

Entry Test

Academic Session 2019-20

ENGLISH

Total
Marks **25**

45 min

Class: IG-I(VIII)

Write in block letters:

Candidate Name

Date

Kindly read the instructions carefully;

- 1 Answers must be written in ink.**
- 2 Write the number of question distinctly before each answer.**

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Total Marks		Marks Obtained		Percentage	

Passage – Alice

1 One of the rituals of Alice's life was going shopping with her grandmother, Elspeth. She was allowed to hold the shopping bag which, despite its short handles, knocked Alice on the leg when she carried it. Only certain things went in it. Her grandmother explained that vegetables and soap shouldn't be in the same bag but tins and soap together were allowed. Peaches shouldn't go in the string bag, as they got bruised. Once, when Alice was carrying a box of eggs, she opened the lid to inspect them and they slid from her hands, breaking on the pavement in a shock of shattered shell and a viscous watery blur. 'Don't worry, don't worry,' said her grandmother, over and over again. On this particular day, Alice was holding the string bag, which she put over her head and pulled down over her body with the plaited handles, folding her arms under the webbing. When she wore it like that, did it not make her a perfect Net Man?

2 Elspeth met a friend and they talked for ages outside the antiques shop. Alice started to jiggle about as she held Elspeth's hand. Alice didn't like this friend much. Without stopping her conversation or even looking down, Elspeth twitched Alice's arm, which Alice knew meant she was expected to behave. Alice bent back the sole of her sandal under her foot. She tried not to look bored. Eventually, she extricated her fingers from Elspeth's, walked over to the window of the antiques shop and pressed her face to it. At first she was looking only at how tiny beads of moisture left a ghostly imprint of her nose and lips on the glass. Then she peered into the shop: it was very dark and strange things hung from the ceiling, but then she saw a glass cabinet, heaped with beads, earrings and rings, and Alice's apprehension gave way to exhilaration.

3 'Shall we go in and look?' asked Elspeth. Soon Alice was standing next to a table with a surface so polished that she thought that, if she touched it, ripples would circle out from under her fingers to lap at its edges. She looked around the dark red walls of this temple of wonders: feathered fans, gold-edged paintings, lampshades dangling strings of purple beads. Alice walked over to a carousel of clothes, dived down underneath it, and then resurfaced, surrounded by antique dresses and scarves. She ran her hand reverently down the clothes, and turned round and round, until dizziness started to smudge her vision.

4 'You must be Alice.' It was the shop owner, looming over the top of the carousel. He reached in and Alice felt him grip her underneath her arms before the floor fell away and she was rising towards a low red lantern covered with the writhing green

bodies of dragons, which was hanging from the ceiling. Then the floor was coming up to meet her again, and she was set down in front of the man. ‘Tell me,’ he said, ‘what do you like best in here?’ Alice didn’t hesitate, but pointed solemnly to the red dragon lantern.

5 He smiled and holding up a pearl necklace said, ‘When you came in, I was testing these to see if they’re real or fake.’ He put the pearls into Alice’s palm. ‘The best way to do this is to put them into contact with human skin,’ he explained. ‘If they are real, they start to glow.’ Enchanted, Alice watched the pearls for any signs of opalescent glowing. Suddenly the man whipped them out of her hand. ‘Maybe that method is too time-consuming,’ he said. ‘The other way is to rub them against your teeth. Real pearls feel like sand. Open your mouth.’ The shop owner rubbed the largest pearl against her two front teeth. Alice waited, spellbound. There was a grainy feeling, a kind of friction. ‘They’re real!’ she exclaimed.

6 The shop owner placed Alice on a dilapidated chair in front of a mirror, fastening the pearls round her neck. Elspeth appeared behind them in the mirror. ‘Alice,’ she said, ‘we must go. Give the man back his necklace.’ She turned Alice round and began unfastening the clasp.

7 ‘No, no,’ said the shop owner, ‘I’d like her to have them.’

8 ‘Don’t be ridiculous,’ said her grandmother, propelling Alice towards the door. ‘Are you running a business or what?’

Read the passage and answer all the questions below.

From paragraph 1

1 (a) What were Alice and her grandmother doing on that ‘particular day’?

..... [1]

(b) Give two of the ways in which the writer indicates that Alice was only a little girl.

i).....

(ii)[2]

(c) How can we tell that Elspeth is a caring grandmother?

.....
[1]

From paragraph 2

2 (a) Before she ‘extricated her fingers from Elspeth’s’, in what two ways was Alice misbehaving?

(i).....

(ii) [2]

(b) ‘Tiny beads of moisture left a ghostly imprint’ of her nose and lips on the glass. Without using the words of the passage, explain exactly what is happening here.

.....
[2]

(c) Explain in your own words how Alice’s feelings changed as she looked at the ‘glass cabinet’.

.....

[2]

From paragraph 3

3 (a) Inside the antiques shop, Alice saw a table with a ‘polished’ surface. What did the surface of the table remind her of?

.....[1]

(b) Alice thought of the antiques shop as a ‘temple of wonders’. Pick out and write down the single word used later in the paragraph which continues this idea of ‘temple’.

..... [1]

From paragraph 4

4 (a) Explain precisely the two methods, according to the shop owner, for deciding whether pearls are real pearls or fake.

(i).....

(ii).....[2]

(b) Alice was ‘enchanted’. Pick out and write down the single word used later in the paragraph which continues the idea of ‘enchanted’.

.....[1]

Write an Essay on any one of the following topics

[10]

Word limit = 200-300 words

- 1- Describe the scene, and your thoughts and feelings, when you arrived in a country or city you were visiting for the first time.
- 2- “As he became conscious, he realized that he was lying on an operating table and faces in white masks were peering down at him.....” Continue this story.
- 3- Do grades reflect abilities of students?