



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE MID TERM 2025-26

ENGLISH MS

Class: VIII
Date: 05.08.25
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.

(1x7=7)

The old banyan tree stood as a silent guardian of the village, its sprawling branches providing shade and shelter to all who sought refuge beneath it. Its massive trunk, scarred with the passage of time, was a testament to its enduring presence. Children played in its cool shade, their laughter echoing through the leaves, while elders gathered to share stories and news under its watchful gaze. The tree was more than just a landmark; it was a part of the village's identity, a symbol of its history and heritage.

One day, a fierce storm swept through the village, lashing the banyan tree with relentless rain and wind. The villagers watched in concern as branches swayed precariously, fearing the tree's mighty structure would succumb to the storm's fury. But the banyan tree, with its deep roots firmly anchored in the earth, stood its ground. It creaked and groaned under the strain, but it did not fall.

When the storm finally subsided, the villagers emerged from their homes, their faces etched with relief and gratitude. They gathered around the banyan tree, their hearts filled with admiration for its resilience. The tree, though scarred and weathered, remained a symbol of strength and hope for the community. It had weathered the storm and emerged victorious, just like the village itself.

Questions: Choose the correct answer:

1. What does the banyan tree mainly symbolize for the village?
A) A source of food
B) A symbol of strength and hope
C) A place to hang decorations
D) A new addition to the village
2. How did the banyan tree respond to the fierce storm?
A) It was uprooted and fell down
B) It lost all its leaves and branches
C) It withstood the storm with its deep roots
D) It was cut down by the villagers

Answer the following questions:

3. What is the main characteristic of the banyan tree?
4. How did the children use the banyan tree?
5. How did the villagers feel after the storm?
6. How would you feel if there was a big, old tree like the banyan tree in your city or school? Why do you think such trees are important?
7. Find one word from the passage that means the following: **A person or thing that protects or defends something – Guardian**

Answers:

3. The main characteristic of the banyan tree is its massive size and sprawling branches that provide shade and shelter.
4. The children played in the cool shade of the banyan tree.
5. After the storm, the villagers felt relief and gratitude, and their hearts were filled with admiration for its resilience.
6. If there was a big, old tree like the banyan tree in my city or school, I would feel happy and safe. Such trees are important because they give us shade to rest under, a place to play, and a home for many animals. They also make the place beautiful and remind us to take care of nature.

SECTION B- GRAMMAR

(4 marks)

II. Choose the correct determiners and fill in the blanks.

(1x2=2)

1. _____ student needs to submit the assignment by Friday. (Each/Every/All)
2. _____ countries want to be self-reliant. (Much/ All /All of)

III. Choose the right collocation.

(1x2=2)

1. She gave a _____ speech at the ceremony.

A) Strong B) Powerful C) Loud D) Heavy

2. Choose the correct collocation.

A) Catch a cold B) Take a cold C) Make a cold D) Do a cold

SECTION C-WRITING SKILL

(4 marks)

IV. Write any one of the following:

Your school is organizing an **Annual Sports Day** next month. As the school head boy/girl, write a notice informing students about the date, venue, and important instructions for participation. Write the notice in about 60-80 words.

Ans

NOTICE

Date: 12th July 2025

Annual Sports Day

This is to inform all students that our **Annual Sports Day** will be held on **10th August 2025** at the **school playground** from **9:00 a.m. onwards**. Students interested in participating should give their names to the Sports Department by **20th October**. Practice sessions will begin next week. All are requested to attend in proper sports uniform.

XYZ

Head Boy

OR

Write a diary entry in about 80-100 words describing your thoughts on a rainy day.

Ans:

12th July 2025, Saturday

Dear Diary,

Today was a beautiful rainy day. I woke up to the sound of raindrops tapping on my window. Everything looked fresh and green outside. The cool breeze, the smell of wet earth, and the sight of people with colorful umbrellas made the day feel magical. I enjoyed a hot cup of tea and watched the rain for hours. It made me feel calm and peaceful. Rainy days have a way of slowing things down and letting me appreciate the little joys of life.

– **XYZ**

SECTION D – LITERATURE

(10 marks)

V. Choose the correct answer:

(1x3=3)

1. Tippi's parents were

A. environmental conservationist's **B.** wildlife photographers' C. news reporters' d. travellers

2. Where does the "thing with feathers" reside?

A) In a cage. B) In the sea. **C)** In the soul. D) In the sky.

3. Tippi Degré, is not afraid of the wild animals because

A. she spent her entire life amidst the wild all alone. **B.** she spent the first decade of her life in the jungles.

C. she knew the art of taming and caging animals. D. she was brave and could kill an animal for her safety.

VI. Answer any 2 of the following questions in about 40-50 words.

(2x2=4)

1. What is Salieri's plan? Does it work?

A: Salieri's plan was to steal the music notes of Mozart so that Mozart wouldn't be able to play at the concert. No, it didn't work because Mozart could play even without the notes.

2. What happened to Tippi when she was 10 years old?

A: She left the wild with her parents to move to France- her new life was difficult- couldn't get used to the concrete jungle- missed the animals- didn't fit in with the local children

3. What is Anaphora? Explain with an example.

A: Anaphora is a figure of speech in which a phrase or a word is repeated at the start of successive lines.

Eg Every day, every night, in every way, I am getting better and better.

VII. Answer any 1 of the following questions in about 60-80 words:

(1x3=3)

1. Elaborate the 'rare bond' that Tippi had with the wild.

A. The rare relationship between man and animal kingdom- wild animals accepted Tippi as one of their own- Tippi had the mindset of the animals- indicates the possibility of such a warm bond between man and the wild- Grew up in wild- befriended animals- played with them- cuddled with python- arms in leopard's mouth- yet unharmed by any of these- loved animals- she believed the animals were her size and her friends.

2. What is the central metaphor of the poem "Hope Is the Thing with Feathers"?

A. The central metaphor in Emily Dickinson's poem *Hope is the thing with feathers* is that **hope is compared to a bird**. This bird perches in the soul and sings a wordless tune, never stopping—even during storms. It represents the comforting, persistent nature of hope that stays alive in us, offering strength and encouragement during difficult times.

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