



## GRADE - IX I. G. C. S. E.

## **HOMEWORK**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

### ENGLISH

Read the following extract carefully, and then answer all the questions.

*The setting is a remote jungle in South America. The character in the story is being hunted by the authorities.*

#### MAN ON THE RUN

Now as the storm broke and he scurried for shelter he knew quite well what he would find – nothing.

The huts leapt up in the lightning and stood there shaking – then disappeared again in the rumbling darkness. The rain hadn't come yet: it was sweeping up from Campeche Bay in great sheets, covering the whole state in its methodical advance. Between the thunder-breaks he could imagine that he heard it: a gigantic rustle moving towards the mountains which were now so close to him – a matter of twenty miles. 5

He reached the first hut: the door was open and as the lightning quivered he saw, as he expected, nobody at all. Just a pile of maize and the indistinct grey movement of – perhaps – a rat. He dashed for the next hut, but it was the same as ever (the maize and nothing else), just as if all human life were receding before him, as if Somebody had determined from now on he was to be left alone – altogether alone. As he stood there the rain reached the clearing: it came out of the forest like thick white smoke and moved on. It was as if an enemy were laying a gas-cloud across a whole territory, carefully, to see that nobody escaped. The rain spread and stayed just long enough, as though the enemy had a stop-watch out and knew to a second the limit of the lungs' endurance. The roof held the rain out for a while and then let it through. The twigs bent under the weight of water and shot apart: it came through in half a dozen places, pouring down in black funnels. Then the downpour stopped and the roof dripped and the rain moved on, with the lightning quivering on its flanks like a protective barrage. In a few minutes it would reach the mountains: a few more storms like this and they would be impassable. 10 15 20

He had been walking all day and he was very tired: he found a dry spot and sat down. When the lightning struck he could see the clearing: all around was the gentle noise of the dripping water. It was nearly like peace, but not quite. For peace you needed human company – his aloneness was like a threat of things to come. Suddenly he remembered – for no apparent reason – a day of rain at the American college, the glass windows of the library steamed over with the central heating, the tall shelves of sedate books; that was peace. He had made his own world, and this was it – the empty broken huts, the storm going by, and fear again – because he was not alone after all. 25

Somebody was moving outside, cautiously. The footsteps would come a little way and then stop. He waited, lacking energy, and the roof dripped behind him. He thought of the man who had been following him, padding around the city, seeking a really cast-iron occasion for his betrayal. A face peered round the hut door at him and quickly withdrew – an old woman's face, but he could never tell with people in this part of the world – she mightn't have been more than twenty. He got up and went outside; she scampered back from before him in her heavy sack-like skirt, her black plaits swinging heavily. Apparently his loneliness was only to be broken by these evasive faces – creatures who looked to him as if they had come out of the Stone Age, who withdrew again quickly. 30 35

He was stirred by a sort of sullen anger – this one should not withdraw. He pursued her across the clearing, splashing in the pools, but she had a start and she got into the forest before him. It was useless looking for her there, and he returned towards the nearest hut. It wasn't the hut which he had been sheltering in before, but it was just as empty. 40

- 1 (a) Why was the man in the story able to see the huts in the darkness?
- (b) From paragraph 2 give **two** words or phrases the writer uses to describe the way in which the rain moved towards the man. Explain what each of your words or phrases tells you about the rain.
- (c) What was stored in the huts mentioned in paragraph 3?
- (d) Re-read lines 16-18 ('The roof...black funnels.'). Explain, using your own words, why the roofs of the huts let the water through.
- (e) State **three** things the writer tells you about the appearance of the woman.
- (f) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by 'He had made his own world' (lines 27-28).
- (g) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by 'stirred by a sort of sullen anger' (line 39).
- (h) In line 11 why do you think the writer uses a capital letter for 'Somebody'?
- (i) Re-read paragraph 3. Choose **two** phrases the writer uses to describe the rain and explain what each of these suggests about it.
- (j) Re-read the extract and then write a summary of what the man in the passage did and thought. (Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words.)
- 2 After this episode, the man falls asleep in the hut. Write a continuation of the story, describing the scene when he wakes up the next morning and what happens next. You should include details of both his actions and what he thinks. You should base your ideas on what you have read in the passage, but do not copy from it.

You should write between 1 and 1½ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

(Up to ten marks will be given for the content of your answer, and up to ten marks for the quality of your writing.)

**1** Imagine you are the writer of Passage A.

Write a diary entry in which you explore your thoughts and feelings about the trip so far. You will be sending your diary entry to your friends and family.

In your entry include

- the impact of the landscape
- your reactions to people and places.

You should write between 1½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

**2** Re-read the descriptions of:

**(a)** the hotel in Bahia Blanca and the housing in the village, in paragraphs 1 and 4.

**(b)** the woman and her son in paragraph 3.

By referring closely to the language used by the writer, explain how he makes these descriptions effective.

## Part 2

**Question 3** is based on both **Passage A** and **Passage B**. Read **Passage B** and re-read **Passage A**.

### Passage B

*This passage is about the wind, the deserts and the changing lifestyles of the sheep farmers in Patagonia. The word 'steppe' refers to a large area of land without trees.*

#### Land of the living wind

Their manes rippling, horses roam free in Patagonia, the Big Sky country of southern Argentina and Chile, where granite peaks crown glacial lakes, and the dreams of new pioneers still have room to grow.

The wind chased me everywhere I went in Patagonia. It clogged my sinuses and sent the jeep slithering across the gravel roads as though on ice. Birds flew backward. Trees grew horizontally. The wind was a living thing. It could be violent, punching holes in glass windows or sending spirals of dust rising above the flat, dry steppe like miniature tomadoes.

On a plateau above Santa Cruz Valley I got out of the jeep to take a photograph and a blast of wind wrenched the door out of my hand, bending it backward with such violence that it sheared off the two welded brackets holding the door to the chassis.

At other times the wind had a feather touch. At a ranch near the Valdes peninsula, on the Atlantic coast, I watched as the wind caressed a piece of paper, moving it about on the ground in a circle like a magnet moving a ball bearing.

Until recently this vast, sparsely populated region in the far south of South America was a byword for remoteness – *finis terra*, the uttermost ends of the earth. Everyone I met had a different idea of the place. 'Patagonia,' said one sheep rancher in northern Tierra del Fuego, brandishing a sizzling lamb chop in the air, 'is everywhere you can taste this!'

Of all the changes blowing through Patagonia, none has had greater impact than the shifts of ownership and the use of land brought about by the collapse of the huge sheep farms (or *estancias*) of the Argentine tableland. Since the 1970s falling wool prices and desertification caused by overgrazing have brought the industry to its knees. Hundreds of *estancias* have gone out of business, while others have been sold to wealthy foreigners.

Set in the lee of a line of hills rising towards the Andes, Telken is, like all *estancias* in Patagonia, an oasis of green in a biscuit-coloured wilderness. It had taken me two days of bouncing and sliding along potholed gravel roads to reach the small towns near the *estancia*. For hours as I chased the horizon across the empty expanses, I saw no cars or buildings – just an ocean of grass and bushes, a dome of blue sky and an occasional grubby sheep. Gas stations were often hundreds of miles apart, and I marvelled at the skill of the pump attendants, who managed to get the very last drop into the tank.

As I drove along, a smudge of clouds stretched across the horizon. Rain was falling. But the heat rising from the steppe was so intense that the drops evaporated before they reached the ground. Lack of rain, the poverty of the soil and the winds that roar across Patagonia at up to 150 miles an hour, stripping mountains to bare rock, carrying topsoil away, and scything vegetation flat, have kept the region poor. Most towns are rough-and-ready frontier-style settlements consisting of a few dirt streets lined with shops providing only basic necessities.

The townspeople of San Julian do their best to make the place look good. Every morning a tanker drives down the central avenue watering the rosebushes, protected from the wind by a lattice screen. But there is no disguising the fact that the town has been battered by the decline in sheep farming. 'The *estancias* in this region used to employ 3000 people,' said Pablo Walker, the director of tourism, as we passed an abandoned three-storey building with elegant wrought iron balconies and classical columns, once San Julian's biggest department store. 'Now there are cowboys sweeping the streets or cleaning toilets.'

- 3 Summarise the features of the desert areas beyond the village areas and the cultivated plantations described in:
- (a) Passage A
  - (b) Passage B

You should write about 1 side in total, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to fifteen marks will be given for the content of your answer and up to five marks for the quality of your writing.

## **SCIENCE**

1. Read chapter 8 – Photosynthesis and answers question on Page 215.
2. Read chapter 89 – Leaves and answer questions on Page 217.
3. Revise chapter 76 – Balancing equations – Do questions on Pages 185
4. Physics – Do questions on page 128
5. Make 2 charts for the Soft Board: (choose any two topics from below)
  - (a) Medicinal Plants
  - (b) Disease Causing Micro Organisms
  - (c) Effect of change of concentration/ quantity of Raw Materials necessary for Photosynthesis

## **MATH**

- Prepare charts for soft board. Topics are:-
  - (a) Volume and surface area of various 3-D solids
  - (b) Laws of indices
  - (c) Perimeter and area of various figures
  
- Complete all exercises discussed in the class for Mensuration