

MODEL ENTRANCE TEST PAPER

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

GRADE: 8

TOTAL MARKS: 25

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

AVALANCHES!

Most people know that an avalanche is a large mass of snow that detaches from a mountainside and rushes down the slope, often at a very high speed. However, not everyone realizes that there are many different kinds of avalanches, with various causes and effects. Avalanches are categorized based on whether the snow is wet or dry, and whether or not it is compacted. The four most common types are: dry snow, wet snow, wet slab, and dry slab.

The least dangerous type is a dry snow avalanche, which is made up of powdery snow. A dry snow avalanche most often occurs on steeper slopes during a snowstorm when the temperatures are below freezing. Despite the fact that they can reach speeds of up to 255 miles per hour, these avalanches tend to be small, and their snow is loose, not compacted, so they are less dangerous. Yet even a dry snow avalanche can cause harm under the right conditions.

A wet snow avalanche differs from a dry snow avalanche in that it consists of loose partially melted snow and water. Wet snow avalanches generally occur during the springtime when temperatures are consistently above freezing and there is an abundance of both sunshine and rainfall. The warmer temperatures and the sun melt the outer layers of snow. The increased springtime rainfall saturates the snow with water, weakening the cohesive layers beneath the surface. The combination of these factors results in unstable conditions. Wet snow avalanches are the least common type of avalanche and they are much slower than dry snow avalanches, typically travelling at speeds of only 10-20 miles per hour.

Like a wet snow avalanches, a wet slab avalanche most often occurs during the spring, due to melting snow and increased rainfall. The additional moisture weakens the bonds between the water molecules of the snow. Daytime melting and night time refreezing of the ice and snow create ideal conditions for a wet slab avalanche. This type of avalanche is the slowest, generally travelling at a speed of no more than 10 miles per hour. But because the snow is compacted, not loose, a wet slab avalanche is still quite dangerous even at this slow speed.

The last type, a dry slab avalanche, is the most dangerous of all. It occurs when substantial snowfall accumulates over a layer of existing snow in a very short period of time. The stress caused by the weight of the newly fallen snow can make the compacted layer underneath break away. This creates a dry slab avalanche, which travels at speeds of 60-80 miles per hour. Dry slab avalanches account for roughly 90% of all avalanches-related casualties annually.

Millions of avalanches happen around the world each year, the vast majority of which occur naturally. However, nearly all of the avalanches that result in fatalities are triggered by either the victim or someone in the victim's party. Each year, approximately 150 people become casualties of an avalanche. Sadly, most of these avalanche accidents are preventable. The first step in preventing avalanche related fatalities is to be better informed about the various types of avalanches and the conditions under which they occur.

Answer the following questions:

- (i) What is the main purpose of the description given about Avalanche? (2 Marks)
- (ii) What does the author's purpose of this statement, "Yet even a dry snow Avalanche can cause harm under the right conditions." (2 Marks)
- (iii) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for saturates? (1 Mark)
- (A) soaks
(B) damages
(C) covers
(D) dehydrates

(iv) According to the passage, the main causes of wet snow and wet slab avalanches are (1 Mark)

- (A) melting snow and increased rainfall
- (B) decreased rainfall and warmer temperatures
- (C) warmer temperatures and longer days
- (D) shorter nights and melting snow

(v) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that which of the following statements is true? (1 Mark)

- (A) Because it can travel at very high speeds, the dry snow avalanche is the most dangerous type.
- (B) All avalanches, whether they are travelling at 10 miles per hour or 255 miles per hour, can be very dangerous.
- (C) The speed at which an avalanche travels shares a direct correlation with the degree of danger it poses.
- (D) Most casualties occur from wet slab avalanches

(vi) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best antonym for ideal? (1 Mark)

- (A) predicate
- (B) flawed
- (C) unstable
- (D) suitable

(vii) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that wet slab avalanches and dry slab avalanches are the only two types that (1 Mark)

- (A) consist of compacted snow
- (B) travel at higher speeds
- (C) occur at unexpected times of the year
- (D) result from below freezing temperatures

- (viii) According to the passage, the avalanches capable of reaching the highest speed is the (1 Mark)
- (A) dry snow avalanches
 - (B) wet snow avalanches
 - (C) wet slab avalanches
 - (D) dry slab avalanches

- (ix) The main purpose of the final paragraph is to (1 Mark)
- (A) state the precise number of avalanches related casualties that happen each year
 - (B) describe how avalanches typically are triggered
 - (C) illustrate how tragic it can be to lose a friend in an avalanche related incident
 - (D) suggest a way in which readers can help prevent avalanches related accidents

- (x) An avalanche is just one example of a natural disaster. Can you think of any other natural disasters? Which one is the worst? Why? (6 Marks)

- (xi) Write an essay on the topic "Crime" (8 Marks)

Crime is increasing in some countries

You may wish to consider these things as:

- (i) Which crimes are serious and which are minor.
- (ii) Whether you think the punishment for committing crime in your country is strict enough.
- (iii) Some reasons; why people commit crimes and how they could be prevented.
- (iv) Why do you think in some places crime is on increase.
- (v) Do you think the much stricter punishment can reduce the ratio of crime.