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English Literature Test – 20 Marks
Poem: "Nine Gold Medals" by David Roth
Time: 40 minutes | Maximum Marks: 20
Class: 9th

Section A: Reference to Context (8 marks)

Q1. Read the following lines and answer the questions. (4 × 1 = 4)

"The eight other runners pulled up on their heels
The ones who had trained so long to compete
One by one they all turned round and went back to help him
And brought the young boy to his feet."

1)Who was the young boy mentioned in these lines?
2)Why did the other runners stop running?
3)What does the action of the runners show about their character?
4)What lesson do these lines teach us?

Q2. Read the following lines and answer the questions. (4 × 1 = 4)

"That's how the race ended, with nine gold medals
They came to the finish line holding hands still
And a standing ovation and nine beaming faces
Said more than these words ever will."

1)Why were nine gold medals awarded?
2)What does "holding hands" symbolise?
3)What is meant by "a standing ovation"?
4)What is the central message of the poem?

Section B: Short Answer Questions (6 marks)

Q3. Answer the following questions in 30–40 words each. (3 × 2 = 6)

1)Why had the athletes gathered at the field?
2)What happened to the smallest runner when the pistol exploded?
3)How did the race change from a competition into an act of unity?

Section C: Vocabulary and Poetic Appreciation (6 marks)

Q4. Answer the following questions. (3 × 1 = 3)

1)What is the meaning of the word "anguish" in the poem?
2)What does the word "stumbled" mean?
3)Who is the poet of "Nine Gold Medals"?

Q5. Answer the following questions. (3 × 1 = 3)

1)What does the poem teach us about true sportsmanship?
2)Why is the title "Nine Gold Medals" appropriate?
3)Identify one important value highlighted in the poem and explain it briefly.

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