

13/10/25

BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD
Model Paper – Half Yearly
English - Class 8
Session 2025-26

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 80

Instructions:

- Read the questions carefully.
- Please check that this question paper contains 08 printed pages.
- 10 minutes of extra time has been allotted to read this question paper. During this time, students will not start writing the answers.
- This question paper contains **three** sections:
 - Section – A (Reading) : 20 marks
 - Section – B (Writing and Grammar) : 28 marks
 - Section – C (Literature) : 32 marks
- Attempting all the questions is compulsory.
- This question paper contains **11** questions.
- In **Section - A**, Q.no. **1 and 2** carry **10** marks each.
- In **Section - B**, Q.no. **3, 4, 6 and 8** carry **5** marks each and Q.no. **5 and 7** carry **4** marks each.
- In **Section - C**, Q.no. **9 and 11** carry **10** marks each and Q.no. **10** carries **12** marks.

Section-A (Reading)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions:

(1x10=10)

India, or Bharat, is a land where history breathes through every monument, festival, and tradition. The grand forts of Rajasthan, the serene ghats of Varanasi, and the majestic temples of Tamil Nadu all remind us of the creativity and devotion of our ancestors. Each region of Bharat has its own unique stories—be it the intricate carvings of Khajuraho or the eternal flame of the Konark Sun Temple.

But India's heritage is not only about stone and structure; it is also about living traditions. The vibrant dances of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi express deep emotions and stories from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Festivals like Diwali, Holi, and Pongal bring families and communities together, spreading light, joy, and harmony.

Our ancient knowledge systems are another treasure. The Ayurveda and Yoga traditions, now embraced worldwide, originated in Bharat centuries ago. They teach us the importance of balance, health, and inner peace.

Thus, the cultural heritage of Bharat is like a flowing river—everlasting, nurturing, and inspiring. It is the responsibility of each generation to preserve this heritage, not just by protecting monuments, but also by valuing the traditions that make our nation unique.

➤ **On the basis of the above passage, answer the following questions:**

- A. The author compares India's cultural heritage to a "flowing river" mainly to suggest that it is:**
- (a) calm and peaceful.
 - (b) temporary and fragile.
 - (c) continuous and nourishing.
 - (d) limited to certain regions.
- B. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as part of India's living traditions?**
- (a) Bharatanatyam.
 - (b) Diwali.
 - (c) Ayurveda.
 - (d) Rock-cut caves.
- C. What do the dances of Kathak and Odissi usually express?**
- (a) Folk tales of villages.
 - (b) Stories from great epics.
 - (c) Devotional songs of saints.
 - (d) Adventures of kings.
- D. Which word in the passage is closest in meaning to everlasting?**
- (a) Devotion.
 - (b) Eternal.
 - (c) Nurturing.
 - (d) Balance.
- E. According to the passage, Ayurveda and Yoga highlight the importance of**
- (a) wealth and strength.
 - (b) fame and recognition.
 - (c) inner peace and health.
 - (d) luxury and comfort.
- F. The phrase "history breathes through every monument" suggests that:**
- (a) old monuments still tell us stories of the past.
 - (b) monuments are alive and moving.
 - (c) history only exists in books.
 - (d) tourists bring monuments to life.
- G. Which of these best reflects the responsibility of future generations according to the passage?**
- (a) Building new temples.
 - (b) Modernizing dance forms.
 - (c) Preserving both monuments and traditions.
 - (d) Replacing Ayurveda with modern medicine.

H. Which of these places is NOT directly mentioned in the passage?

(a) Varanasi.

(b) Konark.

(c) Khajuraho.

(d) Ellora.

I. Why are festivals like Diwali and Pongal considered part of cultural heritage?

(a) They attract tourists from abroad.

(b) They are celebrated only in villages.

(c) They unite families and communities.

(d) They bring wealth and prosperity.

J. Which title would be the MOST suitable alternative to the passage?

(a) The Forgotten Monuments of Bharat.

(b) Bharat's Timeless Cultural Treasures.

(c) Modern Art of India.

(d) Architecture Alone Defines Heritage.

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the following questions:

I was born from a small seed lovingly planted by a farmer. I was watered and nurtured well until I grew to my full height. I was a great banyan tree. I loved being a tree, and I knew that I was beautiful. I had a strong trunk, lovely branches with leaves and awoke every morning with the sound of singing birds who nested in my branches. People who passed by would rest under my shade and get respite from the burning sun. The sun and rain gave me strength nourishment, my branches would dance whenever there was a slight breeze and I basked in the glory of being free. For companionship, I had a whole grove of trees like myself and we all lived together harmoniously.

Then one day, I could hear the distant rumble of a loud unfamiliar sound. We all heard it and wondered what it was. It was very scary. We all felt a great sense of danger and could not explain why it disturbed us so much. The noise came closer and closer and at last we saw the monster. A really long saw attached to some kind of machine that hummed and hawed. What happened next is something I will never forget. The man wielding the saw came close to us and put the saw against the trunk of my neighbour. Within minutes, it came crashing down, its branches were sawn off, leaving only the trunk. A crane lifted it onto a truck. Next it was my turn.

They took us to the edge of the forest where there was a river. We were thrown into the rushing river. The water carried us downstream until we reached a factory. There we were sawn into blocks, then into planks, then into small

strips of wood to be made into pencils. The next process took us to another factory where we were sawn to shape, lead was put in the middle and we were polished and painted in bright colours. I was coloured in red and blue. I was no longer a tree but a bright new pencil ready to be shipped and then sold in the supermarket.

Today a small boy of about ten years is my proud owner. His name is Kaustav. He admired me from all angles before he put me in his pencil box. I know that he loves me as he always handles me gently, but I don't know how long I'll last. You see, he sharpens me every time he needs to use me. I'm already half in size and I know my end is coming soon.

➤ **On the basis of the above passage, answer the following questions: (1x10=10)**

A. It's an autobiography of a

(a) pencil.

(b) bird.

(c) tree.

(d) seed.

B. People would rest under its shade to

(a) get respite from the burning Sun.

(b) to listen to birds' song.

(c) to look at its beautiful branches.

(d) to eat its sweet fruit.

C. It gets strength and nourishment from

(a) the sun

(b) the rain

(c) both 'a' & 'b'

(d) birds

D. What happened one day?

(a) A man came to water the plants.

(b) A man came to chop the trees down.

(c) A man came to collect firewood.

(d) A man came to count the number of trees.

E. The man has been called a monster because

(a) he took away the tree's freedom.

(b) he helped in making a pencil.

(c) he loaded it onto a truck.

(d) he was wielding a saw.

F. Choose the correct sequence of steps involved in making a pencil.

(a) Strips, planks and blocks.

(b) Planks, blocks and strips.

(c) Trunk, strips and planks.

(d) Blocks, planks and strips.

G. The word 'grove' belongs to which category of noun?

- (a) Abstract noun.
- (b) Proper noun.
- (c) Collective noun.
- (d) All the options are correct.

H. Choose the synonym of the word 'respite' based on your understanding of the passage.

- (a) Exertion
- (b) Heat
- (c) Unrest
- (d) Relief

I. Choose the correct meaning of 'downstream' based on your understanding of the passage.

- (a) Thoughts and beliefs that are accepted by the largest number of people.
- (b) Moving towards the source of the river.
- (c) Moving in the direction a river or stream is flowing.
- (d) The middle of a stream where the current is the strongest.

J. Choose the antonym of the word 'harmoniously' based on your understanding of the passage.

- (a) Tunefully
- (b) Unfriendly
- (c) United
- (d) Peacefully

SECTION B-WRITING AND GRAMMAR

Q3. Attempt any one of the following.

(5 marks)

Write a narrative essay within 300 words based on an incident where you experienced the joy of celebrating an Indian festival or tradition with your family or community. Bring out how this celebration reflected Bharatiya values such as respect, sharing, or togetherness.

Or

Imagine you are standing in front of an ancient Indian monument like the Sun Temple of Konark or Taj Mahal of Agra. Write a descriptive essay in about 300 words, talking about its beauty and explaining how it reflects India's cultural richness.

Q4. Write a persuasive essay in 250 words on the topic "Home-Cooked Indian Food is Healthier than Fast Food".

(5 marks)

Q5. Read the following sentences and select the most suitable response.

(1x4=4)

A. Riya wanted to keep the surprise party secret, but her brother accidentally let the cat out of the bag. What does the idiom mean?

- (a) He lost their pet cat.
- (b) He revealed the secret.
- (c) He spoiled the food.
- (d) He brought a cat as a gift.

- B. If a student says, "I was on cloud nine after winning the competition," what does "on cloud nine" mean?
- (a) He was confused. (b) He was extremely happy.
 (c) He was very sleepy. (d) He was dreaming.
- C. If someone tells you, "Don't cry over spilt milk," what are they advising you?
- (a) Don't waste milk.
 (b) Don't worry about things that cannot be changed.
 (c) Be careful while carrying milk.
 (d) Don't cry in front of others.
- D. My father advised me not to bite off more than I can chew. What does it mean?
- (a) Don't eat food too quickly.
 (b) Don't take on a task that is too difficult.
 (c) Don't waste food.
 (d) Don't chew loudly in public.

Q6. Fill in the blanks with the correct phrasal verb.

(1x5=5)

- A. The match had to be _____ because of heavy rain.
 (called off/turned up/gone over)
- B. Can you please _____ this word in the dictionary?
 (look up/call off/run into)
- C. Ria promised to _____ her dream of becoming a doctor, no matter what.
 (give up/carry on/put out)
- D. After many years, I suddenly _____ an old school friend at the market.
 (ran into/took after/set up)
- E. The teacher told us to _____ the main points of the lesson carefully.
 (go over/break down/carry off)

Q7. Read the short story given below. Some parts (*in italics*) are in direct speech. Rewrite them into indirect speech.

(1x4=4)

One morning, *Riya met her friend Meena at the bus stop.*

Riya said, "*Did you complete the science project?*"

Meena replied, "*Yes, I worked on it all night.*"

Riya exclaimed, "*That's great! I was worried we wouldn't finish on time.*"

Meena said, "*Don't worry, we will present it together.*"

Q8. Convert the following sentences from active voice to passive voice

(1x5=5)

- A. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the new bridge tomorrow.
 B. People speak English all over the world.

- C. Why are the children making so much noise?
- D. Did the mechanic repair your bicycle?
- E. My mother prepared a delicious meal yesterday.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

Q9. Read the following extracts and answer the given questions.

(1x10=10)

A. *"A man such as you should not yield to momentary anger and destroy the very nature of something. This could set off a chain reaction and destroy the Earth. The sea has erred, my Lord, why do you punish the creatures that live in it?"*

- a. Who is being addressed here and by whom?
- b. What is the "momentary anger" referred to in the passage?
- c. What lesson does this episode from the Ramayana teach us about dealing with anger and power?

B. *"You must choose justice, my King. A ruler's love is shown through guidance, not indulgence. If you hesitate now, this silence will haunt you and your kingdom for generations."*

- a. What does Vidura mean by "a ruler's love is shown through guidance, not indulgence"?
- b. Why does the speaker warn that silence will 'haunt the kingdom for generations'?
- c. How does this advice highlight the duty of a king towards his subjects?

C. *"This agony unbearable shall end
in the spirit's rebirth, vast and boundless,
the night has run its course and the Mother awakes
in her spacious abode
on the shore of this vast sea of humanity
this is India."*

- a. What does the poet mean by "this agony unbearable"?
- b. What does "the spirit's rebirth" symbolize in the context of India?
- c. Who is referred to as "the Mother" in these lines?
- d. What hope for India does the poet express through this passage?

Q10. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

(3x4=12)

- a. Recall some evidences from the text "Wings of Fire" to support the statement that Dr. Kalam's mother was a kind and hardworking women.
- b. Why did the priest and the leading citizens refused to consecrate the statue in the story 'Such Perfection'?

- c. What explanation did Mrs. Chitrakar offer when Poorna asked her the symbolic significance of Goddess Durga and her portrayal in Patua art.
- d. Write the central message conveyed in the poem 'Long Live the Republic of Bharat'

Q11. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words.

(5x2=10)

- a. The osprey and turtle agreed to help the hawks even though they were different species. What value is reflected here, and how can we practice it in real life?
- b. 'Shri Krishna balance compassion and firmness as he persuades the Kuru court to choose peace.' Comment on the statement.