



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PERIODIC TEST 1 2025-26

ENGLISH

Class: VIII
Date: 12.06.26
Admission no:

Time: 1hr
Max Marks: 25
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

(7 marks)

I. Read the passage and answer the questions.

The retired Colonel living next to my house is well past 80 but still fit as a fiddle. He is known for his stingy habits, a keen sense of humour and love for Urdu poetry. Once, I cheekily asked him why he was so frugal despite being affluent. Instead of being offended, he replied with a mischievous wink, "I have to save for my old age, shouldn't I?" I wondered when his old age would set in!

With his six-foot, lean physique, squarely unstylish haircut and puckered eyes, he resembles the ageing Tom Hanks in A Man Called Otto. He is as cynical, fussy and fastidious as Otto but not as grumpy as him. On the contrary, he is cordial to a fault and a deeply religious soul. A daily visit to Kali Bari Temple in the morning is one of his unfailing rituals. I often accompany him to relish his anecdotes sprinkled with Urdu couplets.

Last week, while passing through the Mall Road on our way to the temple, we saw a little girl sitting on the steps of Town Hall, crying silently. She had a charming, dimpled face that glistened with tears. She was wearing a school uniform which was slightly shabby. The Colonel sat beside her and, putting an arm consolingly around her shoulders, asked why she was distressed. Still sobbing, the girl related her tale of woe between gasps. She was the daughter of a poor widow working as a housemaid, whose sole ambition was to provide her only child with the best possible education. The woman saved money from her meagre earnings and secured the girl's admission to a good public school. However, she was not left with enough money to buy a new uniform for her. The girl was asked to manage with a second-hand one received from the house where her mother worked. Today was her first day at school, but she was not allowed to attend classes as her uniform was not up to the school standard. She was apprehensive about facing her mother on returning home without attending school.

1. How did author describe about the Colonel?

The author describes the Colonel as a man well past eighty who is still very fit and active. He is known for his stingy habits, sharp sense of humour, and love for Urdu poetry. Despite being frugal, he is kind, cordial, and deeply religious.

2. What similarities and differences does author find in Colonel with Tom Hanks character in movie?

The Colonel resembles the character in appearance and nature—both are lean, somewhat fussy, and particular about things. However, unlike Otto, who is grumpy, the Colonel is friendly, warm, and kind-hearted.

3. Why was the little girl crying and what she was worried about?

The little girl was crying because she was not allowed to attend school on her first day as her uniform was not up to the required standard. She was worried about facing her mother, who had worked hard to send her to school.

4. The Colonel was known for his **stingy** habits.

5. Visit to **Kali Bari Temple** in the morning is one of his unfailing ritual.

6. Little girl was wearing a school uniform which was slightly **shabby**.

7. The girl was daughter of a poor window working as a **housemaid**

SECTION B: GRAMMAR

(4 marks)

II. Read the following questions and fill in the correct verb form (1×2=2)

a. They **had already eaten** (already/eat) dinner when we reached.

b. My father **has been working** (work) in this company since 2010.

III. Make 2 words using the prefix “un” and frame the sentences on the same words.

Unhappy – She felt unhappy when she missed her best friend’s birthday party.

Unkind – It is unkind to make fun of others for their mistakes.

(1 × 2= 2)

SECTION C: WRITING SKILL

(4 marks)

IV. Write any of the following:

a. Write an email to your school principal requesting permission to organize a sports event.

From:

To:

Date:

Subject:

Respected Sir/Madam

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to seek your permission to organize a sports event in our school. The event aims to encourage physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship among students.

We propose to conduct various activities such as races, team games, and indoor competitions. The event will be organized under the guidance of teachers, ensuring proper discipline and safety. We also plan to involve students from different classes to make it more inclusive and engaging.

I kindly request you to grant permission for the same and allow us to use the school playground and necessary facilities.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Name)

(Designation)

OR

- b. Write an e-mail to a bookstore inquiring about the availability of a book.

From:

To:

Date:

Subject: Inquiry About Availability of a Book

Respected Sir/Madam,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits.

I am writing to inquire about the availability of a specific book at your bookstore. I am looking for [Book Name] by [Author Name], which I require for my academic reading. I would like to know whether the book is currently available in your store.

If the book is in stock, kindly provide details regarding its price, edition, and availability of any discounts. I would also appreciate it if you could inform me whether you offer home delivery services or the option to reserve the book for later collection.

In case the book is not available at present, please let me know the expected date of arrival. I would be grateful if you could notify me once it becomes available.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

[Designation]

SECTION D: LITERATURE

(10 marks)

V. Answer in following questions briefly:

(1×3=3)

- a. How a reality show is not completely real?

A reality show is not completely real because many scenes are planned or edited to make them more dramatic and entertaining. Participants may be guided on what to say or do, and situations are sometimes created artificially. Therefore, what is shown may not fully reflect real-life situations.

c. What did the elder brother say about the importance of discipline?

The elder brother believed that discipline and regular hard work are more important than intelligence. He advised that one should follow a strict timetable, study sincerely, and avoid wasting time, as success comes only through consistent effort and self-control.

d. What is the real name of **Premchand**?

The real name of Premchand is Dhanpat Rai Srivastava.

VI. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40 -50 words.

(2×2=4)

a. How did the younger brother feel about his elder brother's strictness?

The younger brother felt that his elder brother was too strict and serious. He often found his constant advice and scolding tiresome and difficult to follow. However, deep down, he respected his elder brother and understood that his strictness came from concern and a desire to see him succeed.

b. What lesson does the younger brother learn from his elder brother's guidance?

The younger brother learns the importance of discipline, regular study, and hard work. He realizes that success does not come from intelligence alone but requires consistent effort, dedication, and proper time management.

c. How are the contestants chosen for a reality show?

Contestants for a reality show are usually chosen through auditions and selection rounds. They may have to showcase their talent, personality, or skills before judges. Based on their performance and suitability for the show, the best candidates are selected.

VII. Answer any one question from the following in about 60-80 words. (1×3=3)

a. How do different crew members work together to produce an effect baking reality show?

Different crew members play specific roles and work in coordination to produce an effective baking reality show. The producers plan the concept, tasks, and overall structure of the show. Directors guide the flow of events and ensure everything runs smoothly during filming. Cameramen capture important moments from different angles, while sound technicians ensure clear audio. Editors later refine the footage, adding music, effects, and drama to make the show engaging. Judges and hosts also contribute by interacting with contestants and maintaining audience interest. Through teamwork and coordination, they create a show that appears natural and entertaining, even though much of it is carefully planned.

OR

b. What are the factors on which a well rounded personality depends? Discuss

A well-rounded personality depends on several important factors such as education, values, discipline, and social behaviour. Good education helps in developing knowledge and critical thinking. Values like honesty, kindness, and respect shape a person's character. Discipline and time management help in achieving goals and maintaining balance in life. Communication skills and confidence enable a person to interact effectively with others. Participation in activities like sports, arts, and hobbies also contributes to overall development. Thus, a combination of intellectual, moral, social, and physical growth leads to a well-rounded personality.