



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY|CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24

ENGLISH



Class : VIII
Date : 16/10/2023

MARKING SCHEME

Duration : 3 Hrs
Max. Marks : 80

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage. (10 M)

- (i) (b) search for beauty (1)
- (ii) (c) mood (1)
- (iii) (d) all of the above (1)
- (iv) (a) clearly (1)
- (v) (c) changes to match people's likings (1)
- (vi) (d) all of the above (1)
- (vii) Like any other form of art, calligraphy too has been always influenced by the cultures and traditions of a certain age. Although the basic forms of letters remain the same, the approach to render them has constantly altered, matching the moods of people and time. (2)
- (viii) The word calligraphy is a composite adaptation of two Greek words: kallos (beauty) and graphein (to write). It is primarily an art and perhaps one of the most intimate, spontaneous and personal expressions, reflecting lucidly the artist-calligrapher's moods. (2)

2. Read the following passage: (10M)

- (i) a) it's exciting to try something different (1)
- (ii) a) certainly be dangerous (1)
- (iii) d) offer advice to (1)
- (iv) d) all the three (1)
- (v) b. To organize our lives (1)
- (vi) b. (3) and (5) (1)
- (vii) The author says that the lines drawn on the highway provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we should draw lines in our life to know our margins to keep us safe. (2)
- (viii) The author concludes by saying that we don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure. (2)

SECTION B GRAMMAR: 10 MARKS

3. Answer the following questions as directed:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-----|
| (i) | c. nevertheless | (1) |
| (ii) | c. pollution-free | (1) |
| (iii) | Recently there has been an increase in the level of crime in this city. | (1) |
| (iv) | Shlok and Shravan had been reading novels that they bought from the bookshop. | (1) |
| (v) | gerund | (1) |
| (vi) | this | (1) |
| (vii) | They have been practising for the farewell programme. | (1) |
| (viii) | Comparative degree | (1) |
| (ix) | America is the richest country in the world. | (1) |
| (x) | d. conjunction | (1) |

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

4. NOTICE WRITING : MARKING SCHEME (5)

- ❖ The name of the organisation – ½ marks
- ❖ The word NOTICE – ½ marks
- ❖ Date – ½ marks
- ❖ Catchy heading – ½ marks
- ❖ Content – 2 marks
- ❖ Name, signature & designation – ½ marks
- ❖ Placing the notice within a box – ½ marks

OR

Write an article on the Importance of moral values in Education in not more than 200 words (5)

Answers may vary. Accept relevant answers.

5. LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MARKING SCHEME (5)

- Format : 2 Mark (Including Sender's Address, Date, Receiver's Address, Subject/Heading. Salutation and Complimentary Close.)
- Content: 2 Marks (introductory paragraph, body of the letter, concluding paragraph)
- Accuracy: 1 Marks
- Fluency: 1 Marks

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXT BOOK (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: (5)

1. The poet refers to the taste of the pickle as a curious mixture because in seconds he could experience practically all the tastes, from sweet to sour and pungent. He could even feel a burning sensation

1. caused by chillies (2)
2. (c) I get a burst of flavours as the aftertaste on chewing the pickled slices. (1)
3. (d) The children enjoyed the programme but they missed the, the puppet show. (1)
4. My Mother's Mango pickle jar (1)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions. (5)

- (i) c. factories (1)
- (ii) a. depressing : reassurance (1)
- (iii) personification (1)
- (iv) The poem has addressed the effects of pollution caused by the factories by giving human trait to the factories. He says that the profit making factories are releasing the arsenic urine from their bladders which is affecting the survival of aquatic animals by causing water pollution. (2)

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)

(i) The narrator said that his heart sank a little because the lady kept ordering expensive dishes like caviar, asparagus, peaches etc, which he could not afford. He had eighty francs to last for the entire month but the lady kept ordering such exorbitant dishes which he made his heart sink a little.
the truth. (3)

(ii) The plaiew is a multipurpose cloth bag traditionally used for shopping and storage, which is still very popular. Kids today even use it as a school bag. While, the 'slakait' is the leaf from the banana tree used for packing food and other items, it has been utilised for centuries and a visit to the local fair or festival will show you how popular these still are. They are the perfect examples environmentally friendly products that our forefathers and mothers have carefully created for ease and convenience, while bearing in mind its intended and unintended impact of the environment. (3)

(iii) One evening as the narrator passed the ravine, he heard the chattering of the langurs in the trees. At first the narrator thought that he was the reason for their excitement, as he crossed the stream and began climbing the hill, the grunting and chattering increased, as though the langurs were trying to warn him of some hidden danger. (3)

(iv) It is believed that a deity lives in the forest and protects her home. I think there is this belief regarding the forest because this belief helps keep the forest protected because everything in the forest is considered to be blessed. The people are hence deterred from harming the forest and its inhabitants (3)

(v) Answers may vary. Accept relevant answers. (3)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6)

(i) The Earthquake has been described as *bashful*. Yes, I agree with this description. Here are some lines from the poem as evidence: (3)

"What under the sun

Have I gone and done?

I never before was so mortified!"

Then away he fled,

And groaned as he sped:

"This comes of not looking before I tread."

His voice with rage was a husky squeak.

The Earthquake by now had become so weak

He'd scarcely strength enough to speak.

(ii) The poet has described how humans have ill-treated and harmed the planet through their actions. He has detailed the atrocities committed against the plants and animals on Earth. He is also hopeful that things will change for the better. The title of the poem indicates the poet's belief that the earth will survive at any cost. The use of the figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, alliterations and repetition makes the poem impactful and hard-hitting.

(iii) According to the narrator, the ravine was quite deep, and it remained in the shadows for most of the day. Due to this, birds and animals could come out from their cover during the day. Human population in this region was also less. Therefore, this place became a little haven of wildlife. (3)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

(i) The narrator : He is a young, inexperienced young writer who is living in Paris. He is also an educated man, polite from a good family tradition. He is very poor and can hardly keep body and soul together. When the narrator meets the lady at Foyot's, he has only eight francs to pay the bill. At last, the narrator is left with no money at all. He can't afford expensive food but still allows her to have it. His Character develops throughout the story. His feelings change from flattery and excitement to disgust and anger to revenge. The story depicts the his initial childlike feelings of flattery and excitement to disgust and anger due to the unfortunate sequence of events caused by the insensitive woman
The Lady : The lady was 40 yrs old, talkative and not attractive. She loved the writing of the narrator. She had read of his books and wrote a letter to congratulate him on his work. She manipulates him by requesting to chat with him and a little lunch at Foyot- an expensive restaurant that he cannot afford to dine at. She gets what she wants but the poor author has to pay the price. She is an extremely food loving and, ravenous woman. She doesn't even think a bit about the costs of the expensive dishes, that narrator has to pay for the lunch. Her, "I never eat more than one thing" is her signature dialogue. This woman is smart, experienced, selfish and hardly bothered about the expense. She has her own way and just thinks about herself: her interests, her longings etc. She doesn't consider whether the poor author can afford such expensive dishes.

OR

Answers may vary. Accept any relevant answer.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1x6=6)

(I) One evening, when the narrator passed through the jungle, he heard the excited chattering of the langurs. He felt that they were trying to warn him about some kind of danger. The narrator crossed the stream and started to climb the hill. The chattering increased and some pebbles came rattling down the hill. The writer looked and was surprised to see a muscular leopard on a rock 20 feet above. This was the narrator's first encounter with the leopard.

The narrator developed an unusual friendship with the leopard as he did not mean any harm to the denizens of the forest. He succeeded in earning the trust of the leopard like other denizens of the forest. He was full of self-doubt and regret about this unusual friendship at the end of the chapter when the shikaris killed the leopard and the leopard did not do anything in his defence trusting that all the human beings are trustworthy like the narrator.

OR

Yes, storytelling can be an effective way to promote environmental awareness. This is so because through a story, different examples can be presented. Moreover, stories are appealing to children as well as adults alike. Awareness can be created among children from a very young age and adults will be reminded of the message over and over again.

Answers may vary. Accept any short story relevant to the question along with the above answer.
