

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA
FIRST TERM EXAMINATION (4 September 2025)
ENGLISH
Class - VIII (Set - A)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Reading (20 Marks)

(10×1=10)

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

1. The Baobab tree, which is among the largest and longest living trees on earth, is also one of the most unusual and remarkable trees. A native of Africa, it has flourished for thousands of years in the arid savannah close to the equator. The tree, which can grow up to 30 metres in height, has a very strange appearance. It has an enormous, thick bulbous trunk and stunted branches that look like gnarled roots spreading wide. The branches are bare for nine months of the year, since the tree puts out leaves only twice a year, for a few weeks at a time when the rains come to the plains. Thus the Baobab tree, for most of the time, looks as if it has been pulled out of the ground and stuffed back in upside down!
2. The tree's unusual appearance has given rise to many interesting folktales about its origins. African Bushmen have a legend that tells of God Thora who took a dislike to the Baobab growing in his garden. He tossed it over the wall of paradise to Earth below, and although it landed upside down, it continued to grow! Another folk tale says that the Baobab was amongst the first trees to appear on Earth. When the palm tree, the flame tree and the fig tree appeared, the Baobab began to grumble that it wanted to be taller, to have brilliant flame coloured flowers, and bear tasty fruit too. The gods grew angry at this incessant wailing and pulled up the tree by its roots, and replanted it upside down to keep it quiet!
3. There are only three months of rain in a year. So the Baobab spreads its roots wide and collects as much rainwater as it can. Then it stores the water in its bark and lower trunk for use during the dry months. Bushmen, and even elephants wandering through the desert extract water from the pulpy fibre when there is drought.
4. The leaves of this tree resemble an outstretched hand with open fingers. Its large flowers are white and bell-shaped and open only at night. The tree produces an edible, gourd like fruit called "monkey bread", which is a favourite with baboons. This fruit has the highest concentration of vitamin C of any plant.
5. The Baobab is a friendly nurturing tree and creates its own eco-system as it supports the life of countless creatures from the largest of mammals to the thousands of tiny creatures scurrying and out of its numerous crevices.
6. Baobabs may live up to 3000 years! There are trees alive today that were growing when the Roman Empire ruled Europe! Baobabs are very difficult to kill. Even when burnt, they will form new bark and keep on growing. When they do die, they simply rot from the inside and suddenly collapse leaving only a heap of fibres. These majestic trees are revered by the people who live with them. In Africa old Baobabs are given names and each name begins with the word 'mother' for in the tough savannah grasslands the great Baobab is mother of life symbolizing endurance, conservation creativity and ingenuity.

(i) Choose the correct statement from the following:

1. According to the folktale, why did the Gods replant the Baobab tree upside down?
a) It was the last tree to appear on earth b) It was too strong and powerful.
c) It kept complaining about its appearance d) It grew too fast and covered other plants

A-1

2. The author has referred to the Roman Empire's rule in Europe in order to
 - a) Indicate history of Baobab tree in Africa.
 - b) Point out the usually long life that some Baobab trees have had
 - c) Suggest when Baobab trees were first introduced in Europe
 - d) Argue that it is easy to destroy a baobab tree
3. Baobab spreads its roots wide in rainy season
 - a) to fix itself firmly in ground
 - b) to produce edible fruit
 - c) to collect as much rainwater as it can
 - d) to make its leaves more succulent
4. The Baobab tree produces fruit that is poisonous to animals. (True/False)
5. The tree produces fruit called which is favourite with baboons.
6. Describe the unusual appearance of Baobab tree.
7. What special adaptations help Baobab tree to survive in arid regions?
8. Why does Baobab tree grow upside down? Mention any one belief.
9. Find a word from para 6 which means the same as 'tolerance'
10. Find a word from para 1 which means the opposite of 'tiny'.

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(10×1=10)

1. Look, up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No - and it's not Superman either. It's a gyrocopter, also known as gyroplane, autogyro or rotor plane.
 2. A gyrocopter looks like a small helicopter but the main difference is that there is no engine turning the rotors. The rotors simply self-propel or "auto-rotate" due to the way the air flows through them.
 3. As the engine is not connected to the rotors, a gyrocopter is not seriously affected if the engine should stop in flight. This means that a gyrocopter is one of the safest methods of flying.
 4. Gyrocopters have traditionally been open cockpit "Motorbikes of the sky" but, since late 2010, they are available as fully enclosed models, broadening their appeal and functionality. This changes the game completely.
 5. Essentially, gyrocopters are a hybrid between helicopters and gliders, and are being used the world over for border security, coastal area surveillance, road patrolling and agriculture crop spraying.
 6. So what makes a gyrocopter so exciting? For starters, they can fly very low, only a few centimetres above the ground at a very low speed, about 30 kmph, unlike a helicopter which cannot fly low and slow at the same time. Gyrocopters are also much less expensive and need very little landing space, unlike a glider. Most gyrocopters nowadays only require around 20 ft. for landing. That means they can be flown from practically everywhere. Like a helicopter, the gyro needs an engine for the initial thrust. Later, the engine cuts off and it's the direction of the wind that makes it sail like a glider. However, unlike a helicopter, it cannot take off and land vertically.
 7. The good news is that they will soon make their debut in Indian skies. According to Rishabh Mehta, managing director of the company that is bringing gyrocopters to India, "While individuals can also buy them, it could take up to a year for licensing and security clearance since the government has tightened aviation rules post 26/11." This smaller, lighter and quieter version of the chopper will perhaps be the answer to the country's traffic problems. The catch? They'll cost approximately the same as a high-end luxury car-a stellar Rupees 1 crore onwards.
- Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to formulate a separate category for gyrocopters in India. "We don't want them to operate in a city with a high population, or around a VIP or defence area," says a DGCA official.

1. After the initial thrust, what helps the gyrocopter to glide?
(a) Engine (b) Rotors (c) Wind direction (d) low speed
2. Gyrocopter needs an engine
(a) land vertically (b) change direction (c) for initial thrust (d) road patrolling
3. One similarity between helicopter and gyrocopters.
(a) they can fly low (b) they need less landing space
(c) they need engine for initial thrust (d) all of the above
4. List advantages of gyrocopter over helicopter.
5. Why does DGCA want to formulate a separate category for gyrocopters?
6. How can gyrocopters be an answer to country's traffic problem?
7. Gyrocopters have traditionally been _____.
8. Gyrocopters are also called gliders. (True/False)
9. Find a word from para 7 that means the same as 'first appearance'.
10. Find a word from para 5 which means the opposite of 'neglect'.

SECTION B (WRITING)

- Q3. You are a student of XYZ school Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. Your School has organised a poster exhibition on the eve of India's Independence Day. Write an email to your friend giving a brief account of it. (4)

- Q4. Last week you happened to visit a village in Bihar. You were aghast to see the personal hygiene conditions of the village. Write a letter to your friend Rahul explaining the pathetic condition of the place.

Hints:

- People ignorant of health and hygiene conditions.
- Indifferent to surroundings
- Litter all around, drains overflowing
- No hospitals

(6)

OR

Write an application to the principal of your school requesting him to arrange transport for the participants of Inter dance competition at the mandated venue. You are Shivansh of St. Caramel School, Pune.

- Introduce yourself
- Date and time of competition
- Need of transport
- Number of participants
- Kind of vehicle required

- Q5. You are Aditya / Aditi. You are disturbed at the growing violence among school children. Write an article for the school magazine on 'growing violence among school children' using your own ideas and those given below.

(6)

- Owing to their personal rivalries
- Social media to be blamed
- Violent video games
- Lack of parental intervention

OR

You recently visited a place of pilgrimage. Write a descriptive paragraph of about 100 to 120 words about the same. Give a suitable title.

- Location and how you reached there
- Which place you went to and why
- Excess footfall
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Real essence of pilgrimage is lost

SECTION C (Grammar)

Q6. In the following paragraph one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after. (4)

- (i) The dry conditions deserts
 (ii) occur due to lack of rain
 (iii) and snow, is usually
 (iv) less 25 cm (9.8 inches) in a
 (v) year. The driest desert Earth
 (vi) is Atacama, Chile. In
 (vii) many parts of which there not
 (viii) been rainfall living memory.

Before	Word	After
a) _____	_____	_____
b) _____	_____	_____
c) _____	_____	_____
d) _____	_____	_____
e) _____	_____	_____
f) _____	_____	_____
g) _____	_____	_____
h) _____	_____	_____

(10)

Q7. Do as directed:

1. A _____ of crows is seen around the dump yard. (fill collective noun)
2. We should buy this cot. (imperative/ declarative)
3. This is _____ pencil. (fill personal pronoun)
4. You are _____ at maths than I am. (better/ worst)
5. Ram along with his friends _____ caught a thief. (has/ have)
6. They are painting my office today. (Change to passive voice)
7. Police arrested the criminal. (change to past perfect)
8. _____ of you should come to school tomorrow. (all/ each)
9. I _____ (finish) my food before my mother arrived. (fill appropriate form of verb)
10. He _____ stand first in class if he had worked hard. (should/ could)

SECTION D (LITERATURE)

Q8. Answer the following questions with reference to context: (4)

(A) And beneath the light of flickering moon
 Moves the long shadow, a outline far away
 like a huge serpent crawling through the night.

1. What is the poet talking about ?
2. Why is it compared to a snake?
3. Name poetic device used in above lines.
4. Name the poem and the poet.

(9) Anyways she insisted on keeping the parrot and teaching it to talk.

(4)

1. Who is 'she' here?
2. Why did 'she' insist on keeping a pet?
3. Was she able to teach the parrot to talk? Why or why not?
4. Name the story from which the above extract has been taken? Also name the author.

(3×4=12)

Q10. Answer the following : (any 4)

1. What keeps the scarecrow busy?
2. Who are the real enemies of human body? Do they reside inside the body?
3. What would the speaker's mother and teachers be doing at the time of examination?
4. Describe morning routine of a scarecrow?
5. What did the child's mother say about the journey of trains?

Q11 Children are naive, naughty and playful. Elaborate the fact with reference to the poem 'The Champa Flower'. (5)

OR

The student as stated in Dear Mr. Examiner was unable to answer any questions but still wanted to score some marks. Write in the form of diary entry the dilemma of the student while sitting in the examination hall.

Q12 The poet narrated his fascination about trains as a child in his poem 'Trains'. He fondly watched the trains pass by and his imaginative mind compared them to various phases of life. Based on your study of the poem elaborate personality traits of the child. (5)

OR

Aunt Ruby's tantrums were dreadful to behold. Her temperament and arrogance irked the poor parrot. Express your opinion about Aunt Ruby in detail.