



INDIAN SCHOOL SALALAH

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 – 2027



Roll No:					Assessment Type: FIRST TERM EXAMINATION SEPTEMBER - 2026
Name Of the Student:					
Grade: VIII	Section:		Marks Obtained:		80
Subject: ENGLISH					
Date of Assessment: 23/09/2026			Time: 3 Hours	Examiner's Signature:	
Invigilator's Signature:				Checker's Signature:	

General Instructions:

- This question paper is divided into **four** sections on **16** pages
- Marks are indicated against each question.

SECTION – A – READING (20 MARKS)

Q.1. Read the passage given below carefully:

1. In a small village in Malawi, Africa, lived a young boy named William Kamkwamba. He loved learning and was especially fascinated by machines. His family depended on farming, but a severe drought brought little rain and destroyed much of their crops. Food became scarce, and William's family struggled to survive. Sadly, William could no longer afford to attend school because his family could not pay the fees. However, he refused to give up learning.
2. William began visiting the school library whenever he could. One day, he found a book about windmills. He discovered that wind could be used to produce electricity and pump water. An idea immediately came to him. If he could build a windmill, perhaps he could pump water from underground and help his family grow crops. The idea seemed impossible to many people, but William believed that it was worth trying.
3. William had very little money and no proper tools. He searched through a nearby scrapyard and collected old bicycle parts, metal pieces, plastic pipes and other discarded materials. People in his village laughed at him when they saw him working on his strange-looking machine. Some

thought he was wasting his time. William, however, remained determined. He carefully studied diagrams in the library book and used whatever materials he could find.

4. After many unsuccessful attempts, William finally completed his windmill. When the wind began to turn its blades, the machine generated electricity. The villagers were amazed. William then used the windmill to power a water pump, allowing water to reach the fields. Slowly, his family could grow crops again. The boy whom many people had once considered foolish had found a practical solution to a serious problem.
5. William's achievement soon attracted attention beyond his village. People learned about the young inventor who had built a working windmill from discarded materials. He was invited to speak about his work and later continued his education. William's story showed that a lack of money does not necessarily mean a lack of ideas. Knowledge, creativity and determination can help people overcome even difficult circumstances.
6. William's journey continues to inspire young people around the world. He did not wait for someone else to solve his family's problem. Instead, he observed the situation, searched for knowledge and created his own solution. His story reminds us that education is not only about passing examinations; it can give us the power to understand problems and find ways to solve them. Sometimes, a big change begins with one curious mind and the courage to try.

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

1.1. Describe how William used the knowledge he gained from the library to help his family during the drought. (2)

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1.2. Why did William stop attending school? (1)

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1.3. What gave William the idea of building a windmill? (1)

- a) A conversation with a farmer
- b) A machine he saw in a city
- c) A book about windmills in the school library
- d) A television programme about electricity

1.4. Find a synonym from the passage for the following word: (1)

perseverance : (para 5)

1.5. Complete the analogy based on the passage: (2)

- a) windmill : electricity :: water pump :
- b) library : knowledge :: scrapyard :

1.6. Find an antonym from the passage for the following word: (1)

plentiful : (para 1)

1.7. Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the statement below: (1)

"A lack of money does not necessarily mean a lack of ideas."

- a) Only wealthy people can become inventors.
- b) Money is the only thing needed to solve problems.
- c) Creativity and determination can help people find solutions even when resources are limited.
- d) People should avoid difficult problems if they do not have enough money.

1.8. Based on your understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately: (1)

William's story teaches students that when they face a difficult problem, they should

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Q.2. Read the passage given below carefully:

1. Every morning, each of us receives a fresh gift: twenty-four brand-new hours. How we choose to spend this time determines not only our daily success, but also the kind of person we ultimately become. In today’s fast-paced world, young people are often surrounded by constant distractions, from smartphone screens to noisy classrooms. In the middle of all this hustle and bustle, many students forget the quiet superpower they carry inside themselves: the power of self-discipline and daily habits.
2. Great achievements rarely happen overnight. Whether mastering a complex mathematical formula, learning to play a musical instrument, or excelling in sports, success is built on small, repeated efforts. When you spend just twenty minutes every day reading a book or practising a skill, those short moments compound over time into extraordinary knowledge and ability. As the famous inventor Thomas Edison wisely noted, *"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."* His words remind us that natural talent alone is never enough; consistent hard work and determination are the true engines of achievement.
3. Failure is another area where students often misunderstand their own potential. Falling short on a test or losing a match can feel deeply disappointing. However, setbacks are not dead ends; they are valuable lessons in disguise. When you make a mistake, your brain is actually learning how *not* to do something, bringing you one step closer to getting it right. Embracing a "growth mindset" means viewing challenges as opportunities to grow stronger rather than as reasons to give up.
4. Introspection—the habit of looking inward to examine your own thoughts, actions, and choices—is essential for personal growth. Taking five quiet minutes at the end of each day to reflect on what went well and what could be improved gives you clarity and control over your life. It allows you to ask yourself: *Did I try my best today? Was I kind to others? Did I move closer to my goals?*
5. Ultimately, your future is not written by luck or circumstance; it is sculpted by the small choices you make every single day. By practising self-discipline, staying curious, and viewing failures as stepping stones, you unlock your true potential. Believe in your capacity to learn and grow, because the journey toward a meaningful life begins with the actions you choose to take today.

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

2.1. How do small, repeated efforts help students achieve success? (2)

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2.2. Select the option that best explains Thomas Edison’s quote in Paragraph 2:

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." (1)

- (a) Natural talent is the only thing needed to become a genius.
- (b) Success depends mostly on hard work and effort rather than just smart ideas.
- (c) Inventors spend ninety-nine percent of their time sleeping and dreaming.
- (d) Hard work is only necessary for people who lack intelligence.

2.3. According to the passage, how can students benefit from practising daily introspection? (2)

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2.4. State whether the following statements are True or False: (2)

- (a) Making mistakes stops the brain from learning anything useful.
- (b) Success is usually the result of small, consistent daily efforts over time.

2.5. Refer to paragraph 3 to complete the following table: (1)

Cause	Effect
Adopting a "growth mindset" when facing setbacks	

2.6. Why does the author refer to self-discipline as a "quiet superpower" in Para 1? (1)

- (a) Because it allows students to perform magic tricks in class.
- (b) Because it gives students self-control and strength despite everyday distractions.
- (c) Because it helps students become famous very quickly.
- (d) Because it stops people from using technology completely.

2.7. Give a suitable title for the passage: (1)

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SECTION – B – WRITING (20 MARKS)

Q. 3. You are Rohan/Riya, the Eco-Club Secretary of Greenfield Public School, Salalah. Your school is organizing a Beach Cleaning Drive at Dhariz Beach to promote environmental awareness among students. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words inviting interested students to participate. Include all necessary details such as date, time, meeting point, items to bring, and the last date for registration. (5)

Q.5. Salalah is globally famous for its breathtaking natural beauty and its transformation into a lush green paradise during the Khareef season. Give your writing a suitable title and write an essay in about 150–200 words capturing the essence of Salalah. (7)

Hints: Location and reputation – sensory details (mist-covered mountains, waterfalls, coconut groves) – unique sights and smells (Mughsail waves, frankincense aroma in Haffah Souq) – weather and atmosphere (cool drizzle, fog) – concluding thoughts on your experience.

This image shows a full page of a document template designed for handwriting practice. It consists of a series of evenly spaced, horizontal dashed lines extending across the entire width of the page. The background is plain white, providing a clear guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings present on the page.

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Q.5. You are Amna/Aman, a student of Central Public School, Jaipur. You have noticed that there are no speed breakers near your school, making it difficult and unsafe for students to cross the road, especially during school opening and closing hours.

Write a letter of complaint to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Jaipur, requesting immediate action to ensure the safety of students and pedestrians. (8)

Hints: Speeding vehicles near school / Risk to students and pedestrians / No speed breakers / Frequent near-miss incidents / Request immediate installation / Install warning signs / Ensure road safety

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION – C – GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

Q.6. Do as directed:

6.1. Complete the sentences with the main clause or subordinate clause (if clause): (2)

- a) If you work hard every day, ...
- b) if you eat too much junk food.

6.2. Fill in the blanks with the abstract noun form of the words given in brackets: (2)

- a) Everyone praised the child's when he returned the lost wallet. (honest)
- b) The old man was admired for his towards the poor. (kind)

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

- a) You wear a helmet while riding a bicycle on the busy road.
- b) you please switch off the lights before leaving the room?

6.4. Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences: (2)

- a) and / hard / work / comes / through / success / determination

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- b) situations / positive / difficult / can / attitude / change / a

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6.5. Rewrite these sentences using the conjunctions given in the brackets: (2)

- a) The students worked hard. They wanted to perform well in the examination. (because)

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- b) Aarav is interested in science. His sister prefers literature. (whereas)

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6.6. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate modals from the options given: (2)

- a) If you practise regularly, you improve your handwriting.
(will / must / ought)
- b) You have informed the teacher before leaving the school premises.
(can / might / should)

6.7. There is an error in each sentence. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided: (2)

E.g. I eats breakfast before going to school.

- a) She do not understand the importance of honesty.
- b) The keys are kept in the table.

	Error	Correction
E.g.	eats	eat
a)		
b)		

6.8. Choose the correct indirect-speech form of the following sentences: (2)

a) The principal said to the students, "Maintain silence in the corridor."

- 1) The principal instructed the students to maintain silence in the corridor.
- 2) The principal said the students maintain silence in the corridor.
- 3) The principal asked that the students maintained silence.
- 4) The principal told that students maintain silence.

2. The environmentalist says, "We should protect our natural resources."

- 1) The environmentalist said that they should protect our natural resources.
- 2) The environmentalist says that we should protect our natural resources.
- 3) The environmentalist says that they should protected their natural resources.
- 4) The environmentalist told that we should protect their natural resources.

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

- a) Anita enjoys reading novels, ... her brother prefers playing chess.
- b) my parents were tired, they continued helping the volunteers.

6.10. Change the following from direct to indirect speech:

(2)

a) My father said, "Honesty is always the best policy."

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b) The coach said to the players, "You are improving with regular practice."

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SECTION – D – LITERATURE (20 MARKS)

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

7.1. King: (Marvelling) Extraordinary! You have not seen the camel, yet you know it intimately. Your reasoning is flawless and speaks of wisdom that goes beyond mere sight. (Turning to the Merchant) Your accusations are baseless and misguided. These are men of wisdom, not thieves. Go, and continue your search for your camel, and be mindful of whom you accuse in the future.

(The Merchant, chastened and embarrassed, bows deeply and exits, his face red with shame.)

a) What does the King's response to the Merchant reveal about his character? (1)

- 1) He is quick to believe accusations.
- 2) He is fair and values wisdom and logical reasoning.
- 3) He is afraid of the Merchant.
- 4) He is unwilling to listen to either side.

b) Select the option that is true for both Assertion (A) and Reason (R). (1)

Assertion (A): The King rejects the Merchant's accusations against the men.

Reason (R): The King is convinced by their flawless reasoning and recognises their wisdom.

- 1) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- 2) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- 3) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- 4) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

c) Why did the King praise the men? (1)

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7.2. At last came one of the merry troop,
The gayest laddie of all the group;

He paused beside her and whispered low,
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

a) What does the phrase 'the gayest laddie of all the group' suggest about the boy? (1)

- 1) He was the youngest member of the group.
- 2) He was the happiest and most cheerful member of the group.
- 3) He was the most serious member of the group.
- 4) He was the leader of the group.

b) What does the young man's action in these lines reveal about his character? (1)

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c) Identify the fact and opinion from the following sentences: (1)

- 1) The boy offers to help the woman cross the road.
- 2) The boy appears to be kind and caring towards the woman.

Q.8. Answer the following questions:

8.1. The poem A Concrete Example portrays Mrs. Jones in a positive light. Support this statement. (2)

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8.2. How did the quarrel between the king and the queen affect the palace? (2)

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8.3. Explain how each young man deduced a different trait of the camel. (2)

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8.4. What message does Dr. Kurien want to convey about selfless service and its long-term impact on society? (2)

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Q.9. Imagine you are Encyclopedia Brown. Write a diary entry for the day you solved the mystery of the coded message left by Tim Nolan, "Nom Utes Sweden Hurts," and discovered where the stolen jewellery was hidden.

In your diary entry, describe how you felt while listening to your father discuss the case at dinner, the thought process that led you to crack the code, and your feelings about solving a mystery that had puzzled adults — including trained police officers for years. Also reflect on why you chose not to reveal your role in solving such cases to your friends.

(Word limit: 120-150 words) **(6)**

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