



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



TERM 1 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 2

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 carefully to answer the questions.

(12m)

Before conquering Rome, Caesar had to first reduce the East to obedience. Egypt was under the last descendants of Alexander's general Ptolemy, an ally of Rome, that is, the only remaining kingdom by permission. The king was a wretched lad; his sister Cleopatra, who joined with him in the throne, was one of the most beautiful and winning women who ever lived. Caesar, who needed money, demanded some that was owing to the state. The young king's advisers refused, and Caesar, who had but a small force with him, was shut up in a quarter of Alexandria where he could get no fresh water, but from pits which his men dug in the sand. He burnt the Egyptian fleet that it might not stop the succours that were coming from Syria, and he tried to take the Isle of Pharos, with the lighthouse on it. But his ship was sunk, and he was obliged to save himself by swimming. However, the forces from Syria were soon brought to him and he was able to fight a battle in which the young king was drowned, and Egypt was at his mercy. Cleopatra was determined to have an interview with him, and she charmed him so much that he set her up as queen of Egypt. He remained three months longer in Egypt collecting money; and hearing that Pharnaces had attacked the Roman settlements in Asia Minor, he sailed for Tarsus, routed and killed Pharnaces in battle. The success was announced to the Senate in the following brief words, "Veni, vidi, vici"—"I came, I saw, I conquered."

Appointed dictator a second time, Caesar came home to arrange affairs. There was still a party of the senators who had followed the old emperor to Africa, with Cato and Cnaeus Pompeius, the eldest son of

the great leader. Caesar went to Africa, defeating them twice at Thapsus and Utica. There, they would have stood a siege, but the townspeople would not consent. Cato sent off all his party and remained alone with his son and a few of his friends, not to face the conqueror, but to die by his own sword when he came.

I. Why did Caesar burn the Egyptian fleet in Alexandria?

- A. To destroy Egypt's economy
- B. To prevent it from blocking the Roman reinforcements coming from Syria
- C. Because Cleopatra asked him to
- D. To show his anger at the young king

II. Cleopatra "charmed" Caesar and was made queen. What does this suggest about leadership and power

- A. Military strength is the only way to gain power
- B. Personal influence and diplomacy can be as powerful as armies
- C. Caesar was weak and easily manipulated
- D. Women were not allowed to rule in Egypt

III. Cato chose to die by his own sword instead of surrendering to Caesar. What does this show about him?

- A. He was afraid of battle
- B. He valued honor and resistance over submitting to a dictator
- C. He had no other option left
- D. He wanted to join Pompey

IV. Caesar burnt the Egyptian _____ so it could not stop reinforcements from Syria.

V. The young king of Egypt was drowned in a battle and _____ was made queen by Caesar.

VI. _____ and Cnaeus Pompeius led the senators who opposed Caesar in Africa.

VII. Why Caesar had been appointed dictator more than once? 2

VIII. Describe Caesar's campaign in Egypt. How did he deal with the Egyptian king, Cleopatra, and the military challenges there? 2

IX. Explain how Caesar dealt with the opposition in Africa led by Cato and Pompey's son. What does Cato's death tell us about the political situation of Rome? 2

II. Read the following passage and answer the questions on the basis of your understanding of the passage **(10m)**

Among the most often repeated words in our daily lives is “thank you.” However, mechanical repetition of these words has robbed them of their essence—the heartfelt gratitude that the words seek to express. True thanksgiving goes deeper than mere words. It arises out of appreciation and gratitude—sometimes even for the gift of life out of a sense of wonder and humility, acknowledgement and submission.

Most of us can narrate a number of incidents when these words are uttered distantly and impassively. But very few would be able to recount even a single incident in the recent past when warm and heartfelt gratitude was either given or received. These golden words seem to have lost their true purpose and meaning in the hurly-burly of our busy schedules, leaving us with little time to think deeply or even from the heart.

Gratitude is more than just another emotion or expression of humility. It is an attitude, a way of life, even a gateway to a happy, positive and reassured life. Incredible as it might seem, this simple emotion has the potential to release positive forces like love, hope, compassion, humility, joy, reassurance and faith in an individual’s life. In the material world, gratitude is like a smile. If sincere, it transmits immense joy to both the giver and receiver. A heartfelt “thank you” can introduce joy and happiness even in those domains where there is a very practical exchange of money and services.

I. According to the passage, sincere gratitude can release

- a) fear and anxiety
- b) love, hope, and compassion
- c) jealousy and pride
- d) anger and disappointment

II. The comparison of gratitude to a smile suggests that both

- A. cost a lot of money
- B. are difficult to express
- C. spread happiness when genuine
- D. are always misunderstood

III. What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. The importance of earning money

B.The value of sincere gratitude in life

C.The benefits of busy schedules

D. The importance of following traditions

IV. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

A. Gratitude is more than an emotion.

B. Mechanical repetition has reduced the value of “thank you.”

C. Gratitude only benefits the receiver.

D. Sincere gratitude brings joy.

V. Gratitude is not just an emotion but also an _____.

VI. Gratitude is a gateway to a happy, positive and _____ life.

VII. Why does the author compare gratitude to a smile? Explain the effectiveness of this comparison.

VIII. In today’s busy lifestyle, what practical steps can people take to express sincere gratitude more often?

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22marks)

3. Your school is celebrating World Environment Day. Write an email inviting a well-known environmentalist to be the Chief Guest and requesting them to address the students. **(3m)**

4. As the School Captain, write a notice informing students about a Disaster Management Workshop. **(4m)**

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

a.You received an unexpected act of kindness from a stranger. Write a diary entry describing the incident and your emotions.

OR

b. You donated books and clothes to underprivileged children. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings.

POINTS TO BE INCLUDED

-where incident took place

-mention your thoughts and feelings

-what you learnt

6. Attempt any ONE out of the two options in about 150 words:

(8m)

a. Learning Beyond the Classroom

OR

b. Co-curricular Activities and Personality Development

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10marks)

7. Fill in the blanks with correct determiners:

(3m)

Yesterday, we organised _____ cleanliness drive in our locality. _____ students participated enthusiastically. There was _____ litter on the roads, so we collected it in bags

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

(3m)

A. The girl who won the painting competition is my sister.

B. My grandmother, who is eighty years old, still enjoys gardening.

C. The bicycle that has a flat tyre belongs to me.

9. Do as directed :

(4m)

A. His handwriting is so **legible** that no one can read it. (Add the appropriate prefix to change the highlighted word)

B. Lying and stealing are considered **moral** acts (Add the prefix to change the highlighted word)

C. We should (bring up/ call off) this issue during tomorrow's meeting. (Choose correct phrasal verb)

D. The plane (took off/ put off) on time despite the cloudy weather. (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)

1. 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.

A.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?

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. ”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?

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*******

