



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

TERM 1 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 1

Class: VIII

Date: 07.09.26

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains FOUR sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22marks)

1. Read the passage below and answer the following questions: (12M)

The solar system consists of the Sun and all celestial bodies that orbit around it, including eight planets, their moons, dwarf planets, asteroids, and comets. The Sun, a massive ball of hot plasma, is at the centre of our solar system and provides the necessary light and heat to sustain life on Earth. It makes up about 99.8% of the total mass of the solar system.

The planets vary greatly in size, composition, and distance from the Sun. Mercury, the smallest planet, has a diameter of about 4,880 km, while Jupiter, the largest, has a diameter of approximately 139,820 km. Saturn, known for its prominent ring system, is the second-largest planet. Venus, often called Earth's twin, has a similar size but a vastly different atmosphere.

Earth is unique because it has liquid water on its surface, supports a diverse range of life forms, and has an atmosphere rich in oxygen. Beyond Neptune lies the Kuiper Belt, home to icy objects and dwarf planets like Pluto. Understanding our solar system helps scientists study the origins of planets, space exploration, and the potential for life beyond Earth.

I. If the Sun makes up 99.8% of the solar system's mass, what can we infer about the gravitational center of the solar system?

- A. It shifts between planets depending on their position
- B. It is located very close to the center of the Sun
- C. It is equally shared by all 8 planets
- D. It lies outside the solar system

II. Venus is called "Earth's twin" in size, but has a vastly different atmosphere. What does this suggest about habitability?

- A. Size alone determines if a planet can support life
- B. Atmosphere and other conditions are equally important for life
- C. Twins planets always have similar climates
- D. Earth and Venus were formed at different times

III. Why is the study of the Kuiper Belt important for understanding the origins of the solar system?

- A. Because it contains the hottest objects in the solar system
- B. Because it has icy objects that are relatively unchanged since formation
- C. Because all comets originate from the Sun
- D. Because it is where new planets are currently forming

IV. Based on the data, if a new exoplanet was found with Jupiter's size but Earth's distance from its star, what would scientists most likely investigate first?

- A. If it has Saturn-like rings
- B. If its atmosphere and temperature could allow liquid water
- C. If it is made of plasma like the Sun
- D. If it is a dwarf planet

V. The Sun makes up about _____% of the total mass of the solar system.

VI. _____ is the smallest planet with a diameter of about 4,880 km.

VII. What percentage of the solar system's mass is made up by the Sun? (2)

VIII. Why is Earth considered unique in the solar system? Explain with two reasons from the passage. (2)

IX. Earth has liquid water and oxygen, while Mercury and Jupiter do not support life as we know it. What is the most critical factor this highlights? (2)

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10m)

The Egyptians have taught us many things. They were excellent farmers. They knew all about irrigation. They built temples which served as the earliest models for the churches in which we worship nowadays. They invented a calendar that survived with a few changes until today. But most important of all, the Egyptians had learned how to preserve speech for the benefit of future generations. They had invented the art of writing.

In the first century before our era, when the Romans came to Egypt, they found the valley full of strange little pictures which seemed to have something to do with the history of the country. The Romans, not interested in 'anything foreign', did not inquire into the origin of these queer figures. The last of the Egyptian priests who had understood the holy art of making such pictures had died several years before.

Seventeen centuries went by and Egypt remained a land of mystery. But in the year 1798, a young French officer decided to spend a few idle hours rummaging among the ruins of the Rosetta River. And behold! He found a stone which greatly puzzled him. Like everything else in Egypt, it was covered with little figures. But this particular slab of black basalt was different from anything that had ever been discovered. It carried three inscriptions. One of these was in Greek. The Greek language was known. He reasoned that if he compared the Greek text with the Egyptian figures, he would be able to find what they meant.

The plan sounded simple enough but it took more than twenty years to solve the riddle. In the year 1802 a French professor by the name of Champollion began to compare the Greek and the Egyptian texts of the famous Rosetta Stone. In the year 1823 he announced that he had discovered the meaning of fourteen little figures. He died a short time later, but the main principles of Egyptian writing had become known. Today, we possess a written record which covers four thousand years of chronicled history.

I. Why were the Romans unable to understand the Egyptian "little pictures"?

- A. The pictures were destroyed before they arrived
- B. The last priests who knew the art had died and Romans were not curious about foreign things
- C. The Greek language had not been invented yet
- D. The pictures were written in a secret code

II. What does the Rosetta Stone tell us about the importance of language in history?

- A. Only Greek was important for communication
- B. A single bilingual text can unlock the meaning of an entire lost civilization

C. Egyptian writing was less important than Greek writing

D. Stones were the only way Egyptians communicated

III. The Egyptians invented writing “to preserve speech for future generations”. What does this suggest about their society?

A. They wanted to keep records and pass knowledge to future generations

B. They did not care about history

C. They only wrote for religious purposes

D. They wanted to confuse future people

IV. Refer to **Paragraph 1** and give a word that means “lasted.”

V. Give the adjective form of the word ‘**benefit**’ _____

VI. Give the noun form of the word ‘**invented**’ _____

VII. Why did the Romans fail to understand the Egyptian writings? (2m)

VIII. What made the Rosetta Stone different from other discoveries in Egypt?(2m)

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22marks)

3. You recently purchased a laptop from an online shopping website. Within a week, it started overheating and shutting down automatically. Write an email to the Customer Care Department requesting replacement or refund. (3m)

4. As the Head Boy/Head Girl, draft a notice informing students about a Blood Donation Awareness Campaign. (4m)

5. Attempt any of the two options given below in about 120 words: (7m)

A. You visited an old age home with your classmates. Write a diary entry about the experience and what you learnt.

OR

B. You met a famous author/sportsperson/scientist during a public event. Write a diary entry about the experience.

POINTS TO BE INCLUDED

- mention where incident happened
- describe what happened
- mention your thoughts and feelings
- what you learnt

6. Attempt any ONE of the two in about 150 words: (8m)

a. A Hobby That Enriches My Life

OR

b. If I Could Change One Thing About Myself

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10marks)

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners. (3m)

Last Sunday, _____ students from our school visited _____ historical fort. _____ students carried water bottles and a snacks

8. Write whether the following relative clauses are Restrictive (R) or Non-Restrictive (NR). (3m)

A. My bicycle, which I bought last year, needs repairing.

B. The house that stands at the corner belongs to my uncle.

C. Mount Everest, which is the highest peak in the world, attracts climbers.

9. Do as directed: (4m)

A. It is **regular** to attend school only once a week. (Add the appropriate prefix to change the highlighted word)

B. The road was declared **legal** for heavy vehicles. (Add the prefix to change the highlighted word)

C. The school decided to (call off/out off) the sports day because of heavy rain. (Choose correct phrasal verb)

D. The flowers (give off/ bring on) a pleasant fragrance in the garden. (Choose correct phrasal verb)

SECTION D: LITERATURE (26marks)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, For any TWO extracts, of the three, given. (4×2=8)

**A. "I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest Sea;
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb of me."**

1. Write the name of the poem and the poet.
2. What do "chilliest land" and "strangest sea" represent here?
3. What does it never ask for?
4. What message does the poet convey?

**B. 'No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,
And we cannot go to sleep;
Besides, in the sky, the little birds fly,
And the hills are all covered with sheep.'**

1. Who is speaking in these lines?
2. Why do the children refuse to go home?
3. What natural images are mentioned in the extract?
4. What do the children's words reveal about their attitude towards play?

C. Most of us would rather live above the ground than below it. But in the Australian town of Coober Pedy, 60% of the people have chosen to live in homes like caves dug into the sides of the hills.

1. Where is Coober Pedy located?
2. What type of homes do most people in Coober Pedy live in?

3.What percentage of people live in cave-like homes?

4.Why is Coober Pedy different from most other towns?

11. Attempt any FIVE of the question given below:

(2×5=10)

1. How did the writer come to know about the history of Coober Pedy?
2. How is Mozart able to play his music without the music notes?
3. Describe how a leopard behaves when Tippi is in close proximity to it?
4. How does a cameraman describe the editing process in reality TV shows?
5. What are factors on which a well- rounded personality depends? Discuss in reference to ‘My Elder Brother.’
6. Why is Coober Pedy a town with a diverse culture?

12. Attempt any ONE of the two:

(4×2=8)

1. What would the poet be trying to say about the value of play and childhood? Write in reference to the poem ‘Nurse’s song’.

OR

2. What message is the poet trying to give about the nature of hope through the poem? (Hope is the thing with Feathers)

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