



**BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION  
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS  
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
MID TERM 2024-25**



**ENGLISH MS**

**Class: VIII**  
**Date: 25.09.24**  
**Admission no:**

**Duration: 3 hours**  
**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 (20 marks)**

**I. Read the passage and answer the questions. (1X10=10)**

Ancient Egypt was one of the world's earliest and most fascinating civilizations. It developed along the Nile River, which provided water and fertile soil for farming. The Nile's predictable flooding ensured that crops could be grown reliably. This stability allowed Egyptian society to develop complex structures and cultural practices.

The Egyptians are well-known for their monumental architecture, including the pyramids and the Sphinx. The pyramids were built as tombs for the Pharaohs, the kings of Egypt. These structures were designed to protect the Pharaohs' bodies and their belongings in the afterlife. The Sphinx, a large statue with the body of a lion and the head of a Pharaoh, was built to guard the pyramids.

The Egyptians also developed a system of writing called hieroglyphics. This system used symbols and pictures to represent words and sounds. It was often used for religious texts and inscriptions on monuments. The Rosetta Stone, a famous artefact, helped scholars to decode hieroglyphics by providing the same text in three scripts: Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphic.

Religion played a central role in Egyptian life. The Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses, each controlling different aspects of life and nature. The most important deity was Ra, the sun god, who was believed to travel across the sky in a solar boat.

**Questions:**

1. What was the purpose of the pyramids?
  - a) To serve as homes for Pharaohs**
  - b) To protect the Pharaohs' bodies and belongings in the afterlife
  - c) To store grain
  - d) To serve as marketplaces
2. What helped scholars decode hieroglyphics?
  - a) The Great Pyramid
  - b) The Rosetta Stone**
  - c) The Sphinx
  - d) The Nile River

3. True or False (1 mark)

a) The Sphinx has the body of a lion and the head of a Pharaoh. (**True**/False)

4. Fill in the Blanks (3 marks)

a) The Nile River provided **water** and **fertile** soil for Ancient Egyptian farming. (1 mark)

b) The Egyptian writing system was called **hieroglyphics** (1 mark)

c) Ra was the **sun** god in Ancient Egyptian religion. (1 mark)

5. Short Answer (4 marks)

a) Why was the flooding of the Nile important for Ancient Egypt? (1 mark)

The flooding of the Nile was important because it provided water and fertile soil for growing crops, which supported stable food production and societal development.

b) How did the Sphinx contribute to the protection of the pyramids? (1 mark)

The Sphinx was built to guard the pyramids and protect the tombs of the Pharaohs.

c) Name one aspect of Egyptian culture influenced by religion. (1 mark)

Religion influenced many aspects of Egyptian culture, including art, architecture, and daily practices.

d) Describe how the Rosetta Stone helped historians understand Egyptian writing. (1 mark)

The Rosetta Stone helped historians understand Egyptian writing by providing the same text in three different scripts: Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphic.

## II. Read the passage and answer the questions. (1X10=10)

In a small village nestled between rolling hills, there lived a kind-hearted woman named Maya. She was known throughout the village for her unwavering compassion and willingness to help others. Maya ran a small clinic, providing medical care to villagers regardless of their ability to pay. Her generosity extended beyond her work; she often brought food to the elderly and helped repair homes for those in need.

One winter, a severe snowstorm hit the village. Many homes were damaged, and several families were stranded without proper heating. Maya saw the suffering and immediately took action. She organized a group of volunteers to help clear snow from the roads, distribute warm clothing, and provide hot meals to those affected.

Despite her own small home being damaged in the storm, Maya never complained. Instead, she continued to help her neighbours, demonstrating that her compassion knew no bounds. The village came together to support each other, inspired by Maya's selflessness. Her actions reminded everyone of the importance of kindness and community.

In the aftermath of the storm, the villagers repaired their homes and lives returned to normal. However, the spirit of compassion and mutual support remained a lasting legacy of that difficult time. Maya's selfless deeds were celebrated, and her example continued to inspire others to act with kindness and empathy.

### Questions:

#### 1. Multiple Choice (1 mark each)

i) What was Maya known for in her village?

a) Her skill in farming

b) Her ability to cook

**c) Her compassion and willingness to help others**

d) Her talent in painting

ii) How did Maya respond to the severe snowstorm?

**a) She organized volunteers to help and provided assistance to affected families**

b) She complained about the damage

c) She moved to a safer place

d) She stayed indoors and did nothing

iii) What impact did Maya's actions have on the village?

a) The villagers became less united

b) The villagers focused only on their own problems

**c) The village was inspired to support each other and act with kindness**

d) The villagers ignored Maya's efforts

**2. True or False (1 mark)**

Maya's actions were driven by self-interest. (True/**False**)

**3. Fill in the Blanks (1 mark each)**

a) Maya ran a small clinic and provided medical care to villagers regardless of their **ability** to pay.

b) During the snowstorm, Maya organized volunteers to help clear **snow** and provide hot meals.

**4. Short Answer (1 mark each)**

a) Describe how Maya showed her compassion during the snowstorm.

**Maya showed her compassion by organizing volunteers to clear snow, distributing warm clothing, and providing hot meals to those affected by the storm.**

b) What lesson can be learned from Maya's actions in the passage?

**The lesson learned is that compassion and selflessness can inspire others and strengthen community bonds, making it easier to overcome challenges together.**

**5. Personal Response (1 mark each)**

a) Can you think of a time when someone showed compassion or kindness to you? Describe the situation and how it made you feel. (Answers will vary)

b) Reflect on a time when you helped someone in need. How did it affect you and the person you helped? (Answers will vary)

**SECTION B- GRAMMAR (15 marks)**

**III. Do as directed (1x15= 15marks)**

i) Choose the correct collective noun to complete the sentence:

"A \_\_\_\_\_ of birds flew over the lake."

a) team      b) **flock**      c) herd      d) bunch

ii) Fill in the blank with the correct past form of the verb:

"She \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a letter yesterday."

**Answer: wrote**

iii) Choose the correct non-finite verb form to complete the sentence:

"He was excited \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) his favorite author."

**Answer: to meet**

iv) Identify the tense of the following sentence:

"She will be going to the store later."

**Answer: Future continuous**

v) Change the following sentence to past perfect tense:

"They play soccer every weekend."

**Answer: They had played soccer every weekend.**

vi) Choose the correct modal verb to complete the sentence:

"You \_\_\_\_\_ take an umbrella, it might rain later."

a) **should**      b) might      c) can      d) would

vii) Choose the correct pronoun to complete the sentence:

"The teacher asked Alex and \_\_\_\_\_ to finish the project."

a) I      b) **me**      c) mine      d) myself

viii) Rewrite the following sentence in past perfect continuous tense:

"They were watching TV when the power went out."

**Answer: They had been watching TV when the power went out.**

ix) Complete the sentence with the correct form of the verb in past continuous tense:

"While I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book, my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (play) video games."

**Answer: was reading; was playing**

x) Fill in the blank with the appropriate modal verb:

"She \_\_\_\_\_ help us with the project."

**Answer: can**

xi) Identify the non-finite verb in the following sentence:

"The children playing in the park are my neighbours."

**Answer: playing**

xii) Choose the correct pronoun to complete the sentence:

"This book is \_\_\_\_\_ (your/**yours**)."

xiii) Replace the underlined noun with a pronoun:

"Lisa and Tom said Lisa and Tom would help with the project."

**Answer: they**

xiv) Choose the abstract noun from the options below:

**a) happiness**      b) desk      c) dog      d) book

xv) Identify the verb in the following sentence:

"The children **played** in the park."

### **SECTION C-WRITING SKILL(20 marks)**

#### IV. Message writing (4 marks)

**Question:**

Write a message to your friend, informing them about a surprise birthday party for another friend. Include details such as the date, time, location, and any special instructions.

**Marking Scheme:**

**Content (2 marks): All relevant details included (date, time, location, instructions).**

**Format (1 mark): Proper message format (date, salutation, body, closing).**

**Clarity and Language (1 marks): Clear and concise language, correct grammar and spelling.**

#### V. Letter writing (6 marks)

**Question:**

Write a formal letter to your school principal requesting permission to organize a charity event in the school. Include the purpose of the event, proposed date, and how it will benefit the community.

**Marking Scheme:**

**Content (2 marks): Clear purpose, event details, and benefits.**

**Format (1 mark): Proper letter format (address, salutation, body, closing, signature).**

**Language and Expression (2 marks): Formal tone, correct grammar,**

**Accuracy (1 mark): punctuation, and spelling**

**OR**

You are Suresh/ Sakshi of Sector 25, Nehru Nagar, Hyderabad. Write a letter to your friend describing the pleasant experience you had in your recent family trip to a hill station.

**Content (2 marks): Clear purpose, event details, and benefits.**

**Format (1 mark): Proper letter format (address, salutation, body, closing, signature).**

**Language and Expression (2 marks): Formal tone, correct grammar,**

**Accuracy (1 mark): punctuation, and spelling**

#### VI. Notice writing (5 marks)

**Question:**

Write a notice for your school bulletin board announcing the annual sports day. Include the date, time, venue, activities, and a contact person for further information.

**Marking Scheme:**

**Content (2 marks): All necessary details included (date, time, venue, activities, contact person).**

**Format (1 marks): Correct notice format (heading, body, date, contact details).**

**Clarity and Language (2 marks): Clear and concise language, proper grammar and spelling, and attention to notice conventions.**

#### VII. Speech writing (5 marks)

**Question:**

Write a speech for a school assembly on the topic “The Importance of Environmental Conservation.” Your speech should include an introduction, key points on why environmental conservation is crucial, and a call to action for the audience.

**Marking Scheme:**

**Content and Structure (2 marks):** Clear introduction, main points, and conclusion; well-organized content.

**Persuasiveness (2 marks):** Effective arguments and persuasive language.

**Language and Delivery (1 marks):** Correct grammar, spelling, and engaging language suitable for a speech.

OR

Write a short story in not more than 200 words with the beginning “One day I was sleeping in my room. Suddenly I had difficulty breathing. On waking up I found smoke coming into my room. I got up and opened my window. Peeping out I saw ... ..”

**Marking Scheme:**

**Format (1 marks):** Title and key elements of the story

**Creative content (2 marks):**

**Expression (1 mark) Coherence and relevance of ideas and style.**

**Accuracy (1 mark) Clear and concise language, proper grammar and spelling.**

**SECTION D – LITERATURE (25 marks)**

**VIII. Give meaning of the given words and frame a sentence using the word. (2x1=2)**

- i) Laconic : Using very few words; concise.  
**Sentence: Her laconic reply to the lengthy question left everyone in the room curious about her true thoughts.**
- ii) positronic : Related to positrons or a type of technology involving positrons; often used in science fiction to describe advanced robots or computers.  
**Sentence: The new positronic brain installed in the robot allowed it to process information at unprecedented speeds.**

**IX. Mark these sentences as true (T) or false (F). (2 X 1 = 2)**

- i) Jimmy could not handle lunar gravity because his parents were not moon born. **F**
- ii) Larry planned to smuggle the scorpion, so that he can watch them grow. **F**

**X. Answer these questions with reference to the context. (2 X 3 = 6)**

- i) *Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake.*
- a) Name the poem and the poet.  
**The poem is "Where the Mind is Without Fear" by Rabindranath Tagore.**
- b) What does ‘my father, let my country awake’ means?  
**It is a plea for the country to awaken to a state of freedom, wisdom, and enlightenment. The poet is calling for a transformation where the country is liberated from oppression and ignorance.**
- c) Describe the ‘heaven’ imagined by the poet.  
**The ‘heaven’ imagined by the poet is a metaphor for an ideal state of freedom and enlightenment. It is a place where the mind is fearless, where knowledge is pursued freely, and where the country is unified and forward-thinking.**
- ii) *He said, But what’s the difference how it acts? How about how I feel?*
- a) Who said these words to whom?  
**Jimmy said this to Mr Anderson (his father)**

- b) The words 'how it acts' refers to .....
- It refers to the way a real dog acts and behaves.**
- c) What feeling is the speaker talking about?
- The speaker was in despair as he loved Robutt and didn't want a real dog. His love for Robutt unconditional.**

**XI. Answer any Four of the following questions in 30 – 40 words (4 X 2 = 8)**

- a) What had Dutta observed about customers when it came to collecting the frames that they had ordered?
- Dutta observed that many customers would often delay or forget to collect the frames they had ordered, leading to a backlog of unclaimed frames in his shop.**
- b) What were the 'great clouds of dust' that the girl wrote about in The Englishman?
- The 'great clouds of dust' mentioned by the girl in "The Englishman" symbolized the pervasive and disruptive nature of the dust storms that often engulfed the area, affecting daily life and creating an oppressive environment.**
- c) How does the poet C.J. Dennis describe the insects' appearance in his poem The Triantiwontigongolope?
- In his poem "The Triantiwontigongolope," C.J. Dennis humorously describes the insects as bizarre and fantastical creatures with exaggerated and whimsical features, emphasizing their odd and amusing appearance.**
- d) In what way did Roger add to all the confusion?
- Roger added to all the confusion by mistakenly thinking the family was being attacked and biting Lugaretzia.**
- e) Describe Jimmy's feelings when he heard that his parents wished to send Robutt away.
- Jimmy felt a deep sense of sadness and disappointment when he learned that his parents wanted to send Robutt away. He was emotionally attached to Robutt and the idea of parting with it caused him distress.**

**XII. a) Explain the phrase 'breaks up the world into fragments' from the poem Where the Mind is Without Fear? (3 Marks)**

**The phrase 'breaks up the world into fragments' refers to how divisions, conflicts, and prejudices disrupt the unity and harmony of the world. It implies that the world is shattered into pieces by social and political barriers, preventing a cohesive and enlightened existence.**

OR

- b) What is the theme of the story 'The World in a Wall'? Comment on the title of the story.

**The title 'The world in a wall' fits the story it is meant for. This is because;**

Explanation:

**The title the world in a wall gives the idea of a world and the question on how a world can be a wall.**

**The passage finally answers the question by explaining that the wall has got many creatures that make up sort of a society.**

**This is the wild world since he takes scorpion home which surprisingly does not find the place to be home and later causes chaos.**

**XIII. a) Draw a character sketch of Mr. Dutta from the story The Gold Frame. (4 Marks)**

**Mr. Dutta is a meticulous and conscientious man who runs a frame shop. He is portrayed as dedicated to his craft and attentive to details, ensuring that each frame is perfectly made. His commitment to his work reflects his overall sense of responsibility and professionalism. Mr. Dutta**

is also characterized by his patience and ability to handle customer interactions with care, although he can be affected by the challenges and peculiarities of running a business. His interactions often reveal his deep concern for maintaining high standards and his personal integrity.

OR

b) Describe the sense of humour used by Ruskin Bond in the chapter Earthquake in Assam.

Sense of Humor: In "Earthquake in Assam," Ruskin Bond employs a dry, understated sense of humor. He uses irony and gentle satire to describe the absurdities and challenges faced during the earthquake. The humor often stems from the exaggerated reactions of people to the situation, as well as Bond's own reflective and witty observations about the chaos. This approach adds a light-hearted touch to a serious subject, making the narrative both engaging and relatable.

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