



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



ENGLISH MS

Class: VIII
Date:
Admission no.:

Duration: 1 hr
Max Marks: 25
Roll no. :

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 and answer the following questions:

Coral reefs are fascinating underwater structures formed by colonies of tiny coral animals, which secrete calcium carbonate to create large and complex formations over many years. These reefs are typically found in shallow ocean waters, where they provide a rich and diverse ecosystem that supports a vast array of marine life. Often referred to as the "rainforests of the sea" due to their exceptional biodiversity, coral reefs serve as vital habitats for numerous species, including various fish, invertebrates, and marine plants. The reefs not only provide shelter and food but also play a crucial role in maintaining the overall health of the ocean environment. Additionally, coral reefs act as natural barriers that protect coastlines from the destructive forces of erosion and storm surges, reducing the impact of severe weather on coastal communities. However, these delicate ecosystems face growing threats from human activities, including climate change, pollution, and overfishing. Rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and the depletion of fish stocks are putting immense pressure on coral reefs, endangering their survival and the biodiversity they support. These challenges highlight the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect coral reefs and ensure their role in the marine environment is preserved for future generations.

1. What substance do coral animals secrete to form coral reefs?
a) Oxygen b) Calcium carbonate c) Phytoplankton d) Sand
2. How are reefs most commonly described, based on their biodiversity?
a) As underwater forests b) As rainforests of the sea
c) As deep-sea habitats d) As barren ocean floors

III. Do as directed: 4x1=4

1. Use appropriate conjunction to fill in the blanks:

a) He is **neither** a villain **nor** a saint.

b) She must rest, **or** she will faint.

2 Punctuate the following sentences:

a) Ramesh said may I come in

Ramesh said, "May I come in?"

b) Sania asked why did Ankita call Mohan a joker

Sania asked, "Why did Ankita call Mohan a joker?"

SECTION C – LITERATURE (10 marks)

IV. Answer the following. 3x1 =3marks

Down the stairs of this house where plaster flakes and falls,

1. Whose 'house' is it?

The house mentioned here belongs to the Speaker's grandmother

2. Why does the plaster 'flake and fall'?

The plaster flakes and falls due to the aging and deterioration of the house.

3. What does the speaker remember?

The speaker remembers the sound of their grandmother's footsteps echoing or pausing as they used to during past summer afternoons spent in the house.

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

1. What is the immediate reaction of Danilka when he sees Terenty?

The immediate reaction of Danilka when he sees Terenty is relief and a sickly smile. He is glad that Terenty has come to help him and is concerned about the thunder and his injured hand.

2. What is the effect of rain on the ant heap?

The rain has a damaging effect on the ant heap. The downpour floods the ant heap, causing the insects to scurry around in the mud, trying to save their drowned companions.

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

1. Discuss the role of the grandmother in the poem. How does the poet convey her presence and significance in the house despite her physical absence? Use specific details from the text to support your answer.

Ans: The grandmother in the poem symbolizes the connection to the past and the nostalgia associated with it. Despite her physical absence, her presence is felt through the slow footsteps and echoes. The mention of her shuffling and examining the tears in the curtains highlights her attention to detail and her role as a caretaker. The fact that she doesn't need glasses to mark the contours of the house suggests her deep familiarity and bond with her surroundings. Her existence is intertwined with the essence of the house, making her an integral part of its identity.

2. Write character sketch of Terenty.

Terenty is an elderly cobbler who possesses several notable characteristics. He is described as tall, with a thin, pockmarked face, long legs, and bare feet. Despite his appearance, he exhibits a gentle and caring nature, as seen in his interaction with Fyokla and Danilka. Terenty is selfless and quick to offer assistance, as demonstrated by his immediate response to Fyokla's plea for help.

He possesses a profound understanding of nature and imparts his wisdom to others, particularly Danilka, with whom he shares a special bond. Terenty's love and compassion extend beyond humans, as he also shows concern for the well-being of ants and bees.

He is an empathetic and knowledgeable

THE END