



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Mid Term Examination (2025-26)

Subject: English

SET -1

Class: VIII

Date: 18/09/2025

Time: 2 ½ Hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- I. All questions are compulsory.
- II. Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.
- III. 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).
- IV. Attempt one section at a stretch and then move on to the next section.
- V. Use of correction fluid (whitener) is prohibited.
- VI. Note: This paper consists of 7 printed pages.

SECTION A-READING (20 Marks)		
Q.1.	<p>Read this passage and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p>The Last Lighthouse Keeper</p> <p>1. Margaret stood at the top of Beacon Point Lighthouse, watching the morning mist roll across the Atlantic Ocean. For thirty-seven years, she had climbed these same worn stone steps, tended the powerful beam that had guided countless ships safely to shore, and called this isolated tower home. Today, however, would be different. Today was her last day as the lighthouse keeper of Beacon Point.</p> <p>2. The lighthouse had been automated three months ago. Computer systems now controlled the light, and GPS technology had largely replaced the need for traditional navigation aids. The Maritime Authority had offered Margaret a generous retirement package, but the decision to leave hadn't been easy. This lighthouse wasn't just her job—it was her life's work, her sanctuary, and the place where she had found peace after losing her husband in a fishing accident twenty years earlier.</p> <p>3. As Margaret polished the massive lens one final time, memories flooded back. She remembered the terrible storm of 2003 when she had manually operated the light for fourteen straight hours after the power failed, helping rescue crews locate a sinking cargo ship. She recalled the countless nights she had spotted distressed vessels through her binoculars and radioed for help. There was the time she had guided a lost yacht carrying a family with a critically ill child safely to shore during a thick fog. Each rescue had reinforced her belief that human judgment and dedication could never be fully replaced by technology.</p> <p>4. The sound of footsteps on the spiral staircase interrupted her thoughts. Tom Harrison, the young technician from the Maritime Authority, appeared at the top of the stairs, slightly out of breath.</p> <p>"The final inspection is complete, Margaret," he said respectfully. "The automated systems are functioning perfectly. The Coast Guard will monitor</p>	(12 marks)

	<p>everything remotely from now on."</p> <p>Margaret nodded, understanding the logic but feeling a profound sadness. "What about when the computer systems fail?" she asked. "What happens during severe weather when satellites can't communicate properly?" Tom shifted uncomfortably. "We have backup systems," he replied. "And emergency protocols. The technology is really quite reliable now."</p> <p>Margaret gathered her few personal belongings—a photograph of her late husband, her well-worn logbook, and the small radio that had been her connection to the outside world. As she descended the lighthouse stairs for the last time, she paused to run her hand along the smooth stone walls that had witnessed decades of storms, rescues, and quiet contemplation. At the bottom of the lighthouse, Margaret turned for one last look. The automated beacon would continue to flash its warning to passing ships, but something essential had been lost. The human element—the watchful eyes, the experienced intuition, the unwavering dedication—would be gone forever.</p> <p>Walking toward her car, Margaret wondered if future generations would understand what they had given up in the name of progress. The lighthouse would continue to function, but it would no longer have a soul.</p>	
1.	<p>How long had Margaret worked as the lighthouse keeper at Beacon Point?</p> <p>a) 20 years b) 30 years c) 37 years d) 40 years</p>	1
2.	<p>Which TWO technologies are mentioned as replacing traditional lighthouse keeping?</p>	2
3.	<p>Complete the sentence. Margaret found it difficult to leave the lighthouse because _____</p>	1
4.	<p>In the context "isolated tower," the word "isolated" means:</p> <p>a) Remote and separated b) Tall and imposing c) Old and crumbling d) Bright and visible</p>	1
5.	<p>What happened during the storm of 2003?</p>	1
6.	<p>What personal tragedy had affected Margaret's life?</p>	1
7.	<p>The phrase "paused to run her hand along the smooth stone walls" shows:</p> <p>a) Margaret was checking for damage b) Margaret's deep emotional connection to the lighthouse c) The walls needed cleaning d) Margaret was tired from climbing stairs</p>	1
8.	<p>Tom Harrison's role in the story is:</p> <p>a) Margaret's replacement as lighthouse keeper b) A ship captain seeking help c) A technician conducting the final inspection d) Margaret's supervisor from many years</p>	1
9.	<p>Which statement best describes the main theme of the passage?</p> <p>a) Technology always improves our lives b) Old buildings should be preserved as museums c) Some jobs are too dangerous for humans</p>	1

	d) Progress can come at the cost of losing human values	
10.	State whether the given sentence is True or False. When the author writes " <i>it would no longer have a soul,</i> " it means the human qualities of care and dedication will be gone.	1
11.	Find the word from the passage that is the synonym of ' <i>innumerable</i> '.	1
Q.2.	<p>Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p>The Mystery of Sleep</p> <p>1.For centuries, humans have wondered why we spend nearly one-third of our lives unconscious, seemingly doing nothing. Sleep was once considered a passive state where the brain simply shut down for the night. However, modern scientific research has revealed that sleep is actually one of the most active and crucial processes our bodies undergo daily.</p> <p>2.During sleep, our brains are far from inactive. In fact, some areas of the brain are more active during sleep than when we are awake. The brain uses this time to consolidate memories, transferring important information from short-term to long-term storage. This process explains why students who study and then get adequate sleep often perform better on tests than those who stay up all night cramming. Sleep literally helps us learn and remember. Perhaps even more fascinating is the brain's cleaning system that activates during sleep. Scientists have discovered that the brain has its own waste disposal system, called the glymphatic system, which becomes ten times more active during sleep. This system flushes out toxic proteins that accumulate during waking hours, including those associated with Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders. In essence, sleep acts as a nightly janitor service for our brains.</p> <p>3.The consequences of sleep deprivation extend far beyond feeling tired. Chronic lack of sleep has been linked to weakened immune systems, making people more susceptible to infections. It also disrupts hormone production, particularly hormones that control hunger, leading to weight gain and increased risk of diabetes. Additionally, sleep-deprived individuals show impaired decision-making abilities and reduced emotional control, which can affect relationships and academic performance.</p> <p>4.Different age groups require varying amounts of sleep. Teenagers naturally have delayed sleep patterns due to biological changes during puberty, which explains why they often struggle with early school start times. Adults typically need 7-9 hours of sleep per night, while young children require even more. Unfortunately, modern technology and lifestyle choices have created a society that often prioritizes productivity over adequate rest.</p> <p>5.Sleep researchers emphasize that quality sleep is not a luxury but a biological necessity. Creating good sleep hygiene – including maintaining consistent sleep schedules, limiting screen time before bed, and creating comfortable sleep environments – can significantly improve both physical health and cognitive performance. As our understanding of sleep continues to evolve, one thing remains clear: getting enough sleep is one of the most important investments we can make in our overall well-being.</p>	(8 marks)
1.	<p>According to the passage, during sleep the brain:</p> <p>a) Completely shuts down and becomes inactive</p> <p>b) Is more active in some areas than when awake</p> <p>c) Only dreams and does nothing else important</p> <p>d) Stops all memory formation processes</p>	1

2.	The glymphatic system is described as: a) The brain's waste disposal system that is more active during sleep b) A system that helps us dream c) A hormone that controls hunger d) A method for transferring memories	1
3.	Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a consequence of sleep deprivation? a) Weakened immune system b) Disrupted hormone production c) Improved decision-making abilities d) Reduced emotional control	1
4.	According to the passage, quality sleep should be considered: a) A luxury for wealthy people b) Only important for students c) Less important than productivity d) A biological necessity	1
5.	Fill in the blanks. The brain's cleaning system, called the _____ system, becomes _____ times more active during sleep than when awake.	1
6.	What does the word "consolidate" mean as used in the passage: "The brain uses this time to consolidate memories"? a) To forget or erase b) To strengthen and organize c) To create new ones d) To transfer to others	1
7.	Find a word from paragraph 3 that means "easily affected by or likely to suffer from"	1
8.	In what ways can we greatly enhance our physical health and mental performance according to the passage?	1
<u>SECTION B – WRITING</u> (15 Marks)		
Q.3.	Your family recently adopted a stray animal (dog, cat, or bird) that you found injured near your home. Write a diary entry in 80-100 words about the day you brought your new pet home, the challenges of caring for it, and how this experience has changed your daily routine and perspective on responsibility.	(4 marks)
Q.4.	Develop the following hints into a readable story in about 150-200 words. Also give a suitable title and moral. <i>While cleaning your grandmother's attic, you discover an old wooden box containing mysterious objects that seem to glow in the dark. As you touch one of them, something extraordinary happens.....</i>	(5 marks)
Q.5.	The increasing use of plastic bags and single-use items in your neighborhood shops and markets is contributing to environmental pollution. Write a letter to the editor of an esteemed newspaper suggesting practical solutions and urging both shopkeepers and customers to adopt eco-friendly alternatives, in about 120-150 words.	(6 marks)

SECTION D – LITERATURE (30 Marks)

Q.9.	<p>Match the following.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">A</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">B</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. sleuthing</td> <td>a) complete disorder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. bracing</td> <td>b) repair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. chaos</td> <td>c) not straight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. restore</td> <td>d) investigating</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. crookedly</td> <td>e) stimulating</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	A	B	1. sleuthing	a) complete disorder	2. bracing	b) repair	3. chaos	c) not straight	4. restore	d) investigating	5. crookedly	e) stimulating	(½ x 5 = 2½)
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Q.10	<p>Choose the correct meaning.</p> <p>1. Grimace a) twisted expression due to pain b) gloomily c) unsteady</p> <p>2. remonstrated a) continued b) protested c) accepted</p> <p>3. squashy a) vocation b) methods of winning c) crushed</p> <p>4. conscientious a) careful and correct b) quiet c) awake</p> <p>5. delineated a) verified b) order c) shown</p>	(½ x 5 = 2½)												
Q.11	<p>Answer the following with reference to context.</p>	(3 x 3 = 9)												
a.	<p><i>“Come and hire me”, I cried, while in the morning I was walking on the stone-paved road. Sword in hand the king came in his chariot He held my hand and said, “I will hire you with my power” But his power counted for naught and he went away in his chariot.</i></p> <p>i. Who is the speaker of the above lines? ii. What does 'sword in hand' suggest? iii. Why could the king not conquer the man?</p>	3												
b.	<p><i>When the jet rose six miles high, it was clear the earth was round and that it had more sea than land.</i></p>	3												

	<p><i>But it was difficult to understand that the men on the earth found causes to hate each other, to build walls across cities and to kill From that height, it was not clear why.</i></p> <p>(i) When did the poet realize about the earth being round? (ii) What was 'difficult to understand' for the poet? (iii) Name the poem and poet?</p>	
c.	<p><i>Thirteen-year-old Meghna was swept away along with her parents and seventy-seven other people. She spent two days floating in the sea, holding on to a wooden door. Eleven times she saw relief helicopters overhead, but they did not see her. She was brought to the shore by a wave, and was found walking on the seashore in a daze.</i></p> <p>i. How was Meghna swept away? ii. How did she manage to save herself? iii. How many times did the helicopter miss her?</p>	3
Q.12	Answer any <u>7</u> of the following questions in short.	(1 x 7 = 7)
1.	Why did the man look at Bepin Babu with astonishment?	1
2.	Which duties, in your opinion, were given to the dog and the ox?	1
3.	Can Velu read both Tamil and English? What evidence suggests this?	1
4.	What is a tsunami, and on which date did it devastate several countries and coastal regions?	1
5.	Name two oppressive policies implemented by the British.	1
6.	Why do some experts think animals can sense disasters before humans?	1
7.	What kinds of items did Jaya and children like her collect, and what did they do with them?	1
8.	Do you believe Jim Macpherson survived the war and came back? What evidence supports your answer?	1
Q.13	Answer any <u>3</u> of the following questions.	(3 x 3 = 9)
1.	How were Indians exploited by the Britishers?	3
2.	Why was Bepin Babu reluctant to meet Mr. Mukerji, and what made him eventually decide to call him instead?	3
3.	What reason did the speaker have for rejecting the old man's offer of money? Explain.	3
4.	Why did Dr. Chanda feel confused, and what made Bepin Babu's memory loss so strange?	3