



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

Time: 2.5 Hrs

M.M: 60

This paper is divided into 3 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.
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SECTION A: READING

Read the passage carefully.

The Importance of Good Speaking Skills

Good speaking skills are an essential aspect of communication in today's interconnected world. Whether it is in school, at home, or in social situations, the ability to express oneself effectively is a key to success. Developing strong speaking skills not only boosts confidence but also lays the foundation for academic and personal growth. One of the primary benefits of good speaking skills is effective communication. A person who can articulate their thoughts clearly is better able to share ideas, express emotions, and engage with others. For students, this can translate into improved participation in classroom discussions, better presentations, and stronger relationships with peers and teachers. When a student speaks confidently and fluently, their message is more likely to be understood and appreciated, fostering collaboration and mutual respect. Good speaking skills also enhance academic performance. Many school activities, such as debates, elocution contests, and group projects, require students to present their ideas verbally. Those who possess strong speaking skills often excel in these areas. Moreover, oral exams and viva sessions, which are common in many educational settings, become less intimidating for students who are comfortable speaking in front of others. As a result, they perform better and achieve higher grades. Another important aspect of speaking skills is their impact on personality development. Confidence is closely tied to the ability to speak well. When students know they can express themselves effectively, they feel more self-assured. This confidence extends to other areas of life, such as extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and social interactions. Good speaking skills also help individuals develop a positive body language and an engaging demeanour, which are crucial for making a lasting impression. In today's digital age, where communication often takes place online, the ability to speak well remains as important as ever. Virtual meetings, interviews, and public speaking opportunities require individuals to convey their thoughts with clarity and conviction. Students who hone their speaking skills early on are better prepared for such scenarios, giving them an edge in future academic and professional endeavours.

Furthermore, good speaking skills foster empathy and understanding. Effective communicators are not just good at expressing their thoughts; they are also adept at listening to others. By engaging in meaningful conversations, students can build stronger connections with people from diverse backgrounds. This not only broadens their perspective but also helps them develop a sense of inclusivity and tolerance. To develop good speaking skills, students should practice regularly. Reading aloud, participating in debates, and engaging in discussions with family and friends are some ways to build confidence and fluency. It is also important to focus on pronunciation, tone, and vocabulary to ensure that the message is conveyed effectively. Seeking feedback from teachers or mentors can further help students refine their speaking abilities. In conclusion, good speaking skills are a valuable asset for students in Class 9 and beyond. They open doors to new opportunities, enhance academic performance, and contribute to personal and social development. By investing time and effort into improving their speaking abilities, students can equip themselves with the tools needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

Q 1. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the correct answer.

(1x10=10)

1. Spot the primary benefit of good speaking skills mentioned in the passage.

- a) Better handwriting
- b) Effective communication
- c) Improved listening skills
- d) Increased intelligence

2. Good speaking skills help in academic performance by _____.

- a) By making homework easier
- b) By enhancing classroom participation and presentations
- c) By reducing the number of assignments
- d) By avoiding exams

3. _____ classroom activities are directly supported by good speaking skills.

- a) Drawing and painting
- b) Debates and group projects
- c) Sports and physical activities
- d) Written assignments

4. What impact do speaking skills have on confidence?

- a) They lower confidence
- b) They have no impact on confidence
- c) They boost confidence
- d) They depend on the audience

5. _____ is the personality trait enhanced by good speaking skills.

- a) Patience
- b) Leadership
- c) Timidity
- d) Laziness

6. Why are speaking skills important in the digital age?

- a) They improve typing speed

- b) They prepare students for virtual communication and interviews
- c) They reduce screen time
- d) They replace the need for online interaction

7. Good speaking skills help foster which quality?

- a) Empathy and understanding
- b) Competition and rivalry
- c) Self-centeredness
- d) Aggressiveness

8. One recommended way to improve speaking skills is _____.

- a) Writing essays daily
- b) Participating in debates and discussions
- c) Memorizing textbooks
- d) Avoiding group activities

9. What does the passage suggest about listening skills in relation to speaking?

- a) Listening is unimportant
- b) Effective communicators are also good listeners
- c) Listening and speaking are unrelated
- d) Speaking skills replace listening skills

10. What are some of the aspects to focus on while developing speaking skills?

- a) Tone, pronunciation, and vocabulary
- b) Speed, handwriting, and posture
- c) Grammar, spelling, and reading
- d) None of the above

SECTION B: WRITING AND GRAMMAR

Q 2. A. Write an article for a popular magazine on the topic "**Rising Crime in the City: A Call for Action.**" Highlight the causes of increasing crime rates, its impact on citizens, and suggest measures to ensure safety and security.

OR

B. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern about the growing incidents of road rage in your city. Suggest measures to curb this issue. Sign as Aman Khanna residing at A/5, Sector 5, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. **(5x1=5)**

Q 3. A. Write a story in about 100–120 words using the following clues:

- A young boy finds an old map in the attic
- The map leads to a mysterious forest
- Encounters challenges like wild animals and a raging river
- Discovers a hidden treasure chest
- Learns an important life lesson

OR

B. Write a story in about 80 words using the beginning given below:

As the clock struck midnight, I heard a faint knock on the door...

(5x1=5)

Q 4. Rewrite the following sentences in reported speech:

(1x4=4)

- (i) Chayan said, 'I was reading a comic.'
- (ii) Geeta said to Nirmala, 'I like the cherry cakes that you sent.'
- (iii) The officer has said to Arpana, 'You have to give relevant papers for police verification.'
- (iv) Reena said, 'I didn't go out for the picnic today.'

Q 5. Point out the Conjunctions in the following sentences, and state whether they are Co-ordinating or Subordinating:

(1x3=3)

- (i) You will not succeed unless you work harder.
- (ii) Catch me if you can.
- (iii) Water and oil will not mix.

Q 6. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs:

(0.5x6=3)

- (i) He _____ (practise) for the competition every morning.
- (ii) We _____ (wait) for you for over an hour!
- (iii) The dog _____ (chase) the cat across the yard right now.
- (iv) I _____ (not/finish) my homework yet.
- (v) By this time tomorrow, they _____ (arrive) at the airport.
- (vi) I _____ (not/forget) to call you once I reach home.

Q 7. Rewrite the sentences with the correct words:

(0.5x 6=3)

- (i) The ending of the film was altared.
- (ii) Beethoven was a fine artisan.
- (iii) I painted a village scene on canvass.
- (iv) Delhi has many historic monuments.
- (v) My friend's help does lesson my worries.
- (vi) We should not medal in the affairs of others.

Q 8. Rewrite the sentences using appropriate prepositions:

(0.5x4=2)

- (i) What's that book of?
- (ii) Luckily, I made it to the station for time to catch the last train..
- (iii) Our gate is above the fountain.
- (iv) He walked across the footpath.

SECTION C: LITERATURE

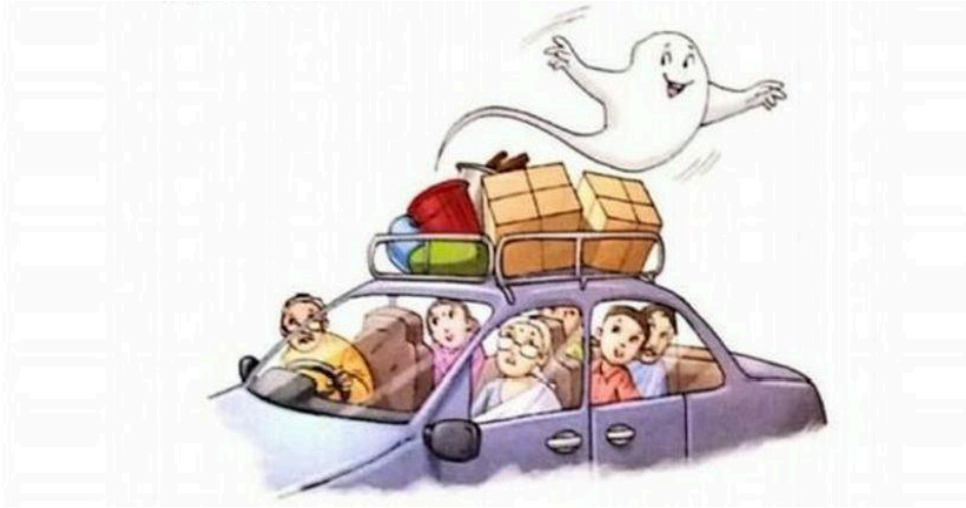
Q 9. Rearrange the following sentences according to the events occurred in the story, 'A Fishy Story':

(0.5x6=3)

- (i) I caught him just below the bridge with a minnow.
- (ii) George and I went for a walk to Wallingford.
- (iii) The local postman had just dropped at the inn.
- (iv) George clutched wildly at the trout-case.
- (v) He told us the real history of the fish.
- (vi) I caught him just below the loch.

Q 10. Observe the picture carefully and describe it:

(3x1=3)



Q 11. Read the extract given below and answer the questions: (1x3=3)
I can remember it all very well. It was a terrible time! Our three bedrooms were all downstairs. First, there is my stepfather's room. Julia's room is next to his, and my room is next to Julia's.

- (i) Who is speaking to whom?
- (ii) What was the arrangement of the bedrooms in the house described in the extract?
- (iii) What is the significance of the word 'terrible'?

Q 12. Complete the following: (1x4=4)

- (i) The soldier being jealous in honour implies _____.
- (ii) Once Jaspal forgot to snap his fingers while yawning under the peepul tree and _____.
- (iii) It was not a stuffed trout because _____.
- (iv) Holmes hit the bell rope because _____.

Q 13. Answer any three of the following: (2x3=6)

- (i) What kind of person was Aunt Minnie? How was she troubled by the pret?
- (ii) Whom are the ballads dedicated to? What kind of a man is the soldier?
- (iii) Where did the events of the story take place? What did the old gentleman say about how he had caught the fish?
- (iv) How do the actions of Julia's stepfather confirms the revelation at the end of the story?

Q 14. Answer any two of the following: (3x2=6)

- (i) The story creates awareness about some widespread superstitions in India. Discuss with reference to Pret in the House.
- (ii) Describe Dr. Roylott's character. Support your answer with examples from the story.
- (iii) Justify the title, The Seven Ages of Man.
