



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



Class: VIII
Date: 01.08.2024

Duration: 1 hr
Max Marks: 25

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 culture of nuclear families is in fashion. Parents are often heard complaining about the difficulties in bringing up children these days. Too much of freedom in demand, too much independence; overnight parties; excessive extravagance, splurging pocket money; no time for studies and family all this is a common cry of such families. Aren't parents, themselves, responsible for this pitiful state? The basic need of a growing youth is the family, love, attention and bonding along with moral values. One should not forget that 'charity begins at home'.

Independence and individuality both need to be respected, in order to maintain the sanctity of family. Children, today are to be handled with tact in order to bridge the ever widening generation gap. Only the reasonable demands need to be fulfilled, as there are too many expenses to be met and too many social obligations to be taken care of by the parents. Our forefathers lived happily in joint families. Children loved to live with their cousins, learnt to adjust within means. There was perfect harmony between the generations. There never existed the concept of old-age homes. There was deep respect for the family elders and love, care and concern for the youngsters. Even the minor family differences were solved amicably.

Questions:

- a) Mention any two major common concerns of a nuclear family.

Two major concerns mentioned in the passage are:

- Too much demand for freedom and independence among children.
- Issues related to overnight parties, excessive extravagance, splurging of pocket money, and lack of time for studies and family.

- b) Who, according to the passage, are responsible for them?

According to the passage, parents themselves are seen as responsible for these concerns. The passage suggests that parental guidance and attention are crucial in addressing these issues.

c) Explain the expression 'charity begins at home'.

The expression 'charity begins at home' means that acts of kindness and compassion should start within one's own family. It emphasizes the importance of cultivating values, love, and care within the family unit first, which then extends to others.

d) Describe the atmosphere in joint families.

The atmosphere in joint families, as described in the passage, was characterized by:

- Perfect harmony between generations.
- Deep respect for family elders.
- Love, care, and concern for youngsters.
- Amicable resolution of even minor family differences.
- Children living happily with cousins and learning to adjust within means.

e) Which word in the passage means 'Holiness of life'?

The word that means 'Holiness of life' in the passage is '**sanctity**'.

f) How have changing family structures, like the shift from joint to nuclear families, impacted the upbringing of children today?

The shift from joint to nuclear families has impacted children's upbringing by potentially reducing the support system and social interaction available within the family unit.

g) In your opinion, what are some of the key challenges faced by parents in raising children in today's nuclear family setup, and how can these challenges be effectively addressed?

Parents in nuclear families juggle work-life balance, support children emotionally and academically, manage technology use, and foster healthy family dynamics through communication, boundaries, quality time, and community support.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILL (8 marks)

II. Article Writing:

1x4 =4marks

You read in the newspaper about a baby girl found abandoned at the railway station. You are touched by the fact that people consider the girl child as a burden and not as an asset. Write an article for a magazine on 'Saving the Girl Child'. Take help from the hints provided. You are Neeraj Bhardwaj/Neerja Bhardwaj.

Hints

- Value and worth of girl child
- Female foeticide
- One million girls killed every year
- Boy-girl ratio getting imbalanced
- Girls will simply vanish from the face of the Earth
- Create awareness in society to put an end to this social evil
- Heading (1 Mark)
- Byline (1 Mark)
- Article Body (1 Mark)
- Conclusion (1Mark)

III. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words given in the option so that the sentence appears to be in the correct form of Tense. **4x1=4marks**

- a) She shall _____ your ice-cream parlour soon because she _____ ice-cream.
 1. Visit, likes 2. **Be visiting, likes** 3. Have been visiting, is liking 4. Visiting, like
- b) Shakespeare _____ dramas that are appealing to the people of all ages.
 1. **Wrote** 2. Had written 3. Had been writing 4. Has written
- c) The barber _____ his finger while he _____ off my hair.
 1. Had cut, was chopping 2. Cut, chop 3. **Cut, was chopping**
 4. Cuts, had been chopping
- d) How many cups of tea _____ yesterday?
 1. You were drinking 2. Do you drink 3. You have drank 4. **Did you drink**

SECTION C: LITERATURE (10 marks)

IV. Answer the following questions with reference to context. **1x3 =3marks**

- a) How is Triantiwontigongolope described?
 1. A spider like insect
 2. A woolly grub
 3. **A Mixture of beetle and bee**
- b) When did the earthquake take place in Assam and Bengal?
 1. 15 August 1896
 2. 24 July 1895
 3. **12 June 1897**
- c) What does the Triantiwontigongolope eat?
 1. Trees and grass
 2. **Wax and soap**
 3. Weeds and leaves

V. Attempt the questions given below, within 30-43 words each. **2x2=4 marks**

A) At first, I did not realise what it was that caused my tub to sway about the water to splash.'

1. Who is the speaker here? Where is the speaker at this moment?

The narrator's grandfather is the speaker here. He is in the bath tub.

2. What was it that the speaker 'did not realise'?

The speaker did not realise that movements were the first tremors the earthquake.

B) For there isn't such an insect, though there really might have been...

1. Which insect is being referred to here?

The insect Triantiwontigongolope is being referred to here.

2. When do you think it 'might have been' existed?

A creature like Triantiwontigongolope might have existed if trees were purple and sky was bottle green.

VI. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the questions given below: **3x1=3 marks**

1. What makes animal's sense danger from a natural disaster even before human beings sense it? Discuss. **Animals have the ability to detect sounds and vibrations at low frequencies that human being cannot detect , allowing them to sense impending earthquakes.** Earthquake produces infrasonic waves, with a frequency less than 20 Hz, before the main shock. Animals that can perceive infrasonic waves get alerted and start showing abnormal behavior. However, human beings are not able to perceive these infrasonic waves. So, they don't feel anything.

2. Which insect is talked about by the poet CJ Dennis? Describe the insects nature and behavior and the reason he apologizes for.

The Triantiwontigongolope is talked about by CJ Dennis. It is described as a funny insect with a funny face. It is elusive and disappears when you try to find it again. It has a snobbish nose and is sensitive to sneers and scolding. The poet apologizes for making us believe such an insect exists and for joking the readers.