

Class VIII Session 2025-26

Subject - English

Sample Question Paper - 5

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- Attempt all questions.

Reading (20 Marks)

1. **Read the following passages carefully:- (1x5=5)**

[10]

Patriotism is an old concept, perhaps as old as the earliest of human civilisation. But all through the history of mankind, it has been narrowly understood. Today people have begun to realise that patriotism is an essential part of human instinct. Patriotism has its negative sides particularly when it exceeds its proper bounds. People who think of their own country to be the best and are blind to its weaknesses are not patriots at all.

We are the members of a large human family and so cannot neglect our duties and responsibilities towards it. Our love for the country should be conditioned by respect for the whole community. Narrow prejudice can do nothing except to bring misfortune. In trying to overlook others' interest in the modern world, we harm our own. Patriotism should be tempered with reason so that it may not be evil.

- Today what is the belief of people regarding patriotism?
 - It is narrowly understood
 - It is not needed
 - It is a part of human instinct
 - None of the above.
- Which type of the people can be categorised as patriots?
 - Those who think others' country greater than their own
 - Those who think their own country to be the best in spite of its weaknesses
 - Those who keep a neutral attitude towards their country
 - Those whose love for the country is conditioned by respect for the entire community.
- Narrow prejudices always bring
 - misfortune
 - good opportunity
 - good luck
 - huge amount of money.
- Patriotism is an evil when it is
 - tempered with reason
 - not tempered with reason
 - beyond narrow feelings
 - None of the above



v. The word in the passage means opposite to positive

- a. Proper
- b. Narrow
- c. Negative
- d. Reason.

2. **Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[10]

Laugh and be merry, better the world with a song.
Better the world with a blow in the teeth of a wrong.
Laugh, for the time is brief, a thread the length of a span.
Laugh and be proud to belong
to the old proud pageant of man.
Laugh and be merry-, remember, in olden time.
God made Heaven and Earth for joy.
He took in a rhyme,
Made them, and filled them with the
strong red wine of His mirth.
The splendid joy of the stars,- the joy of the Earth.
So we must laugh and drink from
a deep blue cup of the sky.
Join the jubilant song of the great stars sweeping by,
Laugh, and battle, and work,
and drink of the wine outpoured.
In the dear green Earth,
the sign of the joy of the Lord.
Laugh and be merry together, like brothers akin,
Guesting awhile in the rooms of a beautiful inn,
Glad till the dancing stops, and the lilt of the music ends.
Laugh till the game is played: and be you merry,
my friends.

- i. What is the central idea of the poem?
- ii. What is the **blow** with which the poet wants us to better the world?
- iii. What does the poet mean to say by the line **be proud to belong to the old proud pageant of man**?
- iv. What does the poet say that we all should live together like?
- v. Give a word for **delightful**.

Writing (20 Marks)

- 3. Suppose you have found somebody's wrist watch in your classroom. Write a notice to be put up on the School Notice board to find the owner of the watch. You are Dilip/ Deeksha. [5]
- 4. **With the help of the given outlines, develop a short story:** [5]
Old peasant ____ all his sons lazy ____ peasant dying ____ called all his sons ____ told them of a treasure ____ hidden in the fields ____ to find it they must dig for it ____ then died ____ sons dug every bit of the land ____ no treasure ____ showed the corn ____ a very fine crop ____ sons learnt the lesson ____ what?
- 5. Write a paragraph in about 100-150 words on the topic **Independence Day**. [5]



6. Write a letter to your elder sister on her birthday. She is away from home preparing for the medical entrance exam. [5]

Grammar (20 Marks)

7. Fill in the blanks correct preposition in the following: [5]

- Does he live in the town, or _____ the country?
- Have you lived _____ Kharkhoda long?
- I have always wanted to live _____ a bungalow.
- Mr. Sharma lives _____ Model Town _____ Delhi.
- He lives _____ 194 Kali Bari Kolkata

8. There is one error in each line. Point out the errors and make corrections. Also, underline the correct words. The first one has been done for you. [5]

		Incorrect	Correct
Santoor is a instrument indigenous	e.g.	a	an
of Kashmir, but now-a-days	(a)	_____	_____
played in the North. It is a hammered	(b)	_____	_____
dulcimer which is struck from light	(c)	_____	_____
wooden mallets. The number to strings	(d)	_____	_____
may be as few as 24 or more to 100.	(e)	_____	_____

9. Re-arrange the following words/phrases to make meaningful sentences: (1x5=5) [5]

- peacock / a / beautiful / is / a / bird
- neck / feathers / covered / is / lovely / its /with
- green / blue / its /and / body / is
- glory / its / tail / long / is / its
- it / national / our / is / bird.

10. Read the active given below and then complete the passive that follows. [5]

- The boy caught the ball.
The ball _____ the boy.
- He kept me waiting.
I _____ waiting.
- Everyone loves me.
_____loved by everyone.
- We expect good news.
Good news _____ by us.
- I have sold my bicycle.
My bicycle _____ sold by me.

Literature (20 Marks)

11. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions. (1x5 = 5) [3]

A silly young cricket, accustomed to sing
Through the warm, sunny months of



gay summer and spring,
 Began to complain when he found that, at home,
 His cupboard was empty, and winter was come.
 Not a crumb to be found
 On the snow covered ground;
 Not a flower he could see,
 Not a leaf on a tree.
 Oh! What will become, says the cricket, of me?

- i. Why does the poet call the cricket silly?
- ii. Where all did the cricket look for food?
- iii. What kind of weather was present during winter?
- iv. What does the poet call the cricket?
 - a. Silly
 - b. Gay
 - c. Foolish
 - d. Empty
- v. The word **accustomed** means?
 - a. Habituated
 - b. Uncomfortable
 - c. Favourite
 - d. Forgetful

12. **Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:** [3]

How shall the summer arise in joy,
 Or the summer fruits appear?

- i. Who is the author of the poem?
- ii. What is the summer a symbol of?
- iii. What is meant by 'summer fruits'?

13. **Answer any THREE of the following questions in 30-40 words each:** [3]

- (a) Why didn't Munna pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school? [1]
- (b) What do people say about the elephants of Yala National Park? (The Tsunami) [1]
- (c) What did Velu do in his village? [1]
- (d) What jobs did Hans Wolf and Jim Macpherson have when they were not soldiers? [1]

14. **Answer any THREE of the following questions in 50-60 words each:** [6]

- (a) What were the social evils Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought against? How did he reform society? [2]
- (b) What are the two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mist comes up? Answer in the context of A Short Monsoon Diary. [2]
- (c) Nor sit in learning's bower
 worn thro' with the dreary shower
 Which of the following is a close paraphrase of the lines above? [2]
 - i. Nor can I sit in a roofless classroom when it is raining.
 - ii. Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.
 - iii. Nor can I sit in the school garden for fear of getting wet in the rain.



(d) Ranji is not at all eager for a second fight. Why does he go back to the pool, then? [2]

15. **Answer any ONE of the following questions in 80-100 words each:** [5]

(a) Describe the various metaphors employed in the story. Write your answer in the context of Jalebis. [5]

(b) Explain the line, **but these are the wounds of love**. Write your answer in the context of The Selfish Giant. [5]



Solution

Reading (20 Marks)

1.
 - i. (c)
 - ii. (d)
 - iii. (a)
 - iv. (b)
 - v. (c)
2.
 - i. Life is short and therefore, we must laugh and be cheerful till the time we are on this Earth.
 - ii. It is our smile and happiness that will serve as a “blow” against the wrong things and better the world.
 - iii. By this life; the poet means that we should be proud to witness the progress of mankind.
 - iv. The poet says that we should all live together like brothers.
 - v. Merry

Writing (20 Marks)

D.A.V. SECONDARY SCHOOL, LUDHIANA NOTICE

25th August, 20XX

Wrist Watch Found

It is brought to the notice of the students of the School that I have found a wristwatch in the classroom of VIth standard during the lunch break. Its make is Titoni. The strap of the watch is red. Anybody who has lost the watch can meet me during the recess period and can have the watch from the undersigned.

Dilip/Deeksha

Class VIII

The Hidden Treasure

Once upon a time, somewhere in a far off village lived a peasant. The peasant had several sons. But they were all lazy and did not help him in farming.

One day the peasant fell ill. He knew he was dying. So he decided to teach his lazy sons the real value of life. He called all his sons together and said to them: “A treasure lies hidden in my fields. But to find it you shall have to dig hard for it.”

The peasant died. After the funeral and mourning. The next day, at the dawn of the first rays of the sun, his sons went to the fields and dug every bit of the land, but they found no treasure buried deep inside the earth.

They were very sad. Soon it rained heavily and as the earth has been well dug, they sowed the corn seeds.

There was a very good crop harvest that year. The sons now learned what their father meant by treasure hidden in the farm. The treasure could be got only by hard work.

Independence Day

15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India. It is our Independence Day. India became free on this day in 1947. It is celebrated as a National Festival. On August 15 1947, the nation had celebrated the independence day at the Red Fort located in Delhi the national capital. Our beloved Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the National Flag. Since then it is celebrated every year at the Red Fort. The Prime Minister hoists the flag. He gives a message to the nation.

Our school also celebrates this day every year. The school building is beautifully decorated. National Flag is hoisted. Then our Principal delivers a speech.

6. 340, Sector 10

Urban Estate

Gurgaon

16th July, 20XX

Dearest sister,

Please accept my heartiest wishes on the occasion of your birthday. This is for the first time that you won't be with us on your birthday. We all are missing the preparations and fun we always had on your birthdays. Even your friends have dropped in to inquire about your comeback. However, we sincerely wish that you get admission in some good medical college. I know how hard you have been working for it.



Well, Didi, how do you plan to celebrate your birthday this year? Do write to me what all you did on the day. I wish I was with you though. I have bought a small present for you which I am sending through the parcel. I hope you will like it. Mummy and papa too are wishing you happy birthday. With lots of best wishes.

Yours affectionately,

Rahul.

Grammar (20 Marks)

7. i. in ii. at, iii. in, iv. at, in, v. at.

8.	Santoor is a instrument indigenous	Ex	a	an
	of Kashmir, but now-a-days	a	<u>of</u>	<u>to</u>
	played in the North. It is a hammered	b	<u>in</u>	<u>throughout</u>
	dulcimer which is struck from light	c	<u>from</u>	<u>with</u>
	wooden mallets. The number to string	d	<u>to</u>	<u>of</u>
	may be as few as 24 or more to 100.	e	<u>to</u>	<u>than</u>

9. i. A peacock is a beautiful bird.
 ii. Its neck is covered with lovely feathers.
 iii. Its body is green and blue.
 iv. Its glory is its long tail.
 v. It is our national bird.

10. i. The ball was caught by the boy.
 ii. I was kept waiting by him.
 iii. I am loved by everyone.
 iv. Good news is expected by us.
 v. My bicycle has been sold by me.

Literature (20 Marks)

11. i. The cricket was busy singing during summer and did not bother to save anything for the winter and that's why the poet calls the cricket silly.
 ii. The cricket first looked for food in his cupboard and saw that the cupboard was empty. Then he looked outside, but he did not find anything on the trees or the ground either.
 iii. During the winter, the ground was covered with snow. Also, there were rains.
 iv. The poet calls the cricket silly.
 v. The word accustomed means habituated.
12. i. William Blake is the name of the poet.
 ii. The summer is the symbol of youth.
 iii. The phrase 'summer fruits' means the 'beautiful deeds done by the youth'.
13. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 30-40 words each:
 (i) He (Munna) didn't pay the school fees on the same day because the teacher who was supposed to collect the money, was on leave.
 (ii) They say that they saw them running from the beach. The elephants had sensed it an hour before the tsunami hit the coast.
 (iii) Velu worked on a landowner's farm, knew weeding and took cows out to graze.
 (iv) Hans Wolf was a cello player in the Orchestra and Jim was a school teacher from Dorset when they were not soldiers.
14. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 50-60 words each:
 (i) Raja Ram Mohan Roy found that his country suffered from many social ills. The religious leaders of the time preached absurd religious practices. They said that anyone who crossed the seas lost his religion. These godmen supported the burning of women as Saties. They argued that all the misery in the world was due to women.
 The truth was that Indians had lost self respect. Raja Ram Mohan Roy asked them not to despise themselves. He said that ancient Indian culture was great and the Indians were capable of greater achievements. For this, he wanted to reform society. He spoke fearlessly against blind faith and the Sati custom/practice.
 (ii) The two ways the hills appear to change when the mist comes are that the mist envelops the whole area like a white blanket and conceals the hills. Due to this it seems as if night has fallen and this silences the birds and the forest appears deathly still and silent.



(iii)ii. Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.

(iv)He goes to the pool because he can not refuse a challenge. Not to go to the pool could be an acknowledgement of defeat. He could not quietly accept his defeat. He wants to gain self-respect.

15. Answer any ONE of the following questions in 80-100 words each:

(i) The story employs quite a few metaphors. The jalebis, hot and syrupy, stand as a metaphor for various temptations that young children have and which they are unable to resist. The boy is lured by the prospect of buying jalebis with his fees money and pay the fees money with his scholarship money. The four coins, are also metaphors in the story as they tempt the boy in believing that he could give in to temptation now and make plans of paying with the money which he did not have yet. The noises produced by the coins, their jingle and clamour, is representative of the mental conflict going on in the boy's mind. He was unable to control his temptation. Therefore, coins are referred to as the 'talking coins', on whom he transfers the onus of his temptation.

(ii) The little boy whose presence in the Giant's garden ensues a change of heart in the Giant, utters these lines, "but these are the wounds of love". The Giant sees him wounded with the prints of nails on his hands and feet, and he gets angry and wishes to punish the one who did that to him. It is through these lines the little boy reveals himself to be Christ himself. He calls these wounds the 'wounds of love' because He chose to die and sacrifice His life for the sake of His love for man and mankind. These wounds signify Christ's love and ultimate sacrifice for humanity and also the giant is thus blessed by Him because the giant understood the importance of love and selfishness.

