

Class VIII Session 2025-26

Subject - English

Sample Question Paper - 8

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- Attempt all questions.

Reading (20 Marks)

1. **Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:- (5)** [10]

A myth has been built around the pelican, one of the oldest surviving birds. It is a commonly held belief that the mother feeds her chicks on her own blood. So people have regarded the pelican as the most affectionate and dutiful bird.

The large bill of the bird makes it very easy to recognise it. It has a short tail, short legs, long wings and a large bag under its bill. Because of its webbed toes, the pelican finds walking on the land difficult.

However, it is a delight to watch these birds in flight. The pelican has figured among the largest of all the birds. It has a wingspan of up to 2.75 metres and weighs between 4.5 and 11 kg. It lives in places with a moderate climate. It migrates to India, Africa and Iran in winter because its wings do not give sufficient protection against the cold. The brown pelican is the smallest of the pelicans. It dives its headlong into the water from quite a height to get at its prey. The other six species of pelicans have white plumage.

Pelicans are very sociable birds. They travel, rest, nest and even fish together. The young pelicans take wing when they are about two months old. The nests of pelicans are far from the source of any food. Therefore, adults have to fly great distances to get food.

Below you can find a summary of the above passage. Fill in each blank with one word/phrase to complete it. (1x4=4)

Pelican is one of the oldest (a)_____ birds. It is believed that its young ones are fed by the mother's (b)_____. Perhaps due to this, the pelican is regarded as the (c) _____ and dutiful bird. It has long (d) _____ webbed feet and a very short tail. Pelican finds it difficult to walk on land because of its webbed toes. It lives in places where the climate is moderately cold. In all, there are seven species of pelicans.

Find the words from the above passage that mean the same as:- (2x1/2 =1)

- enough
- friendly

2. **Read the following poems carefully:- (1 x 5 = 5)** [10]

WHOSE woods these are I think I know.

His house is in the village though;

He will not see me stopping here

To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer

To stop without a farmhouse near



Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

- i. In the last stanza of the poem there is a repetition of the line; 'And miles to go before I sleep.' The poet has repeated the line to
 - a. make the poem interesting
 - b. emphasise his responsibilities
 - c. attract the readers
 - d. express the idea of the poem more forcefully.
- ii. When the poet says 'But I have promises to keep'; he means that
 - a. he has to make his life successful
 - b. he has certain duties which he must discharge
 - c. he has to follow what he has said to his friends
 - d. he has to make people happy.
- iii. The woods are covered with
 - a. snow
 - b. yellow leaves
 - c. sand
 - d. fallen trees.
- iv. Who gives the harness bells a shake?
 - a. Horse
 - b. Poet
 - c. Horse-rider
 - d. Elephant.
- v. The word queer means
 - a. sometimes
 - b. familiar
 - c. strange
 - d. abnormal

Writing (20 Marks)

3. Your school has decided to present a programme on the AIR from the AIR Stadium in your city, in the popular programme **Meet the Young-Artists**. [5]

Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice-board inviting talented students to appear for trial for different items on 20th November in the School's "Open Theatre". You have invited Mr. Anand Bosle,

the famous Presenter on the AIR. You are the Secretary, Cultural Activities Society. The school Principal has accorded his permission for the broadcast.

4. **Write an interesting story from the given outlines.** [5]

A group of merchants went on a voyage one of them takes his monkey with him a storm came and ship got wrecked everybody drowns monkey saved by a dolphin dolphin takes it towards an island.....asks monkey who lives there monkey spoke lie says that he is the prince of that island dolphin knows the truth leaves monkey alone on the island moral.

5. Write a paragraph in about 100-150 words on the topic **Air Pollution**. [5]
 6. Write a letter to your father explaining to him your poor performance in the half-yearly examination. [5]

Grammar (20 Marks)

7. **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
In 10 May, 1993, a young girl	e.g.	in	on
of Himachal Pradesh called Dicky Dolma	(a)	_____	_____
sets a world record when she	(b)	_____	_____
became the younger woman in the	(c)	_____	_____
world to climbing the Everest! This	(d)	_____	_____
record was set when she reached			
the top to the world's highest	(e)	_____	_____
mountain as a member of the			
Indo-Nepal Women's Expedition at the age of 19.			

8. **Fill in the following blanks with correct tense (present tense) of the verbs given in brackets:** [5]

- i. She _____ midnight oil for five years. (burn)
- ii. I _____ for the examination for one year. (prepare)
- iii. Malaria _____ in this city since July. (rage)
- iv. How long _____ you _____ for me? (wait)
- v. The washerman _____ our clothes since 1985. (wash)

9. **Arrange the following groups of words into a sentence :** [5]

- a. have / I / an / answer
- b. of / colour / the / good / shirt / is / of
- c. toy / your / is / red
- d. the / boy / himself / cut
- e. sister / my / Sheela / is

10. **Read the dialogue given below and then complete the report that follows.** [5]

- i. He said to me, "I will not give you any medicine without a prescription."
 He said to me that _____ without a prescription.



ii. Rafiq said, "I shall leave for London tomorrow."

Rafiq said that _____ next day.

iii. She said, "I shall be visiting my college tomorrow."

She said that _____ the following day.

iv. They said, "It will have been snowing since morning."

They said that _____ since morning.

v. He will say, "My brother will help her."

He will say that _____ help her.

Literature (20 Marks)

11. **Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:** [3]

My heart was so light

That I sang day and night

For all nature looked gay.

You sang, Sir, you say?

Go then' say the ant, and dance the winter away.

i. To whom is the ant talking?

ii. When was the heart light of the speaker of the first three lines?

iii. What did the ant suggest to her listener?

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

But to go to school in a summer morn,

Oh it drives all joy away,- Under a cruel eye outworn,

The little ones spend the day,

In sighing and dismay.

i. What kills the joy for the boy?

ii. Explain the meaning of the phrase, under a cruel eye outworn.

iii. How do the little ones spend their days?

iv. Who is the speaker of these lines?

a. The schoolboy

b. The poet

c. The mother

d. The school teacher

v. Whose plight is the boy describing?

a. His own plight

b. The plight of the school boys

c. The school teacher's plight

d. The father's plight

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

(a) Whom does the boy compare himself to, while distributing the jalebis to the children? [1]

(b) Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami? [1]

(c) Why was Velu feeling miserable? [1]

(d) How was probably the roll-top desk damaged? [1]

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

- (a) Change the following sentences into indirect speech. [2]

First man: We must educate our brothers.

Second man: And try to improve their material conditions.

Third man: For that we must convey our grievances to the British Parliament.

The first man said that _____ a _____

The second man added that they _____ b _____

The third man suggested that _____ c _____

- (b) When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end? How do you prepare to face the monsoon? [2]

- (c) How does William Blake compare a child to a plant? [2]

- (d) Why did the pool not dry even in the extreme summer? [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. a. surviving
b. own blood
c. most affectionate
d. wings
i. sufficient
ii. sociable
2. i. (d) The poet has repeated the line to express the idea of the poem more forcefully.
ii. (b) When the poet says But I have promises to keep, he means that he has certain duties which he must discharge
iii. (a) The woods were covered with snow.
iv. (a) The horse gave a shake to the harness bells.
v. (c) The word queer means strange.

Writing (20 Marks)

P.S. PUBLIC SCHOOL

Rampur

9th October 2019

Our school is going to present a programme on AIR. It is the popular programme 'Meet the Young-Artists'. All the students willing to participate should appear for a trial. This trial for different items will be on 17 October in the school's 'Open Theatre' Mr. Anand Bosle, a famous AIR presenter will be there.

Secretary

3. Cultural Activities Society

The Boastful Monkey

Once a group of merchants went on a voyage. One of them took his monkey along with him. During the journey, a storm wrecks their ship and everybody gets drowned away. The monkey was saved by a dolphin. The dolphin put the monkey on its back and swam towards the shore of a deserted island. To test the monkey, the dolphin asked him "Do you know anyone here?" The monkey replied, "Yes, of course, I do. This island belongs to me. I am the prince of this island." The dolphin calmly replied, "Well, you are right. Now, you would be the king of this island. The monkey asked the dolphin how he can be the king to which dolphin replied with a smile". Its very simple. Since from now onwards, you will be the only creature living here, you would be the king of this island!" With these words, the Dolphin left the monkey and swam away with poor monkey staring away at the dolphin.

Air Pollution

5. Pollution has posed a great problem for all of us. Everything around us is polluted. The air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink all are polluted. Air pollution is the worst kind of pollution. Air pollution causes many kinds of health problem. The poisonous gases given out by vehicles and factories pollute the environment. Increase in pollution level leads to the rise in overall temperature. This causes the greenhouse effect. The life of man is affected as air pollution harms him in every manner. We should try to bring air pollution under control.
6. 24, Apollo Hostel
Heaven Road, New Delhi
July 20, 2019
Dear Father,
I am sorry I had a poor performance in the half-yearly examination. Dear Father as you know, I had been suffering from fever for a fortnight just before the examination. This was the reason I could not perform well. I will try my best to secure a high pass percentage in the annual examination.
Please pay my best compliments to mother and love to younger sister.
With best regards.
Yours affectionately,
Arun



Grammar (20 Marks)

7.	In 10 May, 1993, a young girl	EX	in	on
	of Himachal Pradesh called Dicky Dolma	a	of	from
	sets a world record when she	b	sets	set
	became the younger woman in the	c	younger	youngest
	world to climbing the Everest! This	d	climbing	climb
	record was set when she reached			
	the top to the world's highest			
	mountain as a member of the	e	of	to
	Indo-Nepal Women's Expedition at the age of 19			

8. i. has burnt/has been burning, ii. have been preparing, iii. has been raging, iv. have, been waiting/have, waited, v. has been washing.

9. a. I have an answer.
b. The colour of my shirt is good.
c. Your toy is red.
d. The boy cut himself.
e. Sheela is my sister.

10. i. he would not give me any medicine
ii. he would leave for London the
iii. she would be visiting her college
iv. it would have been snowing
v. his brother will

Literature (20 Marks)

11. i. The ant is talking to cricket.
ii. The heart of the speaker (cricket) was light during summer.
iii. The ant suggested that he should go and dance the winter away.
12. i. For the boy, going to school kills all the joy.
ii. The phrase, 'under a cruel eye outworn' could mean under the surveillance of someone like a teacher who doesn't allow them any respite from the dull and boring routine of school.
iii. The little ones spend their days in sighing and dismay as they hate going to school.
iv. The Schoolboy is the speaker.
v. The plight of the schoolboys is what the poet is describing.
13. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 30-40 words each:
- (i) While distributing the jalebis, the boy compares himself to Governor Saheb who used to distribute rice to the poor on Independence Day.
 - (ii) Smith family members and others rushed to the third floor of the hotel when the beach was hit by tsunami waves and thus were saved.
 - (iii) Velu had walked for most of the day to Karur, had a disturbed sleep on the floor and ate nothing. He had no place to go to Chennai.
 - (iv) The roll-top desk was probably damaged by the action of fire and water.
14. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 50-60 words each:
- (i) a. they must educate their brothers.
b. should try to improve their material conditions,
c. they must convey their grievances to the British Parliament.
 - (ii) The monsoon generally begins at the end of June. It generally ends at the end of August or at the beginning of September. We buy raincoats or umbrellas to face the monsoon.
 - (iii) A child and a plant are similar in many ways. Both of them are a joy to watch. The plant is happy with its buds and flowers. The child is happy with his games. Pluck the bud and the flowers and the plant looks unhappy. Moreover, it will



not bear fruit if you do so. In the same way, deprive the child of his freedom and the child becomes sad. Moreover, such a child will not be very useful to society.

(iv) The pool didn't dry up like the pools in the plains because the rocks held the water in it.

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.