

Dear student

In view of the prevailing lockdown, we are inviting you to keep in touch with your studies. In this regard we are posting you – on a weekly basis - specific tasks that you have to work out without fail. Worked solutions for Comprehension and exercises on grammar will be made available one week after the tasks are set. Make the most of your precious time.

Thanks.

**SECTION A: Reading [40 marks]**

**(1) Read the following text.**

**Martha's childhood**

My childhood was the happiest any girl could have. I felt free. Nothing tied me down, absolutely nothing. I could do what I wanted and hardly ever got punished. If I cried, my papa petted me and gave me money. When he locked me indoors I escaped through the roof. I was rude and talked back to everyone because I felt that I was my father's favourite. I gave my stepmothers and the women who worked for us a hard time. Most of them didn't stay long, Enoe and La Chata remained for 4 or 5 years. But I made them cry, and Elena, my first stepmother cried too.

My friends looked up to me and made me feel like their chief. When we played baseball I decided where everyone was to go, no matter what we did, they had to get my agreement first. They saw that my father gave me the best of everything and that I had money and fruit to give out. That's why they were always coming by for me and asking me to play. I never lacked friends and I felt 'big' in my circle. From the start, I didn't like school and went out only to please my papa. I couldn't stand being shut up in a room and I cared nothing about learning to read or write or do sums. I spent three years in the first grade and another two in the second. At the end of the fifth grade, when I was fourteen years old, I quit. I never planned to be anything in life, like a nurse or a dressmaker. Tarzan was my favourite and I wanted only to be his companion.

I was a tomboy and played boys' games, marbles, dice and many others, depending on the season. Those were the only toys for me and I broke the dishes and doll furniture Consuelo kept so neatly in a box under the bed. I never played with girls. My papa treated us girls like royalty. He fed us, bought us clothes, sent us to school, and didn't let our brothers mistreat us. He hardly paid attention to them, except when we complained. Then he would grab them and beat them without mercy.

But I was not like Consuelo. She had a quiet life and had almost no friends. She couldn't go out like I did, because my father was always taking care of her. We argued a lot: when I came back from the bakery with an assortment of bread, she'd always snatch the kind I liked. When my father brought home fruit, I'd take the ones she wanted. She would hide the little boxes full of my things and if I knew which toy was her favourite I'd go and break it. I was always after her in a mean way. I'd tell my father when she went out, so that he would hit her. She did the same, because she didn't want me to run around like a tomboy.

**Answer the following questions.**

**Exercise 1**

**(a) Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. [5 marks]**

- (i) Martha had a really joyful childhood.
- (ii) Martha was a well-cultured and disciplined child.
- (iii) Martha was polite and gentle to all her servants and anyone around her.
- (iv) All the friends of Martha treated her like a princess.
- (v) Martha always listened to the wishes and choices of her friends because they appreciated the way she was.

**(b) Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph you find the following ideas. [4 marks]**

The Games of Martha

Consuelo's everyday life

Martha's childhood

Friends of Martha

**Exercise 2**

- (a) What happened when Martha cried? [1 mark]
- (b) What did Martha do when she was locked indoors? [2 marks]
- (c) Why was she rude to everyone? [1 mark]
- (d) Mention **two** reasons Martha gives for not liking school. [2 marks]
- (e) How was Martha different from the other girls? [1 mark]
- (f) How was Consuelo different from Martha? [2 marks]
- (g) In about 30 words, describe Martha as a tomboy. [5 marks]

**(2) Read the following text.**

Mathilde Loisel lives in a flat with her husband, who works as a clerk for the Minister of Education. Their lives are not luxurious, but they are not poor, merely simple. Mathilde, however, longs to be rich. She envies her friend Jeanne who has a large house and lots of jewellery.

One day her husband brings home an invitation to a ball. He thinks his wife will be excited to attend such a fancy party, but instead she is upset. She complains that she has nothing suitable to wear to such an extravagant occasion. Her kind husband agrees to give her the four hundred francs that he had been saving to buy a new rifle to get herself a gown.

The week of the party, Mathilde seems anxious again. When her husband asks her why, she frets that she has no jewellery to wear with her dress. He suggests that perhaps she could borrow something from her friend Jeanne Forestier. Mathilde goes to Jeanne's house and picks out a sparkling diamond necklace to borrow.

She and her husband attend the gala and have a fabulous time. She loves amazing and dances all night. Finally, they head home in the wee hours of the morning. When they arrive home, Mathilde realizes that the necklace is missing. They wonder if it fell off in the carriage that they took home, but neither of them noticed the number. Her husband goes out to search the streets but returns empty-handed.

To stall for time, Mathilde writes to her friend that she broke the clasp and is having it repaired. In the meantime, they find another necklace that matches the missing one, but it costs thirty-six thousand francs. Her husband fortunately inherited eighteen thousand francs from his father, but they will need to borrow the rest of the money. Finally, they have enough to purchase the replacement necklace and Mathilde gives it to Jeanne who doesn't even look at it.

The next ten years Mathilde's life changes dramatically. They move to a smaller apartment where she has to cook and clean for herself. She also does work on the side while her husband works multiple jobs to pay back all the money they borrowed. After the ten years, the money is all paid back, but Mathilde has aged a great deal.

One day she sees Jeanne Forestier on the street. She decides to tell her the truth about the necklace. Jeanne is stunned by Mathilde's rough appearance. Mathilde explains that it is indirectly because of Jeanne since she lost the necklace she borrowed from her and had to pay for a replacement. Shocked, Jeanne confesses that the necklace Mathilde borrowed was a fake, made of paste, worth no more than five hundred francs.

**Answer the following questions.**

1. What did her husband bring Mathilde that upset her? [1 mark]
2. M. Loisel gave his wife money. What did she plan on buying and what had he planned on buying before he offered her the money? [2 marks]
3. What did M. Loisel suggest to his wife when she said it was embarrassing not to have a jewel on her dress? [1 mark]
4. What did she borrow from Mme. Forestier? [1 mark]
5. What did she lose that night? [1 mark]
6. What lie did they tell to Mme. Forestier? [1 mark]
7. How did they get the money? [1 mark]
8. Explain the changes the Loisels made in their lives and how long it took. [2 marks]

9. How was Mathilde's appearance altered because of the life changes?  
[1 mark]
10. What happened at the end?  
[1 mark]
11. Explain the meaning of three of the following words underlined in the passage:  
 (i) luxurious  
 (ii) anxious  
 (iii) fabulous  
 (iv) dramatically  
 (v) confesses  
 [3 marks]
12. Choose **two** adjectives from the list below that best describe Mathilde.  
 [2 marks]  
 Brave      Beautiful      Generous      Discontent      Kind

### SECTION B: Grammar and Writing [60 marks]

#### Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

1. Where do you come \_\_\_\_\_?
2. My cousin lives \_\_\_\_\_ Norway.
3. They are walking \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge.
4. I don't like flying, so I went to Paris \_\_\_\_\_ bus.
5. You can stay \_\_\_\_\_ me tonight.

[5 marks]

#### Exercise 2

Punctuate the following.

mary is trying hard in school this semester her father said

[5 marks]

**Exercise 3**

**Your friend has written the following letter to her parents, but it is full of mistakes. The mistakes have been underlined for you. Correct them.**

Hi Mum! I am writting this letter to give you news of myself. I hope everyone are fine at home. Here things are fine. Life at the boarding school is a bit tidiuous at times though. The teachers are very striik. Yesterday, the teacher scolded me for not paying attention in his class! Itsoften like that here.

**[5 marks]**

**Exercise 4**

**Write the correct form of the verb in brackets**

1. When I opened my eyes, I ..... a strange sight. (see)
2. Every morning she ..... up early and gets ready for work. (wake)
3. If I knew what he wanted, I ..... this. (permit)
4. I ..... anything from her in a long time. (hear)
5. The headmaster ..... to talk to you. (want)

**[10 marks]**

**Exercise 5**

1. Are you coming to \_\_\_\_ party next Saturday?
2. I bought \_\_\_\_ new TV set yesterday.
3. I think \_\_\_\_ man over there is very ill. He can't stand on his feet.
4. I watched \_\_\_\_ video you had sent me.
5. She was wearing \_\_\_\_ ugly dress when she met him.

**[5 marks]**

**Exercise 6**

**You have just won a competition at school. In about 100 words, write about the experience. The following ideas may help you:**

- Which competition was it?
- Who helped you to prepare for it?
- Which prize did you win?
- How did you feel?

**[10 marks]**

**Exercise 7**

**Write an essay of around 200 - 250 words on one of the following:**

Either (i) The abandoned house

Or (ii) A day when you were extremely bored

Or (iii) Write a story based on the following:

“The day I had been waiting for had finally arrived ....”

**[20 marks]**



