



**INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH**  
**SECOND TERM EXAMINATION, FEB - MARCH 2026**



**ENGLISH**

**Class: VIII**

**Date: 03-03-2026**

**Time: 3 HOURS**

**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 - READING

### 1. Read the passage given below carefully:

#### **Srikanth Bolla: Turning Disability into Ability**

1. When Srikanth Bolla was twelve years old, he lost his eyesight completely due to a medical problem. His teachers told him to forget about going to school and instead learn simple skills like making candles or weaving baskets. These were common jobs suggested for blind people in India. His parents were poor farmers from a small village in Andhra Pradesh. People told them to focus on their other children instead of Srikanth. But Srikanth refused to give up on his dreams. Today, he owns a company worth over 200 crore rupees. His company employs hundreds of disabled people and makes eco-friendly products used all over India.
2. Srikanth's life was full of challenges from the start. In 2004, he scored 98% in his Class 10 exams and wanted to study Science. But Indian schools didn't allow blind students to choose Science. Instead of accepting this rule, sixteen-year-old Srikanth took the government to court. He won the case and became the first blind student in India to study Science in junior college. His victory helped thousands of other blind students across the country.
3. His academic excellence continued throughout his education. He became the first international blind student to get admission at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in America. At MIT, he studied Management Science. There he understood something important: disabled people in India didn't get jobs not because they couldn't do the work, but because society didn't believe in them.
4. In 2012, Srikanth came back to India and started Bollant Industries. His mission was different from other companies: he wanted to give jobs to disabled people to make eco-friendly products. Many people thought his idea would fail. But Srikanth believed strongly in his vision. He said, "I don't see the world as disabled. I see the world differently, and I want to change how people see disability."
5. Bollant Industries makes packaging and disposable products from natural materials like banana fibre, corn husk, and recycled paper. These products replace harmful plastic. The company creates both eco-friendly products and jobs for disabled people. Today, more than 60% of Bollant's workers are people with disabilities.
6. Srikanth measures his success not just by profit, but by how many disabled people have found dignity and independence through jobs. His story teaches us that disabilities exist in people's minds, not in their abilities. When asked about his blindness, Srikanth famously said, "If the world looks at me and says, 'Srikanth, you can do nothing,' I look back at the world and say, 'I can do anything.'"

**Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions:**

- 1.1. What challenges did Srikanth Bolla face because of his disability? Mention at least two challenges from the passage. (2)**

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**1.2. What motivated Srikanth Bolla to start Bollant Industries? (1)**

- (a) He wanted to become wealthy.
- (b) He understood that disabled people didn't get jobs because society didn't believe in them.
- (c) He was interested in environmental science.
- (d) He wanted to travel across India.

**1.3. How was Srikanth's mission different from other companies? (1)**

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**1.4. Why did many people think Srikanth was "crazy" when he founded Bollant Industries? (1)**

- (a) He was too young to start a company.
- (b) He lacked financial support.
- (c) He wanted to employ disabled people to make eco-friendly products.
- (d) He had no formal education.

**1.5. Choose the most appropriate option for the underlined phrase: (1)**

*His academic excellence continued throughout his education.*

- (a) poor performance
- (b) interest in sports
- (c) average grades
- (d) outstanding performance in studies

**1.6. Which of the following is the antonym of 'defeat'? (1)**

- (a) failure
- (b) victory
- (c) loss
- (d) struggle

**1.7. Complete the analogy based on the passage: (1)**

Plastic products : artificial :: eco-friendly products : .....

**1.8. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as something Srikanth achieved?(1)**

- (a) He won a Nobel Prize for his work.
- (b) He became the first blind student in India to study Science.
- (c) He scored 98% in his Class 10 exams.
- (d) He got admission at MIT in America.

**1.9. Based on the understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately:**

**(1)**

Srikanth's story teaches us that

.....

.....

**2. Read the passage given below carefully:**

1. Since the dawn of civilization, humans have gazed at the night sky with wonder. Over the past century, space exploration has transformed from a dream into reality. The launch of satellites, human missions to the Moon, and robotic probes to Mars have expanded our knowledge of the universe. Today, space agencies and private companies are working together to push the boundaries further, aiming to send humans to Mars and beyond.
2. One of the main reasons for space exploration is scientific discovery. By studying planets, stars, and galaxies, scientists gain insights into how the universe was formed and how it continues to evolve. Missions to Mars, for example, are searching for signs of past or present life. Understanding cosmic phenomena also helps us improve technology on Earth, from weather forecasting to communication systems.
3. Another important motivation is survival. Earth faces challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and overpopulation. Many experts believe that establishing colonies on other planets could ensure the long-term survival of humanity. Mars, with its similarities to Earth, is considered the most promising candidate. Although living there would require advanced technology and adaptation, the idea of humans becoming a multi-planetary species is no longer science fiction.
4. Space exploration also drives innovation. The development of rockets, satellites, and space stations has led to breakthroughs in materials, robotics, and medicine. Everyday technologies such as GPS navigation, solar panels, and even memory foam mattresses have roots in space research. Furthermore, space missions inspire young people to pursue careers in science and engineering, fuelling progress across industries.

5. However, challenges remain. Space travel is expensive, risky, and requires international cooperation. Astronauts face dangers such as radiation exposure, isolation, and technical failures. Ethical questions also arise: should billions be spent on space missions when poverty and inequality persist on Earth? Despite these concerns, most scientists agree that space exploration is essential for knowledge, innovation, and humanity's future.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:**

**2.1. On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, list two reasons why humans explore space: (2)**

- (a) .....
- .....
- (b) .....
- .....

**2.2. Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para 3: (1)**

*“Many experts believe that establishing colonies on other planets could ensure the long-term survival of humanity.”*

- (a) Human survival depends only on Earth's resources.
- (b) Colonies on other planets may protect humanity's future.
- (c) Space colonies are unnecessary for human survival.
- (d) Human survival is not threatened by Earth's problems.

**2.3. According to the passage, what benefits has space exploration brought to everyday life? (2)**

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**2.4. Refer to paragraph 5 to complete the following table: (1)**

Cause	Effect
Radiation exposure	

**2.5. Write whether the statement is true or false:** (1)

GPS navigation is one of the technologies developed through space research. ....

**2.6. Why is Mars considered the most promising candidate for colonization?** (1)

- (a) It has similarities to Earth.
- (b) It is closer to the Sun.
- (c) It has abundant oxygen.
- (d) It has no challenges for survival.

**2.7. Choose the word that is NOT a synonym of 'phenomena':** (1)

- (a) events
- (b) occurrences
- (c) solutions
- (d) happenings

**2.8. Give a suitable title for the above passage:** (1)

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### SECTION B - WRITING

**3.** You are Tushar / Tanisha, the Secretary of the Literary Club of Modern Public School, Muscat. Your school has decided to celebrate 'English Day' on April 23rd to mark the birth anniversary of William Shakespeare. Draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, inviting students of Class VIII to participate in various activities like Poetry Recitation, Spell-Bee, and Character Parade. Give all necessary details like date, venue, and the last date for registration. (5)

4. Grade VIII students of Indian School Salalah recently went on an educational field trip to Al Baleed Archaeological Park. As the Student Editor of your school magazine, write a report in 100–150 words describing the visit and its highlights.

(7)

You may include:

- Headline, byline
- Date and venue
- Activities (museum, guided tour, sites visited)
- Key learning about Salalah's heritage
- Reflect on the value of such educational trip





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**SECTION C - GRAMMAR**

**6. Do as directed:**

**6.1.** In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in the space provided. The first one has been done for you. **(2)**

Passage	Line	Word before	Missing word	Word after
Honesty is one of the most important values life. It helps us build trust earn respect of others. A person who honest is admired by everyone.	Line 1	values	<b>in</b>	life
	Line 2			
	Line 3			

**6.2. Fill in the blanks with suitable *conjunctions*:** **(2)**

- (a) We should save water ..... it is a precious resource.
- (b) Keep trying ..... you succeed.

**6.3. Fill in the blanks with suitable *prepositions*:** **(2)**

- (a) The children were happily running ..... the big tree standing in the park.
- (b) Parents are always worried ..... the safety and well-being of their children.

**6.4. Fill in the blanks with *modals*:** (2)

(c) We ..... help those in need whenever possible.

(d) Mrs. Johnson ..... speak several languages fluently.

**6.5. Fill in the blanks by choosing the appropriate *prepositions* given in brackets:** (2)

(a) She looked ..... the window and saw the sunset. (through / into / on)

(b) Honesty is essential ..... building trust. (of / for / about)

**6.6. Fill in the blanks with the correct *modals* from the brackets:** (2)

(a) ..... I leave early today? I have a doctor's appointment. (Should / May / Must)

(b) You ..... respect your elders at all times. (might / must / could)

**6.7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options given below:** (2)

**(Direct to indirect speech)**

**(a) Riya: "Where is the library?"**

**Tina: "It is next to the school gate."**

Riya asked where the library was. Tina replied that .....

- i) it was next to the school gate.
- ii) it is next to the school gate.
- iii) it will be next to the school gate.

**(b) Teacher: "Always speak the truth."**

**Student: "I will follow your advice."**

The teacher advised the student to always speak the truth. The student replied that .....

- i) he will follow her advice.
- ii) he would follow her advice.
- iii) I will follow your advice.

**6.8. Rewrite the following words/phrases to make meaningful sentences:** (2)

(a) the / side / always / grass / greener / other / on / is / the / of / fence / the

.....

(b) skills / and / knowledge / our / increase / to / way / best / the / is / books / reading

.....

**6.9. Rewrite these sentences using the *conjunctions* given in the bracket: (2)**

(a) The rain stopped. Children went out to play. (as soon as)

.....

(b) She works hard. She can achieve her dreams. (so that)

.....

**6.10. Rewrite the following sentences into its *indirect speech*: (2)**

(a) The Principal said, “We are going to start the new sports club next week.”

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(b) The father told his son, “You should always remember to be honest and respectful towards everyone you meet in your life.”

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## SECTION D - LITERATURE

**7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:**

7.1. *“Give her a shot of oxygen,” suggested somebody, pointing to the green-banded emergency cylinder in its recess beside the door. Everyone agreed that this was an excellent idea, and Claribel was tucked snugly into a face mask that was large enough to serve as a complete oxygen tent for her. To our delighted surprise, she revived at once. Beaming broadly, Sven removed the mask, and she hopped onto his finger. She gave her series of “Come to the cookhouse, boys” trills—then promptly keeled over again.*

7.1.1. *Select the option that is correct for both (Assertion) A and (Reason) R. (1)*

*(A): Claribel revived instantly when given oxygen.*

*(R): Oxygen was essential for her survival and recovery.*

- (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.

7.1.2. Fill in the blank with the phrase from the passage that is similar in meaning to the highlighted words: (1)

Claribel was ..... (*placed comfortably inside the mask*) so that it covered her completely.

7.1.3. From which lesson has this extract been taken, and who is the author of it? (1)

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7.2. *He looks around. He calls to Gopi.  
“Come here!” he whispers. “Hush!  
We mustn’t let the village know  
About this magic brush.”*

*He slips the brush into her hand  
And tells her to be sure,  
“Paint not for the wealthy ones,  
But only for the poor.”*

7.2.1. The act of slipping the brush into Gopi’s hand symbolizes: (1)

- (a) A test of wealth
- (b) A playful trick
- (c) A punishment
- (d) Passing on responsibility and trust

7.2.2. Why does the man tell Gopi not to paint for the wealthy ones? (1)

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7.2.3. Write the rhyme scheme of this poem and a rhyming pair from the above extract. (1)

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Answer the following questions:

8.1. Who is Encyclopedia and why is he called by this nickname? (2)

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8.2. What is the message of the poem “Somebody’s Mother”? (2)



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