

**Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi**  
**Practice Paper (Session: 2023-24)**

**Class: VIII**

**Duration: 2 ½ hours**

**Subject: ENGLISH**

**Maximum Marks: 60 Marks**

**General instructions**

1. This question paper is divided into four sections:  
Section A: Reading: 16 marks  
Section B: Writing: 12 marks  
Section C: Grammar: 14 marks  
Section D: Literature: 18 marks
2. All questions are compulsory
3. Marks are indicated against each question

**Section A: Reading: 16 Marks**

Q1. Read the passage carefully

Contrary to common belief, deserts are not just endless stretches of barren sand. They are diverse landscapes that can feature hills, mountains, and even oasis, where life thrives around water sources. Deserts are home to unique flora and fauna adapted to extreme conditions of dryness and temperature variations. Plants like cacti have evolved to store water, while animals such as camels and small nocturnal creatures survive with minimal water. Deserts may be hot like the Thar or cold like Ladakh, but they all share the characteristic of being dry. These ecosystems, often misunderstood, play a crucial role in nature's balance, offering beauty and biodiversity in their harsh, arid conditions.

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

**(Do Any 4)**

**4\*2 = 8 marks**

- i. What unique feature do cactus plants have to adapt to desert conditions?  
A) They can move to find water.  
B) They store water in their thick stems.  
C) They grow very tall to reach moisture.  
D) They change colour to reflect sunlight.
- ii. What is an oasis in the context of a desert?  
A) A sand dune.  
B) A dry, barren area.

- C) A green area with a water source.
- D) A type of desert plant.

iii. Which animal is known as the 'ship of the desert'?

- A) The camel.
- B) The cactus wren.
- C) The desert fox.
- D) The rattlesnake.

iv. How does the passage challenge the common perception of deserts?

- A) By showing that deserts are always hot.
- B) By highlighting the biodiversity and adaptations in deserts.
- C) By explaining that deserts have a lot of water.
- D) By indicating that deserts are not part of nature's plan.

v. What does the term 'nocturnal' refer to in the context of desert animals?

- A) Animals that are active during the day.
- B) Animals that can survive without water.
- C) Animals that are active during the night.
- D) Animals that store water.

Q2. Read the passage carefully

Mrs. Verma's 8th grade at Sunshine School decided to set up a small library in their classroom. They collected books from students and managed to gather 150 books. The class was divided into 5 groups, each responsible for different genres. They realized that mystery books were the most donated, with 40 books, while science fiction had the least with 10 books. The class decided to sell bookmarks to buy more science fiction books. They sold each bookmark for Rs.20 and raised Rs.600 in total. With the money, they bought 15 more science fiction books at Rs.40 each, balancing the genres and adding to their library collection, making reading more diverse and enjoyable for everyone.

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

**(Do Any 4)**

**4\*2 = 8 marks**

i. How many books did the class library start with?

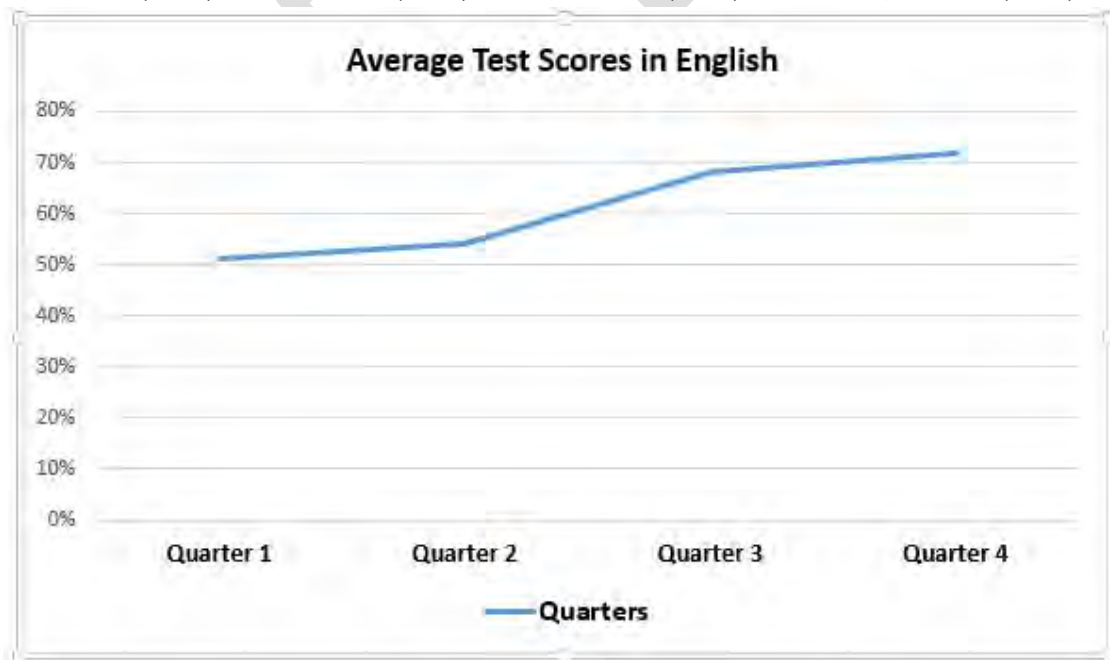
- A. 150
- B. 40
- C. 10
- D. 165

- ii. What was the purpose of selling bookmarks?
- A. To buy mystery books
  - B. To fund the science projects
  - C. To purchase more science fiction books
  - D. To decorate the classroom
- iii. Which genre had the most number of books donated?
- A. Science Fiction
  - B. Mystery
  - C. History
  - D. Adventure
- iv. Based on the amount raised from selling bookmarks, how many bookmarks were sold by the class?
- A. 15
  - B. 30
  - C. 20
  - D. 40
- v. After buying 15 more science fiction books, how many science fiction books does the library have in total?
- A. 15
  - B. 25
  - C. 10
  - D. 40

**Section B: Writing: 12 marks**

Q3. Look at the line graph depicting the average test scores in English for Class 8 across four quarters of the academic year 2022:

Quarter 1 (51%), Quarter 2 (54%), Quarter 3 (68%), and Quarter 4 (72%).



Write an analytical paragraph in about 60 - 80 words, focusing on the trends in scores. Consider how positive influences such as engaging in reading programs,

literary festivals, or interactive language workshops might have impacted the students' performance in English.

1\*6 = 6 marks

OR

You are in-charge of the Health and Wellness Club at Bluebell School. Your school will have a special talk about healthy eating called "Balanced Diet and Nutrition." A famous food expert will come to speak.

Write a notice for your school notice board to tell students about this talk. Include when and where it will happen, and how they can sign up to be there. Make sure your notice is clear and short. (Word Limit: 60 - 80 words)

Q4. You recently visited a historical place with your school. Write a letter to a relative describing your experience, what you learned, and why they should visit the place too. Share your enthusiasm and any interesting facts you found out. (Word Limit: 60 - 80 words)

1\*6 = 6 marks

OR

Yesterday, you had the unique opportunity to meet someone who deeply inspired you. In your diary entry, reflect on this experience in about 60-80 words.

In your entry, make sure to include:

- Who this person is and the circumstances of how you met him.
- What qualities or actions of his you found particularly inspiring.
- Describe any conversations or interactions you had with this person.
- How you felt during and after this encounter and why it was significant for you.
- Any plans or actions you intend to take as a result of meeting this person.
- Your overall thoughts and feelings about the day, especially in regards to this meeting.

Focus on expressing how this encounter has impacted you, potentially leading to personal growth or a new perspective.

**Section C: Grammar: 14 marks**

Q5. Read the paragraph carefully and fill the blanks with appropriate Articles.  
(Do any 4) 4 \* 1 = 4 marks

In my city, there is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ museum that everyone should visit. When I entered (2) \_\_\_\_\_ building, the first thing I noticed was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ enormous dinosaur skeleton. I spent (4) \_\_\_\_\_ hour just looking at (5) \_\_\_\_\_ exhibit. Later, I attended a workshop on ancient civilizations. It was incredibly informative and fun.

- |           |      |       |      |
|-----------|------|-------|------|
| 1. a. the | b. a | c. an | d. X |
| 2. a. the | b. a | c. an | d. X |
| 3. a. the | b. a | c. an | d. X |
| 4. a. the | b. a | c. an | d. X |
| 5. a. the | b. a | c. an | d. X |

Q6. Fill the blanks with the correct form of the Modal Verb. (Do any 4) 4\*1=4 marks

- a. You \_\_\_\_\_ (can/might) go to the party after you finish your homework.
- b. She \_\_\_\_\_ (must/should) be at school by now; it's past 9 o'clock.
- c. It \_\_\_\_\_ (can/could) be quite cold in the mountains, even in summer.
- d. They \_\_\_\_\_ (may/must) not enter the restricted area without permission.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ (Can/Could) you help me with my maths homework?

Q7. Choose a preposition from the list to complete each sentence. List: (to, under, at, from) (Do any 3) 3\*1=3 marks

- a. The concert will start \_\_\_\_\_ 8 PM.
- b. This gift is \_\_\_\_\_ my grandparents.
- c. The cat is sleeping \_\_\_\_\_ the chair.
- d. We are looking forward \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend.

Q8. The passage below has not been edited. There is an error in each line against which a blank is given. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied. (Do any 3)

3\*1=3 marks

		Incorrect	Correct
Last week, I goes to the zoo with my family. It was an exciting day.	a.	_____	_____

We saw a lot of animals. We also see some elephants that were	b.	_____	_____
being feed by their caretakers. My little brother was	c.	_____	_____
fascinate by the monkeys, who were jumping	d.	_____	_____
from tree to tree. We ended our visit by eating ice-creams and taking a lot of pictures to remember this special day.			

**Section D: Literature: 18 marks**

Q9. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (Do Any 2)  
2\*1=2 marks

Jody then went to the kitchen. The fawn wobbled after him. A pan of morning's milk stood in the kitchen safe. The cream had risen on it. He skimmed the cream into a jug. He poured milk into a small gourd. He held it out to the fawn. It butted it suddenly, smelling the milk. He saved it precariously from spilling over the floor. It could make nothing of the milk in the gourd.

i. Fill the blanks:

Jody skimmed the cream off the milk and poured milk into a \_\_\_\_\_ for the fawn.

ii. What difficulty did the fawn have at the end of the passage?

iii. Find a word from a passage which means 'Removed the top layer'.

Q10. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow: (Do Any 2)  
2\*2=4 marks

When the jet sprang into the sky,  
it was clear why the city  
had developed the way it had,  
seeing it scaled six inches to the mile.  
There seemed an inevitability  
about what on ground had looked haphazard,  
unplanned and without style  
When the jet sprang into the sky.

- i. Which occurrence sets the scene for the poem's descriptive narrative?
- A) The break of dawn in the urban landscape.
  - B) The beginning of the poet's creative process.
  - C) The aircraft ascending into the sky.
  - D) The onset of bustling urban activity.
- ii. What aspect of the city is highlighted when seen from the sky?
- A) Its vastness.
  - B) Its development pattern.
  - C) Its natural beauty.
  - D) Its traffic and congestion.
- iii. The phrase “scaled six inches to the mile” suggests what about the poet's view of the city?
- A) It looked very detailed.
  - B) It seemed much smaller than it is.
  - C) It appeared distorted.
  - D) It was unclear and foggy.

Q11. Answer the following questions in about 30 - 40 words. (Do any 4)

4\*3=12 marks

- i. How does the chapter portray the emotional and psychological impact of the tsunami on survivors? (The Tsunami)
- ii. What realization does the poet have when the jet is six miles high? (Geography Lesson)
- iii. What concerns did Mill-wheel have about leaving Jody alone in the chapter ‘This is Jody’s Fawn’?
- iv. Evaluate the fairness of the ant's decision not to help the cricket in the poem ‘The Ant and the Cricket’. Do you think cricket deserved help? Why or why not?
- v. What offer did the old man make to the speaker, and what was the speaker's response? (The Last Bargain)