

## ***City International School***

**ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2015 – 2016**

**Date : 01/03/2016**

**Std : VIII**

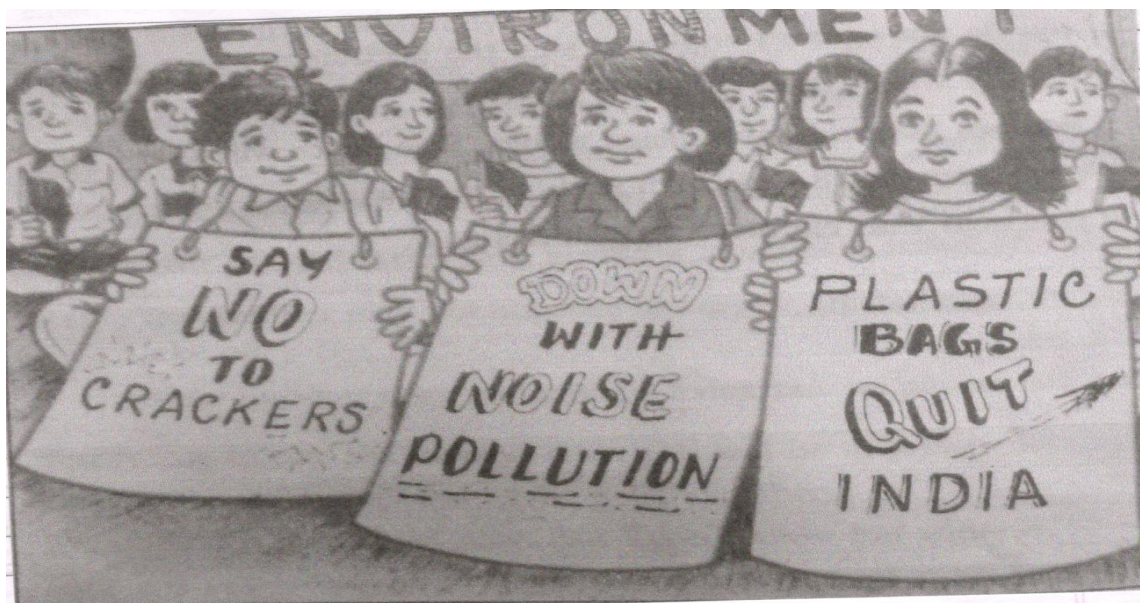
**Subject : English Language**

**Marks : 80**

**Time : 2 hrs**

**Q. 1 Write a composition 350 – 400 word on any one of the following. (25)**  
**(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question)**

- A school carnival or fete is a great occasion for fun with friends. Describe one such event in your school.
- A fighter pilot who is believed to be killed in action returns home four years later. Write a story on what awaits him.
- Write a story beginning with “I do not believe in ghosts.....”
- ‘Our fore fathers were luckier than us’. Give your views for or against the statement.
- Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition must be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it. But there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Q. 2 Write a letter on any one of the following. (10)**  
**(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question)**

- Write a letter to the Director of the Zoological Gardens complaining about the improper care and underfed state of caged animals. The careless and the casual behaviour of visitors and lack of proper supervision by the concerned personnels of the department. The letter should outline problems and suggest relevant solutions.
- While you were away from home, you received an email from your father.....  
“No news from you. Mummy worried. Write immediately.” FATHER.  
Write a suitable reply.

**Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Although Louis Braille died when he was forty three years old he succeeded in devising a system of reading and writing for the blind which is now taught all over the world.

Braille lost his eyesight accidentally as a child. Nevertheless he was able to complete his education at a school for the blind at Paris and became a teacher. In his days, the few books that were available for the blind people were printed in big raised type. The letters used were those of the ordinary alphabets. The reading of such books required immense effort. Not only that writing was almost impossible, for a blind person was still restricted to the alphabet which was extraordinarily difficult to reproduce on paper. Braille's idea was to use raised dots instead of raised letters. He evolved a system which made use of only six dots in all. By various combination of these dots it not only proved possible to represent each letter in the alphabet, but punctuation marks, numbers and musical notations as well. Reading and writing have been thus enormously simplified. The sensitive fingers of a blind person can travel rapidly over the dots and there is a small machine, something like typewriter, which enables the blind person to write quickly and clearly.

Improvements are being continually made on the system though basically it is the same as that contrived by Braille. Large raised dots, printed on one side of a page only, make many books for the blind cumbersome. A single book in ordinary print runs into several volumes when it is transcribed into the dot system. Furthermore the books that are used in lending libraries for the blind eventually become unreadable. The dots are subjected to a great deal of wear and tear, and finally disappear, so that the book becomes useless. A machine has now been invented that fires plastic dots on to paper, instead of just making depressions in the pages. These dots do not wear out at all, and there is no danger of them coming unstuck. Since it is possible by this means, to make use of both sides of a page, books for the blind are now less bulky. This new way of 'dotting' pages can also be used for such things as the production of atlases with the outline of countries clearly imprinted.

Though many important inventions like radio have brought great benefit to the blind, Braille's system remains the greatest landmark of all. It has provided a simple means for producing books and even newspapers, and ensured that no blind person need spend his life in ignorance as well as darkness.

- a. Three words are given below. Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answers or short phrases will be accepted. (3)
- i. devising                      ii. cumbersome                      iii. transcribed
- b. Answer the following questions in your words.
- i. Why was reading and writing difficult for the blind before Braille's invention? (3)
- ii. How did Louis Braille manage to simplify reading for the blind? (3)  
How was it possible to represent all the letters of the alphabet by using dots?

- iii. What enables a blind person to write quickly and clearly? (2)
- iv. State two disadvantages of the dot system. (2)
- v. Why is Braille's system considered to be one of the greatest inventions? (2)
- c. In not more than 60 words of your own, describe the advantages of the new method of dotting pages and show how it has overcome the disadvantages of the earlier system. (8)
- d. Give a title to your summary of 3(c). State a reason to justify your choice. (2)

#### Q. 4 Grammar.

- a. In the following passage fill in each of the numbered blank with the correct form of word given in bracket. (Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word appropriate to the blank space). (4)

Example: (0) Waved

The manager \_\_\_\_ (0) \_\_\_\_ (wave) his hand towards the chair on the other side of the desk and \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ (told) Henry \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ (take) a seat. "I \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ (wait) for a long distance call from Manchester," he \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ (explain). The telephone \_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_ (ring) just as he \_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_ (speak). The manager \_\_\_\_ (7) \_\_\_\_ (pick) up the receiver and for sometime \_\_\_\_ (8) \_\_\_\_ (speak) rapidly and impatiently into the telephone.

- b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. (4)
  - i. They are talking \_\_\_\_\_ her behaviour.
  - ii. The people protested \_\_\_\_\_ the hike in railway fares.
  - iii. She prides herself \_\_\_\_\_ her charms.
  - iv. I sympathise \_\_\_\_\_ you in your sorrow.
  - v. I have voted \_\_\_\_\_ this independent candidate.
  - vi. Poverty is often a great hindrance \_\_\_\_\_ success in life.
  - vii. The business failed for want \_\_\_\_\_ funds.
  - viii. The onlookers were amused \_\_\_\_\_ the juggler's feats.

- c. Join each of the following pair of sentences without using 'and', 'but', or 'so' (4)
- i. He is being victimized. He still keeps a level head.
  - ii. Do your work properly. Leave my service.
  - iii. He is going to Paris. He will start business there.
  - iv. Give him some water to drink. He will die of thirst.
- d. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary; but do not change the meaning of the sentences:- (8)
- i. Avoid easy solutions.  
(End: ..... avoided)
  - ii. "Do you really come from China", said the prince.  
(Begin with : The prince asked .....)
  - iii. He speaks too fast to be understood.  
(Use: so .....that)
  - iv. He was happy to leave the house.  
(Rewrite using happily)
  - v. Very few cities in India are as big as Mumbai.  
(Begin with: Mumbai is .....)
  - vi. As soon as we reached the church, the mass began.  
(Begin with: No sooner .....)
  - vii. If he does not pay attention, he will not understand anything.  
(Begin with: Unless ... ..)
  - viii. All the girls applauded him for a splendid performance.  
(Begin with: He was .....)