

The City School

Unified Mid-Year Examinations

2018 - 2019

Class 9



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2

1123/22

1 hour 45 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the **two** reading passages.

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

Passage 1

Multiculturalism

- 1.** Multiculturalism can be defined as cultural diversity or the evolution of it, where people from different ethnicities coexist; it can also refer to an integrative policy adopted by a multicultural nation.
- 2.** A multicultural society has much more to offer to its habitants and develops ways to accommodate the people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. There have been changes in the syllabus of subjects, like history, to accommodate a more comprehensive and broader version of the past events. This can be seen as giving more exposure to children, wherein they learn about different perspectives on a given topic. Kids are educated about equality, and thus develop an attitude against racism.
- 3.** Employees coming from various cultures can contribute with a wider range of perspectives on an assignment. A mix of cultural experiences helps in problem-solving, and can create a strong team. Having a diverse group of workers always enriches the office environment, improving the work culture. These service industry giants, specifically the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) manufacturers, have benefited greatly from globalisation. A diverse population employed by these companies in different countries helps them capture global markets, increase customer base across nations, and earn profits easily.
- 4.** Multi-ethnic countries are home to majority of immigrants, a significant population of it being a highly educated skilled workforce. For example, students coming from Asia to the United States for higher education become part of the country's workforce. Besides their aptness for the job, a basic requirement, like knowledge of the English language, serves as an additional asset for both, the employer and the employee.
- 5.** Children from ethnic minorities or immigrant families would take time in getting accustomed to a new environment. This may get reflected in their academic performance, when compared with that of the local children.
- 6.** Although largely it is a benefit, managing a multicultural workforce is very demanding. Prejudices of employees may work against the people belonging to a minority. Encouraging cooperation among all the coworkers, especially in collaborating as a team, can be a task.
- 7.** Living in a multicultural society, even a cosmopolitan city for that matter, inculcate a fear among individuals or minority groups, that they would lose their original ethnic identities or lifestyle. Being influenced by other cultures or foreign belief systems, at times create a protectionist tendency among the citizens. The possibility of a social conflict occurs due to differences in religious beliefs and practices, ethnic rituals, or certain ways of life that may cause a rift between two or more groups. However, in those countries that have adopted multiculturalism as an integrative policy, it has been noticed that conflicts arose mainly during financial crisis and due to lack of social programme.
- 8.** Despite all the challenges a multicultural society paves opportunities for its citizens to excel; as it holds jobs, educational facilities and exposure to cultural diversity.

Passage 2

The Empty House

1. Certain houses, like certain persons, manage somehow to proclaim at once their character for evil. In the case of the **latter**, no particular feature need betray them; they may boast an open countenance and an ingenuous smile; and yet a little of their company leaves the **unalterable** conviction that there is something radically amiss with their being: that they are evil. Willy Nilly, they seem to communicate an atmosphere of secret and wicked thoughts which makes those in their immediate neighbourhood shrink from them as from a thing diseased.
2. And, perhaps, with houses the same principle is operative, and it is the aroma of evil deeds committed under a particular roof, long after the actual doers have passed away, that makes the **gooseflesh come and the hair rise**. Something of the original passion of the evil-doer, and of the horror felt by his victim, enters the heart of the innocent watcher, and he becomes suddenly conscious of tingling nerves, creeping skin, and a chilling of the blood. He is terror-stricken without apparent cause.
3. There was manifestly nothing in the external appearance of this particular house to bear out the tales of the horror that was said to reign within. It was neither lonely nor unkempt. It stood, crowded into a corner of the square, and looked exactly like the houses on either side of it. It had the same number of windows as its neighbours; the same balcony overlooking the gardens; the same white steps leading up to the heavy black front door; and, in the rear, there was the same narrow strip of green, with neat box borders, running up to the wall that divided it from the backs of the adjoining houses. **Apparently**, too, the number of chimney pots on the roof was the same; the breadth and angle of the eaves; and even the height of the dirty area railings. And yet this house in the square, that seemed precisely similar to its fifty ugly neighbours, was as a matter of fact entirely different? Horribly different.
4. Wherein lay this marked, invisible difference is impossible to say. It cannot be **ascribed** wholly to the imagination, because persons who had spent some time in the house, knowing nothing of the facts, had declared positively that certain rooms were so disagreeable they would rather die than enter them again, and that the atmosphere of the whole house produced in them **symptoms of a genuine terror**; while the series of innocent tenants who had tried to live in it and been forced to **decamp** at the shortest possible notice, was indeed little less than a scandal in the town.
5. When Shorthouse arrived to pay a "week-end" visit to his Aunt Julia in her little house on the sea-front at the other end of the town, he found her **charged to the brim with mystery and excitement**. He had only received her telegram that morning, and he had come anticipating boredom; but the moment he touched her hand and kissed her apple-skin wrinkled cheek, he caught the first wave of her electrical condition. The impression deepened when he learned that there were to be no other visitors, and that he had been telegraphed for with a very special object.
6. Something was in the wind, and the "something" would doubtless bear fruit; for this elderly spinster aunt, with a mania for psychical research, had brains as well as will power, and by hook or by crook she usually managed to accomplish her ends. The **revelation** was

made soon after tea, when she sidled close up to him as they paced slowly along the sea-front in the dusk.

"I've got the keys," she announced in a delighted, yet half awesome voice. "Got them till Monday!"

"The keys of the bathing-machine, or??" he asked innocently, looking from the sea to the town. Nothing brought her so quickly to the point as feigning stupidity.

"Neither," she whispered. "I've got the keys of the haunted house in the square? And I'm going there to-night."

Shorthouse was conscious of the slightest possible tremor down his back. He dropped his teasing tone. Something in her voice and manner thrilled him. She was in earnest.

"But you can't go alone?" he began.

"That's why I wired for you," she said with decision.