



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



**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? (1 mark)
  - 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? (1 mark)
  - 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ soil for Ancient Egyptian farming (1 mark)

b) The Egyptian writing system was called \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

c) Ra was the \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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

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

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

## 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?
- The villagers became less united
  - The villagers focused only on their own problems
  - The village was inspired to support each other and act with kindness
  - 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)

- Maya ran a small clinic and provided medical care to villagers regardless of their \_\_\_\_ to pay.
- During the snowstorm, Maya organized volunteers to help clear \_\_\_\_\_ and provide hot meals.

4. Short Answer (1 mark each)

- Describe how Maya showed her compassion during the snowstorm.
- What lesson can be learned from Maya's actions in the passage?

5. Personal Response (1 mark each)

- Can you think of a time when someone showed compassion or kindness to you? Describe the situation and how it made you feel.
- Reflect on a time when you helped someone in need. How did it affect you and the person you helped?

### **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."*

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

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

iv) Identify the tense of the following sentence:

*"She will be going to the store later."*

v) Change the following sentence to past perfect tense:

*"They play 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.”*

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.”*

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

*“She \_\_\_\_\_ help us with the project.”*

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

*“The children playing in the park are my neighbours.”*

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.”*

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 in 50 words, informing him about a surprise birthday party for another friend. Include details such as the date, time, location, and any special instructions.

OR

You are working for an advertising agency. Draft an attractive advertisement for a restaurant which is launching a new branch at Pune.

#### **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.

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.

**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.

**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.

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 ... ..”

**SECTION D – LITERATURE (25 marks)**

**VIII. Give meaning of the given words and frame a sentence using the word. (2 X 1 = 2)**

- i) laconic
- ii) positronic

**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.
- ii) Larry planned to smuggle the scorpion, so that he can watch them grow.

**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.
  - b) What does ‘my father, let my country awake’ means?
  - c) Describe the ‘heaven’ imagined by the poet.
- ii) He said, But what’s the difference how they act? How about how I feel?
  - a) Who said these words to whom?
  - b) The words ‘how they act’ refers to .....
  - c) What feeling is the speaker talking about?

**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?
- b) What were the ‘great clouds of dust’ that the girl wrote about in The Englishman?
- c) How does the poet C.J. Dennis describe the insects’ appearance in his poem The Triantiwontigongolope?
- d) In what way did Roger add to all the confusion?

- e) Describe Jimmy's feelings when he heard that his parents wished to send Robutt away.

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

**OR**

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

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

**OR**

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

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