



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

PRE -MIDTERM EXAMINATION (2026-2027)

ENGLISH

Class: VIII

Time: 1 hour

Date: 14 /05/2026

M.M: 30

General Instructions:

- ✓ All questions are compulsory.
- ✓ The question paper consists of four sections:
Section A - Reading - 10 Marks
Section B - Writing - 4 Marks
Section C - Grammar – 4 Marks
Section D - Literature -12 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 .5. printed pages.

	SECTION A-READING (10 Marks)	
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.	6
	(1) According to the passage, what makes music truly remarkable? (a) Its ability to entertain people (b) Its universal and ancient origins (c) Its profound power to heal (d) Its connection to religious traditions (2) Which of the following best describes the effect of music on Alzheimer's patients? (a) It cures their memory loss permanently (b) It triggers emotional recollections and brings calm (c) It replaces medication completely (d) It helps them sleep better at night (3) Why does a favourite song instantly lift one's mood, according to the passage? (a) Because it releases dopamine in the brain (b) Because it slows the heart rate (c) Because it reduces cortisol levels (d) Because it strengthens emotional bonds (4) How does music benefit children, according to the passage? Ans. Learning a musical instrument builds discipline, patience, and fine motor skills. / Children who receive music education perform better in mathematics and languages. (5) Complete the following sentence based on the passage: Music has acted as a force for social change because it has the power to unite communities, stir collective emotions, and fuel social movements	

	throughout history. (6) Find a word from Paragraph 3 that means ‘a substance produced by the body that controls mood and pleasure’ Ans. Dopamine									
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow	4								
	(1) Why are mangroves described as ‘extraordinary survivors’ in the passage? (a) They grow in dense tropical rainforests (b) They thrive in salty, waterlogged, oxygen-poor soil (c) They can survive droughts and extreme heat (d) They grow faster than any other coastal plant (2) What evidence does the passage provide to show that mangroves protect coastal communities? (a) They filter pollutants from seawater (b) They provide food to fishing communities (c) Villages behind mangroves suffered less damage in the 2004 tsunami (d) They trap carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (3) Explain the dual function of mangrove roots as described in the passage. Ans. Mangrove roots perform TWO functions: They anchor the tree firmly in unstable sediment and absorb oxygen directly from the air. (4) Select the option that applies to both assertion and the reason. Assertion (A): Conserving mangroves is both an environmental and a humanitarian priority. Reason (R): Millions of coastal people depend on mangroves for protection from storms, food security, and prevention of displacement. (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									
	SECTION B - WRITING (4 marks)									
Q. III.	You are Ananya / Arjun, the Head Boy / Head Girl of National Public School, Delhi. Your school is organizing an Inter-House Debate Competition on the topic "<i>Technology: A Boon or a Bane?</i>" on 20th May 2026 in the School Auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, inviting students of Classes VI to X to participate. Include all necessary details. <table><tr><th>Criteria</th><th>Marks</th></tr><tr><td>Format (Name of school, heading NOTICE, date, title, name & designation)</td><td>1½</td></tr><tr><td>Content (event, date, time, venue, who may participate — within 50 words)</td><td>1½</td></tr><tr><td>Language accuracy and conciseness</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Criteria	Marks	Format (Name of school, heading NOTICE, date, title, name & designation)	1½	Content (event, date, time, venue, who may participate — within 50 words)	1½	Language accuracy and conciseness	1	4
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	SECTION C – GRAMMAR (4 marks)									
Q. IV	Punctuate the following sentences correctly. a) she said i have never visited london before She said, “I have never visited London before.”	1								

	b) the teacher asked rahul are you ready for the exam The teacher asked Rahul, “Are you ready for the exam?”	
Q.V.	A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. 1. She was writing a letter when the phone rang. 2. By the time they arrived, we had finished the project. 3. He plays cricket every evening. B. Identify and correct the errors in tense usage in the following sentences. (1) Yesterday, she go to the market and buys some vegetables. Correction: <u>Yesterday, she went to the market and bought some vegetables.</u> (2) By next year, I will complete my studies and joined a company. Correction: <u>By next year, I will have completed my studies and joined a company.</u> (3) She has been work in this company since 2018. Correction: <u>She has been working in this company since 2018.</u>	3
	SECTION D – LITERATURE (12 marks)	
Q.VI.	Answer the following questions with reference to context. <i>Despite the lively chatter, a tension hung in the air. The king sat on his ornate throne, his expression stern, his sharp eyes scanning the room. It was evident that the unresolved quarrel still gnawed a him. The court discussion was centred on improving paddy cultivation in the empire. One by one the ministers rose to present their ideas. Some suggested expanding irrigation networks, while others advocated for better manure. Amid these suggestions, Tenali Rama stood quietly at the edge of the court, observing everyone with an amused smile. Finally, the king called upon Rama. The chatter in the court died down as all eyes turned to him. Rama approached the throne, carrying a plate full of seeds. Bowing low, he began, "Your Majesty, I bring you a revolutionary type of paddy seeds. If these are sown, the yield will be three times greater than the current results.</i> (i) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. The court discussion was centred on_____ in the empire. A. expanding territory B. diplomatic strategies C. improving paddy cultivation D. Art and architecture (ii) Choose the opposite word of the underlined word. The king sat on his <u>ornate</u> throne. A. unadorned B. extravagant C. spectacular D. Baroque (iii) Select the option that applies to both assertion and the reason. Assertion (A): The king appeared stern during the court discussion. Reason (R): He was still troubled by an unresolved quarrel. 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.	1 x 3 =3

	D. A is false, but R is true.	
Q.VII.	Answer the following questions in 25-30 words. 1.How did Tenali Rama gain a special place in King Krishnadeva Raya’s court? Ans. Tenali Ramakrishna gained a special place in the king’s court through his quick wit, humour, and clever problem-solving skills. 2. What are Mrs. Jones’s feelings about her garden? Support your answer with evidence from the poem. Ans. Mrs. Jones feels proud and happy about her garden. She enjoys placing “little plants between the stones” and even spends “quite a quarter of an hour” talking about a single flower. She values even the tiniest details, and takes delight in the hidden beauty of her garden. 3. What was the reaction of the courtiers when Tenali Rama introduced the special paddy seeds? Ans. When Tenali Rama introduced the special paddy seeds, the courtiers reacted with sarcasm and mockery.	1 x 3 =3
Q. VIII.	Choose the correct meaning for the word given. (1). The courtiers met Tenali Rama’s claim with ‘sarcasm’. The word ‘sarcasm’ means: (a)genuine curiosity (b)mockery (c)sincere praise (d)silent disapproval (2) A great patron of learning, Krishnadeva Raya was not only an eminent warrior but also a gifted poet. The word ‘patron’ means: (a)old and tested (b)sharp (c)supporter (d)well known (3) The next morning, the royal court was ‘bustling’ with activity. The word ‘bustling’ means: (a)busy (b)acting quickly (c)bothered (d)decorative	$\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 1\frac{1}{2}$
Q. IX	Answer any three of the following questions in about 50 words. 1. How did the quarrel between the King Krishnadeva Raya and the queen affect the palace? What strategy did Tenali Rama use to restore harmony? Ans. The quarrel between King Krishnadeva Raya and the queen created an atmosphere of tension in the palace. Courtiers were uneasy, and even the court proceedings were affected by the king's stern and distracted mood. Tenali Rama's Strategy: Tenali Rama used his wit to resolve the conflict indirectly, using the paddy seed to divert the king's attention and restore his good humor, thereby bringing harmony back to the palace without directly addressing the personal quarrel. 2. What does the poem <i>The Concrete Example</i> reveal about how individuals have different perspectives on the world around them? Ans. The poem shows that people see the world differently based on what they value. Mrs. Jones appreciates small, delicate plants and finds beauty in subtle details, while the speaker expects more obvious beauty and overlooks them at first. This contrast highlights that beauty is subjective and depends on one’s way of seeing and noticing things. 3. How does the story <i>The Wit that Won Hearts</i> end, and what message does it convey? Ans. The story ends on a positive note, with the king offering an apology and	$1\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 4\frac{1}{2}$

	harmony being restored. It highlights the importance of empathy, wit, and effective communication. 4. Why do you think the poet used humor and clever wordplay, rather than a serious tone, to describe the garden? Ans. The poet uses humor and clever wordplay to make the description of the garden lively and entertaining. The comic contrast between Mrs. Jones's careful gardening and the narrator's clumsiness makes her unusual obsession with the garden seem charming and amusing.	
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