____ (participle to post-modify the noun) on ponds and rivers cause water pollution. (j) _____ (pre-modify the noun) awareness should be raised to stop water pollution.

Answer Script

1: (a) to fill our stomach; (b) our; (c) balanced; (d) living; (e) the; (f) various; (g) to select; (h) adequate; (i) healthy; (j) happy.

2: (a) renowned; (b) noble; (c) early; (d) first; (e) to attend; (f) professional; (g) enough to find; (h) to listen to; (i) admiring; (j) forever.

Knowledge Center



Spelling Bee Season 5 is commencing this year. With the assistance of The Daily Star, this week's issue consists of guidance, a new lesson along with practice exercise to aid the students so that they have a stronger grip over their English. Spelling Bee will soon set foot in schools for its physical initiation of the first round. On the grounds for taking preparation, all students are urged to enhance their vocabulary, pronunciation and expotency of word meanings. Students should adapt a regular habit of reading The Daily Star as it has a remarkable vocabulary at its display. Furthermore, "English In Schools" is bound to shape the students' knowledge over grammar and word stock.

There are gazillions of words in the English Language. They are sometimes related to each other through meaning, context and pronunciation, or at times they are completely irrelevant to each other. In this section, we will learn about the word play in languages, that is, synonym, antonym and homonym.



Synonym

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word.

Example:

- 1. Afraid, scared, frightened, terrified
- 2. Courageous, heroic, brave

Exercise- Write a synonym for each word:-

- 1. Tiny-
- 2. Happy-
- 3. Break-
- 4. Silent-
- 5. Elegant-
- 6. Beneficial-

Exercise: Match the synonyms with the correct words on the right:

- 1. Missing- train/ walking/ school/ rain/ absent
- 2. Answer- interrogate/ awful/ reply/ alley
- 3. Nearly- lost/ almost/ far/ building
- 4. Litter- source/ continue/ outside/ rubbish
- 5. Abode- light/ can/ home/ pole
- 6. Insects- field/ pests/ drive/ lamp

Antonym

An Antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning to another word.

Example:

- 1. Achieve- Fail
- 2. Shame- Honor

Exercise: Write the antonyms next to the appropriate word:-

- 1. Smooth-
- 2. Flawed-
- 3. Protection-
- 4. Fun-
- 5. Bore-
- 6. Alert-

Exercise: Choose the correct antonym for the sentences below:

- 1. His father was a very strict person:
 - a) Lenient
 - b) Funny
 - c) Rude
- 2. Don't you think this event is monotonous?
 - a) Boring
 - b) Interesting
 - c) Dispiriting
- 3. The thief exaggerated the story to the police.
 - a) Overdo
 - b) Denied
 - c) Elaborate
 - d) Play down
- 4. The Professor made derogatory comments about John's paper.
 - a) rude

- b) belittling
- c) appreciative

5. Marie has an aversion to cheese.

- a) dislike
- b) repulsion
- c) preference



Homonym

A homonym is a word that has the same sound but a different meaning to another word.

Example:

- 1. Aunt- Ant
- 2. Two- To

Exercise: Choose the correct homonym for the sentences below:

- 1. My company's got a stand at the trade _____.
 - a) Off
 - b) Of
- 2. I am on my way to ____ some groceries.
 - a) Bye
 - b) Buy
- 3. It is dishonest to _____.
 - a) Steal
 - b) Steel
- 4. I like my burger _____.
 - a) Plane
 - b) Plain
- 5. Did you hear his ____ for help?
 - a) Please
 - b) Plea

Exercise: Pick the correct homonym for the sentences below-

- 1. We'll give you free reign/ rein regarding the project.
- 2. The school needs a new supply of stationery/ stationary.
- 3. Its/It's the first day of Mike's college.
- 4. Our principal/ principle concern is meeting the deadline of the assignment.

- 5. The chief guest of the party is the imminent/ eminent Dr. Phil.
- 6. Do we have a full complement/ compliment? Is everyone present?

Exercise: Make a sentence from each of the following pair of Synonym, Antonym and Homonym

- 1. Waste, Waist
- 2. Huge, gigantic
- 3. Sink, Float
- 4. Hair, hare
- 5. Windy, calm
- 6. Pane, pain
- 7. Argue, squabble
- 8. Sew, sow

Exercise: Mention an antonym and synonym for each of the words below:

- 1. Sluggish
- 2. Extravagant
- 3. Cautious
- 4. Impudent
- 5. Devour
- 6. Contemporary
- 7. Deserted
- 8. Hideous

Exercise- Mention which pair of words is an example of synonym, antonym and homonym:

- 1. altar/ alter -
- 3. bad/ inferior -
- 5. bald/ bawled -
- 6. excess/ lack -
- 8. generous/ stingy -
- 9. arc/ark -
- 10. hump/ gallop -
- 11. caller/ seller -
- 12. artificial/ natural -
- 13. course/ coarse -
- 14. bold/ meek -
- 15. landlord/ tenant -
- 16. foul/ fowl -
- 17. holy/ wholly -
- 18. soar/ cruise -

Importance-

Synonyms, Antonyms and Homonyms are essential to enhancing our reading and writing skills. It is necessary to understand the differences and similarities between words in order to use the most suitable word in English. Words have different intensity. Understanding the shades of meaning will groom the person to express emotions in a more precise manner. In addition, having a strong grip over this enables the person to have an enriched vocabulary.