

CLASS – VIII
MID TERM EXAMINATION: 2025 - 2026
SUBJECT- ENGLISH
SET C1

Time Allowed- 2.5 Hours

Max. Marks – 60

General Instructions:

1. The paper is divided into three sections A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING (18 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

10

1. Aarav stood at the base of the mighty Sahyadri hills, his heart pounding with both excitement and fear. He was part of a student trekking group, and this was his first real hike. The mountain seemed to stretch endlessly into the sky, its peak hidden behind drifting clouds. While other students chattered cheerfully, Aarav remained quiet, staring at the narrow rocky path ahead.
2. As they began the climb, the sun warmed their backs and the forest echoed with birdsong. Aarav struggled at first—his legs ached, and he lagged behind. His water bottle slipped from his hand, rolling down the slope. Frustrated, he considered giving up. Just then, their instructor, a tall, calm man named Mr. Sen, walked beside him. “Every mountain looks impossible until you take the first few steps,” he said gently.
3. Encouraged, Aarav took a deep breath and continued. He stopped worrying about the summit and focused on each small step. With time, the path grew steeper, but his confidence rose too. He learned to observe nature—the chirping of the birds, the rustling of the leaves, and the scent of wildflowers.
4. After four hours, the group reached the top. Aarav stood at the summit, the valley spread out below like a green ocean. He had never felt so alive. The journey had taught him that courage isn’t the absence of fear—it’s moving forward despite it. That day, Aarav didn’t just climb a mountain; he discovered the strength within himself.

Q1.1. Based on your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:-

1x5=5

i. Where was Aarav standing at the beginning of the story?

- A. At the summit of a hill
- B. Inside a forest cabin
- C. At the base of the Sahyadri hills
- D. Near a river crossing

ii. What made Aarav feel like giving up during the climb?

- A. He was afraid of animals
- B. His legs ached and he dropped his water bottle
- C. The weather turned bad
- D. Other students teased him

iii. What advice did Mr. Sen give Aarav?

- A. "Just wait for others to help."
- B. "It's okay to quit if it's hard."
- C. "Every mountain looks impossible until you take the first few steps."
- D. "Ignore the pain and run faster."

iv. What helped Aarav gain confidence during the trek?

- A. Competing with others
- B. Enjoying nature and focusing on small steps
- C. Taking long breaks
- D. Thinking about quitting

v. How did Aarav feel at the summit?

- A. Tired and disappointed
- B. Angry at himself for struggling
- C. Alive and proud
- D. Afraid to come down

Q1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

1x5=5

- i. What motivated Aarav to continue climbing when he felt like giving up?
- ii. Find the meaning of the word "summit" as used in the passage. (Para 4).
- iii. What lesson does the story teach about facing challenges?
- iv. How did Aarav's experience on the trek change him?
- v. What would you have done if you were in Aarav's place when the water bottle slipped and you felt tired? Why?

Q2. Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1x8=8

Poem: "The Clockmaker's Dream"

**In a quiet lane of an old, gray town,
Lived a man with locks of silver and brown.
He crafted clocks with gentle care,
Each ticking piece beyond compare.**

**His tools were old, his hands were wise,
With dreams that danced before his eyes.
He spoke to time like an old, dear friend,
And swore he'd chase it till the end.**

**He built a clock one silent night,
With hands that glowed in mystic light.
It ticked not minutes, hours, or years,
But hopes and wishes, laughs and tears.**

**At dawn, he placed it by his bed,
Then smiled in peace and softly said:
"This clock won't chime the hour I go,
But all the dreams I've come to know."**

**Now in that lane, folks still believe,
Time holds the dreams we all can weave.
The clockmaker's gift still softly rings—
A song of time, of dreams, of wings.**

Q2.1 On the basis of your reading of the poem, answer the questions by choosing the correct option:

1x4=4

i. What did the clockmaker build one silent night?

- a) A music box
- b) A magical clock
- c) A sundial
- d) A lantern

**ii. What does the word "mystic" most likely mean in the line:
"With hands that glowed in mystic light"? (stanza 3)**

- a. Bright and shiny
- b. Magical or mysterious
- c. Broken or unclear
- d. Cold and colorless

iii. What made the special clock unique?

- a) It ran backward
- b) It ticked with golden gears
- c) It counted emotions, not time
- d) It sang lullabies

iv. In the end, the townspeople believe:

- a) The clockmaker was a magician
- b) Dreams live on in time
- c) The clocks were haunted
- d) Time never ends

Q2.2 Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the questions briefly. 1x4=4

- i. What message does the poem convey about time and dreams?
- ii. How does the poet use imagery to create a magical mood?
- iii. What made the clockmaker's creations special?
- iv. In the line "*And swore he'd chase it till the end,*" what does the word "**swore**" imply about the clockmaker's attitude toward time?

SECTION B – GRAMMAR & WRITING (22 Marks)

Grammar (10 Marks)

Q3.1 Fill in the correct question tags.

1x2 = 2

- i. You're coming to the picnic, _____?
- ii. She can't swim, _____?

Q3.2 Change the voice and rewrite the given sentences.

1x2 = 2

- i. They served dinner at 8 pm.
- ii. The homework will be submitted by the students.

Q3.3 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of past tense:

1x2 = 2

- i. He _____ (read) when the lights went out.
- ii. I _____ (work) on the project for two hours before you came.

Q3.4 Choose the correct phrasal verb from the box to fill in the blanks:

1x2 = 2

took off took on came into came across came up
--

- i. The plane _____ on time.
- ii. She _____ a rare coin in the attic.

Q3.5 Read the mentioned steps of making Chinese Blossom Tea. Fill in the blanks given below with the right form of verb. **1/2x4=2**

- Boil four cups of water in a kettle
- Add two tablespoon of tea leaves
- Boil for two minutes
- Rinse the teapot with boiling water
- Put a layer of rose, mogra or jasmine flowers in the teapot
- Pour tea in the teapot
- Let it stand for five minutes
- Serve before/after meal

Four cups of water a) _____ in a kettle. When the water has boiled, two tablespoon of tea leaves b) _____. Meanwhile the teapot c) _____ with boiling water. A layer of either rose, mogra or jasmine flowers is then d) _____ into the teapot and the tea is poured. It is allowed to stand for five minutes before it is served.

Q4.1. You are Riya / Rohan, the Head Girl/Boy of Lotus Valley School. Draft a notice informing students about an upcoming cleanliness drive on 5 September 2025. **5**

Q4.2 Attempt any **ONE** of the following in 100-120 words: **7**

A. You are Aaliya/Aahan Sharma, a resident of Rose Garden Apartments, Pune. You are concerned about the increasing plastic waste in your locality, which is causing pollution and health hazards. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India, highlighting the issue and suggesting measures to solve the problem.

OR

B. Write a story ending with the line – “And that day, I learned that true courage means standing up for what’s right, even when you’re afraid.”

SECTION C – LITERATURE (20 Marks)

Q5.1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: **3x3= 9**

5.1. “But only a host of phantom listeners (1+1+1=3)
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Hearkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveler’s call.”
(The Listeners)

i. Who are the “phantom listeners” referred to in the passage?

- A. The people who lived in the village
- B. Ghostly or supernatural beings
- C. The Traveller’s companions
- D. Imaginary creatures of the Traveller

ii. What does the phrase “voice from the world of men” imply?

- A. The traveller is a ghost
- B. The house is filled with people
- C. The Traveller belongs to the living world, unlike the listeners
- D. The listeners are hiding from a dangerous man

iii. Where are the “phantom listeners” standing in the poem?

5.2. “When the jet sprang into the sky, (1+1+1=3)

**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.”**

(The Geography Lesson)

i. What realization does the poet have when the jet "sprang into the sky"?

- A. The city is crowded and polluted
- B. The city is more beautiful from above
- C. The city's layout makes more sense from the air
- D. Flying is a dangerous activity

ii. What does “scaled six inches to the mile” refer to?

- A. The height of the jet
- B. The altitude of the city
- C. The city as seen on a map or from a high altitude
- D. The size of the buildings

iii. Why did the city look different when seen from the jet compared to when viewed from the ground?

5.3. For every hill I've had to climb, (1+1+1=3)

**For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat and grime,
For blinding storms and burning heat—”**

(For Every Hill)

i. What does the “hill” symbolically represent in the poem?

- A. A mountain hike
- B. A literal journey
- C. Challenges and difficulties in life
- D. A race or competition

ii. What mood is conveyed through the phrases “blood and sweat and grime” and “burning heat”?

- A. Comfort and joy
- B. Celebration and pride
- C. Struggle and hardship
- D. Peace and rest

iii. How does the phrase “bruised my feet” help convey the tone of the poem?

Q6. Answer ANY THREE of the following in 30–40 words: (2×3=6)

- i. What does the title “Homecoming” signify in Tagore’s story? (*The Homecoming*)
- ii. How did the thief’s experience with Anil change his life in the story, “*The Thief*” by Ruskin Bond?
- iii. What message does the poet convey in the poem “*Geography Lesson*”?
- iv. How does Manju’s journey in “*Fight, Manju, Fight!*” reflect the importance of inner strength and perseverance in achieving success?

Q7. Answer the following question in 80-100 words.

5

Phatik's experience in Calcutta was very different from what he had imagined. Based on the story “*The Homecoming*”, explain how his expectations were shattered and what this tells us about the importance of love, care, and a sense of belonging in a child’s life.