

BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATIALA
FINAL EXAMINATION (19 March 2026)

ENGLISH

Class – VIII (Set – A)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Section – A (Reading)

Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions. (1×10=10)

1. Reading is often considered a basic academic skill, but in reality, it is a lifelong process that shapes a student's intellect, emotions, and moral awareness. Through reading, learners encounter ideas that challenge their thinking, encourage reflection, and help them develop independent opinions. A student who reads regularly learns not just to absorb information, but to evaluate it critically, compare different viewpoints, and form reasoned judgments. This ability becomes increasingly important in a world filled with conflicting opinions and overwhelming information.
2. In today's digital environment, information is easily available at the click of a button. While this accessibility has undeniable advantages, it has also led to a decline in deep reading habits. Students often consume short, visually engaging content that demands minimal effort and offers instant satisfaction. As a result, patience and attention span gradually weaken. When students rely only on surface-level information, they miss the opportunity to engage deeply with ideas, analyse arguments, and understand complex relationships. Books, on the other hand, demand time, focus, and mental discipline. A reader must follow the flow of ideas, understand implied meanings, and connect concepts across chapters.
3. Beyond intellectual growth, reading plays a vital role in emotional and moral development. Literature exposes students to human struggles, ethical dilemmas, and social responsibilities that they may not encounter in their daily lives. By observing characters face challenges, make mistakes, and grow through experience, readers develop empathy and emotional sensitivity. Reading biographies and historical accounts further inspires students by showing how qualities such as perseverance, honesty, courage, and compassion shape individuals and societies. When parents and teachers promote reading as a habit rather than a compulsory task, students begin to appreciate it as a source of personal enrichment. Thus, reading silently but powerfully moulds thoughtful, responsible, and reflective individuals.

A) On the basis of your reading, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option (3)

1. According to the passage, the true value of reading lies in its ability to
 - a) entertain readers
 - b) provide instant information
 - c) shape thinking and character
 - d) improve speed
2. The main disadvantage of short digital content is that it
 - a) lacks accuracy
 - b) weakens deep thinking
 - c) is difficult to access
 - d) reduces vocabulary
3. Reading biographies mainly helps students understand
 - a) historical dates
 - b) moral qualities and perseverance
 - c) scientific progress
 - d) political systems

A-1



B) Short Answer Questions:

4. How does reading help students form independent opinions?
5. Why does the writer believe books require mental discipline?
6. In what ways does reading contribute to emotional growth? (8)

C) Fill in the blanks / True-False

7. Reading enables students to evaluate information _____ rather than accept it blindly. (1)
8. Literature helps students understand human struggles and values. (True/False) (1)
9. Find a word from the passage meaning "examine" para 2. (1)
10. Find a word from the passage opposite in meaning to "cowardice" para 3. (1)

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions. (10)

The reader, by now, will be quite familiar with Parsi Rustomji's name. He first became a co-worker and then a client. I won his confidence to such an extent that he sought and followed my advice in private domestic matters.

The friend once got into a very bad scrape. Though he kept me informed of most of his affairs, he had studiously kept back one thing. He was a large importer of goods and resorted to smuggling. But he was on the best terms with the customs officials. So, no one suspected him.

But theft like quick-silver won't be suppressed. Rustomji came to me post-haste and said, 'Bhai, I have deceived you. My guilt has been discovered. I have smuggled and I am doomed; you alone may be able to save me from this predicament.' I calmed him, "To save or not to save you is in His hands. I can but try to save you by means of confession."

The enquiry revealed that smuggling had been going on for a long time. I told Rustomji that the case should not be taken to the court. It rests with the customs officer to prosecute you or let you go. Rustomji's name and fame were at stake, so he said, "I am entirely in your hands."

I met the customs officer and apprised him of the whole affair. He said, "You know, I must be guided by the Attorney General, and I would advise you to use all your persuasion with him."

I entered into a correspondence with the Attorney General. He appreciated my complete frankness. He finally said, "I see you will never take a no for an answer."

The case was settled by a compromise. He was to pay a penalty equal to twice the amount he had confessed to have smuggled. Rustomji reduced to writing the facts of the whole case, got the paper framed and hung it up in his office to serve as a perpetual reminder to his heirs and fellow merchants.

The friends of Rustomji warned me not to be taken in by this transitory contrition. When I told Rustomji about this warning, he said: 'What would be my fate if I deceived you?'

A) On the basis of your reading, answer the following questions given below: (3)

1. What had Parsi Rustomji kept back from Gandhiji?
a) He was a smuggler b) He was an importer of goods c) He was a custom officer. D) He was a writer
2. What did Rustomji address Gandhiji as:
a) Sir b) Bhai c) Mr. d) None of these
3. What was the penalty?
a) He had to pay thrice the amount smuggled b) He had to go to jail
c) He had to submit the silver. D) He had to pay twice the amount smuggled.



B) Short questions.

(3)

4. What was Gandhiji's profession at the time of incident?
5. How did Rustomji reply to the warnings given to Gandhiji?
6. Why did no one suspect Rustomji for smuggling? (1)
7. Gandhiji metand apprised him of the whole affair. (1)
8. Rustomji had to pay no penalty. (True/False) (2)
9. Find the words in the passage which means the same as the following:
a) mischief b) informed

SECTION B (WRITING)

- Q3.** Write an e-mail to the school Principal requesting him/ her to allow the students for wearing winter uniform due to early onset of winter season. (4)
- Q4.** You are Reena/ Rohan, a resident of Shanti Nagar, Mumbai. You are worried about the rising problem of water wastage in urban areas, especially during summer, which is leading to severe water shortages. (6)

Write a letter to the Editor of a reputed newspaper expressing your concern and suggesting practical solutions.

Hints: Common causes of water wastage (leakage, careless use, washing vehicles, etc.)
Effects on daily life and future generations

Suggestions: Rainwater harvesting, Strict fines for wastage, Public awareness campaigns

OR

Frame a dialogue between a shopkeeper and a customer, purchasing a bicycle. Involve all necessary details to be asked for before purchase.

- model number
- company
- features

- Q5.** You have recently participated in Science Model Making Competition. Write a descriptive paragraph on your Model in 80-100 words. (6)

- when and how to use
- what it looks like
- material it is made of
- how it functions

OR

You are Taruna/ Tarun, the Head Girl of your school. You have been asked to deliver a speech in the morning assembly on the topic "Importance of Time Management for Students."

- Write the speech using the clues given below.
- Helps balance studies, hobbies, and rest
- Reduces stress and last-minute panic
- Improves discipline and productivity

A-3



SECTION C (GRAMMAR)

(10)

Q6. Do as directed:

- (1) Mr. Dabar said, "One of the connecting flights has not arrived yet." (Change the speech)
- (2) I took leave of them as it _____ late (get). (Right form of verb)
- (3) My cousin _____ for Australia. (leave) (Right form of verb)
- (4) Please wait here _____ I come back. (Fill in with appropriate preposition)
- (5) The dictionary is lying _____ the table. (Fill in with appropriate preposition)
- (6) You can take a break _____ you are feeling tired. (Conjunction)
- (7) She is knowledgeable _____ inefficient. (Conjunction)
- (8) I always try to be punctual. (underline the adverb and mention its type)
- (9) We bought this house recently. (underline the adverb and mention its type)
- (10) The baby cried for hours. (Change into Present Perfect Continuous Tense)

Q7. In the given passage below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word, the word that comes before and the word that comes after. (4)

	Before	Missing	After
To stay healthy, we have to look our bodies	(a) _____	_____	_____
we ensure that we eat properly, take	(b) _____	_____	_____
plenty exercise, get as much sleep as we	(c) _____	_____	_____
need and keep clean. Sometimes there is	(d) _____	_____	_____
nothing we do to stop ourselves from falling	(e) _____	_____	_____
ill. But if we lead healthy life, we will	(f) _____	_____	_____
be able to get well quickly. We avoid doing	(g) _____	_____	_____
things that known to damage the body. We	(h) _____	_____	_____
should carefully listen the complaints	(i) _____	_____	_____
of our body.			

SECTION – D (LITERATURE)

Q8. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

(4)

He who holds the storm by the hair,
Will hide in his breast our lives

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Who is 'he' referred to?
- (c) Whose lives will he hide?
- (d) Mention the poetic device used here.

A-4



Q9. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow.

(4)

'Yes!' says Pacha. 'And they all have a little plant inside, waiting to come out and see the world.'

(a) Name the chapter and author.

(b) Who is Pacha?

(c) Whom is he referring to as 'they'?

(d) Who are the listeners?

Q10. Answer the following question briefly in 30-40 words. (Do any four) (4×3=12)

(a) Why is gravity an extra-ordinary force according to the poet?

(b) What is the sea to the fishermen? How do they survive the rough weather in sea?

(c) Give a detailed account of the stonecutter's change in appearances.

(d) 'Sergius is a coward according to the man but brave according to Raina'. Discuss with reference to the chapter.

(e) 'The Board comprised of sage Philosophical men'. How were these men 'sage' and 'philosophical'?

(5)

Q11. Answer any one from the following in 100-120 words.

According to the reading of the chapter 'The Chocolate Cream Soldier' frame the charactersketch of the man at Raina's house?

OR

'Oliver Twist was brave and confident'. Write his character sketch with reference to the comic strip.

(5)

Q12. Answer any one from the following in 100-120 words.

'Saving our environment is a collective duty'; Planting seeds is the first step towards it. Taking clues from the chapter Let's go seed collecting!, discuss the importance of trees.

OR

'One should be contented with what one has'. As a stonecutter write a diary entry based on the lesson you learnt.

A-5