



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2025-26

SET II  
ENGLISH

Class: VIII  
Date: 18.03.26  
Admission no:

Time: 3hr  
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

(22 marks)

1. Read the passage and answer the questions.

(12)

### Olive Ridley Turtles and Conservation

Recognising the urgent need to protect Olive Ridley turtles, local communities, forest officials, and volunteers came together to safeguard these endangered marine creatures. In the past, these turtles faced severe threats to their survival. Pollution, fishing nets, coastal development, and artificial lighting near beaches disrupted their nesting sites, and many hatchlings failed to reach the sea due to human interference and natural predators. Understanding these dangers, people took proactive steps to ensure the turtles' safety.

During the nesting season, fishing activities were restricted, and volunteers kept a watchful eye over the nesting areas. Beach lights were reduced to prevent disorienting the hatchlings, and careful measures were taken to guide the young turtles safely to the ocean. These efforts required cooperation and dedication from everyone involved—local communities, forest officials, and volunteers—working together for a common purpose: the protection of wildlife.

The results of these conservation measures have been highly encouraging. The number of successful nests has increased steadily, and the turtle populations are gradually recovering. These outcomes highlight the importance of well-planned conservation strategies and the power of collective action. The story of the Olive Ridley turtles demonstrates that when communities take responsibility and implement practical, environmentally conscious measures, even threatened species can survive and thrive.

Beyond the immediate benefits to the turtles, this example provides a broader lesson in environmental protection. It shows that human beings are not necessarily a threat to nature if they act responsibly and collaboratively. Protecting wildlife is not only about laws and regulations; it also relies on awareness, commitment, and active participation from individuals and communities. The Olive Ridley turtles' recovery stands as a powerful reminder that thoughtful conservation efforts can safeguard marine life for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

**I. Which of the following describes the collective effort mentioned in the passage? (1)**

(a) Individual struggle (b) Collective action (c) Natural disaster (d) Industrial growth

**II. Find from the passage the word which means "intended to cause changes rather than just reacting to them"(1)**

**III. According to the passage, which of the following threatened turtle survival? (1)**

(a) Ocean currents (b) Artificial lighting  
(c) Coral reefs (d) Weather changes

**IV. What step was taken to protect turtles during nesting season? (1)**

(a) Beaches were closed permanently  
(b) Fishing activities were restricted  
(c) Tourists were encouraged  
(d) Boats were increased

**V. Who participated in turtle conservation efforts? (1)**

(a) Only scientists  
(b) Only government officials  
(c) Communities, officials, and volunteers  
(d) International organisations only

**VI. What is the central message of the passage? (1)**

(a) Marine life cannot survive human presence  
(b) Conservation requires global laws only  
(c) Community action can protect marine species  
(d) Turtles are dangerous to fishermen

**VII. Why were Olive Ridley turtles at risk earlier? (2)**

**VIII. How did conservation measures help turtle populations recover? (2)**

**IX. What lesson does the story of Olive Ridley turtles teach us about environmental protection? (2)**

**II. Read the passage and answer the questions. (10)**

### **The Floating Rubber Toys**

1. In 1992, a cargo ship travelling across the Pacific Ocean met with an unexpected accident during a storm. Several containers fell into the sea, one of which was carrying nearly 28,000 rubber bath toys shaped like ducks, turtles, and frogs. These toys were released into the ocean and began drifting with the currents, travelling thousands of kilometres without sinking. Some were later found on the shores of Alaska, while others reached Australia, South America, and even the Arctic.

2. Scientists soon realised that tracking these toys could provide valuable insights into ocean currents and circulation patterns. Oceanographers carefully monitored where the toys appeared and how long they took to reach different coastlines. What was initially a mishap transformed into an accidental experiment that helped researchers better understand how oceans circulate water around the planet and how plastic waste moves and accumulates in marine environments.

3. While the drifting toys offered scientific knowledge, the incident also highlighted a pressing environmental problem. The toys did not biodegrade and remained in the oceans for years, polluting ecosystems. Many sea animals mistake plastic items for food, which can lead to injury or death. This real-life event serves as a striking example of how everyday objects, even small toys, can have long-lasting consequences for ocean health and marine life.

4. The story of the floating rubber toys demonstrates both the unintended scientific value of accidents and the urgent need for responsible waste management. It shows that while human activities can provide insights into nature, they can also create persistent environmental hazards. Proper awareness and proactive measures are necessary to prevent such pollution and protect marine ecosystems for future generations.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:**

**I. What caused the rubber toys to enter the ocean? (1)**

- (a) A scientific experiment (b) A ship accident  
(c) Tourist activity (d) Illegal dumping

**II. Find from Para 1 the word the word that means a "sudden unfortunate event." (1)**

**III. Why did scientists become interested in the drifting toys? (1)**

- (a) They were colourful (b) They were expensive  
(c) They helped study ocean currents (d) They entertained children

**IV. What did the toys help scientists understand, according to Para 2? (1)**

- (a) Weather forecasting (b) Marine life behaviour  
(c) Ocean circulation and plastic movement (d) Ship navigation

**V. What environmental issue is highlighted in Para 3? (1)**

- (a) Oil spills (b) Plastic pollution  
(c) Overfishing (d) Climate change

**VI. Explain how tracking the drifting toys provided scientific value to oceanographers. (Refer to Paras 2 ) (2)**

**VII. Why is plastic waste dangerous for marine life? (Refer to Para 3) (2)**

**VIII. Find from Para 3 the word which means "break down naturally." (1)**

**SECTION B-WRITING SKILL**

**(22 marks)**

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of the following (word Limit: 40–50 words)**

**(3 Marks)**

**A. You are Ashley Johnson / Emma Roberts, the Cultural Secretary of Greenwood High School. Write a notice informing students about a school drama competition.**

**OR**

**B. You are Tom Harris / Lily Brown. Your father is not at home. Mr. Smith called to give an important message. Write the message.**

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the following (Word Limit: 80-90 words) (4 Marks)

A. Write a short descriptive essay on “My Favourite Hobby.”

OR

B. You are **Jack Wilson / Anna Clark**. Write an email to your teacher requesting leave for one day due to illness.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the following (Word Limit: 120–150 words) (7 Marks)

A. Write a letter to the **Principal** requesting permission to organize a book fair in school.

OR

B. Write a biography of **Albert Einstein**.

**Points to help you write:**

- Born on 14 March 1879 in Germany
- Studied physics and mathematics
- Developed the theory of relativity; published papers
- Won Nobel Prize in Physics (1921)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following (word Limit: 150- 200 words) (8 Marks)

A. You wake up on a mysterious island after a violent storm destroys your ship. The island is full of strange creatures, hidden dangers, and ruins of a lost civilization. While exploring, you find a weathered treasure map that promises unimaginable wealth, but following it could put your life at risk.

Write a story describing how you survive, what secrets you uncover, and whether you achieve your goal—or discover something even stranger.

OR

B. Write an article for your school magazine on “**The Importance of Team Sports in School Life.**”

### SECTION C- GRAMMAR

(10 marks)

7. A. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. (1)

SITA: Father, does exercise keep us healthy?

FATHER: (i) exercise / is / for / good / health / regular / essential.

B. Report the conversation given below. (2)

a. The teacher said, “The students completed the project yesterday.”

b. The teacher said to the class, “Why did you submit the assignment late?”

8. Fill in the blanks (a) – (d) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. (4 × 1 = 4)

He always (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (makes / does) mistakes in his homework. Despite this, he treats his classmates with great (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (care / careful / carefulness). This is the man (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (which / who / whose) helped me yesterday. My father, (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (which / whose / who) is a teacher, works in the city school.

**9. Change the following sentences into passive voice.**

**(1×3 = 3)**

- a. The manager checks the reports every morning.
- b. The students are writing essays in the classroom.
- c. The gardener planted flowers in the garden.

**SECTION D – LITERATURE**

**(26 marks)**

**10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given.**

**(2x4=8)**

***A. When the voices of children are heard on the green, And laughing is heard on the hill, My heart is at rest within my breast, And everything else is still.***

- a. Whose voices are heard in the poem?
- b. Where are the children playing?
- c. What effect do the children's voices have on the nurse?
- d. What mood is created in this extract?

***B "The poetry of earth is never dead."***

- a. What does "poetry of earth" mean?
- b. Which creatures represent it?
- c. What seasons are mentioned?
- d. What is the central idea of the poem?

***C. "The assumed weapon was the butt of a rifle, but the real weapon turned out to be a stone."***

- a. What was the assumed and the real weapon used for murder?
- b. What was murdered?
- c. Who solved this mystery?
- d. What does this show about careful investigation?

**11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each.**

**(2x5=10)**

- a. How does Coober Pedy reflect cultural diversity?
- b. Why was Lucie Manette worried about her husband?
- c. What did the narrator observe during his stay in Wayanad?
- d. Why did Salieri feel threatened by Mozart?
- e. 'The poetry of earth is never dead' identify figure of speech & give one more example of your own.
- f. Who is Ozymandias, and what is he famous for?

**12. Answer in 150-200 words ANY ONE of the following.**

**(8x1=8)**

**A.** Explain the steps Holmes took to investigate the crime and prove James McCarthy's innocence. Mention the clues he examined, how he identified the real culprit, and the lesson the story teaches about logic and evidence.

**OR**

**B.** Describe the circumstances that led to the arrest of Charles Darnay in Paris. How he was finally released?

\*\*\*\*\*ALL THE BEST \*\*\*\*\*