



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-MS

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. What is arribada?

- (a) A type of fishing method
- (b) Mass nesting of turtles
- (c) A coastal festival
- (d) A marine disease

II. Find from the passage the word which means “a very unusual or impressive event.”

III. According to the passage, which of the following threatened turtle survival?

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

IV. What step was taken to protect turtles during nesting season?

- (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?

- (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?

- (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?

VIII. How did conservation measures help turtle populations recover?

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

I. (b) Mass nesting of turtles

II. remarkable

III. (b) Artificial lighting

IV. (b) Fishing activities were restricted

V. (c) Communities, officials, and volunteers

VI. (c) Community action can protect marine species

VII. Pollution, fishing nets, coastal development, and artificial lighting disturbed nesting sites; many hatchlings failed to reach the sea due to human interference and predators.

VIII. Restricting fishing, reducing beach lighting, and guarding nests allowed hatchlings to reach the ocean safely, increasing successful nests and aiding population recovery.

IX. Active community participation and responsible environmental practices are essential for protecting and conserving vulnerable species.

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.

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 which means “unexpected.” (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 3? (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 4? (1)

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

VI. How did the floating toys turn into a useful scientific experiment? (Refer to Paras 2 and 3) (2)

VII. Why is plastic waste dangerous for marine life? (Refer to Para 4) (2)

VIII. Find from Para 4 the word which means “break down naturally.” (1)

I. (b) A ship accident

II. unexpected

III. (c) They helped study ocean currents

IV. (c) Ocean circulation and plastic movement

V. (b) Plastic pollution

VI. By tracking where the toys appeared and how long they took to reach different coastlines, scientists gained valuable information about ocean circulation and the movement of plastic waste.

VII. Plastic waste is dangerous because many sea animals mistake it for food, which can lead to injury or death.

VIII. biodegrade

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.

Ans:

Greenwood High School

NOTICE

Date: 10 February 2026

All students are informed that a school drama competition will be held on 20 February 2026 in the school auditorium. Interested students should register their names with the undersigned by 15 February 2026.

Ashley Johnson / Emma Roberts

Cultural Secretary

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.

Ans:

MESSAGE

1 February 2026

3:00 PM

Dad,

Mr. Smith called to inform that tomorrow’s parent-teacher meeting has been postponed to Friday at 11 a.m. He asked you to call him back.

— Tom Harris / Lily Brown

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

(4 Marks)

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

Ans:

My favourite hobby is painting. I love using colors to create pictures of nature, animals, and landscapes. Painting helps me relax and improves my imagination. I often spend my weekends drawing and experimenting with new techniques. My parents and friends appreciate my work, which encourages me to keep learning. Painting not only gives me joy but also teaches me patience and creativity. It is a hobby I will continue to enjoy for life.

OR

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

ANS:

To: Teacher’s email ID

From: your email ID

Subject:

Respected Sir/Ma’am,

I am writing to inform you that I am unwell and will not be able to attend school tomorrow. I request you to kindly grant me leave for one day. I will complete all missed work after returning to school.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours obediently,

Jack Wilson / Anna Clark

Class VIII B

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.

Ans:

From,

Ethan Miller / Olivia Davis

Class VIII A

Greenwood High School

To,

The Principal

Greenwood High School

Subject: Request for Permission to Organize a Book Fair

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request permission to organize a book fair in our school library on 25 February 2026. The aim

is to encourage students to read more books and develop a love for learning. We assure you that all arrangements will be made responsibly and that students will maintain discipline.

Kindly grant us permission.

Yours sincerely,
Ethan Miller / Olivia Davis

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)

Ans:

Albert Einstein was born on 14 March 1879 in Germany. He was a brilliant physicist known for his theory of relativity. Einstein loved learning from a young age and showed great curiosity about science. He worked as a professor and published many important research papers. His discoveries changed the way we understand the universe. Einstein also believed in peace and humanity. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921. His life continues to inspire millions of students worldwide.

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.

The storm came without warning. One moment I was helping tie down the sails, and the next a giant wave crashed over the ship, pulling me into the dark sea. When I opened my eyes, I was lying on a beach with broken pieces of wood scattered around me. My ship was gone. I was alone on a mysterious island.

At first, fear took over, but I knew I had to survive. I gathered coconuts for food and used sharp stones to cut branches and build a small shelter. That night, I kept a fire burning to protect myself from strange sounds coming from the forest. The island felt alive, as if it was watching me.

The next day, while exploring deeper into the jungle, I discovered old stone ruins covered in vines. Inside one of the ruins, I found a weathered treasure map carved into a stone wall. It showed a path leading to a cave near the mountains. Curious but cautious, I followed the path, facing wild animals and crossing a dangerous river.

When I reached the cave, I expected gold and jewels. Instead, I found something more valuable—a hidden village of people who had survived on the island for years. They welcomed me and taught me their ways. I realized the true treasure was not gold, but friendship and hope. In the end, I was no longer alone, and the island became my new home.

OR

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

Team sports play a crucial role in a student’s development. They help improve physical fitness and teach important life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, and leadership. Students who play sports learn how to work together to achieve a common goal. Team sports also build confidence and discipline.

Besides physical benefits, team sports improve mental health by reducing stress and encouraging focus. They allow students to make friends, develop social skills, and learn to handle both success and failure gracefully.

Schools should encourage students to participate in games such as football, basketball, and volleyball. Active participation in sports contributes to overall personality development and helps students become responsible and confident individuals.

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.

FATHER: Regular exercise is essential for good health.

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?”

a. The teacher said that the students had completed the project yesterday.

b. The teacher asked the class why they had submitted the assignment late.

8. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iv) 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)**

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

- The reports are checked every morning by the manager.**
- Essays are being written in the classroom by the students.**

- c. Flowers were planted in the garden by the gardener.

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.*

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

Answers:

- The voices of children are heard.
- They are playing on the green and the hill.
- The children's voices bring peace and happiness to the nurse.
- The mood is joyful, peaceful, and content.

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

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

Answers:

- Music of nature
- Grasshopper and cricket
- Summer and winter
- Nature's song is eternal

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

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

Answers:

- Assumed weapon was butt of a rifle and actual weapon was a stone.

- b. Charles McCarthy
- c. Sherlock Holmes and Watson
- d. Truth requires observation and logic.

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?

Answer: People from over 45 nationalities live there, creating a multicultural community.

b. Why was Lucie Manette worried about her husband?

Answer: Because many aristocrats were being imprisoned or killed during the Revolution.

c. What did the narrator observe during his stay in Wayanad?

Answer: He observed forests, wildlife, birds, frogs, deer, and animal footprints.

d. Why did Salieri feel threatened by Mozart?

Answer: Salieri felt threatened because Mozart's talent and originality overshadowed his own music.

e. Why is hope said to be "sweetest in the gale"?

Answer: Hope is strongest and most comforting during difficult and stormy times.

f. Who is Ozymandias, and what is he famous for?

Answer: Ozymandias is a powerful ancient king. He is famous for his arrogance and pride, as shown by the inscription on his ruined statue claiming he is "the king of kings," even though his empire has fallen.

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

Ans: Holmes proved James McCarthy's innocence by using his exceptional powers of observation and logical reasoning. At the crime scene, Holmes carefully examined the footprints, a stone with bloodstains, and a burnt cigar. Each clue told a story, and none of them pointed to James as the culprit. Holmes noticed inconsistencies in the evidence that contradicted the assumption of James's guilt.

He also paid attention to small details that others overlooked. The footprints did not match James's shoes, and the bloodstains were placed in a way that suggested someone else was trying to mislead the investigation. The burnt cigar helped Holmes determine the real sequence of events, further clearing James.

By analyzing all the facts, Holmes identified the real murderer, Mr. Turner, who eventually confessed to the crime. Holmes's approach shows that assumptions and hasty conclusions can be misleading. Instead, careful observation, attention to detail, and logical reasoning are crucial in solving mysteries.

This story emphasizes the importance of evidence over suspicion and illustrates how a clear, methodical mind can ensure justice and prevent innocent people from being wrongly accused.

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

Answer: Charles Darnay was arrested in Paris because he belonged to an aristocratic family during the time of the French Revolution. Although he had given up his title and supported the common people, the revolutionaries viewed all aristocrats with suspicion and hatred. He was imprisoned without proper evidence, reflecting the atmosphere of fear and revenge prevailing at that time.

During the trial, Dr Manette played a crucial role in securing Darnay's release. He addressed the court and spoke about his own unjust imprisonment, gaining the sympathy and trust of the revolutionaries. He proved that Darnay had always been loyal to France and innocent of any crime.

As a result, Darnay was released, showing that reason and truth can still prevail even in times of chaos.

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