



Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir
Midterm Examination ((2026-2027))
ENGLISH
SET- 2
(ANSWER KEY)

Class: VIII

Date: 15/09/26

Max. Marks: 80

Time: 2.5 hours

General Instructions:

- ✓ *All questions are compulsory.*
- ✓ *The question paper consists of four sections:*
 - Section A - Reading – 20 Marks*
 - Section B - Writing – 15 Marks*
 - Section C - Grammar – 15 Marks*
 - Section D - Literature – 30 Marks*
- ✓ *Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section and number your questions correctly.*
- ✓ *While attempting MCQs, write the correct option number along with the answer.*
- ✓ *Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.*
- ✓ *This paper consists of 13 printed pages.*

	SECTION A-READING	20 Marks
Q.1	Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:	10 Marks
	The Case of the Missing Trophy 1. The Greenwood Public School had won the Inter-School Science Quiz for three years in a row, and the golden trophy sat proudly in a glass cabinet outside the Principal's office. On Monday morning, however, the cabinet stood empty. The glass was unbroken, and the lock had not been forced. Principal Mehta was furious and called for the school's cleverest student, Aanya, who was known for her sharp eye and habit of noticing things others missed. 2. Aanya began by questioning the four students who had stayed back on Friday evening for the debate club meeting, since the trophy had last been seen at 5 p.m. that day. Rohan claimed he had gone straight home to watch a cricket match, insisting he had been glued to the television the entire evening. Priya said she had spent the evening in the library, finishing an assignment that was due the following Monday. Farhan mentioned he had waited near the school gate for his father to pick him up, as his father's office had called to say he would be late. Simran said she had stayed in the music room, practising for the annual concert. 3. Aanya did not immediately accuse anyone. Instead, she asked the school watchman, old Mr. Das, whether he had noticed anything unusual. He recalled that the debate club room light had been switched off by 5:15 p.m., but he had heard footsteps near the trophy cabinet	

around 5:30 p.m., followed by the faint creak of the store-room door — the one behind the cabinet that connected to a narrow corridor.

4. Aanya's eyes lit up. She remembered that the cricket match Rohan mentioned had actually been postponed due to rain — it was announced on every news channel that Friday afternoon. She also recalled that the library had closed early that day for fumigation, a notice that had been pinned on the board since Wednesday. Farhan's story checked out; his father later confirmed the late pickup. Simran's music teacher confirmed she had been practising until 6 p.m.
5. With quiet confidence, Aanya walked into the store-room and found the trophy hidden behind a stack of old chart papers, exactly where someone might hide something in a hurry, intending to return for it later. When confronted, the guilty student admitted to taking it, hoping to keep it as a "memento" before the quiz team graduated. The trophy was returned to its cabinet by evening, and Aanya earned herself a reputation as the school's youngest detective.

Choose the correct option.

(1x6=6)

1. Why did Aanya begin her investigation with the four debate club students?

- a) **The trophy was last seen around the time they were in school**
- b) They were the only students in school that day
- c) They were seen near the cabinet by the Principal
- d) They had a history of misbehaviour

2. What was the key clue that proved someone was lying?

- a) The unbroken glass of the cabinet
- b) **A contradiction between a student's story and an easily verifiable fact**
- c) A confession made to the watchman
- d) Fingerprints found on the cabinet

3. Which detail did Mr. Das provide that helped Aanya the most?

- a) The name of the student he saw
- b) The time the trophy went missing
- c) A description of the thief's clothing
- d) **Footsteps and a creaking door near the store-room after 5:15 p.m.**

4. Why does the passage mention that Farhan's and Simran's stories were confirmed by other adults?

- a) To show that Aanya suspected them the most
- b) **To eliminate them as suspects through independent verification**
- c) To prove that adults are more reliable than students
- d) To explain why they were not questioned at all

5. What does 'hiding the trophy behind chart papers' tell you about the student's plan?

Answer: It shows the student acted quickly and probably planned to come back for it later. (in their own words)

6. How did Aanya solve the mystery?

Answer: She checked each student's story against facts like the match being postponed and the library being closed to see who was not telling the truth.

7. Identify the figure of speech used in the line "*the golden trophy sat proudly in a glass cabinet*" in **para 1**, and briefly explain why it fits that category.

Ans: Personification

(1 Mark)

8. Find a word in **para 5** that means "*a general opinion held by others about a person, based on their past behaviour*".

Ans: Reputation

(1 Mark)

9. Assertion (A): The trophy was very likely stolen by someone from within the school, not an outsider.

Reason (R): The cabinet's glass was unbroken and the lock had not been forced, and the trophy was later found hidden in a store-room accessible only through a narrow corridor inside the school.

(1 Mark)

Choose the correct option:

a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

c) A is true, but R is false

d) A is false, but R is true

10. Fill in the blank:

(1 Mark)

Mr. Das's account was important because he reported hearing footsteps and a creaking door near the store-room after the ----- room lights had been switched off.

Answer: debate club

Q. 2	Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:	10 Marks
	The Night Watchman's Secret 1. My name is Jolly, and I've been the night watchman of Oakhaven for longer than most folks remember. Over forty-five years, I've seen the moon wax and wane countless times from my lonely post guarding the old cottage at the village's edge. The silence is usually broken only by the rustling of leaves and the occasional hoot of an owl, a comforting rhythm to my aging bones. But tonight... tonight was different. The stillness was punctured by a sound that defied all logic: a whooshing, almost silent rush of air, followed by a flicker of light against the inky sky. My old eyes, though failing, caught a glimpse of something impossible. A human figure, silhouetted against the moon, soaring effortlessly above the crooked rooftops of Oakhaven. It wasn't a bird, not a kite – it was a man, a flying man. 2. My heart hammered a frantic rhythm against my ribs. I rubbed my eyes, certain I was hallucinating from years of solitary nights. But the image persisted, a fleeting memory etched onto the back of my eyelids. This figure, graceful and swift, moved with a strange, ethereal quality, bathed in an almost otherworldly glow. He circled the village twice, then disappeared as suddenly as he appeared, leaving behind only a lingering scent of ozone and the disquieting echo of silence that felt heavier than before. Was this some bizarre dream, a trick of the light? Or, was I about to discover something I wasn't supposed to, something that would shatter my predictable routine of night watches? The man, the flying man, had been too real for a simple dream. 3. Later, when the first rays of dawn kissed the horizon, I discovered a small, leather-bound journal near the village well. Its pages contained meticulous sketches of fantastical contraptions, notations about "controlled levitation" and a name: John. A John who, I suspected, might be the flying man I had witnessed. Oakhaven would never be the same. 4. My quiet nights were now laced with an unsettling sense of wonder, a feeling that the ordinary world I knew was merely a thin veil over something far stranger, far more magical, and far more exciting. My duty as a night watchman had just become a lot more interesting. The village slept, oblivious, while I, Jolly the night watchman, carried the secret of a flying man in my weary heart. Answer the following questions: 1. Since Jolly finds John's journal near the village well (not on the flying man), what can you most logically infer about where or how the flying man landed or passed? A) He crashed near the well and was too injured to retrieve the journal B) He deliberately left the journal behind as a message for whoever found it C) He likely passed near or landed close to the well at some point during his flight, and the journal fell or was dropped unnoticed	(1 Mark)

	D) The journal belongs to someone else entirely and has no connection to the flying man 2. The passage describes the flying man as being "bathed in an almost otherworldly glow" and leaving "a lingering scent of ozone." What does this combination of details most strongly suggest about the nature of his flight? A) It is purely magical and supernatural in origin, with no scientific basis B) It is powered by some form of energy or mechanism that produces light and an electrical-type odor, hinting at technology rather than pure magic C) It is an optical illusion caused by Jolly's failing eyesight D) It is caused by natural phenomena like ball lightning 3. In Paragraph 2, the word "<i>ethereal</i>" is used to describe the flying figure's quality of movement. Which meaning best fits its use in this context? A) Heavy and clumsy B) Extremely loud and forceful C) Slow and deliberate D) Delicate, light, and seemingly not of this world 4. Why does the author most likely end the passage with Jolly stating the village "slept, oblivious," while he alone "carried the secret"? Ans: To emphasize the isolation and unique burden of being the sole witness to something extraordinary, setting up his changed perspective on his 'ordinary' duty. (in their own words) 5. In Paragraph 3, Jolly describes the journal's notations as "meticulous." What does "<i>meticulous</i>" mean as used here? A) Showing great attention to detail and precision B) Careless and rushed C) Written in a hurry and hard to read D) Brief and vague 6. In Paragraph 4, Jolly reflects that the ordinary world was "merely a thin veil over something far stranger." What does "veil" mean in this context? Ans: A thin covering or layer that conceals what lies beneath it 7. Assertion (A): Jolly initially doubts his own senses and rubs his eyes, believing he may be hallucinating. Reason (R): Fifty-five years of solitary, uneventful night watches would naturally make an extraordinary and unprecedented sight seem implausible to him. Choose the correct option: A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A B) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A C) A is true, but R is false D) A is false, but R is true	(1 Mark) (1 Mark) (1 Mark) (1 Mark) (1 Mark) (1 Mark)
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	8. How does the journal's content (sketches and notes on "controlled levitation") support the idea that the flying man is a real inventor and not a ghost or illusion? Answer: Because only a real person designing a device would make technical sketches and notes; a ghost or hallucination would not leave such concrete, planned details. (in their own words) State whether the following statements are True or False: 9. Jolly had never experienced anything unusual during his forty-five years as night watchman before this night. Answer: True 10. Jolly found the leather-bound journal in the flying man's hands as he watched him circle the village. Answer: False	(1 Mark) (1X2=2Marks)
	SECTION B - WRITING	15 Marks
Q. 3	Your school recently organized an artificial intelligence (AI) exhibition, where you interacted with humanoid robots and tried AI tools that can generate art and solve complex math problems in seconds. While you found it incredibly exciting, it also made you think about the future of human jobs and creativity. Write a diary entry in 80–100 words expressing your mixed feelings of amazement and worry about this digital revolution. (F-1: C-3-accuracy & expressions)	4 marks
Q. 4	You are Aarav / Ananya, the Cultural Secretary of Bal Bharti Public School, New Delhi. Your school is organizing an Inter-House Solo Dance Competition for students of Classes 6 to 8 on September 30, 2026. Draft a notice in 80-100 words for the school Notice Board inviting interested students to register their names. Provide all necessary details like date, time, venue, and the last date for registration. (F-2; C-3- accuracy & expressions)	5 marks
Q. 5	Write a 150–200 words essay on 'The Rapid Rise of Short-Form Videos and its Impact on Teenagers.' Analyze its addictiveness, impact on attention span and academics, and ways to build a healthy digital diet. (F-1; C-3; E/A-2)	6 marks
	SECTION C - GRAMMAR	15 Marks
Q. 6	Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets according to the specified tense. - While the teacher _____ (explain) the grammar rule, the electricity suddenly went out. (Past Continuous Tense) - By the time my father reaches home tonight, my mother _____ (cook) dinner. (Future Perfect Tense) - I cannot go out to play right now because I _____ (paint) my art project since afternoon. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)	(1X4=4)

	4. By the time the train finally arrives at the platform, we _____ (wait) here for over two hours. (Future Perfect Continuous Tense) Ans: 1. was explaining 2. will have cooked 3. have been painting 4. will have been waiting	
Q. 7	Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate preposition. 1. Despite searching everywhere for the missing book, Rahul could not find his library card and had to look for it for another hour. 2. The students were congratulated on their victory for their brilliant performance in the Inter-School Debate Championship. 3. The old palace has been converted from a historical estate into/to a luxury museum to attract global tourists.	(0.5X6=3)
Q. 8	Identify the error in each sentence and rewrite the sentence correctly. 1. The pack of wolves are howling in the distance. 2. Each of the participants have received their certificate. 3. The principal, along with the teachers, were presenting the awards. 4. Neither the heavy rain nor the strong winds affects our travel plans. Answer Key: 1. Incorrect: The pack of wolves are howling in the distance. Correct: The pack of wolves is howling in the distance. 2. Incorrect: Each of the participants have received their certificate. Correct: Each of the participants has received his/her certificate. 3. Incorrect: The principal, along with the teachers, were presenting the awards. Correct: The principal, along with the teachers, was presenting the awards. 4. Incorrect: Neither the heavy rain nor the strong winds affects our travel plans. Correct: Neither the heavy rain nor the strong winds affect our travel plans.	(1X4=4)
Q. 9	A. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate modal verbs from the options in parenthesis. 1. The front gates are locked and the lights are out; they _____ (must/should/could) have left for the airport already. 2. Even though the question paper was incredibly long, Rohan _____ (shall/would/could) finish all the answers just in time. B. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate modal verbs. 1. We _____ respect our national flag and protect our country's heritage. 2. If you had asked me earlier, I _____ have gladly lent you my notebook.	(1X4=4)

"Leroy!" Mrs. Brown exclaimed. "What do the four words mean?"
"You already guessed, Mom. They tell where the jewellery is hidden."
Mrs. Brown looked ready to explode with impatience, "Where?" Encyclopedia
smiled. "Why, under the fifth word," he said.
What Was the Fifth Word?

1. Why does Encyclopedia say the code wouldn't make much sense to someone who isn't looking for a hiding place?

Answer: Because the code was meant only for Davenport, who knew what he was searching for; to an outsider, the calendar words would seem meaningless.

(1 Mark)

2. Find a word from the extract that means "burst with strong emotion" (as used to describe Mrs. Brown's impatience).

Answer: Explode

(1 Mark)

3. Why was the code written on a sheet from a calendar rather than on plain paper?

Answer: A calendar sheet with numbered/named days would allow the "fifth word" clue to be hidden logically among ordinary-looking words, making it inconspicuous to anyone else.

(1 Mark)

4. Fill in the blank:

Encyclopedia Brown figured out that the stolen jewellery was hidden beneath the fifth word on the calendar sheet, which was _____.

Answer: Fri (or Friday / Fir)

(1 Mark)

*C. Down the street, with laughter and shout,
 Glad in the freedom of "school let out,"
 Came the boys like a flock of sheep,
 Hailing the snow piled white and deep.
 Past the woman so old and grey
 Hastened the children on their way
 Nor offered a helping hand to her...*

1. Find a word in the stanza that means "moved or walked quickly."

Answer: Hastened

2. Fill in the blank:

The line "*Came the boys like a flock of sheep*" uses a simile to show that the boys were moving together in a _____.

Answer: group / crowd / herd

3. Why were the boys laughing and shouting as they came down the street?

Answer: The boys were happy and excited because school had just finished for the day ("school let out") and they were enjoying the snow.

	4. How did the children react when they saw the old woman waiting at the crossing? Answer: The children rushed past her without stopping to offer her a helping hand.	
Q.11	Choose the correct word from the options for their underlined meanings given in the sentences below. 1. The engineering team managed <u>to think of</u> a brilliant new method to recycle plastic waste. a. device b. revise c. devise d. execute 2. A massive <u>crowd</u> surged toward the stadium gates as soon as the doors opened. a. rush b. throng c. population d. cluster 3. The bright red stain on his white shirt was highly <u>noticeable</u>, making him feel self-conscious during the interview. a. conspicuous b. hustle c. poignant d. whimsical	(1X3=3)
Q.12	Answer <u>any six</u> questions briefly. Q1. How does the story, The Wit That Won Hearts, conclude, and what lesson can be learnt from it? Ans: The story ends on a positive note, with the king offering an apology and harmony being restored. It highlights the importance of empathy, wit, and effective communication. Q2. What quality of Encyclopedia Brown's character is revealed through his ability to solve the mystery of the hidden jewellery? Answer: Encyclopedia Brown displays sharp observation, logical thinking, and patience. Unlike others, he doesn't just look at what is obvious (the four words) but thinks carefully about what lies beneath or beyond the surface — showing that true intelligence lies in careful reasoning rather than quick assumptions. Q3. Why did the merchant become suspicious of the four men? What does this tell us about him? Ans. The four men gave accurate information about the camel that made the merchant suspicious. He could not accept that they had not seen the	(1.5X6=9)

camel. This shows that the merchant is a suspicious man who does not believe the men's claim that they had not seen the camel.

Q4. What might have been the outcome of the Battle of Badgam if Major Somnath and his company had not held their ground?

Ans: If Major Somnath and his company had not held their ground, the infiltrators might have captured the Srinagar airport and the surrounding areas. This could have led to the loss of Kashmir to Pakistan in 1947, changing the course of Indian history significantly.

Q5. Why did Dr. Kurien write the letter to his grandson?

Ans. Dr. Kurien wrote the letter to his grandson to share the wisdom of his life experiences and to inspire the younger generation. He wanted to convey important lessons about purpose, service, and the importance of making meaningful choices. The letter is a heartfelt attempt to pass on values such as hard work, integrity, and compassion.

Q6. Why did Officers Lewis and Maloney search Nolan's house, and what was the outcome of their search?

Answer: Officers Lewis and Maloney searched Nolan's house because Chief Brown had received a court order to look for stolen jewellery, which was suspected to be hidden there. Despite thoroughly searching the house ("just about took Nolan's house apart"), they did not find even a single piece of the stolen jewellery.

Q7. Why was this technical breakthrough considered as "massive turning point" for Amul?

Ans. During the winter "flush season," buffaloes produced a massive surplus of milk. Because milk spoils quickly, middlemen exploited farmers by buying it at dirt-cheap rates. Converting the surplus into powder allowed Amul to store it safely and sell it later, protecting the farmers' income.

Q.13 Match the words with their correct meanings:

(1X3=3)

	WORD	MEANING
1.	testify	a. to continue to support
2.	gnawed	b. notify
3.	adhered	c. bothered
		d. to make a statement in court to prove that something is true

Ans: 1-d; 2-c; 3-a

Q.14.	Answer <u>any four</u> questions in detail. Q1. Why do you think the poet chose humor and clever word play instead of a serious tone to talk about the garden? Ans. The poet utilizes humor and clever wordplay to transform a simple description of a neighbor's yard into an engaging character study. Firstly, this tone highlights the irony and absurdity of a garden full of stones containing plants so delicate and small that the narrator imagines they are planted with a pin. Secondly, it emphasizes a comic contrast between Mrs. Jones's meticulous dedication and the narrator's accidental clumsiness; this is best seen when, after discussing a flower for a quarter of an hour; the narrator realizes they are actually standing on it. Finally, the humorous approach portrays Mrs. Jones's eccentric obsession as whimsical and charming, making her pride in her rockery and sundial feel relatable and lighthearted rather than merely strange. Q2. What lesson does the merchant's behaviour teach us about making accusations without proper proof? Answer: The merchant's behaviour teaches us that accusing someone without solid evidence is both wrong and harmful. He jumped to conclusions out of desperation and panic, which led to an unjust accusation against innocent men. His shame at the end shows that hasty judgements without proper thinking can damage others and ultimately reflect poorly on ourselves. We should always seek the truth before blaming others. Q3. What were Major Somnath's last words? What do they reflect about his sense of duty? Ans: Major Somnath's last words were: "The enemy is only 50 yards from us. We are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire. I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to the last man and the last round." These words reflect his unshakeable commitment to his mission and his willingness to sacrifice everything for the defense of his country. They show his deep sense of duty, bravery, and leadership. Q4. 'What goes around comes around'. Explain why this is important for us to remember. Take the old woman and her plight as your reference. Ans. The things that we give in life eventually come back to us. If we are kind we would receive kindness, if we are rude, we would receive rudeness. The old lady was gray, weak and poor and helping her was an act of kindness. The boy in the poem has a mother too and he believes that if he is kind to the old lady, someone would eventually be kind to his mother as well. 5. Give a character sketch of Encyclopedia Brown (Leroy Brown): Ans: An exceptionally brilliant, observant, and humble eighth-grade boy living in Idaville. Known to everyone as "Encyclopedia" due to his vast storehouse of knowledge and photographic memory, he serves as a	(2.5x 4=10)
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	secret detective who aids his father in solving complex police cases. He is a patient listener with sharp analytical skills, cracking Nolan's calendar code with quiet confidence while remaining modest and grounded.	
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******All the Best******