

BCM School, Basant Avenue, Dugri Road, Ludhiana

Paper Pattern Assignment

Class VIII

English (Code 184)

Section A(Reading)

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

UPSIDE DOWN TREE

1. The Baobab tree, which is among the largest and longest living trees on earth, is also one of the most unusual and remarkable trees. A native of Africa, it has flourished for thousands of years in the arid savannah close to the equator. The tree, which can grow up to 30 meters in height, has a very strange appearance. It has an enormous, bulbous trunk and stunted branches that look like gnarled roots spreading wide. The branches are bare for nine months of the year, since the tree puts out leaves only twice a year, for a few weeks at a time when the rains come to the plains. Thus the Baobab tree, for most of the time, looks as if it has been pulled out of the ground and stuffed back in upside down.

2. The tree's unusual appearance has given rise to many interesting folktales about its origins. African Bushmen have a legend that tells of God Thora who took a dislike to the Baobab growing in his garden. He tossed it over the wall of paradise to Earth below, and although it landed upside down, it continued to grow! Another folk tale says that the Baobab was amongst the first trees to appear on Earth. When the palm tree, the flame tree and the fig tree appeared, the Baobab began to grumble that it wanted to be taller, to have brilliant flame coloured flowers, and bear tasty fruit too. The gods grew angry at this incessant wailing and pulled up the tree by its roots, and replanted it upside down to keep it quiet.

3. There are only three months of rain in a year. So the Baobab spreads its roots wide and collects as much rainwater as it can. Then it stores the water in its bark and lower trunk for use during the dry months. Bushmen, and even elephants wandering through the desert extract water from the pulpy fiber when there is drought.

4. The leaves of this tree resemble an outstretched hand with open fingers. Its large flowers are white and bell-shaped and open only at night. The tree produces an edible, gourd-like fruit called 'monkey bread', which is a favourite with baboons. This fruit has the highest concentration of vitamin C of any plant.

5. The Baobab is a friendly nurturing tree and creates its own ecosystem as it supports the life of countless creatures from the largest of mammals to the thousands of tiny creatures scurrying in and out of its numerous crevices. Baobabs may live up to 3000 years! There are trees alive that were growing when the Roman Empire ruled Europe! Baobabs are very difficult to kill. Even when burnt, they will form new bark and keep on growing. When they do die, they simply rot from the inside and suddenly collapse, leaving only a heap of fibers. These majestic trees are revered by the people who live with them. In Africa, old Baobabs are given names, and each name begins with the word 'mother', for in the tough savannah grasslands the great Baobab is a mother of life, symbolising endurance, conservation, creativity and ingenuity.

A. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

- a) List any two features that give the Baobab its unusual appearance.
- b) Why is Baobab called 'an upside down tree'?
- c) How did the Baobab tree end up on the earth, according to the legend of African Bushmen?
- d) What connect does the writer draw out between the two interesting tales about Baobab's origin? (Paragraph 2)
- e) Give reason for the fact that 'Baobabs are very difficult to kill'.
- f) How does this tree create its own eco-system?
- g) Why can the Baobab be described as a "mother of life"?
- h) If the Baobab tree were removed from the African savannah, how might this affect the animals living there? Give two possible effects.
- i) Find a word from the passage that is a synonym of "twisted and rough."
- j) Find a word from the passage that is an antonym of "destruction."

Section -B (Creative Writing and Grammar)

2. You recently got an unexpected 'off' from the school. Write a diary entry in about 80-100 words describing:

- When you got the 'off' and why
- how you felt about the unexpected 'holiday'

•how you spent the day

3. You recently got a chance to visit the old age home. Write a letter to your friend, who lives in another city, describing your experience.

4.Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

The word 'folk' means people. Folk dances express the moods and feelings of

a) _____ (the / a / an / some) common people. Different regions

b) _____ (at / of / for / from) India have their own dances.

c) _____ (Each / All / Whole / Many) dance is accompanied by music and songs of the region to

f) _____ (what / which / who / whose) it belongs.

5.Change the following sentences into voice.

a) He is enjoying the party.

b) Had the mistake been repeated by Neelu?

6.Choose the correct modals.

a) You (should/may)not waste water.

(b) She(must/might) be at home; I saw her leaving school.

7.Rearrange the words/phrases into meaningful sentences.

a)unless / you / cannot / succeed / persevere / you

b)the importance / hardly / do / realise / of discipline / students / today

Section -C (Literature)

8.Read the extract given below and answer the questions:

The woman was old, rugged and grey,

and bent with the chill of winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow,

and woman's feet were aged and slow.

1.Name the poet of the above extract.

2.What effect has the winter weather had on woman?

3.What does the phrase "rugged and grey" suggest about her condition?

4. Make a sentence using the word “ragged”.

5. Identify the poetic device from the given stanza.

9. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. Why did the merchant become suspicious of the four men? What does this tell us about him?

2. What were Major Somnath's last words? What do they reflect about his sense of duty?

3. Explain why Chief Brown was proud of his son.

4. Gopi threatens to draw a beast to scare away the Zamindar. Justify her action. How would you have dealt with the situation differently?

5. Nolan and Devenport were very close. Support the statement with evidence from the chapter 'The Case of Fifth Word'.

10. Answer the following question in 80-100 words.

According to Dr. Kurien “life is a privilege and it is wrong to waste it”. What is your opinion on this?