



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
PERIODIC TEST-II 2024-25
ENGLISH



Class: VIII
Date: 07.12.24
Admission no.:

Duration: 1 hr
Max Marks: 25
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 SKILLS (7 marks)

I. Read the passage given below.

"The Secret Life of Trees"

Trees are often seen as simple, silent sentinels of nature, standing tall in forests, parks, and along streets. However, beneath their bark and leaves, trees lead complex and fascinating lives. Recent scientific discoveries have revealed that trees communicate with each other in ways that humans are only beginning to understand.

One of the most astonishing findings is the existence of the "Wood Wide Web"—a vast network of underground connections that trees use to communicate with each other. This network is made up of mycorrhizal fungi, which form symbiotic relationships with tree roots. These fungi connect the roots of different trees, creating a kind of natural internet. Through this network, trees can exchange nutrients, send warning signals about threats (such as insect infestations or disease), and even help each other during times of stress, such as droughts.

For example, if a tree is attacked by insects, it can release chemicals into the air to warn nearby trees, which can then activate their own defenses. In addition, older trees often help younger ones. They may send extra nutrients to younger trees through the underground network to help them grow stronger. In fact, some scientists believe that older trees act as "guardians" of the forest, nurturing the younger generation and ensuring the long-term health of the ecosystem.

Trees also have a remarkable ability to adjust to their environment. Through a process called "phototropism," trees can change the direction of their growth to maximize sunlight exposure. They grow toward light, adjusting their leaves and branches to absorb the most energy possible. This ability to respond to their environment allows trees to survive in a variety of conditions, from dense forests to urban areas with limited space and light.

The complex relationships between trees, fungi, and other organisms in the ecosystem highlight the importance of forests and their delicate balance. Deforestation and environmental degradation disrupt these relationships, which can have devastating effects on biodiversity and the planet's climate. Protecting forests is not just about conserving trees—it's about preserving the intricate web of life that depends on them.

Questions:

- 1. What is the "Wood Wide Web"?**
 - a) A type of tree species found in forests
 - b) A network of roots that connects trees
 - c) A new kind of tree with web-like leaves
 - d) A scientific theory about tree evolution
- 2. How do mycorrhizal fungi help trees?**
 - a) By feeding on tree leaves
 - b) By connecting the roots of different trees to exchange nutrients and information
 - c) By protecting trees from animal predators
 - d) By helping trees grow taller in forests
- 3. What is phototropism?**
 - a) A process where trees grow towards the light
 - b) A process where trees absorb more nutrients from the soil
 - c) A process where trees produce extra leaves in the shade
 - d) A process where trees communicate through sound
- 4. Why are forests important for the environment, according to the passage?**
 - a) They provide food for animals only
 - b) They increase pollution in urban areas
 - c) They are a source of firewood for humans
 - d) They help regulate the climate and protect biodiversity through complex ecological relationships
- 5. How do older trees help younger trees?**
- 6. What happens when a tree is attacked by insects?**
- 7. Do you think trees are more connected and intelligent than we often realize? Why or why not?**

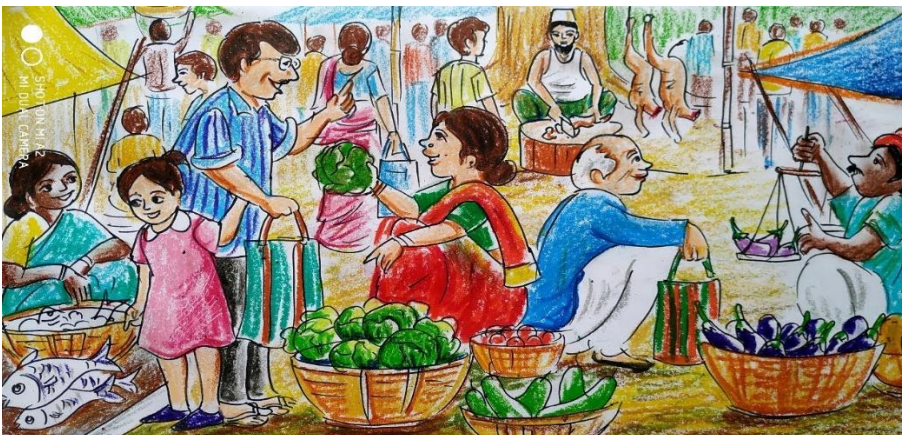
SECTION B: WRITING SKILL and GRAMMAR (4+4 marks)

II. Answer ANY ONE of the following.

1x4 =4marks

1. A Busy Marketplace

Describe the variety of goods being sold, the haggling between vendors and customers, and the vibrant colors and smells. **OR**



2. If I Could Switch Places with My Teacher for a Day

Imagine you wake up and discover that you have swapped places with your teacher for a whole day. What would you do as a teacher? How would your classmates react to you teaching them? What would be the most fun (or disastrous) part of your new role?

III. Do as directed: 4x1=4

1. Choose the sentence that uses the comparative form of the adjective incorrectly:

- a) The blue shirt is more expensive than the red one.
- b) This math problem is harder than the previous one.
- c) She is more taller than her brother.
- d) John is better at playing football than David.

2. Choose the correct determiner to complete the sentence:

___ book on the shelf is not mine, but I borrowed it yesterday.

- a) Every
- b) All
- c) This
- d) None

3. Fill in the blank with the correct adverb:

Her performance was so impressive that she spoke ___ about the experience.

- a) confidently
- b) confident
- c) confidence
- d) confiding

4. Choose the most appropriate preposition to fill in the blank:

The teacher asked the students to submit their assignments ___ Friday, not later.

- a) at
- b) between
- c) in
- d) by

SECTION C – LITERATURE (10 marks)

V. Answer the following.

3x1 =3marks

- 1. The poem "O Captain! My Captain" is an elegy on the death of
- 2. Give meaning: (i) bugle- (ii) sluggish –
- 3. Explain the phrase: 'the ship's heaving rhythm.'

VI. Attempt the questions given below, within 30-43 words each.

2x2=4 marks

- 1. Why did the crew want to hide the bird from the VIPs from Earth? How did they deal with the issue?
- 2. What are the signs that the captain has passed away?

VII. Attempt ANY ONE of the questions given below:

3x1=3 marks

- 1. What is the central theme of "O Captain, My Captain!"?
- 2. Describe Claribel. What happened to her? How was she revived?

THE END