

This paper consists of three sections:

Section A	Reading	5 marks
Section B	Writing	3 marks
	Grammar	4 marks
Section C	Literature	8 marks

General instructions:

- 1) All questions are compulsory.
- 2) All the questions of the particular section must be attempted in the correct order.
- 3) Wherever necessary copy the complete sentence.
- 4) Marks will be deducted for untidiness.

SECTION - A (Reading)

- 1 Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5 marks)

There is something disarming about Maria Sharapova, something at odds with her ready smile and glamorous attire. And that something in her lifted her on Monday, 22 August 2005 to the world's number one position in women's tennis. All this happened in almost no time. Poised beyond her years, the Siberian born teenager took just four years as a professional to reach the pinnacle. However, the rapid ascent in a fiercely competitive world began nine years before with a level of sacrifice few children would be prepared to endure.

Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. That trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom. But it also required a heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother Yelena. The latter was compelled to stay back in Siberia because of visa restrictions. The nine-year-old girl had already learnt an important lesson in life-that tennis excellence would only come at a price.

"I used to be so lonely," Maria Sharapova recalls. "I missed my mother terribly. My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis-training going. So, he couldn't see me either".

"Because I was so young, I used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it."

"Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough. I learnt how to take care of myself. I never thought of quitting because I knew what I wanted. When you come from nothing and you have nothing, then it makes you very hungry and determined I would have put up with much more humiliation and insults than that to steadfastly pursue my dream."

- a) How many years did Sharapova take to reach the pinnacle as a professional?
- b) Whom did Maria Sharapova miss terribly? Why?
- c) What penalty did Maria Sharapova have to pay, being younger than the other players?
- d) What lesson did Sharapova learn in life?
- e) What made her more determined and mentally tough to not quit the game?

SECTION – B (Writing & Grammar)

2. You are Navjot/Nayan of Class VIII-C, St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School. You wish to sell your previous year's Social Studies and Mathematics text books. They are in quite a good condition. Put up a notice on the school notice board informing your schoolmates about it. Any student who wishes to contact you regarding the books should do so during the break. (3 marks)

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank number in your answer sheet. (2 marks)
- Iris walked away through a wood and upon a nearby hill. a) _____
 When she reached the top, she stopped but sat down b) _____
 on the fallen tree. The October afternoon was damp, c) _____
 and grey clouds promising rain. She was looking down d) _____
 into the valley.
4. Rewrite the following words/phrases into meaningful sentences. (2 marks)
- a) Light up / in every home / good / the lamp / books / magazines / and / of knowledge
 b) place / our lives / music / important / has / in / an
 c) spoil / broth / the / too / many / cooks
 d) the / weekend / people / can / love / down / be / themselves / because / and dress / they

SECTION – D (Literature)

5. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below: (3 marks)
- I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
 Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
 And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
 And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*
- a) What desire of the poet is expressed in these lines?
 b) What all does John Masefield ask for his journey?
 c) What does the phrase 'flung spray' mean?
6. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words. (3 marks)
- a) How did Bishan Singh strike a conversation with Airi? Why?
 b) Why do you think the other animals came to see the camel?
 c) What all can transform life from pessimistic to optimistic?
7. Describe the hurdles Gyanseng, Vikram Seth and Sui faced during their journey in the chapter 'By Road to Lhasa'. (2 marks)