



THE LAIDLAW MEMORIAL SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGE,
KETTI.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2022

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS: VIII (8)
READING TIME: 5 MIN
WRITING TIME: 1 HR

DATE: 00/00/2022
TOTAL MARKS: 25
NO. OF PAGES: 04

a. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. [5 x 1 = 5]

When I was a boy there were many things that existed on earth for me. Of course, music was always important, the chief household deity of a family, musical by tradition. The central hall of our house was given over to the making of musical instruments for which my father and his father before him were famous.

Music vibrated there **constantly**, sometimes harmoniously and sometimes discordantly, quality of the very air of our house. I was only a child, perhaps four years old, when my father began waking me at four o'clock every morning to go down to the hall with him and take lessons from him on the tanpura, the harmonium, the sitar and even the tabla.

He could play them all and wished to see for which I had an aptitude.

I would display an aptitude that was never in question. My father taught me all the ragas, the raginis and tested my knowledge with rapid, **persistent** questioning in his unmusical grating voice

My father could see it clearly – I was a musician, not a maker, but a performer of music; that is what he saw.

There was a time when I cared more passionately for marbles than for music. How I loved my mother’s sweetness too – rather more than I did the nondescript (having no outstanding features) mumbling woman who made them.

Then, when I was older, there was a time when only the cinema mattered. I saw four, five, as many as six cinema shows a week, creeping out of my room at night barefoot, for silence, with money stolen from my father or mother or anyone clutched in my hand, then racing through the night in time for the last show. Meena Kumari and Nargis were, to me, the queens of heaven.

But all fell away from me, all **disappeared** into the shadows, on the side, when I met my *ustad* (an expert or highly skilled person, especially a musician) and began to play for him. He took the place of my mother’s sweet halwa, the cinema heroines, marbles, the stolen money, all pleasures and riches I had so far contrived (hard to believe, not natural or realistic) to extract from the hard stones of existence in my father’s house in the music lane. I found such satisfaction that I no longer wished for anything else.

(adapted from “The Accompanist” by Anita Desai)

- (a) Write the correct meaning of constantly as used in the passage.
- (b) What does the expression ‘all disappeared into the shadow’ refer to?
- (c) What did not happen after the narrator met his ustad?

(d) The narrator's father is a

(e) What has the author said about the importance of music for him and his family?

b. Write a letter to the Chief Minister of your state drawing his attention to the urgent need for a Government Hospital in your district. [10]

c. Grammar

(i) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate tenses:

[10 x 1/2 = 5]

1. Our holiday..... (start) on 15th December.
2. She (learn) music for the past six months.
3. Mrs. Rao (teach) us for two hours now.
4. The bus just (arrive).
5. I am (go) for a doctor this very hour.
6. Fatima(pay) the electricity bills already.
7. Why do you look tired? I (work) all night.
8. Shakespeare (say), "All the world's a stage."
9. He (study) at night.
10. She tennis this Sunday. (play)

ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions.

[10 x 1/2 = 5]

1. The river is flowing the bridge.
2. She has no excuse..... not coming to the function.
3. If Eva is not careful, she will lagin her schedule.

4. There is someone.....the door.
5. Ali took his cap and wiped his face.
6. The phoenix is a legendary bird that rises..... its ashes.
7. He was pressure to complete the work.
8. The five players quarrelled themselves.
9. Once upon a time a great King ruled..... all these villages and towns.
10. The cottage was nestled woodland on one side and pasture land on the other.