



**108RD**

**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2019-20**

**Class: VIII**

**Marks: 60**

**ENGLISH**  
**Section A- Reading**

**Time: 2 hrs**

**I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Thoughts are potent. The power of thoughts can help us achieve our goals. Those who want to succeed are driven by thoughts that it is possible and that they can gain the skills to be successful, which in turn inspires them to achieve that goal.

If we take the road of positive thinking, whether for others, or by thinking positively about our goals ourselves, it will lead to success. However, if we listen to negative comments of others, or our own negative self-talk in our minds, we may become discouraged, give up and not reach our goals.

The spiritual path is one that leads us to firsthand experience of God. The practice that leads us there is meditation. To meditate properly, one need to still one's mind so no thoughts intervene with our focus of gazing within. To be successful, we need to put in time and have a positive attitude to keep practicing day after day. A positive attitude will prevent us from giving up.

Negative thinking brings thoughts of sadness, anger, depression, disillusionment, of despair. Once we are in that cycle, it is hard to emerge. When we become negative, we may think meditating is useless and that we may never reach our goal. How can we keep our thoughts positive, especially when faced with so many difficult challenges in life?

When we wake up in the morning and meet our family, let us keep positive thoughts before us. When we go to work, let us focus on the positive things people do and say. Let us overlook any negativity that happens. In this way we can move forward spiritually and also in the mundane sphere of life. We will feel better physically and mentally because we are not stressed by the negativity. We will not be burdened with thoughts of anger and vengeance. We can sail through life happily and peacefully.

Optimism is the ability to see the bright side of the situation and live as if that would happen. Too many of us are pessimists. We tend to look at the bleak side of everything.

So, optimism is important for those reading the spiritual path. If we are optimistic about achieving the goal of merger of our soul with God, then we will put in daily time for meditation. Optimism can help motivate us to do our daily meditation until we perfect the art.

**A. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following. (4)**

- a) Find the synonym of 'distress' from para 4  
i) start      ii) intervene      iii) meditate      iv) despair
- b) The antonym of 'worldly' as given in para 5 is \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Find the correct word from para 1 that is closest in meaning to 'powerful'  
i) Strong      ii) potent      iii) important      iv) useful
- d) The synonym of 'unhappiness' as given in para 4 is \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each. (3x2=6)**

- a) How can power of thoughts help us achieve our goals?
- b) What do we need to meditate properly?
- c) What is 'optimism'? Do you think that it will make our life happy?

### **Section B- Writing & Grammar**

**II. The problem of obesity is also affecting the younger generation. According to a recent survey, around 15 % of school and college students are overweight and obese. Obesity can lead to serious health problems like diabetes and hypertension.**

**Write an article on "Obesity in School Children". You are Varun/Vanitha. (6)**

**III. Your school has organized an Art and Craft Workshop next month. Write a notice informing the students about it and how they may participate in it. (6)**

**IV. Fill in the blanks with suitable sentence connectors. (4)**

- a) Amol is hard-working, \_\_\_\_\_ he won the first place.
- b) Sohini is tired \_\_\_\_\_ she didn't sleep well last night.
- c) Can you please lay the table \_\_\_\_\_ we heat the dinner?
- d) The engineers said the bridge was now safe, \_\_\_\_\_, no one wanted to risk crossing it.

**V. Fill in the blanks with suitable words to complete the clauses. (4)**

- a) .....he was not there, I left a message with his mother.
- b) She was so tired.....she could barely stand.
- c) He doesn't understand what you said.....he doesn't know English very well.



d) Lata spoke slowly.....Garima would understand.

**VI. Rewrite these sentences to make their meaning clear. (4)**

- a) Wagging its tail the dog bit the postman.
- b) Being a good boy he helped his mother in the kitchen.
- c) Watching the news every day we know what's going on in the world.
- d) Not feeling well I didn't go to the cinema.

**VII. Use modals to make sentences with these groups of words. (4)**

- a) doctor/available/tomorrow/?
- b) you/iron/shirt/today
- c) go/long walks/mornings/summer
- d) go/home/for/dinner

**Section C - Literature**

**VIII. Read the extract and answer the following questions. (2)**

- a) And yet the fire is cold, my dear  
as any cold night would warn you.
  - i. Which fire is being referred to here?
  - ii. Why is the fire 'cold'?

**IX. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words. (7x2=14)**

- a) Why do cricketers think it is unreasonable for them to be considered ambassadors of their country?
- b) Why were the villagers filled with 'dark despair'?
- c) Why did Sudha Murty leave her job at TELCO?
- d) Whom did D'Artagnan's father want him to meet? Why?
- e) Why did Mr Nuttel run at the sight of the three figures?
- f) What danger did Hubert encounter?
- g) What was the bond that Antonio signed with Shylock?

**X. Answer the following questions in about 80-100 words. (2x3=6)**

- a) Describe dinner time at the chateau in your own words. How did it arouse the narrator's suspicions?
- b) Describe how Portia turned the case against Shylock.