

GREEN LAWNS HIGH SCHOOL
FINAL EXAMINATION YEAR 2016-2017

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TIME: 2 HOURS

CLASS: VIII
MARKS: 80

SECTION I
COMPOSITION

Q1. Write an interesting composition of about 300 - 350 words on any one of the following topics you must use at least five of the words from the given word bank: (25)

- a) Schools have established students' councils in order to involve them in running of their institution. State in your own words what a students' council can do in your school.

Word bank: activity --discipline --participation -- leadership -- guide --commitment -- official-- dutiful-- responsible -- initiate -- debate -- incorporate -- legislative -- stimulating -- election

- b) The railway station seldom rests days or nights. The station is one point in a vast system of communication necessary for modern civilization. Write a description of a railway station.

Word bank: congested -- jostling -- noisy -- colourful -- variety -- announcements -- horn -- devour -- refreshments -- talkative -- compartment -- snobbish --unsanitary -- pastures -- country

- c) You had set aside an evening to prepare yourself for an examination on the following morning. Your plans were disrupted when your aunt and uncle called in to visit your parents who had gone to the cinema. Narrate how you entertained the guests and coped with your studies. Your composition should also bring out your feelings during the course of the evening.

Word bank: chattering -- distant -- well-organized -- grapple with -- prolonged -- preparation -- convince -- distract -- concentration -- meandering -- temperamental -- lazy

- d) 'Watching Television has an adverse effect on children and should be restricted.' Do you accept this view? Give reason for or against this topic.

Word bank: vision -- amusement -- distraction -- circumstances -- unreliable -- noticeable, scandalize -- slowly -- critical -- noxious --enchanted -- educational -- effective -- trusting -- deceptive

- e) Look at the picture given below and write an original composition based on it. Give a suitable title to your story.



SECTION II

QII. While your aunt next door is away on a holiday, someone has broken into her house and stolen various things. Write a letter to your aunt explaining what has happened and advising her, what to do.

OR

(10)

You have noticed that a local bus service has become very inefficient in recent weeks. Buses are infrequent and sometimes three or four are going to the same place at the same time. On the other occasions, buses with empty seats fail to stop for you. Write a letter to the General Manager of the company or the Corporation complaining about the service.

Q III. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (25)

My life was fulfilled on my fourth birthday. By which I mean everything that has happened since, has been an anticlimax and has failed to match the joy and satisfaction I experienced on that day. My mother had taken me for a holiday to Bishop's Hull, a small village outside Taunton. A farm labourer, who lived in an adjoining cottage and who had lost an arm in the war offered to take me fishing. I had been fishing before but only for sharks from the upturned kitchen-table. I had never held a real rod or had my hook dangling in genuine water. Now, the prospect alone of this **expedition** made me so excited that I ran a temperature and did not sleep at all the night before. I even forgot the grey hunter which I had discovered stabled in a pub opposite. The shutter of my mind must have been full open that day, for every detail of the river still remains in sharp focus. My cousin and I followed the man along the river bank. It was my first

river, then he stopped at a deep pool by a weir; it was my first pool; deep, bottomless. Branches of ash reached out so that half was in the shade; the sunlight shone on the other half, and on the whole it was so still that flies could walk upon the invisible skin of the water.

I watched the fisherman take from his pocket a small tobacco-tin full of worms. Then breathlessly I saw him hold his rod against his body with his iron arm and watched him **dexterously** fix a worm on the hook with the other. Then he cast his line, and for the next half-hour I sat too excited to speak, my eyes riveted on the scarlet float almost unmoving on the still water. But we caught nothing.

That evening, I could not even eat my supper; I was too possessed. My mind was completely filled with the images of fish swimming beneath the water. I felt resentment against them for avoiding being caught. I lay in bed imagining I was a fish to find out how long it would be before hunger made me take the temptation of the hook.

That problem was promptly resolved the next morning by my mother who took me into Taunton to buy me a fishing line and one or two other pieces of necessary equipment. As soon as she got off the bus, I raced her towards the pool, found a worm and cast the float on to the water. Then I closed my eyes and prayed 'Dear God, please make the trout hungry. Dear God, please make them like worms, not any worms but my worm which I've put on that hook, for Thine is the Kingdom for ever and ever, Amen.

I have never prayed so fervently or succinctly. It was not a particularly odd prayer. As a child, I always imagined God as a grocer, order-book and pencil in hand, giving me the courtesy due to a customer. I sat willing the fish towards the worm. My whole soul was screwed up into my eyes **riveted** on the float. I did this for half an hour or so, till my mother asked me to go and pick her some cowslips from the meadow behind her. Grudgingly I complied, running back with the flowers.

'Why don't you see now if you've caught a fish,' my mother suggested casually. 'It seems to me your float's quite low in water.'

'Yes, it is.' I cried, hauling in, nearly falling into the water.

I can state, but I cannot express the pleasure I felt as a great fish broke the water.

'You've never seen a trout as big as that, have you?' I asked my mother confidently.

'Never,' she said truthfully.

'I shall eat it for supper, I said, 'and perhaps I'll give you a bit for buying me the line. But tomorrow you can have all the fish. There's bound to be another tomorrow.

That evening I broke my fast and ate the whole of the fish. There was another fish on my hook the next day. And for everyday that week. I never suspected that there was any coincidence in the fact that the fishes took my bait only while I was off picking flowers.

No doubt: my mother's subterfuge was justifiable. I never suspected it and was seventeen before she punctured my boast about the trout I used to catch, by telling me they were herrings. But it was too late then. Consequently, I have gone through life always sublimely confident that wherever I flung my hook an obliging fish would swallow it. And the incident had other psychic repercussions.

- a) How old was the author when he first fished in genuine water? (1/2)
- b) Where did the author's mother take him? (2)

- c) What happened to the author when he got very excited? (2½)
 d) What did the fisherman do when they reach the genuine water? (2½)
 e) With what was the author possessed? (1)
 f) What was the author's mind full of? (1½)
 g) What does the author pray for? (1)
 h) How did the fisherman come to have an iron arm? (1)
 i) Give the meaning of the following words as given in the passage. (3)
 i. expedition --
 ii. dexterously --
 iii. riveted --
 j) Write a summary of not more than 60 words to make clear what the mother's plan was, why she considered it to be justifiable and what effect the author feels, it has had upon him. (8)
 k) Give a suitable title to your summary. (2)

SECTION IV

Grammar(Please write your answers in the answer booklet) (20)

- a) Insert appropriate determiner in the blanks in the following sentence. (1)
 Please pass me _____ eraser. I have made _____ mistake.
- b) Place the adverb in a suitable position in the sentence and rewrite the sentence. (1)
 i) The masons have completed the work. (almost)
 ii) The children arrived. (late)
- c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate preposition. (1)
 i) We were sorry to hear _____ the unfortunate accident.
 ii) He kept the ladder _____ the wall.
- d) Join each of the following pairs of sentences using conjunction. (2)
 i) The weather becomes cold. The swallows fly to warmer countries.
 ii) He is wealthy. He is unhappy.
- e) Choose the correct verb from the brackets and fill in the blanks. (1)
 i) Good news _____ always welcome. (is/are)
 ii) Two of the boys in our class _____ won prizes. (has/ have)
- f) Choose the correct form of the tense of verb in the passage given below. (2)
 For example: (0) (snatch) - snatched
 We (0) _____ (snatch) a few hours of sleep before we (1) _____ (hear) the horn blaring at the door of our lodging. We (2) _____ (hurry) out with suitcases. The wagon body (3) _____ (cover) with canvas on half- hoops. The driver (4)- _____ (open) the flaps behind and motioned us to enter.

- g) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given. (3)
- i) He will be elected Secretary by the group. (Begin: The group)
 - ii) Avoid the easy solutions. (End: be avoided)
 - iii) I was surprised at his behavior. (Begin: His.....)
- h) Change the speech of the sentences as required. (3)
- i) Gopal said to Krishna, "You have wronged me."
 - ii) The mother asked her daughter whether she knew where Prem was.
 - iii) I said to him, "Obey your parents."
- i) Change the degree of comparison without changing the meaning. (2)
- i) Our horse is better trained than yours.
 - ii) Very few countries are as hot as Nigeria.
- j) Join the sentences as instructed. (2)
- i) You refuse to pay the money. Then you will be imprisoned. (Use: if)
 - ii) You must buy a ticket if you want to enter the hall. (Use: Unless)
- k) Do as directed. (2)
- i) You have to go. (Add a question tag)
 - ii) Are they rich enough to afford this car? (Change to assertive)