



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

TERM I 2026-27

ENGLISH SET1

Class: VII

Date: 02.09.26

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs.

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION - A READING (22 Marks)

I. Read the following comprehension and answer the questions briefly:

(12 Marks)

The Silent Architects of the Forest

Forests are often admired for their towering trees, colourful birds, and majestic animals. However, beneath the forest floor lives a hidden community of organisms that quietly keeps the entire ecosystem alive. Among the most important of these are fungi. Although many people think of fungi only as mushrooms, they play a far greater role in nature than most realise.

Fungi act as nature's recyclers. They break down dead plants, fallen leaves, and decaying animals into simple nutrients that enrich the soil. Without fungi, forests would soon become buried under layers of dead matter, and plants would struggle to obtain the nutrients needed for healthy growth. In this way, fungi ensure that nothing in nature is wasted.

Scientists have also discovered that certain fungi form remarkable partnerships with trees. Tiny thread-like structures grow around tree roots, creating an underground network through which trees exchange water, minerals, and even chemical signals. Some researchers refer to this hidden system as the "Wood Wide Web" because it allows trees to support one another during times of drought, disease, or insect attacks.

Despite their importance, fungi are often overlooked in conservation efforts. Deforestation, pollution, and climate change threaten these delicate underground networks. When forests disappear, countless fungal species vanish before scientists have even had the chance to study them. Protecting forests, therefore, means protecting not only the plants and animals we can see but also the invisible organisms that make life in forests possible.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

1. Why are fungi described as "nature's recyclers"? (1)

a) They produce oxygen for the forest.

b) They break down dead matter into useful nutrients.

- c) They protect animals from predators. d) They prevent rainfall from damaging trees.

2. The expression "Wood Wide Web" suggests that trees(1)

- a) grow only in forests.
b) communicate and share resources through underground fungal networks.
c) compete with each other for nutrients.
d) depend only on sunlight for survival.

3. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the passage? (1)

- a) Fungi enrich the soil by decomposing dead organisms.
b) Trees can exchange chemical signals through fungal networks.
c) Every fungal species in forests has already been studied by scientists.
d) Climate change threatens fungal communities.

4. Find a word from the passage which means "rotting or decomposing." (1)

5. Find a word from the passage which means "to get or gain something needed." (1)

6. Complete the sentence. (1)

The underground fungal network is compared to the "Wood Wide Web" because

7. Explain how fungi contribute to the survival of forests. Mention any two ways. (2)

8. Why do you think fungi are often ignored in conservation programmes despite their importance?

Answer in your own words. (2)

9. Imagine that the underground fungal networks disappeared completely. Using evidence from the passage, explain two possible effects this could have on forests. (2)

II. Read the following comprehension and answer the questions briefly:

(10 Marks)

The Remarkable World of Snowflakes

Snowflakes are tiny crystals of ice that form high in the clouds when water vapour freezes around small particles of dust. As they fall through the atmosphere, they continue to grow by collecting more water vapour. The temperature and humidity of the air determine the shape of each snowflake. This is why no two snowflakes are exactly alike.

Most snowflakes have six sides because water molecules naturally arrange themselves in a six-sided pattern when they freeze. Some snowflakes are simple and small, while others develop beautiful branches that resemble delicate stars or feathers. Scientists study snowflakes to better understand weather patterns, cloud formation, and climate.

Fresh snowfall plays an important role in nature. A layer of snow acts like a blanket, keeping the ground warmer than the freezing air above it. This protects the roots of plants and allows many small animals to survive the cold winter months. Snow also stores fresh water, which gradually melts in spring and supplies Rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

However, rising global temperatures are changing snowfall patterns in many parts of the world. Some regions receive less snowfall than before, while others experience unusually heavy snowstorms. Scientists continue to monitor these changes to understand how climate change affects weather and water resources.

On the basis of the reading of the passage, answer the questions:

1. Where do snowflakes form? (1)

- (a) In rivers (b) High in the clouds (c) On mountains (d) In forests

2. How many sides do most snowflakes have? (1)

(a) Four (b) Five (c) Six (d) Eight

3. What determines the shape of a snowflake? (1)

(a) Wind speed only (b) Temperature and humidity (c) Sunlight (d) Air pressure only

4. Find from the passage the word which means "carefully observe and record." (1)

5. Complete the sentence. (1)

Fresh snow stores _____, which melts during spring.

6. Which of the following is changing snowfall patterns? (1)

(a) Moonlight (b) Global warming (c) Strong winds (d) Forest fires

7. Mention any two ways in which snowfall helps nature. (2)

8. Why are scientists studying changes in snowfall? Mention any two reasons. (2)

SECTION B- WRITING & GRAMMAR

III. Writing Skills

(22 Marks)

1. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 100 words. [3 Marks]

A: You forgot to bring your science project notebook to school on the day of submission. Write an email to your class teacher explaining the reason, apologizing, and asking if you can submit it early tomorrow morning.

OR

B: You and a few classmates want to form an after-school Board Games Club. Write a short email to your school Principal requesting permission to use a spare classroom once a week.

2. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120 words. [4 Marks]

A: You tried cooking a dish for your family for the first time today. Describe the chaotic experience in the kitchen, how the food actually turned out, and how your family reacted.

OR

B: Today was your first day at a new school after moving to a new city. Write a diary entry expressing your morning jitters, how your classmates treated you, and how you feel about the change by evening.

3. Attempt any one story of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120 words. [7 Marks]

A: Starting line: "The streetlights flickered and went out completely, leaving the neighborhood in total darkness just as a strange melody started playing from the empty park..." Write a story following this opening.

OR

B: Write a story about a quiet, unassuming student who suddenly discovers they can hear what animals are thinking during a school trip to the local zoo.

4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 150 words. [8 Marks]

A: Write a newspaper report on a Flash Flood / Heavy Rainfall Chaos in your town that caused traffic gridlocks, closed schools, and saw local citizens coming together to help rescue stranded commuters.

OR

B: Write a letter to your School Principal requesting permission to organize a charity book drive in the school to collect old textbooks and storybooks for underprivileged children.

IV. GRAMMAR

(10 Marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those in the bracket.

(1 × 3 = 3)

Last weekend, my brother (i) _____ (visited / has visited / visits) the local science museum with his classmates. Next month, our teacher (ii) _____ (plans / planned / will plan) to organize a school trip to the nearby observatory. By the time we graduate next year, we (iii) _____ (will have completed / completed / complete) three major science projects together with our mentor.

2. Fill in the blanks using the correct tense of the verb given in the bracket.

(1 × 4 = 4)

Noah: Hey Maya! You look completely exhausted. Did you just come back from the field?

Maya: Yes! I (i) _____ (practise) for our upcoming annual sports meet when the storm suddenly started. (*Past Continuous*)

Noah: That sounds tough! How long (ii) _____ you _____ (train) with the team before taking a break? (*Past Perfect Continuous*)

Maya: I (iii) _____ (run) laps for nearly two hours straight before the coach finally stopped us. (*Past Perfect*)

Noah: Wow! Well, I hope you (iv) _____ (win) the gold medal at the tournament tomorrow. (*Simple Future*)

3. Complete the sentences using the correct form of Gerunds or Infinitives.

(1 × 3 = 3)

- i. _____ (Paint) is my favourite hobby, which I hope _____ (pursue) professionally in the future.
- ii. She avoids _____ (eat) junk food late at night because she wants _____ (maintain) a healthy lifestyle.
- iii. They are keen on _____ (visit) Japan next spring, as they really want _____ (experience) the cherry blossom season.

V. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for ANY TWO extracts, of the three, given.

(2×4=8)

A. Weavers, weaving at fall of night,

Why do you weave a garment so bright?

Like the plumes of a peacock, purple and green,

We weave the marriage-veils of a queen.

Weavers, weaving solemn and still,

What do you weave in the moonlight chill?

White as a feather and white as a cloud,

We weave a dead man's funeral shroud."

1. What sudden change do you notice in the atmosphere and feelings of the weavers between stanza 2 and stanza 3?
2. Why does the poet use the bright colors "purple and green" for the marriage veil, but "white" for the funeral shroud?
3. How does the time of day change from "fall of night" to "moonlight chill", and what stage of life does this change show?
4. Name the figure of speech in "*White as a feather and white as a cloud*" and explain what feeling the word "chill" creates in the poem.

B. " I chatter, chatter, as I flow

To join the brimming river,

For men may come and men may go,

But I go on forever."

1. Why does the poet use the word "chatter" to describe the sound of the brook, and what literary device does it show?
2. What contrast does the brook draw between human life and its own existence in the last two lines?
3. What does the word "brimming" tell us about the river the brook is flowing into?
4. How does the movement of the brook symbolize the journey of a person's life?

C. It was Monday morning. Swaminathan was reluctant to open his eyes. He considered Monday especially unpleasant in the calendar. After the delicious freedom of Saturday and Sunday, it was difficult to get into the Monday mood of work and discipline. He shuddered at the very thought of school: that dismal yellow building; the fire-eyed Vedanayagam, his class-teacher; and the Head Master with his thin long cane.

1. Why did Swaminathan consider Monday to be an "unpleasant" day in the calendar?
2. What phrase does the poet/writer use to describe the school building, and what feeling does it create about the school?
3. Name the two school authorities mentioned in the extract and state the physical feature or object associated with each.
4. What does Swami's reluctance to open his eyes reveal about his attitude towards school?

VI. Answer any FIVE of the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (2x5=10)

1. Quote the famous refraining line from the poem that highlights the contrast between human life and nature.
2. What stage of human life is represented by the garment woven by the weavers at fall of night?
3. How did Vedanayagam punish Swaminathan when he got his arithmetic sums wrong?
4. What is the relation between Mr Behrman and the young artists? What was his masterpiece?
5. What made the vacation in *An Unusual Holiday* distinct from a conventional trip?
6. What core quality or theme enables individuals to overcome extreme physical or mental challenges in *Pushing the Limits*?
7. Why did Ivan Dmitritch stop checking the newspaper immediately after seeing the winning series number (9,499)?
8. Where does the central conflict or twist occur in *An Unusual Holiday*?

VII. Answer in 150-200 words any ONE of the following. (8x1=8)

1. Both ***Indian Weavers*** and ***The Brook*** reflect on the journey of life. Analyze how both poets treat the theme of life, change, and the passage of time.
2. Both ***The Last Leaf*** and ***Pushing the Limits*** explore how individuals face overwhelming challenges. Compare and contrast how the theme of hope and perseverance during difficult times is developed in both texts.

*****ALL THE BEST*****