



INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 2025



ENGLISH

Class: VIII

Date: 25\09\2025

Time: 3hrs

Maximum Marks: 80

Roll No: (In numerals)..... Section:

(In words)

Name of the Candidate:

Parent's/Guardian's name:

Day and Date of Examination:

Signature of the Candidate:

Signature of the Invigilator:

Section A	
Section B	
Section C	
Section D	
Grand Total	

Signature of the Examiner with date:

Signature of the Checker with date :

SECTION A (20 marks)

READING

I. Read the following passage carefully and the questions that follow.

(10)

The Disappearing Green

Decades ago, the Emerald Woods was known as the “lungs of the valley.” Its dense trees, creepers, and medicinal herbs made it a treasure for the local people. Children grew up playing under the thick shade, and elders believed that the forest kept the air cool and pure. The forest was also home to deer, wild cats, hornbills, and countless insects that played their silent roles in keeping nature balanced.

But as years passed, this once-lush forest began to shrink. Large areas were cleared for farming and construction. Timber merchants cut down trees faster than they could grow back, and careless fires destroyed acres of woodland each summer. Today, the mighty Emerald Woods has turned into scattered patches of greenery. Where tall trees once stood proudly, there are now barren stretches of dry land.

This disappearance has alarmed scientists and local communities. Many shade-loving plants, used in traditional medicine, are now almost gone. Several birds have left the area in search of safer homes. Even streams that once flowed throughout the year now run dry during the summer months. Interestingly, one bird — the scarlet meadowlark — has multiplied in number because it prefers open fields instead of thick forests. This surprising change shows how nature responds differently to the same loss.

To save the forest, the government has promised to restore 300 square kilometres of greenery by 2030. Environmentalists, however, remind us that planting trees is not enough. Protecting them for decades is the real challenge. Local people are now being trained to care for saplings, guard the land against fires, and stop illegal logging. Schools too have begun planting drives, teaching children the importance of protecting the environment.

If the people and the government work together, Emerald Woods may slowly regain its green glory. The songs of birds, the cool shade, and the pure air could once again become part of everyday life. But if these efforts fail, the next generation may only know of the Emerald Woods through stories, not experience. The choice lies in our hands — to protect the disappearing green, or to watch it vanish forever.

1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer the following questions.

1.1 Why was Emerald Woods once called the “lungs of the valley”?

[1]

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1.2 Mention any two reasons for the shrinking of the forest?

[2]

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1.3. State whether the following statement is true or false

[1]

The forest area is increasing because people are planting more trees.

1.4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cause of forest loss

[1]

- a. Construction
- b. Timber cutting
- c. Drought
- d. Farming

1.5. According to the Environmentalists, the biggest challenge in reforestation is

[1]

- a. Cutting down old trees
- b. Planting saplings
- c. Protecting trees
- d. Finding land for plantation..

1.6. What role are schools playing in protecting the forest?

[1]

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1.7. Which of the following is the synonym of Shrinking' [1]

- a. Reducing
- b. Expanding
- c. Growing
- d. Spreading

1.8. Which of the following is the antonym of ' Lush' [1]

- a. Fertile
- b. Green
- c. Barren
- d. Rich

1.9. Complete the analogy based on the passage. [1]

Hornbills : Disappearing : : Scarlet Meadowlarks : :

2.1. Read the following passage carefully and the questions that follow. (10)

In the quiet town of Wyndale, there stood a small, old-fashioned shop tucked between two tall buildings. Its wooden board read **"Edwin Holt, Clockmaker."** Most of the towns people thought Edwin was merely a lonely old man who fixed watches and polished grandfather clocks. Few noticed how his eyes sparkled every time the church bell struck midnight.

What no one knew was that Edwin had once been an inventor for the King. His designs were so intricate that even the cleverest craftsmen could not imitate them. But Edwin left the palace life suddenly, after a mysterious fire destroyed part of the King's library. Rumours whispered that it was his fault. Since then, Edwin had lived quietly, repairing clocks.

One stormy evening, young Clara entered the shop carrying a broken pocket watch. "This belonged to my grandfather," she said softly. Edwin took the watch, turned it over in his hand, and froze. He recognized the tiny crest engraved on the back — it was the royal emblem. His heart skipped a beat.

"You must take good care of this," Edwin whispered. "It is no ordinary watch. It carries a secret."

Clara's eyes widened, but Edwin said no more. Instead, he spent days repairing the watch, using tools so delicate that they looked more like surgical instruments than hammers and pliers. When he finally returned the watch to Clara, he added only one sentence: "Time reveals truth, but only to those who wait."

Weeks passed. Clara kept the watch safe, though she could not understand its importance. One evening, as she wound it, the back popped open. Inside lay a folded scrap of parchment — a map. It showed a hidden passage beneath the ruined library in the palace.

Clara realized the fire years ago may not have been an accident, and that Edwin Holt was perhaps not guilty at all. But by then, the old clockmaker's shop was locked, and Edwin had vanished without a trace. Only the ticking of repaired clocks remained, echoing his secret through Wyndale forever.

2. On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer the following questions.

2.1. The word “intricate” in the passage means: [1]

- a) Simple
- b) Complicated
- c) Weak
- d) Common

2.2. Which event shows Edwin's skill as a clockmaker? [1]

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2.3. List out any two mysteries about Edwin Holt? [2]

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2.4. The phrase “Time reveals truth” means: [1]

- a) Secrets remain hidden forever
- b) Patience uncovers secrets
- c) Time makes people forget
- d) Truth is unimportant

2.5. Choose the word that is NOT a synonym of ‘mysterious’ [1]

- a) Enigmatic
- b) Puzzling
- c) Strange
- d) Obvious

2.6. State whether the following statement is true or false. [1]

Clara immediately understood the secret of the pocket watch when she received it back from Edwin.

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2.7. Complete the following table. [1]

Event\ Action	Place
Fire destroyed	The King’s library
Edwin vanished	

2.8. Complete the analogy based on the passage. [1]

Time : Clock : : Direction :

2.9. Suggest a suitable title for the passage. [1]

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SECTION B (20)

WRITING

3. You are Ankit/ Anita, No.5, Skyline Apartments, New Delhi. You want to let out your flat for rent. Draft an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a newspaper. (5)

4. You are Rahul/Reena. You have been asked to write an article for your school magazine on ‘The Importance of Reading Books. (Word limit 150 words) (7)

Hints: Why reading is important?

Benefits- increases knowledge, improves vocabulary, develops imagination etc

Contribution- How reading helps society and understanding of the world

Suggestions- Encourage schools and communities to promote reading

Conclusion- Emphasize the value of reading for the progress and learning

This image shows a full page of a worksheet designed for handwriting practice. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced, horizontal dotted lines across the entire width of the page. The background is plain white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.

[illegible]

5. You are Anjali\Arjun, living in 12, Green Park, Thiruvalla, Kerala. You recently noticed that the town park near your locality is not being maintained properly. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Daliy News' expressing your concern and suggesting ways to improve the park. [8]

[illegible]

6.1. Rewrite the following sentences using the simple past or the present perfect tense of the verb given in the brackets. (2)

i. His performance in most of the subjects is good. But he (secure) poor grade in Science.

.....

ii. My friend (purchase) a laptop last year.

.....

6.2. Rewrite the following in past perfect continuous tense using the time expressions given in the brackets. (2)

i. The Director of Police was himself looking into the charges. (since December, 2011)

.....

ii. Raju was working in this factory as a guard. (for two years)

.....

6.3 Change the following sentences from active to passive voice. (2)

i. The boys are flying kites.

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ii. A gardener trims these plants regularly.

.....

6.4. Identify the error in the given sentences and supply the corrections. (2)

	Error	Correction
i. Sita is one of the best student in the class.		
ii. Scientists warns to take immediate steps.		

6.5. Fill in the blanks with articles

(2)

- i. My uncle has settled in UK.
- ii. The children are making loud noise.

6.6. Fill in the blanks with the simple present or the present continuous of the verbs given in the brackets.

(2)

- i. Itheavily now.(rain)
- ii. The panda bamboo shoots and leaves. (eat)

6.7. Fill in the blanks with some or any.

(2)

- i. Could you give me water to drink?
- ii. If you have questions, you can ask them now.

6.8 Fill in the blanks with since or for.

(2)

- i. Mr John has been living in Salalah 2015.
- ii. She has been waiting at the bus stop half an hour.

6.9. Fill in the blanks with demonstratives.

(2)

- i. book on the table is mine.
- ii. I like flowers in Rita's garden.

6.10. Fill in the blanks with distributives. (Every,Neither)

(2)

- i. child must be sent for a medical check-up.
- ii. candidate was found suitable.

SECTION D (20)
LITERATURE

7. Choose the correct answer.

(2)

a. Till when did Velu decide to work as a rag picker?

i. Till he became rich

ii. Till he grew up

iii. Till he could find a better job.

iv. Till he could get something to eat.

b. What does the term “Ashtadiggajas” refer to in the story- ‘The wit that Won Hearts’

i. Eight royal elephants

ii. Eight celebrated poets

iii. Eight temples

iv. Eight ministers

8. Annotate the following.

(4)

a. “Perhaps he found them on the moon!”

i. From which lesson is the above sentence taken? Who is the speaker?

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ii. What is the speaker talking about?

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**b. My next-door neighbour, Mr Jones,
once asked me round to see her stones
We stood and talked about a flower
For quite a quarter of an hour.
“Where is this lovely thing? I cried
“You’re standing on it,” she replied.**

i. From which poem has the above stanza been taken? Name the poet.

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ii. What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza?

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9. Answer the following questions.

(8)

i. Why had Velu run away from home?

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ii. How did the Djinn know the horse was complaining against the camel?

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iii. How does Mrs Jones express her feelings towards her garden?

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iv. How did the Maids of Honour come to know that the Princess and the bird had become intimate friends?

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10. Imagine you are Princess September. Write a diary entry describing your feelings on setting the little bird free. (6)

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