



ST. MARGARET SR. SEC. SCHOOL
MID TERM EXAMINATION 2024-25
SAMPLE PAPER
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
CLASS: VIII

Time: 2.5 Hrs

M.M: 60

This paper is divided into 4 sections:

Section A: Reading – 10 marks

Section B: Writing & Grammar – 25 marks

Section C: Literature – 25 marks

General Instructions:

- Answer all questions.
- All questions must be correctly numbered as in the question paper.
- Attempt all questions in each section before going on to the next section.
- Internal choice has been given in a few questions, answer accordingly.

SECTION A: READING

Read the passage carefully.

Ruskin Bond, born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli to Anglo-Indian parents Aubrey Alexander Bond and Edith Dorothy Clerke, had a less than normal childhood, as did other Anglo-Indian children his age. By the age of 10, Bond had lived among princes and princesses in Jamnagar (Gujarat), studied in a boarding school in Dehradun, saw his parents' separation and divorce, and learned of his father's death while still in school. All of these experiences shaped his storytelling for the rest of his life. His favourite childhood memories were his father's loving devotion, his motherly ayah, his gardener named Dukhi, and the thousands of books he read. Alice in Wonderland was his first novel, and it is still his favourite. Rudyard Kipling, Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte, Graham Greene, and Agatha Christie were other favourites. All of the events left a lasting imprint on Bond's impressionable mind. Ruskin Bond was well-known as a debater, athlete, and writer at his school, Bishop Cotton School in Shimla. Despite being an ordinary academic student, his literary aptitude was recognised as early as 1948, when he won the Anderson Essay Prize. He was the only student in the school's history to win the same prize three years in a row. In fact, his name is inscribed in the school's literary and intellectual Hall of Fame. Bond, in addition to writing, was a member of the school's football team and won several prizes for his goalkeeping abilities. Bond moved to England for additional education after finishing his schooling. There he finished and published his first novel, The Room on the Roof. He was awarded the John Llewelyn Rhys Memorial Prize as a result of this (1957). Bond had spent four years in England, but his heart was in India, where he had been born and had spent some of his most precious days. He made the decision to return. He felt more at ease around "peepal trees" on the slopes than "apple orchards" in the countryside, and he preferred a life with the Indian people than the refinement of British citizens. In his article On Being an Indian, he frames his bond with India as

one of "history," rather than "race" or "religion." Ruskin Bond has almost 500 published works under his name throughout the last six decades of his writing career. Many of his pieces first appeared in newspapers and journals. He is also one of the few Indian authors whose stories have been collected and re-collected in anthologies and collections. Many of his stories are taught in schools. When asked how he reacted when youngsters approached him and informed him they had read his stories in their textbooks, he joked that he would apologise to them! The majority of Bond's writing is thought to be semi-autobiographical. Many of his protagonists' moms were separated from them, while their fathers were adored, and the gardeners were modelled after Dukhi. The animals and natural aspects mentioned are based on his observations of Himalayan flora and fauna during his lifetime. The themes of his writings are inspired by his friendships and ties with the locals, as well as his favourite town, Dehradun, which he affectionately refers to as Dehra.

**Q 1. On the basis of your understanding, answer the following questions.
(1x10=10)**

- a. By the age of _____, Bond had lived among princes and princesses in Jamnagar.
 - i. 11
 - ii. 10
 - iii. 9
 - iv. none of the above

- b. His favourite childhood memories were his _____ .
 - i. father's loving devotion
 - ii. motherly ayah
 - iii. gardener named Dukhi
 - iv. all the above

- c. Bond's literary aptitude was recognised as early as _____ .
 - i. 1947
 - ii. 1949
 - iii. 1984
 - iv. 1948

- d. Bond, in addition to writing, was a member of the school's _____ team.
 - i. basketball
 - ii. volleyball
 - iii. football
 - iv. none of the above

- e. Ruskin Bond has almost _____ published works under his name throughout the last _____ decades of his writing career.
 - i. four hundred, six
 - ii. five hundred, seven
 - iii. four hundred, seven
 - iv. five hundred, six

- f. The themes of his writings are inspired by his friendships and ties with the locals, as well as his favourite town, Dehradun, which he affectionately refers to as Dun.
 - i. True
 - ii. False

- g. Bond was the only student in the school's history to win _____ prize _____ years in a row.
- Anderson Essay, three
 - Anderson Essay, two
 - Handerson Essay, three
 - Enderson Essay, three
- h. Bond felt more at ease around _____ on the slopes than _____ in the countryside.
- banyan trees, apple orchards
 - peepal trees, orange orchards
 - apple orchards, peepal trees
 - none of the above
- i. Bond preferred a life with the Indian people than the refinement of _____ citizens.
- American
 - Canadian
 - British
 - German
- j. Which is Bond's first novel?
- Alice in Wonderland
 - The Room on the Roof
 - Charles Dickens
 - none of the above

SECTION B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR

Q 2. Write a letter of apology to the Principal of your school as Sameer/ Sanya of class VIII A, residing at 14A, Star Apartment, Sector - 10, Rohini, Delhi, expressing regret for fighting and damaging the school property.

(6x1=6)

Q 3. A. You are Greg. Today you met Lemon Brown and you got to know the real meaning of treasure. Write a diary entry in 80 words expressing your thoughts and emotions on the same.

OR

B. You are Naman/ Neema, Student Secretary of Fine Arts Club, Presentation Convent School, Delhi. Write a notice in about 80 words inviting students of class VI-VIII to register their entries for upcoming Arts Exhibition. Invent necessary details.

(4x1=4)

Q 4. Rewrite the sentences according to the instructions given in the brackets. (0.5x6=3)

- The children will perform in the concert. (present continuous)
- Henry lost the championship. (present perfect)
- We are designing a robot for our science project. (present perfect continuous)
- I am visiting my great aunt. (simple present)
- Mary buys fruits for her children. (present continuous)

6. Rony has been studying since morning. (present perfect)

Q 5. Fill in the blanks using appropriate modals:

(0.5x6=3)

1. The old skating ring _____ be relocated elsewhere soon. (Future Possibility)
2. What _____ I do about the abandoned puppy. (Seek Opinion)
3. Father said, 'Your sister _____ go with you to the party.' (Permission)
4. The bank _____ call you next week for verification. (Future Action)
5. He _____ go for swimming classes before school, but he has stopped going now. (Past Habit)
6. I _____ definitely attend the concert. (future action)

Q 6. Fill in the blanks using the verb that agrees with the subject:

(0.5x6=3)

1. Children to run around in the park. (love/loves)
2. The duck and the kangaroo best friends. (is/are)
3. The little girl on the pavement selling match boxes. (are/is)
4. Each police officer given a medal by the chief officer. (is/are)
5. A flock of geese flying high in the sky. (is/are)
6. The sheep on the meadows. (grazes/graze)

Q 7. Underline the verbs in the following sentences. Say whether they are transitive or intransitive:

(0.5x 6=3)

1. She opened the door.
2. The door opened abruptly.
3. The sun rises every morning.
4. Timmy threw the ball over the fence.
5. The brothers hugged their mom tightly.
6. Does the bird bite?

Q 8. Write the antonyms of the given words:

(0.5x 6=3)

1. Did you get the money by **honest** means?
2. They found his story of bravery quite **believable**.
3. I think the readings on the barometer were **accurate**.
4. Please consider those **minor** details important.
5. Mrs Sen considers her students to be highly **responsible**.
6. It is an **illegal** means of earning money.

SECTION C: LITERATURE

Q 9. Answer the questions with reference to context: (1x4=4)

*Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare,
And when you reach the scene of crime—Macavity's not there!
You may seek him in the basement, you may look up in the air—
But I tell you once and once again, Macavity's not there!
Macavity's a ginger cat, he's very tall and thin;
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in.
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed;*

*His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed.
He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake;
And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake.*

- (i) Name the poem and the poet.
- (ii) When would you not find Macavity?
- (iii) Write a physical description of Macavity in your own words.
- (iv) Write any two pairs of rhyming words from the extract.

Q 10. Answer any six of the following: (2x6=12)

- (i) What do we learn about material things in life from the poem, 'The Dash'?
- (ii) Why would a fakir be amazed by Macavity's? Which dangerous animal is he compared to and why?
- (iii) Who will recognise the worth of the line between the years? What does the dash between the dates represent?
- (iv) Describe the character of Macbeth.
- (v) How did the witches trick Macbeth? Were they successful?
- (vi) Why did Brown's career decline? What can you infer about Brown's behaviour?
- (vii) Why was it important for Greg to have a good report card?

Q 11. Answer any three of the following: (3x3=9)

- (i) 'The Dash' is a metaphor for life. Elaborate.
- (ii) Could Macbeth have avoided the situation he ended up being in? How? Give reasons for your answer.
- (iii) Based on your reading of the poem, do you think the poet likes cats? Why/ Why not?
- (iv) What valuable lessons did Greg learn about life?
