



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. <u>The Healing Power of Music</u> 1.Music is one of the oldest and most universal forms of human expression. Across cultures and civilizations, from the ancient chants of Mesopotamia to the folk songs of rural India, music has accompanied humanity through every phase of life — celebration, grief, prayer, and work. What makes music truly remarkable, however, is not just its ability to entertain but its profound power to heal. 2.Scientists and doctors have increasingly recognized music as a therapeutic tool. Music therapy, now practiced in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and mental health clinics around the world, uses rhythm, melody, and harmony to address a wide range of medical conditions. Patients suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, for instance, have shown extraordinary responses to familiar music. Even when memory loss has become severe, music can trigger deep emotional recollections, bringing moments of clarity and calm. 3.Research has shown that listening to music stimulates the brain’s reward centers, releasing dopamine — the chemical associated with pleasure and motivation. This explains why a favourite song can instantly lift one’s mood. Moreover, music with a slow tempo and steady beat has been found to lower heart rate, reduce blood pressure, and decrease levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Some surgeons even play classical music in the operating theatre to keep both themselves and their patients calm during procedures. 4.Music also plays an important role in child development. Lullabies soothe infants and strengthen the emotional bond between parent and child. Learning to play a musical instrument builds discipline, patience, and fine motor skills.	6
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	Studies consistently show that children who receive music education perform better in mathematics and languages, as music sharpens pattern recognition and memory. 5. Beyond individual health, music has the power to unite communities. Shared songs create a sense of belonging; national anthems stir feelings of patriotism; protest songs have fuelled social movements throughout history. From the civil rights songs of the 1960s in America to the freedom songs sung during India's independence movement, music has always been a force for collective strength and resilience.	
	(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? (5) Complete the following sentence based on the passage: Music has acted as a force for social change because it has the power to _____. (6) Find a word from Paragraph 3 that means 'a substance produced by the body that controls mood and pleasure'	
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. <u>The Mangrove Forests: Nature's Guardians of the Coast</u> 1. Along the tidal coasts of tropical and subtropical regions, where saltwater meets freshwater, grows a remarkable ecosystem known as the mangrove forest. These dense thickets of salt-tolerant trees and shrubs cling to muddy shorelines, their tangled roots half-submerged in brackish water, forming one of the most productive and biologically diverse habitats on Earth. 2. Mangroves are extraordinary survivors. Unlike most plants, they thrive in waterlogged, oxygen-poor soil and can tolerate high levels of salinity that would kill ordinary vegetation. Their roots, which arch above the waterline in distinctive shapes, perform a dual function: they anchor the tree firmly in unstable sediment and absorb oxygen directly from the air, a necessity since the waterlogged soil below contains almost none. 3. The ecological services that mangrove forests provide are immense. Their interlocking roots trap sediment, preventing coastal erosion and protecting shorelines from the destructive force of storm surges, tsunamis, and rising sea levels. During the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, villages sheltered behind intact mangrove belts suffered significantly less damage than those where mangroves had been cleared. This natural barrier function has led conservationists	4

	to describe mangroves as ‘green shields’ for coastal communities. 4. Mangrove forests are also vital nurseries for marine life. The sheltered, nutrient-rich waters among their roots provide ideal breeding and feeding grounds for hundreds of species of fish, crustaceans, and molluscs. It is estimated that more than 75 per cent of the fish species harvested commercially in tropical regions spend at least part of their life cycle in mangrove habitats. Without mangroves, the productivity of nearby coral reefs and seagrass beds would decline sharply. 5. Despite their importance, mangrove forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Coastal development, shrimp farming, pollution, and rising sea levels have destroyed more than a third of the world’s mangroves in the past fifty years. Countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and India — which together hold a large share of the world’s remaining mangroves — have launched ambitious replanting programmes. Conserving mangroves is not merely an environmental priority; it is an economic and humanitarian imperative, protecting millions of coastal people from storms, food insecurity, and displacement.	
	(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. (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.	4
	SECTION C – GRAMMAR (4 marks)	
Q. IV	Punctuate the following sentences correctly. a) she said i have never visited london before b) the teacher asked rahul are you ready for the exam	1
Q.V.	A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. (1) She _____ (write) a letter when the phone rang.	3

	(2) By the time they arrived, we _____ (finish) the project. (3) He _____ (play) 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: _____ (2) By next year, I will complete my studies and joined a company. Correction: _____ (3) She has been work in this company since 2018. Correction: _____	
	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. D. A is false, but R is true.	1 x 3 =3
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? 2. What are Mrs. Jones's feelings about her garden? Support your answer with evidence from the poem. 3. What was the reaction of the courtiers when Tenali Rama introduced the special paddy seeds?	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? 2. What does the poem <i>The Concrete Example</i> reveal about how individuals have different perspectives on the world around them? 3. How does the story <i>The Wit that Won Hearts</i> end, and what message does it convey? 4. Why do you think the poet used humor and clever wordplay, rather than a serious tone, to describe the garden?	$1\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 4\frac{1}{2}$