

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL BINNAGURI CANTT
QUESTION BANK- 2017-18
SUBJECT:-ENGLISH
CLASS-VIII

UNIT 1 :ALL IN THE FAMILY

SECTION A: THE NIGHT THE BED FELL

I. **Read the given extract and answer the following questions:** (3X1=3)

1. “ I think I had this nightmarish belief that I was entombed in a mine.”
 - a. Who is the speaker?
 - b. Why did the speaker feel entombed?
 - c. What is meant by the word ‘entombed’?
2. “ He had been accustomed to setting an alarm clock to ring at intervals until morning.”
 - a. Who is referred to as ‘He’?
 - b. Why did ‘He’ set alarms at regular intervals?
 - c. What is meant by the word ‘accustomed’?
3. “ I am glad....that your grandfather wasn’t here.”
 - a. Who is the speaker?
 - b. Why did the speaker feel glad?
 - c. Give a synonym of the word ‘glad’.

II. **Answer the following questions in brief: (1X2=2)**

- 1.What decision did the author’s father take?
- 2.Why the narrator’s mother was worried about the decision made the father?
- 3.Who was Briggs Bell? What was his phobia and how did he handle it?
4. ‘The narrator was a deep sleeper’ .Which incident confirms it?
5. What was the confusion at night and how did the mother react?

III. **Answer the following questions in detail:** (1X3=3)

1. Describe the remarkable incident that took place at narrator’s residence.
2. What was the odd fear of Briggs Beall? What did he do to overcome it?
3. Describe in brief the character of the narrator’s mother.

IV. **Value based questions:** (1X4=4)

1. What are the qualities one must possess during a chaotic situation as mentioned in the lesson.
2. In spite of comprising of unique and diverse characters in a family, what is necessary to keep them united?

SECTION B: A COUNTRY CHILDHOOD

I. **Read the given extract and answer the following questions:** (3X1=3)

1. “ My mother presided over three huts at Qunu.”
 - a. Who is the speaker?
 - b. What were the three huts used for?
 - c. What do you mean by ‘presided over’?

2. "These tales stimulated my childish imagination...."
- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. Which tales are being told here? Why were they important?
- c. What is meant by 'stimulated'?
3. "When I first visited the homes of the whites, I was often dumbfounded."
- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. Why was the speaker dumbfounded?
- c. What is meant by 'dumbfounded'?

II. **Answer the following questions in brief:** (1X2=2)

1. Name the place where Mr. Nelson Mandela resided with his family. What was his daily schedule?
2. Which kinds of devices were used by the boys?
3. What kind of stories did the boys hear and from whom?
4. How and why did the author react when he first visited the homes of white?
5. Which kind of beliefs seemed perfect to the author?

III. **Answer the following questions in detail:** (1X3=3)

1. How was African culture different from the European culture?
2. What are the different features of African culture reflected in the lesson.
3. What is the unique feature about African families?

IV. **Value based questions:** (1X4=4)

1. The lesson shows a close communion between man and nature. Justify.
2. Traditions play an important role in shaping one's life. Comment.

SECTION C :LETTER FROM A PARENT

I. **Read the given extract and answer the following questions:** (1X3=3)

1. "Of all the subjects you have set
This seemed the most imprudent yet."
- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. What does the speaker mean by 'this'?
- c. What is meant by 'imprudent'?
2. "You may think what we did unwise
But give it your consideration."
- a. Who is speaking to whom?
- b. What does the speaker ask the listener to consider?
- c. What is meant by 'consideration'?
3. "I trust you will not blame my son."
- a. Who is speaking to whom?
- b. Why does the speaker doesn't want his son to be blamed?

II. **Answer the following questions briefly:** (1X2=2)

1. What was the homework given?
2. Who did write the letter to whom?
3. What kind of explanation was given by the parent?

- 4 What did the parent do to the homework and why?
- 5 What is the name of the boy? Why was the teacher requested not to blame the child?

III. Answer the following questions in details: (1X3=3)

1. Why did Harold Honeybun write a letter to Tom's teacher?
2. What excuse does he give to the teacher for Tom's not submitting his homework?
3. What was the reaction of Tom's parents towards the assignment he received?

IV. Value based questions: (1X4=4)

1. The poet presents a harsh truth of life in a humorous way. Explain.
2. If you were in Tom's place would you support your parents' view. Justify your answer.

UNIT 2 :GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

SECTION A: BIG TALKERS

I. Choose the correct options to answer the following:

1. Which section of the article explains the use of scientific instruments?
(a) A "Second Language" (b) "Long-Distance Calls"
(c) "Hearing Aids" (d) "How Will We Answer?"
2. What is the difference between the elephant populations in 1979 and 1997?
(a) There were more elephants in 1997.
(b) There were 1.3 million elephants in 1997.
(c) There were fewer elephants in 1997.
(d) There were 500,000 elephants in 1979.
3. Older female elephants let babies know to keep moving by
(a) showing them that there is a lion nearby.
(b) opening their ears wide and turning their heads.
(c) loudly trumpeting that there is danger.
(d) gently pushing them and making soft noises
4. Read this sentence from the article. "Another machine, called a spectrograph, translates the recorded sound waves into images, or markings, that we can see." What does the word spectrograph mean?
(a) a machine that writes images
(b) a machine that plays records
(c) a machine that makes color copies
(d) a machine that tracks elephants
5. Which sentence is meant to persuade the reader that elephants are like humans
(a) Elephants make plenty of sounds that humans can hear, such as barks, snorts, roars, and trumpet-like calls.
(b) "We're almost there," they seem to say, "just keep walking."
(c) An adult elephant can eat 300 pounds of grass and plants in a single day!
(d) Poachers killed many elephants for their ivory tusks, because ivory can be sold for a lot of money.
6. How have the concerns of wildlife groups changed since 1979?

- (a) They now collect ivory from elephants.
- (b) They want to eliminate tourism in Africa.
- (c) They have started growing crops to feed the elephants.
- (d) They feel greater urgency about saving elephants from extinction

7. The main idea in the "Hearing Aids" section of the article is that elephants

- (a) talk to each other using barks, snorts, roars, and trumpet-like calls.
- (b) use hearing, smelling, and feeling to know what is going on.
- (c) live in a matriarchal society, in which the oldest female is the leader.
- (d) are dying out because of people taking their land

II. Answer the following questions in brief : (1X2=2)

- 1. Where were the thirsty elephants going?
- 2. What is the secret language used by elephants?
- 3. What does a spectrograph do?
- 4. How does the elephant's trunk aid its hearing?
- 5. How did the elephant population diminish so drastically?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

- 1. How does a male herd differ from a female herd?
- 2. How is the elephant infrasound studied?
- 3. How do adult elephants respond to distress call given by calves?

III. Value based questions: (1X4=4)

- 1. Language is not the only means of communication. Explain taking examples from the lesson.
- 2. What steps have been undertaken by conservationists to protect the elephants?

SECTION B: THE MYSTERY OF QUILT

I. Read the extracts and answer the following questions: (1x3=3)

- 1. "The Underground Railroad was not really a railway system that functioned under the ground."
 - a. Name the lesson.
 - b. What was the real purpose of the railroad?
 - c. Write the synonym of the word 'functioned'?
- 2. "The codes were passed down to her through the generations."
 - a. Who is referred to as 'her'?
 - b. Which codes are being referred to here?
 - c. What was the main purpose of the codes?
- 3. "Ozella said that the slaves used many symbols in the quilts they made."
 - a. Name the lesson.
 - b. Who is Ozella?
 - c. Mention any one symbol used in quilts and its significance.

II. Answer the following questions in brief: (1X3=3)

1. Why did the slaves wish to escape to the north?
2. Why was the trip to the North dangerous?
3. What were the quilts made by African slaves used for?
4. What information did the pattern in the Quilt convey?
5. What were the slaves to do if slave catchers were after them?
6. What was the purpose of going in a zigzag manner during their journey?

III. **Answer the following questions in details:** (1X3=3)

1. Explain the significance of the Wagon's Wheel and Bear's Paw pattern.
2. Explain the significance of the Flying Geese and North Star pattern.
3. Explain the significance of the Log Cabin and Drunkard's Path pattern.

IV. **Value based questions;** (1X4=4)

1. Necessity is the mother of invention. Justify the statement with reference to the lesson.
2. History and legends always bring us closer to the past. Comment on the statement taking examples from the lesson.

SECTION C: SPEAK GENTLY

I. **Read the extracts and answer the following question:** (1X3=3)

1. "Speak gently!- It is better far
To rule by love, than fear-
Speak gently- let not harsh words mar
The good we might do here!"

- a. Name the poem and poet.
- b. Why is it better to rule by love?
- c. What is meant by 'mar'?

2. "Speak gently to the aged one ,
Grieve not the care-worn heart;
The sands of time are nearly run,
Let such in peace depart!"

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. Why should one speak gently to the old people?
- c. What is meant by 'depart'?

3. "Speak gently to the erring-know,
They may have toiled in vain;
Perchance unkindness made them so;
Oh, win them back again!"

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. Why should we speak gently to the people who have made mistake?
- c. What is meant by 'perchance'?

II. **Answer the following questions in brief:** (1X2=2)

1. Bring out the refrain in the poem.
3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

4. Why does the poet say “Affection’s voice is kind”?
5. Why should one speak gently to a child?
6. How does the poet want us to behave with elderly people?
7. Find words in the poem that mean the same as:

- (a) bear with patience
- (b) hold together
- (c) time without end
- (d) at war
- (e) worked hard

- (f) to pass from physical life

III. **Answer the following questions in details:** (1X3=3)

1. What do you mean by refrain? What is the refrain in this poem? Bring out its significance.

2. Why should one speak kindly to the poor?

3. Why should one speak kindly to the young?

IV. **Value based questions:** (1X4=4)

1. What is the importance of gentle speech in our daily life?

2. How does gentle speech help in winning the hearts of people?

UNIT 3: PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES

SEC A: CHIEF SEATHL’S MESSAGE

I. **Read the extracts and answer the following question:** (1X3=3)

1. ‘How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land?’

A. Name the chapter. Who is being referred as ‘you’?

B. Why the speaker found it difficult to sell the sky?

C. Can the warmth of land be sold out ?

2. ‘The earth is not your brother, but your enemy, when you have conquered it, you move on.’

A. what does the speaker want to convey?

B. Write synonym of ‘conquer’ and antonym of ‘enemy’.

C. Name the speaker and who is being referred as enemy of the earth?

3. ‘All things are connected like the blood which unities one family.’

a. What does ‘all things’ refer to?

b. Explain this statement in your own words.

c. Write antonym of ‘unity’ and ‘connect’.

II. **Answer the following questions in detail:** (1X3=3)

- 1 Why do you think Chief Seathle calls himself 'a savage'?
- 2 What does Chief Seathle want the American government to do?
- 3 What does Chief feels about modernization?
- 4 How does Chief react to modern intervention in wild?
- 5 why did chief Seathle find it difficult to sell Native American land to the government?

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words: (1X4=4)

- 1 How does the chief describe the relationship between man and nature?
- 2 According to Chief Seathle , What is the difference between a native American and the modern man?
- 3 what does Chief Seathle feel about the modern city life? Would he ever like to settle down in a city?
- 4 'The earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth. 'Explain this statement in your own words.
- 5 what is Chief Seathle's condition if he agrees to accept government's offer?

IV. Value based questions: (1X4=4)

- 1 Chief Seathle refers to nature as 'mother earth' how is his message relevant even today? What do we need to learn from him?
- 2 Do you think modernization is the actual cause of global warming, floods, drought and other natural calamities? Take reference from the text.

SEC- B: HEAVEN LAKE

I. Read the extracts and answer the following question: (1X3=3)

- 1 "You aren't thinking of swimming, are you?"
 - a. Name the chapter and the author.
 - b. To whom the question is being asked and why?
 - c. Why the speaker seems sceptical?

- 2 "Ah! Hindustan! Hindustan!" he hands me three yuan in change.
 - a. Name the speaker. Whom is he referring to?
 - b. why he gave him 3 yuan instead of 2 ?
 - c. Did the narrator accept the extra yuan? Why?

- 3 'With an exasperated gesture, he grabs the cap from my head and begins to rip it apart.'
 - a. Who is being referred as 'he'?
 - b. Why did he rip the cap apart?
 - c. Why did he have an exasperated look on his face?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

1. Which root did the narrator take to reach Delhi? From where he started his journey? (3)
2. How was author's stay at the resort cottages?
3. Did the narrator ever go for swimming in Heaven Lake? How do you know? (3)
4. What Mr Cao's advice about swimming in the Lake? Did he stop the narrator? (3)
5. Why did the old man grab the cap and ripped it apart? (3)

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words: (1X4=4)

1. Describe the narrator's journey from Urumqi to Heaven Lake in your own words. (4)
2. Describe the Heaven lake as picturized by the author. (4)
3. What happened to the Beijing athlete? What all could have happened to have? (4)
4. What is the similarity between Urdu and Uighur? How it helped the conversation between the narrator and the shop keeper?(4)
5. Why the shopkeeper had a restrained smile when he adjusted the cap on the narrator's head? (4)

IV. Value based questions: (1X4=4)

6. What are the values that one must exhibit as a global citizen? Name a few that the narrator exhibited when he was travelling through China. (4)

SEC-C : THE BANYAN TREE

I. Read the extracts and answer the following question: (1X3=3)

1 'O you shaggy-headed banyan tree standing on the bank of the pond.'

- a. Who is been referred as shaggy and why?
- b. Name the poem and the poet.
- c. What happened to the birds?

2 Sunlight danced on the ripple like

Restless tiny shuttles weaving golden tapestry.

- a. How does the sunlight looks when it falls on the moving water?
- b. Name the poem and the poet.
- c. Identify the simile used in these lines.

3 'He longed to be the wind and blow through your rustling branches,
To be your shadow and lengthen with the day on the water.'

- a. Who is being referred as 'He' and 'your'?
- b. What does he long for?
- c. What does he want to do on water?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

1. What does the word 'shaggy' mean? Does the word aptly describe a banyan tree?
2. From where the child is observing the tree and remembering the old day?
3. Give one example of the poetic device used in the poem – Apostrophe and (b) Simile.

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words: (1X4=4)

1. Why does the huge black shadow of the tree wriggle when the women come to the pond? (4)
2. The poet compares the “shadow wriggling” on the water to “sleep struggling to wake up”. Do you think the comparison is appropriate? Why? (4)
3. In the last stanza the child wants to become the epitome of the nature. Quote lines that describes Child’s desire? (4)
4. What does the Child asks the banyan tree in the beginning? What all he asked the tree? (4)

UNIT 4:

SEC-A: CHECKMATE

I. Read the extracts and answer the following question: (1X3=3)

1. “ I can’t believe they expect us to sing this song.”
 - a. Name the chapter and author.
 - b. Who is the speaker and whom is he speaking to?
 - c. Why the speaker is doubtful about singing the song?
2. “ You certainly will not give yourself up!”
 - a. Who is the speaker and whom is he referring to ?
 - b. Why the speaker insisting not to give up?
 - c. What happened after this discussion?
3. “Shut up. Get away from me. Shut up or I’ll send you straight to jail.”
 - a. Name the speaker and whom is he shouting at?
 - b. Why the speaker is furious?
 - c. Why is he threatening to put all of them in jail?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

1. Why do you think Kamala was reluctant to sing the song ‘God save the King’ ?
2. What Kannan used to do every night?
3. How did the Cannors handle the chaotic situation in the class?
4. What could be the reason behind Sharanjit waiting angrily on the platform.? (3)
5. What Sharanjit’s father was wringing his hands? (3)
6. Who was the inspiration while dealing with the trouble? (3)

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words: (1X4=4)

1. Describe the printing press used by the Indian. What was special about it? (4)
2. Describe the Connors in your words. (4)
3. Why Sharanjit was surprised to see the familiar face on the platform. (4)

4. Was Sharanjit able to protect Kannan from the police? How she managed the situation?
5. While saving Kannan, Sharanjit showed a great presence of mind. Explain how? (4)
6. What made Sharanjit's heart swell with pride? (4)
7. If you had been at Sharanjit's place," How would you have dealt with the situation?"

SEC – B -The Last Lesson

I. Read the extracts and answer the following question: (1X3=3)

- 1.** 'This is the last class in French, so I beg you to be very attentive.'
 - a. Name the chapter and the author.
 - b. Why the speaker is requesting the students to be more attentive?
 - c. Why is it the last class for French?

- 2.** 'And have I nothing to reproach myself for?'
 - a. Name the speaker and whom is he referring to.
 - b. Who all are responsible for a child's education?
 - c. Does the speaker blame himself for the child's disinterest?

- 3.** "Vive la France!"
 - a. Name chapter and the author.
 - b. What does the speaker meant by 'vive La France'?
 - c. Why did the speaker write this phrase on the board before leaving?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

1. Why the narrator does not want to go to school that morning? (3)
2. Why French will not be taught in the school? What will replace the French language? (3)
3. Whom all Ms Hamel blamed for Franz's disinterested in study? (3)
4. How did Monsieur feel about being a French? (3)
5. Why the crowd was gathered around the bulletin board in the Mayor's office? What was the message placed on the board? (3)
6. Why do you think Houser and the other two people sitting in 'The Last Lesson'? (3)

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words: (1X4=4)

1. As Franz entered the class, two different things surprised him. What was different? (4)
2. As Mrs Hamel announced that 'This is the last class in French: Franz's perception changed towards the school work and school book. Explain? (4)
3. How does Mrs Hamel glorify the value of language to an 'enslaved' people? (4)
4. Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons? Explain in your own words. (3)
5. How did Franz's feeling changed about the school as well as the teacher after knowing that French will not be taught anymore? (4)

6. The story is narrated through Franz's point of view. How does it affect you as a reader. How does his perception help build suspense at the beginning?

IV. Value based questions: (1X4=4)

1. We generally have a tendency to postpone the tasks that we dislike as we are not good at. What do we learn from the story regarding the same?
2. Mr Hamel wrote his last word 'Vive La France!' on the board. What are the values that he instills in his students? (4)

SEC-C-A Nation's Strength

I. Read the extracts and answer the following question: (1X3=3)

1. ___ What makes a nation's pillar's high

And its foundations strong?

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. What is the theme of the poem?
- c. What are the important elements that make a country strong?

2. Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,

Not on abiding rock.

- a. Explain 'its shafts are laid on sinking sand' in your own words.
- b. What does the poet want to convey here?
- c. What makes a country more powerful – its men or its wealth?

3 "Brave men who work while others sleep,

Who dare while others fly.....

- a. Who are the 'Brave men'?
- b. What happens to a country which depends on an army to keep it strong?
- c. What do the brave men do for their nation?

II. Answer the following questions in detail: (1X3=3)

1. What does the poet convey in the stanza (3)
2. What makes a nation's proud and its foundations concrete? (3)
3. What is the role of Army in keeping the nation's flag flying high in the sky? (3)
4. What are the values (qualities) that can help the country as a whole? (3)

III. Answer the following questions in about 100-120 words:

(1X4=4)

1. According to the poet who all can make nation great? (4)
2. What according to you are the things that can make our country great? (4)
3. According to R W Emerson, What is the secret of a nation's success? (4)
4. What are the characteristics of brave people, described in the poem? (4)

Enrichment Reader (Literature Reader)

The Woman On Platform 8

1 Read the following extracts answer the questions that follow:

a. “ she smiled at me reassuringly , and took my hand again but her fingers trembled against mine.”

1. Name the lesson and the author.
2. Who is the speaker and whom is he talking about?
3. Why did her finger tremble?

b. “Be careful when your mother is not with you. And never talk to the strangers.”

1. Who is speaking to whom?
2. Name the chapter and the author?
3. What nature of the speaker is reflected here?

c. “I like strangers”.

1. Name the lesson and the author.
2. Name the speaker and who are these words referred to?
3. Why did the speaker use this phrase?

Ch-2-This is Going to Hurt a Little Bit

1 Read the following extracts answer the questions that follow:

1. ‘Because some tortures are physical and some are mental?’

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. What does ‘torture’ mean here?
- c. What did the poet dislike and why?

2. ‘So hard to give your usual effect of cherry benignity.’

- a. write the rhyming used in this poem.
- b. Serious alterations are caused by whom and why?
- c. What does the poet mean by ‘benignity’.

3. ‘Is that it’s all done with a mirror.’

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. What is the role of the mirror?

c. Why is the poet worried?

4. 'And this, O fate, is I think the most vicious circle that than thou ever sentest'.

a. Name the poem and the poet.

b. Why is the poet worried?

c. What is meant by 'vicious circle'.

Ch-3- A Day's Wait

1 Read the following extracts answer the questions that follow:

1. "You go up to bed", I said "You are sick".

a. Name the lesson and the author.

b. Name the speaker and who are these words referred to?

c. What did happen to the boy?

2. "Do you want me to read to you?"

a. Name the chapter and the author.

b. What kind of book the author wants to read?

c. Was boy happy to hear from his father?

3. "About how long will it be before I die?"

a. Name the speaker and the author.

b. Who will die and why?

c. What was the confusion?

4. "He lay still in bed and seemed very detached from what was going on."

a. Name the speaker and whom is he talking about.

b. Why was 'He' detached?

c. What did the speaker do to make him feel better?

Ch-4- The Attic

1 Read the following extracts answer the questions that follow:

1. "I doubt if the school building, will be recognizable anymore, Tring to receive childhood memories could prove to be disappointing!"

a. Name the chapter and the writer.

b. Who is talking to whom?

c. Where are they planning to visit and why?

2. "Certainly, I have biscuits and savouries as well."

- a. Name the chapter and the author.
 - b. Who said to whom?
 - c. Where did the author go and why?
3. “No one visit me”, he said in unperturbed tone.”
 - a. Who is speaking to whom?
 - b. Where did they go to meet whom?
 - c. Why did Aditya pay money to his old friend?

Ch-5- My Date with Greybeard

1. “I clenched my fists as I waited for the shot which would rob me of him.”
 - A. Who is ‘I’ and who is referred as ‘him’?
 - b. Why did the speaker clench his fists?
 - c. Why the speaker is nervous and tensed?
2. “Greybeard will still be there,”he said pushing me down in my chair.
 - a. Name the chapter and the author.
 - b. Who is Greybeard and why is he referred as Greybeard?
 - c. Why the narrator is in a haste to rush out?
3. “The ambition of my youthful life was at the point of achievement.”
 - a. Whose ambition is being talked about here?
 - b. What is his youthful ambition?
 - c. How is his ambition is close to achievement?
4. “There was pride and dignity in every line of his body, and I knew suddenly that I could not destroy him.”
 - a. Who is being talked about here?
 - b. What are the qualities of the buck that mesmerized the narrator?
 - c. What did the narrator finally do? Why?
5. “You’ve learned something today, son-something that many men live a lifetime without knowing.”
 - a. Name the speaker and whom is he speaking to?
 - b. What lesson had the boy learned?
 - c. How this lesson will help the boy throughout his life?

Ch-6- Birds of Paradise

1. “Singing songs in their own tongue-
Song of songs”

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. In which language do the birds sing?
- c. What can be the theme of their song?

2. “High above my head they wheeled,
Far out of reach”

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. Explain ‘High above my head they wheeled’ in your own words.
- c. Write meaning of – out of reach.

3. “Mounting, mounting mounting still
In haste to scale the skies”

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. Why the birds are in haste?
- c. What they want to do?

4. “But in the garden where they dwell
The Paradise of God.”

- a. What is the theme of the poem?
- b. Where do the birds belong to?
- c. What does ‘Garden’ refers to?