

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

ENGLISH

Class - VIII (Set - B)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

Section - A (Reading)

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

Soon after one in the afternoon, Tom was dressed for dinner. He was grandly dressed and taken to a decorated apartment, where a table was set for one. The furniture was of gold and the room was half filled with noble servers. A chaplain said grace and the Earl of Berkeley tied a napkin round Tom's neck. There was a taster, who tasted everything, before it was sent to the prince. The Lord Chief Butler was there, standing behind Tom's chair, watching the conduct of Lord Great Steward and the Lord Head Cook, who stood near. Tom did not know that he had three hundred and eighty-four servants—all of them were not in that room, of course!

All those that were present were well drilled to remember that the prince was temporarily mad and to be careful to show no surprise at his behaviour. Very soon, Tom acted strangely but those present did not laugh—they only felt sad.

Tom ate with his fingers and no one smiled or even seemed to notice it. He examined his napkins with great curiosity. It was a very delicate and beautiful fabric. He asked it to be removed lest he should spoil it.

It was taken away without a protest and very courteous. Tom looked at the turnips and the lettuce and asked what they were. Was he supposed to eat them? (They had been recently introduced in England from Holland and were very expensive.) When he finished his dessert, he filled his pockets with nuts, but nobody seemed to be disturbed by it. Tom was disturbed because this was the only time he was allowed to do something with his own hands during the meal. He was sure he had done a most improper and unprincely thing!

When his meal ended, a lord came and held before him a broad, shallow, golden dish, with rose water in it to clean his mouth and fingers with. Another lord stood with a napkin for Tom to wipe his mouth and fingers. Tom gazed at the dish for a moment with a puzzled look, then raised it and took a sip. Then he returned it to the waiting lord saying he did not like it very much!

He now requested to be taken to his private chamber and was finally left alone. He then thought of the nuts he had brought away from dinner. He enjoyed himself for the first time since he had become a prince, cracking nuts. There was no crowd to watch him, no one to pester him with unwanted service.

Let us leave him, enjoying his nuts!

A) On the basis of your reading, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option (1)

1. Who tied napkin round Tom's neck? (1)
a) Earl of Berkeley b) Lord Chief Butler c) A Chaplain d) Lord Great Steward
2. What had been recently introduced in England from Holland? (1)
a) Turnips b) Lettuce c) Nuts d) Both a and b
3. What did Tom do with the dish presented to him for wiping his mouth and fingers? (1)
a) Raised it and took a sip b) Washed his hands in it
c) Gave it back to the Lord d) Gazed at it and then went away

B-1



(3)

B) Short questions.

4. What did Tom not know?
5. Why did all those present not laugh at what Tom did?
6. Describe the room which Tom entered. (1)
7. The turnips and lettuce were very (1)
8. Everyone laughed at Tom's behaviour. (True/False) (2)
9. Find the words in the passage which means opposite to the following:
a) Permanently b) Rudely

(10)

Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions.

Water Conservation and the Challenge of Sustainable Development

1. Water is one of the most vital natural resources on Earth, forming the foundation of all life and human civilisation. From ancient times, human settlements have developed near rivers and lakes, recognising water as essential for agriculture, trade, and daily survival. Despite this historical awareness, modern society has begun to treat water as an unlimited resource. Rapid population growth, expanding industries, and changing lifestyles have placed enormous pressure on the world's freshwater reserves, leading to an alarming global water crisis.
2. Although nearly seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, only a very small fraction of it is suitable for human consumption. Most of the available freshwater is locked in glaciers, ice caps, or deep underground. As a result, the amount of easily accessible freshwater is extremely limited. The increasing demand for water in urban areas has widened the gap between supply and consumption, especially in developing countries where water management systems are often inadequate.
3. Agriculture remains the largest consumer of freshwater, accounting for nearly seventy percent of global water usage. Irrigation practices, especially in regions dependent on groundwater, have resulted in excessive extraction of water from aquifers. When groundwater is withdrawn faster than it can be replenished, the water table falls, causing wells to dry up and land to lose its fertility. This not only threatens food security but also increases economic hardship for farming communities.
4. Water pollution has further reduced the availability of clean water. Industrial effluents containing toxic chemicals are frequently discharged into rivers and lakes without proper treatment. Urban sewage, plastic waste, and agricultural runoff add to the contamination of water bodies. Polluted water harms aquatic ecosystems and destroys biodiversity. Moreover, it poses serious health risks to humans, as contaminated water is a major cause of water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

I) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (3)

1. The primary reason freshwater availability is limited is because:
a) Most water is used by industries
b) Freshwater is unevenly distributed and largely inaccessible
c) Rainfall has completely stopped
d) Rivers no longer exist

A-2



2. Excessive extraction of groundwater mainly results in:
 - a) Increased rainfall
 - b) Rise in sea levels
 - c) Falling water table and loss of soil fertility
 - d) Growth of aquatic life
3. The author suggests that climate change affects water availability by:
 - a) Increasing the number of rivers
 - b) Making rainfall more predictable
 - c) Disturbing natural weather patterns
 - d) Eliminating droughts

B) Short Answer Questions

(3 × 1 = 3 marks)

4. Why does agriculture consume the largest share of freshwater resources?
5. How does water pollution affect both human health and the environment?
6. Explain the concept of sustainable water management in your own words.

C) True or False / Fill in the Blanks

(2 × 1 = 2 marks)

7. Melting glaciers ensure permanent water security for future generations. (True/False)
8. Sustainable use of water means meeting present needs without _____ the needs of future generations.
9. Find a word from the passage that means "harmful liquid waste released by factories." (1)
10. Find a word from the passage that is the opposite of "temporary." (1)

SECTION B (WRITING)

Q3. You are the Student Editor of your school magazine. The school is organising a 'No – Plastic Awareness Drive' to sensitise students about environmental responsibility. Write a notice informing the students about the drive. **(4)**

Q4. You are Rajni/ Raghav, write a letter to the editor of a National Daily Expressing your concern over the declining quality of air in urban areas. **(6)**

In your letter:

- Highlight the major issue of air pollution
- Explain its impact on public health, especially children
- Suggest realistic steps that citizens and authorities can take to improve air quality.

OR

Write a dialogue between a student and a grandparent on the topic:

Online classes Vs Offline classes (write 4 dialogues each)

- comfort of home
- saves travelling time
- helpful during bad weather or health issues
- offline provides better teacher student interaction
- more discipline and routine
- participation in activities (sports, lab etc)

Q5. Write a descriptive paragraph on a 'Thermometer' using given hints:

(6)

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

OR

Junk food can be very appealing to children, but it causes more harm to them than they can imagine. Prepare a speech, to be delivered in the school assembly on the harmful effects of Junk Food on school children. Use the given hints:

- delicious, addictive but harmful
- obesity, chronic illness, low self – esteem, depression
- high calories, fats, carbohydrates and added sugar
- slow poison

SECTION C (GRAMMAR)

Q6. Do as directed:

(10)

- (1) When I reached the station, the train _____ (leave).
- (2) She completes her homework before dinner. (Change to past Perfect)
- (3) The teacher said, "The students are preparing for the examination". (Indirect speech)
- (4) He said, "I will finish the work by tomorrow". (Indirect Speech)
- (5) The keys were hidden _____ the pile of old books. (behind/ below)
- (6) She wanted to go for a walk. It was raining heavily. (Conjunction)
- (7) Is this pen yours _____ mine? (and/ or)
- (8) The flowers are blooming _____ the garden. (Preposition)
- (9) The baby slept peacefully in the cradle. (underline adverb and tell it's type)
- (10) The train arrived _____ than expected. (adverb)
seems/ in this world/ going online/ everything/ to be

Q7. In the following passage, there is an error in each line. Identify the error and write the correct word. (4)

	Incorrect	Correct
Last Sunday, our school organise a	(a) _____	_____
cleanliness drive. Students of class 8 was	(b) _____	_____
divided in groups. Each group were given a	(c) _____	_____
set of tools. We started cleaning on the	(d) _____	_____
morning. Many people appreciated us with	(e) _____	_____
our efforts. Cleanliness are a good habit	(f) _____	_____
Now, the park looked much clean than	(g) _____	_____
before. The experience taught us an importance	(h) _____	_____
of teamwork.		

B-4



SECTION – D (LITERATURE)

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

(4)

"Come, let us gather our nets from the shore and set out catamarans free,
To capture the leaping wealth of tide, for we are the king of the sea!"

(a) Who are referred to as 'us' in the above lines?

(b) Explain 'leaping wealth of tide'.

(c) Identify the poetic device in the above lines.

(d) Name the poem and the poet.

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

(4)

"Your wish is heard : the sun you shall be".

(a) Who is the speaker in the above lines?

(b) Why did the person want to become Sun?

(c) Did the person believe that his wish would come true? Why/ why not?

(d) Name the chapter.

Q10. Answer the following question briefly in 30-40 words. (Do any four)

(4×3=12)

(a) Why did the soldier call the first man 'an operatic tenor'?

(b) Why do the fishermen refer to the sea as their mother and cloud as their brother?

(c) Why did Oliver protest against the philosophical men?

(d) How does the child describe 'gravity' to his mother?

(e) What did Pacha explain to Tooka and Poi about 'tree babies'?

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

(5)

"Oliver Twist is an innocent and vulnerable character, who has been treated harshly by those around him." In the light of the given statement draw a character sketch of Oliver Twist.

OR

'The character of a soldier gives rise to irony and absurdity than can arise even in the most disciplined environments': In the view of the given statement write the character sketch of 'soldier' from 'The Chocolate Cream Soldier'.

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

(5)

"Not getting what you want can sometimes be a wonderful stroke of luck". Stonecutter's wishes were fulfilled many times but he was happy when again he became a stonecutter. Do you think all our wishes should be fulfilled? Why/why not?

OR

You are a fisherman who has just returned home after a long and exhausting day. The catch was poor and the day was rough. Write a diary entry describing your struggles and hopes for a better tomorrow.