



Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir
Mid Term Examination (2026-2027)
English Communicative (101) SET-1
Answer Key

Class: X
Date: 20/09/2026

Time: 3 hours
M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ *All questions are compulsory.*
- ✓ *The question paper consists of four sections:*
 - Section A - Reading - 22 Marks*
 - Section B - Writing - 22 Marks*
 - Section C - Grammar – 10 Marks*
 - Section D - Literature – 26 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 7 printed pages.*

SECTION A-READING (22 Marks)		
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	(12)
	1.Happiness is like the sun; it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness. You don t have to create it, all you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness. It is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, objects or events. Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desires, and worries. 2.The mind is always in a constant race from one thought to another, from one worry to another. It constantly moves from one object or task to another. This restlessness hides the happiness that is within you. It is like a choppy sea that hides the bottom. When the sea gets calm, you can see the bottom. In the same way, when the mind gets quiet, you sense the happiness that is within you. 3.You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there. However, when the wind stops, the water becomes still and the mud sinks, you can see the treasure. The treasure is there, whether you see it or not. So is happiness. It is always here, only hidden by thoughts, desires and worries. 4.You can experience more happiness in your life. Only your thoughts stand in your way of experiencing it. Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind. You will be surprised to discover that it is calm, and there are almost no thoughts in your mind. Since the mind is not accustomed to stay in this peaceful state for long, it soon becomes active again, and the sense of happiness disappears. 5.Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals. This makes happiness a reward and not an emotion that must be felt. We forget that it is something that comes by looking inward rather than waiting for an external trigger. Once you start looking inwards, you will have to treat yourself as you	

	would treat a valued friend. This will lead to happiness. Take time to appreciate yourself, your work and your accomplishments. Surround yourself with happy people and recall positive memories. It is important to recognise that you have the power to feel happy within you and with practice, it will be felt frequently.	
	1) Why does the writer say that you have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness? (a) Our thoughts and worries hide the true essence of our happiness. (b) Our inner peace has to be dissolved to enhance true happiness. (c) Our desires, thoughts and worries are a part of our consciousness and bring happiness. (d) These clouds don't show us the real truth. 2) Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below: Happiness is like the sun, hidden by clouds of worry. (a) Happiness is where there is a quiet mind and inner peace. (b) Less work is like a breeze which brings happiness. (c) The choppy sea hides the treasure of happiness. (d) The wind blows and brings happiness. 3) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following: (Paragraph 1) Happiness is not something far away and unattainable. (a) doubt (b) caution (c) conviction (d) denial 4) Find the word from the passage that means "The main point or practical meaning of an idea". (Paragraph 1). Ans- Essence 5) The writer compares <i>the choppy sea hiding the bottom</i> to _ <u>mind in a constant race.</u> 6) What connection does the writer draw out between the treasure that cannot be seen and happiness? (Paragraph 3) Ans- both are always there, only hidden by our thoughts/desires/worries 7) The writer says 'Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind'. The state of your mind will be: (a) resolute (b) calm (c) firm (d) decisive	1X8=8

	8) Evaluate the inappropriate reason for having the power to feel happy to be within ourselves. (a) recalling positive memories (b) appreciating yourself (c) achievement of certain goals (d) looking inwards 9) Connecting happiness to achievement of certain goals makes it a reward, not an emotion. Justify the statement. (2) Ans- Conditional happiness → depends on external success Treated as reward, not natural feeling True happiness → inner peace, self-appreciation 10) Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness (2) Ans- Inherent in our essence → not dependent on events/objects Always present → hidden by thoughts, desires, worries	
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	(10)
	(1) Increasing traffic congestion every year is causing increasing air pollution, wasting time and productivity and diverse respiratory diseases. Moreover, the cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous. However, neglecting the traffic jam problem would increase the social problems among citizens. (2) The number of vehicles has increased considerably in the city in the past five years. Due to this increase, the city roads witness frequent traffic congestions, but above all, the vehicles emitting pollutants are affecting the environment adversely. (3) The Capital's vehicular population saw an addition of more than five lakh vehicles last year, registering an increase of over 4%, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2020-21. (4) In spite of the largest road network, through metro and bus services in major cities the transport system is not being able to keep pace with the growing demand. Consequently, more and more people use their private vehicles, leading to increased congestion on the roads. In spite of these challenges people in India prefer road travel over air and other means of travel. (5) Citizens of Delhi/NCR have, time and again, pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce the traffic congestion in the city, especially during the peak hours. People should use public transport, the government must increase the facilities of public transport, people should avoid the unnecessary collection of vehicles and should use carpool and vehicle sharing. (6) What is required is proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens to get an organized traffic management system.	

	(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. Reducing traffic congestion is not easy. Ans- The cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous. (ii) Select the appropriate option to complete the following sentence. The reasons for increased traffic congestion are _____. 1. use of private vehicles 2. increase in demand for cars 3. inability to keep pace with population control 4. travelling by public transport 5. emission of pollutants (a) 4, 5 (b) 1, 5 (c) 1, 2 (d) 2, 3 (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word / phrase from the paragraph 5. organized : chaotic :: lowest : <u>peak</u> (iv) The vehicles emit pollutants which affect <u>environment</u> badly. (v) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. There are _____ consequences of increasing vehicular congestion. (a) beneficial (b) adverse (c) implicit (d) explicit (vi) Select the appropriate option which states the methods of reducing traffic congestions. 1. start car pooling 2. add electric buses 3. increase in public modes of transport 4. increase car collection points 5. increase taxation (a) 1, 4, 5 (b) 3, 5 (c) 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 3 (vii) Analyse how the rise in private vehicle ownership has contributed both to traffic congestion and environmental degradation in Delhi/NCR. (2) Ans- The surge in private vehicles has overcrowded roads, causing frequent jams, while their emissions have worsened air pollution and respiratory health	1X6=6
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	problems. (viii) Suggest two practical measures that citizens can adopt to reduce traffic congestion. (2) Ans- Citizens can use public transport more regularly and practice carpooling or vehicle sharing to minimize the number of vehicles on the road.	
	SECTION B – WRITING (22 Marks)	
Q. III.	You are Manik Verma, a student of Class 10, Section B studying in Soundarya High School, Hubli. Write an application to your school principal in about 50 words, requesting a change of section to Class 10, Section A. Write a valid reason for the request.	3
	Format – 1 Content -1 Accuracy -1	
Q. IV.	Write a factual description of "A Memorable Trip or Excursion" in not more than 100 words, mentioning the location, activities and why it remains unforgettable.	4
	Content – 2 Organisation - 1 Accuracy -1	
Q. V.	Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 120 to 150 words.	7
A	Unfortunately, sleep deprivation has become a widespread concern across all age groups, particularly among the youth, leading to serious mental and physical health issues. As a school counsellor, write a formal letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the causes of sleep deprivation among youth and suggesting measures to address it. Sign it as Anita/Arun, School Counsellor, B-27, Green Valley Apartments, Lakshminagar. You may draw upon ideas from the unit Health and Medicine as well as your own insights.	
	OR	
B	The rising cases of cybercrime and online fraud have made internet users, especially students and elderly people, highly vulnerable. Many individuals lose their hard-earned money and personal information due to lack of awareness and weak cyber safety measures. As Neha / Arjun Mehta, 42, Sunrise Enclave, New Town, write a letter to the Editor of Hindustan Times, expressing concern about the growing menace of cybercrime. Highlight its harmful impact on society and suggest practical steps that individuals and authorities can take to ensure online security.	
	Format -1 Content -3 Organisation -2 Accuracy -1	
Q.VI.	Attempt any one of the two (A) or (B) in about 150 words.	8
A	<i>Inclusive education, which embraces diversity of all kinds—irrespective of gender, race, economic background, or physical and mental challenges—is urgently needed in schools today.</i> Drawing ideas from the unit Education and using the cues given below along with your own insights, write an article on “Education – A Right for All” in about 150 words. You are Meera/Mohit. Cues: • Importance of Inclusive Education • Better development of critical, emotional, empathetic, and social skills • Improved academic outcomes through respect for diversity • Promotion of equality → social justice → reducing stigma against differently-abled	
	OR	

B	Increasing urbanization and industrialization in our country is having an adverse effect on historical monuments and threatening their existence, Write an article in about 150 words on ‘Preserving Geoheritage – For A Better Tomorrow’. Take ideas from the unit, ‘Environment’ and use the cues given below along with your own ideas. You are Shammie/Suresh. Cues: • Importance of Geoheritage • Landscape alteration → impact of mining Pollution from industries → effects on geoheritage • Urbanization and industrialization → loss of natural habitat • Need for sustainable development strategies																										
	Format - 1 Content - 3 Organisation – 3 Accuracy -1																										
	SECTION C - GRAMMAR (10 Marks)																										
Q.VII.	Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.	3																									
	(i)_____ (Much/Many/ Very) often the cause of accidents is the failure of the brake system, which means the owner of the vehicle does not bother to keep (ii) _____ (a/that/ the) machine in good condition. By attending to the vehicle regularly a lot of miseries (iii) _____ (need to/ could /should) be avoided.																										
Q.VIII.	In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it.	4																									
	<table><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Word before</td><td>Omission</td><td>Word after</td></tr><tr><td>i</td><td>The Supreme Court made it</td><td>Supreme Court</td><td>has</td><td>made</td></tr><tr><td>ii</td><td>compulsory cinema theatres</td><td>compulsory</td><td>for</td><td>cinema</td></tr><tr><td>Iii</td><td>to play National Anthem with</td><td>play</td><td>the</td><td>National Anthem</td></tr><tr><td>iv</td><td>the image of the National Flag prior screening.</td><td>prior</td><td>to</td><td>screening</td></tr></table>			Word before	Omission	Word after	i	The Supreme Court made it	Supreme Court	has	made	ii	compulsory cinema theatres	compulsory	for	cinema	Iii	to play National Anthem with	play	the	National Anthem	iv	the image of the National Flag prior screening.	prior	to	screening	
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Q.IX.	Do as directed:																										
i.	Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. Patient : Doctor, I’ve been having a severe headache for the past three days, what should I do ? Doctor : and avoid stress / don’t worry / I’ll prescribe you / also advise you / it seems like / some medicine and / a case of migraine / to take proper rest Ans- Doctor: It seems like a case of migraine. Don’t worry, I’ll prescribe you some medicine and also advise you to take proper rest and avoid stress. OR Don’t worry, it seems like a case of migraine. I’ll prescribe you some medicine and also advise you to take proper rest and avoid stress.	1																									

ii.	Read the conversation given below. Based on your reading, fill in the blanks appropriately. Vipin: Where can we meet tomorrow? Rajnish: I may not be able to meet you tomorrow. Vipin: Are you going to be busy? Rajnish: Yes, I will be travelling tomorrow. Vipin asked Rajnish where they could meet the next day. Rajnish replied (a) that he might not be able to meet him the next day/following day. Vipin asked (b) if/whether he was going to be busy. Rajnish said that he was as he would be travelling the next day.	2
	SECTION D – LITERATURE (26 Marks)	
Q. X.	Read the following excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts, of the given three.	4X2=8
A	<i>'Now the nightingale inspired, Flushed with confidence, and fired With both art and adoration, Sang-and was a huge sensation. Animals for miles around Flocked towards the magic sound, And the frog with great precision Counted heads and charged admission.'</i> i. How was the nightingale inspired and flushed with confidence? Ans- The nightingale was inspired by the appreciation she received from the audience. Their admiration filled her with confidence and motivated her to sing with greater enthusiasm. ii. Why did the frog count heads? Ans- The frog counted the heads of the animals gathered so that he could charge admission and make money from the nightingale's performance. iii. What do you mean by adoration? Who had fired her with both art and adoration? Ans- Adoration means deep love, admiration, or respect. The frog had fired the nightingale with both art and adoration (through his apparent encouragement and training). iv. What was the animals' reaction to the nightingale's song? Ans- The animals were mesmerized by the nightingale's melodious singing. They flocked from miles around to listen to her magical voice, showing great excitement and appreciation.	
B	<i>'As for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks, and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions.'</i> i. Why did Loona Bimberton not look at the papers for weeks? Ans- Jealous of Mrs. Packletide's fame/did not want to see rival's success ii. Why were her emotions repressed? Ans- • Envious and resentful of Mrs. Packletide's achievement • Had to maintain outward politeness and dignity iii. State the motive behind presenting a tiger-claw brooch to Loona Bimberton.	

	Ans- - To flaunt Mrs. Packletide's triumph - To mock Loona's jealousy and highlight her rival's superiority iv. The word repressed in the extract means restrained.	
C	<i>'The post office, one of the uninteresting buildings in the world, became his place of pilgrimage. He always occupied a particular seat in a particular corner of the building, and when the people got to know his habit, they laughed at him. The postmen began to make a game of him. Even though there was no letter for him they would call out his name for the fun of seeing him jump up and come to the door. But with a boundless faith and infinite patience, he came every day, and went away empty-handed.'</i> i. Why did the post office become Ali's place of pilgrimage? Ans- He visited it daily with devotion, waiting for his daughter's letter. ii. How did the people react to Ali's daily habit? Ans- They laughed at him and mocked his routine. /Considered him as crazy or mad. iii. What did the postmen do to make fun of Ali? Ans- They called out his name even when no letter had arrived, just to see him rush to the door. iv. What values of Ali's character are revealed through this excerpt? Ans- Values - faith, patience, perseverance, hope.	
Q. XI.	Answer any FIVE of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each.	5 x 2=10
(i)	How did Nicola and Jacopo face the hardships of life?	
Ans-	- Took up odd jobs (shoe polishing, selling newspapers, guiding tourists) - Showed resilience, sacrifice, and devotion to their sister	
(ii)	How did the postmaster realize Ali's pain in the story The Letter?	
Ans-	- Experienced his own anxiety waiting for news of his sick daughter - Understood Ali's suffering through empathy and personal experience	
(iii)	What were the changes that the grandfather wanted to make in his will and why?	
Ans-	- Wanted to leave his property with someone who would genuinely take care of him instead of his daughters - Reason: anger at daughters' greed and quarrels, wished to punish them	
(iv)	How does William Shakespeare claim that the poetry outlives monuments?	
Ans-	- Verse immortalizes emotions and human achievements - Poetry resists time, war, and destruction unlike material monuments	
(v)	How did the frog exploit the nightingale's talent?	
Ans-	- Pretended to be a mentor, imposed harsh training - Exploited her for profit, made her sing excessively until she died	
(vi)	What did Ozymandias expect from future generations? Was his hope fulfilled?	
Ans-	- Expected admiration and remembrance of his power through the statue - Hope not fulfilled → statue lay broken, symbolizing futility of pride	
Q.XII.	Answer any ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words	8
A	'Two Gentlemen of Verona' portrays values of sacrifice, responsibility, and devotion. In contrast, 'The Dear Departed' is a satire on the lack of values in family relationships. Explain how the two works present opposite pictures of human behaviour, one inspiring and the other cautionary.	

	Ans- <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> - Nicola and Jacopo embody sacrifice, devotion, and responsibility. - Their selfless care for their sister reflects love and resilience. - Inspires admiration and respect for family values. <i>The Dear Departed</i> - Satirizes greed and hypocrisy in family relationships. - Daughters fight over belongings even before confirming father's death. - Exposes lack of values, selfishness, and materialism. Comparison: <i>Boys in Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> show positive values: love, duty, sacrifice. <i>Dear Departed</i> shows negative values: greed, pretentiousness, selfishness. - Together, they present contrasting pictures of human behaviour—one inspiring, the other cautionary.	
	OR	
B	Compare the theme of human vanity in <i>Mrs. Packletide's Tiger</i> and <i>Ozymandias</i>. Both the story and the poem highlight the futility of pride and self-glorification. Discuss how both texts expose the emptiness of such pride and the inevitable downfall that follows. Ans- <i>Mrs. Packletide's Tiger</i> - Vanity shown in her desire to shoot a tiger only to outshine Loona Bimberton. - Her act is motivated by rivalry, not courage or adventure. - Satire exposes the emptiness of social pride. <i>Ozymandias</i> - Vanity reflected in the king's arrogance and boastful inscription. - Statue meant to immortalize his power, now lies broken in the desert. - Highlights futility of human pride against time and nature. Comparison: - Both works expose vanity as shallow and temporary. <i>Mrs. Packletide's</i> vanity is social and petty; <i>Ozymandias's</i> vanity is political and monumental. - Common message: pride and arrogance lead to downfall and ridicule.	
	Note- Any other well-reasoned point/ answer may be accepted.	