

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY
CLASS: VIII
SUB: ENGLISH
TERM-1 PRACTICE PAPER-2(2025-26)

Time – 3hrs

Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper has 3 sections
 - a. Section A: Reading: (20 Marks)
 - b. Section B: Writing and Grammar: (20 Marks)
 - c. Section C: Grammar: (15 Marks)
 - d. Section D: Literature: (25 Marks)
 2. Numbers to the right indicate the marks.
 3. Read all the questions carefully and attempt all the questions.
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SECTION A: READING (20Marks)

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

A. Cricket is a global passion, played everywhere from Test match arenas to village greens, tropical beaches and dusty back lots. Cricket is the world's second most popular spectator sport after football.

B. The origin of cricket is somewhere in the Dark Ages. All research concedes that the game derived from a very old, widespread and uncomplicated pastime by which one player served up an object, be it a small piece of wood or a ball, and another hit it with a suitably fashioned club. Cricket was first recorded in 16th-century England, and it was played in grammar schools, farm communities and everywhere in between. But things really took off when 18th-century nobles realised it was a great sport.

C. The oldest surviving set of cricket laws date from 1744 – printed on a handkerchief, naturally. It's now in the MCC Museum at Lord's in London. The oldest permanent fixture is the annual Eton v Harrow match, played since 1805. A young Lord Byron turned out for Harrow in the first match, though history doesn't record how poetic – or “mad, bad and dangerous” – his bowling was.

D. The first international match was in 1877 when Australia beat England in Melbourne. The match was dubbed a “Test”, since the gruelling nature of playing over five days was deemed the ultimate “test” for any side. But it was Australia’s first win on English soil – in 1882 at The Oval in London – that led to matches between the two nations being christened the Ashes. Following the defeat, newspapers published an obituary mourning “the death of English cricket”, adding that “the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia”.

E. A One Day International (ODI) is a form of limited overs cricket, played between two teams with international status, in which each team faces a fixed number of overs, usually 50. The Cricket World Cup is played in this format. The international one-day game is a late twentieth-century development. The first ODI was played on 5 January 1971 between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: 1X10=10

- i. Why was the first international cricket match called a "Test"?
 - A. It was played between rival nations.
 - B. It tested the players' physical strength.
 - C. It lasted five days, testing endurance and skill.
 - D. It was a trial match before the World Cup.
- ii. Assertion (A): The Ashes series began after Australia defeated England in 1882.
Reason (R): The match was played in Australia, and the English team lost.
Options:
 - A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - C. A is true, R is false.
 - D. A is false, R is true.
- iii. The first One Day International (ODI) was played in _____ between Australia and England.
- iv. Cricket was first played by nobles in the 16th century.
(TRUE/FALSE)
- v. How did the humorous obituary published after England’s defeat in 1882 contribute to the naming of the Ashes series?

- vi. Which of the following best describes the origin of cricket?
 - A. A medieval sport played only by nobles.
 - B. A simple pastime involving hitting an object with a club.
 - C. A game invented in grammar schools.
 - D. A sport developed during the Industrial Revolution.
- vii. Who played in the first Eton vs Harrow match in 1805?
 - A. William Wordsworth
 - B. Lord Byron
 - C. Charles Dickens
 - D. Rudyard Kipling
- viii. Which of the following best explains why cricket is considered a global passion despite its complex rules?
 - A. It is easy to play and understand.
 - B. It is played only in elite institutions.
 - C. It adapts to various environments and cultures.
 - D. It has fewer rules than other sports.
- ix. Considering cricket's historical development and formats, how does the sport balance tradition and innovation?
- x. How did the evolution from Test matches to ODIs reflect changing audience preferences and societal shifts?

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

A. Politeness has been well defined as benevolence in trifles. It is the desire to put those whom we meet perfectly at their ease and save them from every kind of petty discomfort and annoyance. The limited part of benevolence called politeness requires only an inclination to make them happy temporarily, while they are in our presence, and when this can be done without any sacrifice on our part or only with a slight sacrifice of personal comfort.

B. Politeness is said to be one of the important characteristics of civilised person. Politeness is the art of choosing among your thoughts. It must be implemented in every walk of life. When we deal with people elder to us we are polite. But, an honest polite person is polite with

everyone, people of lower status, workers and even children. Not only with humans but also with animals we must be polite as they are our helpers.

C. Politeness is a skill. Like any other skill, you can master it with practice. The greatest enemy of politeness is ego. To be a polite person, you have to sacrifice your ego. It is difficult for an egoist to be polite. You have to imply politeness in your thinking, speech and actions. Actions work more than words. Polite actions will give fine results. Politeness will reduce your stress and boost you to be productive. Apart from your present benefits, you protect your future. Being polite makes you mentally healthy. In our daily life we come across many incidents with people nearby and ourselves.

D. Different rules of behaviour have to be observed, accordingly as we are in the street or in the drawing room, at home or at school, in the company of friends or of strangers. There is also to be considered the great diversity of social etiquette which distinguishes one country from another.

E. Politeness, besides being a duty that we owe to others, is a valuable possession for ourselves. It costs nothing and yet may in many cases bring much profit. The great advantage of this excellence of conduct was very clearly expressed by Dr. Johnson, when he said that the difference between a well-bred and an ill-bred man is that one immediately attracts your liking, the other your dislike.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: 1X10=10

- i. Choose the synonym of the word *benevolence* as used in the passage.
 - A. Cruelty
 - B. Kindness
 - C. Ignorance
 - D. Arrogance
- ii. Choose the antonym of the word *ego* from the passage.
 - A. Pride
 - B. Humility

- C. Vanity
- D. Self-respect

- iii. Politeness is only necessary when dealing with people of higher status. (True/False)
- iv. According to the passage, the greatest enemy of politeness is _____.
- v. Why is politeness considered a valuable possession according to the passage?
- vi. How does the passage describe the role of politeness in different social settings?
- vii. **Assertion (A):** Politeness is only required in formal settings.
Reason (R): Informal situations do not demand social etiquette.
Options:
 - A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - C. A is true, R is false.
 - D. A is false, R is false.
- viii. **Assertion (A):** Politeness contributes to mental health and productivity.
Reason (R): Polite behavior reduces stress and promotes positive interactions.
Options:
 - A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - C. A is true, R is false.
 - D. A is false, R is true.
- ix. Why is it difficult for an egoist to be polite?
- x. What are the benefits of being polite?

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (20 Marks)

3a. You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school has decided to contribute in controlling traffic near your school and requires the names of volunteers from IX to XII. Write a notice to be displayed on the notice board. 5

OR

3b..Write a short bio sketch of Swami Vivekananda highlighting his early life, achievements, teachings, and legacy.

- i. **Birth Name:** Narendranath Datta
- ii. **Born:** January 12, 1863, Kolkata
- iii. **Parents:** Vishwanath Datta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi
- iv. **Education:** Studied philosophy and spirituality
- v. **Guru:** Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa
- vi. **Famous For:** Speech at Chicago, 1893
- vii. **Founded:** Ramakrishna Mission (1897)
- viii. **Teachings:** Unity of religions, service to mankind
- ix. **Books:** *Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga*
- x. **Died:** July 4, 1902 (aged 39)
- xi. **Legacy:** National Youth Day celebrated on his birthday

4a. By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortage. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, write an article on „Save water- are we doing enough?“ For your school magazine daily in 150-200 words. 7m

OR

4b. Write a letter to your friend expressing your concern about increasing screen time among children and suggesting ways to stay active and healthy.

5. Write a short story, in about 120-150 words, with any one set of the cues given in the boxes below. Give a suitable title to the story. 8m

- a. Jasmine, Ali and two other friends decided to go on a picnic to a beach. They packed their bags and were quite excited. They reached the picnic spot and came across a small child who was crying

OR

- b. On a warm Sunday afternoon, when even the bees look sleepy, Ramesh was looking for his grandfather without finding him anywhere. Then he looked out of the window, he was surprised to see his grandfather.....

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (15 Marks)

6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the passage provided. 4m

S, No.	TEXT	Word before	Omitted word
A	They had gone about twenty pace into	Pace	paces
B	the tunnel than the light from		
C	the lamp fell off the leopard.		
D	It was crouched between tracks, only		
E	five metres away of them.		

7. Fill the blanks with correct options.

1X3=3m

It is not possible even for the greatest optimist (a)----- (on, for, of, to) smile all the time and feel good throughout the day. Everyone (b) -- -- ----- (had, have, had having) a tension now or then, when everything seems dark. But once you develop a positive attitude (c)_____ (so, but ,and ,or), realize that life is a roller coaster ride, a series of ups and downs.

8. Rewrite these questions in indirect speech. 1X2=2m
a. Arun asked, "Where did you buy these books?"
b. Their teacher asked angrily, "What do you mean by these words?"

9. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given context to create a meaningful sentence. 1X2=2m
a. the/on/the forests/industry/oil/depends
b. give/to/wars/forests/during/our armies/cover

10. Complete the dialogue. 1X2=2m
Customer: Will you tell me(a).....?
Shopkeeper: The price of this watch...(b)..... is rupees 900.

11. Choose the correct prefix to complete the word: ____legal 1m
a) un-
b) il-
c) dis-
d) im-

12. Which prefix means "not": 1m
a) re-
b) un-
c) pre-
d) sub-

SECTION D- LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (25 marks)

- 13. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any two excerpts of the three, given.** (4+4=8m)

- I. The street was wet with a recent snow
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing and waited long,
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng
- a. Where was the old woman standing and why was she hesitant to cross the street?
b. How did the crowd react to the old woman's situation?
c. Who helped the old woman cross the street?
d. Identify the figure of speech in the line: She stood at the crossing and waited long.

II.

Rama, who had orchestratedated this settlement, felt victorious. The king and the queen later presented him with valuable gifts for his service. The royal couple's bond was restored, and the palace brimmed once again with joy and laughter.

- a. Why do you think Rama felt victorious?
- b. What qualities do you think Rama possessed to successfully orchestrate the settlement?
- c. What do you mean by the word 'Orchestrated'?
- d. What did the king and queen present to Rama?

III.

Ram Datt: From its tracks on the road, I observed that only three feet left distinct impressions. The fourth was faint, indicating a limp. The pattern of the tracks told the tale of a creature struggling to bear its weight evenly.

King: (Nodding thoughtfully) Impressive observation. You have sharp eyes, indeed. (To Shiv Datt) And what of you? What did you discern about this camel?

Shiv Datt: I observed that the camel was blind in its right eye, Your Majesty.

King: How did you arrive at this conclusion?

- a. What did Ram Datt observe from the camel's tracks?
- b. What does Ram Datt's observation suggest about his skills?
- c. Why might the camel have struggled to bear its weight evenly?
- d. How does the King's reaction reflect his attitude toward intelligence and observation?

14. Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words. Any six. 2x6=12m

- a. How does Mrs Jones feel about her garden?
- b. How did Tenali Ramakrishna gain a special place in the king's court?
- c. Why did the king believe the four young men and not the merchant?
- d. Why do you think major Somnath's leadership was critical during the battle of Badgam?
- e. Why does the boy decide to help the old woman?
- f. How did Dr Kuiren's decision to work in Anand reveals his values and sense of duty. Explain.
- g. What do you think about the white elephant's decision to leave his herd?
- h. How does the poet explain the difference between a human tear and a cloud's 'tear'?

15. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 100 words. 1x5=5m

- a. *Despite being outnumbered and under heavy fire, Major Sharma and his men held their ground. What does this teach us about resilience, and how can students build this quality?*
- b. *The poem, "Somebody's mother" ends with the woman praying for the boy's mother. What does this suggest about the role of parents in shaping a child's character?*