

SASTRI COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SEPTEMBER CONTROL TEST – 2018
GRADE 8

GRAMMAR AND COMPREHENSION

EXAMINER: S. BHUGWANDIN

MODERATOR: S. MURUGAN

MARKS: 30

DURATION: 1 Hr

Instructions:

1. This paper consists of **TWO** Sections; **TWO** Questions and **FOUR** printed pages.
2. Rule-off after each Section.
3. Write neatly and legibly. Number your answers correctly.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

QUESTION ONE: Study the article below and answer the questions set.

Are You Smarter Than Your Grandfather? Probably Not.

1. IQ scores are increasing with each generation. In a new book, political scientist James Flynn explains why.
2. In the mid-1980s, James Flynn made a ground-breaking discovery in human intelligence. The political scientist at the University of Otago in New Zealand found that over the last century, in every nation in the developing world where intelligence-test results are on record, IQ test scores had significantly risen from one generation to the next.
3. "... either the people of today were far brighter than their parents or, at least in some circumstances, IQ tests were not good measures of intelligence," writes Flynn. Now, in a new book, **Are We Getting Smarter? Rising IQ in the Twenty-First Century**, Flynn explains the causes for this widespread increase in IQ scores, and reveals some new ones, regarding teenagers' vocabularies and the mental decline of the extremely bright in old age. Ultimately, Flynn concludes that human beings are not smarter—just more modern.
4. Malcolm Gladwell explains why the "Flynn effect," as the trend is now called, is so surprising. "If we work in the opposite direction, the typical teenager of today, with an IQ of 100, would have grandparents with average IQs of 82—seemingly below the threshold necessary to graduate from high school," he wrote in a New Yorker article in 2007. "And, if we go back even farther, the Flynn effect puts the average IQs of the schoolchildren of 1900 at around 70, which is to suggest, bizarrely, that a century ago the United States was populated largely by people who today would be considered mentally retarded."
5. In the last half-century, what have the IQ gains been in America? The overall gain is about 3 points every 10 years, which would be 9 points in a generation. That is highly significant.

Do IQ gains mean we are more intelligent than our ancestors?

6. What is important is how our minds differ from those of people 100 years ago, not whether we label it “smarter” or “more intelligent.” I prefer to say our brains are more modern.
7. Our modern brains actually look different. We have discovered that the brain is like a muscle. A weightlifter has very different muscles than a swimmer. Similarly, we exercise different portions of our brains in a way our ancestors didn't. They might have had better memories than we do, so they would have a larger hippocampus [a part of the brain that forms, processes and stores memory]. But, we would have exercised certain areas in the prefrontal lobes more than they did. So, those things would be enlarged.
8. What all this boils down to, according to Flynn, is that we are not more intelligent than our grandfathers. However, we exercise different parts of our brain than our grandfather did.

GLOSSARY: IQ – Intelligence Quotient: A total score derived from a series of tests designed to measure human intelligence. The average score ranges between 85 – 115.

QUESTIONS:

Refer to paragraphs 1 and 2.

1. What has James Flynn discovered about IQ scores? (2)

Refer to paragraph 3.

- 2.1. Discuss the two possible explanations for this development according to Flynn. (2)
- 2.2. Which explanation do you think is correct? Give a reason. (1)
- 3.1. What is the title of Flynn's new book? (1)
- 3.2. Relate what the book reveals about IQ scores. (2)

Refer to paragraph 4.

4. According to Malcolm Gladwell, why is the “Flynn Effect” surprising? (3)

Refer to paragraph 5.

5. How has the IQ of the American people changed in the last 50 years? (2)

Refer to paragraphs 6 and 7.

6. Elaborate on what the writer means by “Our brains are more modern,”? (3)

7. Are we more intelligent than our grandfathers? (2)
- [20]

SECTION B: GRAMMAR
QUESTION TWO: SUMMARY WRITING

You are preparing a seminar on how parents and teachers can encourage healthy brain development and functioning. Summarise the article below into **7 main points**. Number your points separately. (Exclude instructions on how to perform the exercises) Your summary should not exceed **70 words**.

Brain Gym® Movement Exercises
Here are three simple Brain Gym® exercises to activate your child's mind for higher learning concepts. Each activity should be completed at the child's pace and for as long as the child needs to ensure the exercise is effective.

Cross Crawls: The purpose of this exercise is to improve communication between the right and left hemispheres of the brain for higher level reasoning (critical thinking, problem solving, auditory, organization and more).
Have your child or student stand up straight and lift their left knee. Instruct them to put their right hand on their left knee, crossing the midline of body. Then, have the child switch by lifting the right knee and putting the left hand on the right knee. Continue the exercise at least 10 times, at a minimum of three days a week.

Brain Buttons: Brain buttons are meant to stimulate blood flow to the brain and activate the Reticular Activating System (RAS), which is your child's internal alarm clock that tells the brain it needs to be awake for learning. Its purpose is to awaken the child and help them to stay alert, especially if they are sluggish, fidgeting, or are prone to low-energy or problems with attention and focus.
Have your child or student stand up straight and place one hand over their navel (bellybutton). At the same time, have your child take their thumb and index finger and place the two fingers directly under their collar bone (clavicle). Both hands should be on the tummy and the collar bone at the same time. This exercise is especially good for children before taking a test or big exam.

Hook-Ups: Hook-Ups are specifically used for children or adults that have great amounts of stress, anxiety, meltdowns or sensory overload. It's a great activity to calm the body and help your child control their breathing. You can complete this exercise standing (preferred), sitting or lying down on the ground.
If your child is standing, have them cross one foot over the other (legs always straight). Now, have your child stretch out their arms and cross them in front of their body. As they are crossed, have the palms of the right and left hands touch together and lock fingers.
Have your child loop the hands underneath the arms and pull the arms close to the chest (twisted into a pretzel).
Hold this position for 2 to 5 minutes or for as long as they need to calm the body.

[10]

