CBSE Class 8 English

Sample Question Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Subject: English | **Class:** VIII | **Textbook:** Poorvi **Time Allowed:** 3 Hours | **Maximum Marks:** 80

Prepared by Sunbeam World School for practice. Based on the Class VIII NCERT textbook Poorvi for 2026-27. CBSE does not prescribe a Class 8 paper pattern, so this paper follows the format most CBSE schools use for the annual exam.

General Instructions

1. This question paper has **four Sections: A (Reading), B (Writing), C (Grammar) and D (Literature)**.
2. All questions are compulsory. Internal choice is given in some questions.
3. Read each question carefully and keep to the word limit where one is given.
4. Write the question numbers clearly, exactly as they appear in the paper.

Marks Distribution

Section	Skill	Marks
A	Reading (two unseen passages)	20
B	Writing	20
C	Grammar	20
D	Literature (Poorvi)	20
	Total	**80**

SECTION A: READING (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (10)

Honeybees are among the hardest-working creatures on Earth. A single bee visits hundreds of flowers in one trip, collecting nectar in a special stomach called the honey stomach and carrying pollen in tiny baskets on its back legs. Back at the hive, worker bees pass the nectar from mouth to mouth, slowly removing water until it thickens into honey. They then seal it in wax cells to keep it safe for the winter.

A hive is like a busy city. There is one queen, whose only job is to lay eggs, sometimes more than a thousand in a single day. A few hundred male bees, called drones, live there too, but the real work is done by thousands of female worker bees. Young workers clean the cells and feed the larvae, while older ones guard the entrance or fly out to gather food.

Bees also have a clever way of sharing information. When a worker finds a good patch of flowers, she returns to the hive and performs a "waggle dance". The direction of the dance tells the other bees which way to fly, and its length tells them how far to go.

Bees matter far more than for their honey. As they move from flower to flower, they carry pollen that helps plants produce fruits and seeds, and a large share of the food we eat depends on pollinators like bees. Sadly, bee numbers are falling because of pesticides, the loss of wild flowers and changing weather.

Choose the correct option for (i) to (iv). **(4 × 1 = 4)**

(i) Where does a bee carry pollen? (a) In its honey stomach (b) In baskets on its back legs (c) On its wings (d) In its mouth

(ii) The main job of the queen bee is to (a) guard the hive (b) collect nectar (c) lay eggs (d) make wax

(iii) The "waggle dance" tells other bees (a) when to sleep (b) the direction and distance of flowers (c) who the queen is (d) how to make honey

(iv) Which of these statements is FALSE? (a) Drones are male bees. (b) Worker bees are female. (c) Older workers feed the larvae. (d) Honey is sealed in wax cells.

Answer the following briefly. **(2 × 2 = 4)**

(v) How do bees turn nectar into honey? (vi) Why are bees important for our food? Give two reasons why their numbers are falling.

Vocabulary. **(2 × 1 = 2)**

(vii) Find a word in paragraph 2 that means "the young form of an insect". (viii) Find a word in the last paragraph that is the opposite of "rising".

2. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (10)

Bamboo is often called a tree, but it is actually a giant grass. Some kinds of bamboo can grow almost a metre in a single day, which makes it one of the fastest-growing plants in the world. Unlike most trees, bamboo does not die when it is cut. New shoots spring up from its underground stems, so the same clump can be harvested again and again for many years.

In India, bamboo grows widely in the north-eastern states, where it is part of everyday life. People use it to build houses, bridges and fences, and craftspeople weave it into baskets, mats and furniture. Young bamboo shoots are cooked and eaten, and in some places they are pickled to last through the year.

Bamboo is also good for the planet. Its thick network of roots holds the soil together and helps prevent landslides on hill slopes. A bamboo grove takes in a large amount of carbon dioxide, and because it grows back so quickly, it can replace wood and plastic in many products. Today you can find bamboo toothbrushes, bottles and even bicycles.

However, bamboo has an unusual habit. Many kinds flower only once in several decades, and when they do, a whole forest may flower together and then die. In Mizoram, this mass flowering, called "Mautam", has been followed by a sharp rise in the number of rats, which feed on the fallen seeds and then destroy crops.

Choose the correct option for (i) to (iv). **(4 × 1 = 4)**

(i) Bamboo is actually a kind of (a) tree (b) grass (c) shrub (d) creeper

(ii) Bamboo can be harvested again and again because (a) it grows only in the north-east (b) new shoots grow from its underground stems (c) it flowers every year (d) it has no roots

(iii) How does bamboo help on hill slopes? (a) It attracts rain. (b) Its roots hold the soil and prevent landslides. (c) It keeps rats away. (d) It gives shade to houses.

(iv) "Mautam" refers to (a) a bamboo pickle (b) the mass flowering of bamboo in Mizoram (c) a bamboo bridge (d) a harvest festival

Answer the following briefly. **(2 × 2 = 4)**

(v) Give two ways in which bamboo is used in daily life in north-east India. (vi) Why can bamboo be called environment friendly? Give two reasons.

Vocabulary. **(2 × 1 = 2)**

(vii) Find a word in paragraph 1 that means "gathered as a crop". (viii) Find a word in the last paragraph that means "strange or not common".

SECTION B: WRITING (20 Marks)

3. Your school's Eco Club is organising a tree plantation drive on the school grounds. Write a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, inviting students of Classes 6 to 8 to take part. You are Aditi/Aarav, Secretary of the Eco Club. **(4) OR** You found a blue water bottle with no name on it in the school playground. Write a notice in about 50 words asking the owner to collect it. You are Kavya/Kabir, Class Monitor of 8A. **(4)**

4. Write a letter in about 120 words to the Principal of your school requesting that a reading corner with storybooks and magazines be set up in your classroom. Give reasons for your request. You are Riya/Rohan of Class 8B. **(8) OR** Write a letter in about 120 words to your cousin describing the science exhibition held in your school last week and the project you presented there. You are Riya/Rohan. **(8)**

5. Write a paragraph in about 120 to 150 words on **"A Day Without Screens"**. **(8) OR** Complete the story in about 120 to 150 words, starting with the line below, and give it a suitable title. **(8)** *"As soon as I opened the old wooden box in my grandmother's room, I saw something that made me gasp..."*

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

6. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. **(4 × 1 = 4)** (a) The sun _____ (rise) in the east. (b) Look! The children _____ (play) in the rain. (c) She _____ (finish) her homework before her mother came home. (d) We _____ (visit) our grandparents next Sunday.

7. Change the voice of the following sentences. **(4 × 1 = 4)** (a) The gardener waters the plants every morning. (b) Riya wrote a beautiful poem. (c) The workers are building a new bridge. (d) The letter was posted by Aman.

8. Change the following into reported (indirect) speech. **(4 × 1 = 4)** (a) Mother said, "I am baking a cake." (b) The teacher said to us, "Open your books." (c) Rohan asked me, "Where do you live?" (d) Meera said to me, "I will call you tomorrow."

9. The paragraph below has four errors, one in each sentence. Write the incorrect word and the correct word for each. **(4 × 1 = 4)** *Last summer, my family go to Darjeeling. Every morning we see the snow-covered peaks of Kanchenjunga from our window. We has a wonderful time there. On our last day, we buyed tea for our neighbours.*

10. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals or prepositions. **(4 × 1 = 4)** (a) You _____ wear a helmet while riding a scooter. (b) The book is _____ the table. (c) _____ I borrow your pen, please? (d) She has been waiting _____ two hours.

SECTION D: LITERATURE (20 Marks)

11. Answer any **four** of the following in about 30 to 40 words each. **(4 × 2 = 8)** (a) Who was Claribel in "Feathered Friend", and how did she come to live on the space station? (b) In "Feathered Friend", what did the narrator notice about Claribel on the morning things went wrong, and how was he feeling himself? (c) What did Bibha Chowdhuri study as a young scientist in India, and with whom did she work? (d) How was Bibha Chowdhuri honoured in 2019? (e) In "The Cherry Tree", what does the growing tree teach us about patience?

12. Answer the following in about 100 to 120 words. **(6)** How did a small canary save the lives of the people on the space station in "Feathered Friend"? What does the story show about watching small warning signs? **OR** Why is Bibha Chowdhuri called a path-breaker for women in Indian science? Use details from the chapter.

13. Answer the following in about 100 to 120 words. **(6)** "The Wit that Won Hearts" shows Tenali Rama at the court of King Krishnadeva Raya. Using the story, explain why quick thinking and humour can solve a problem better than anger or force. **OR** How does "The Cherry Tree" show the bond between people and nature? What can we learn from it?

MARKING SCHEME

CBSE Class 8 English Sample Paper 2026-27 (Set 1)

Accept any other correct answer with the same meaning. For literature, accept answers that are supported by the textbook.

SECTION A: READING

Q1. (i) (b) In baskets on its back legs **(1)** (ii) (c) lay eggs **(1)** (iii) (b) the direction and distance of flowers **(1)** (iv) (c) Older workers feed the larvae **(1)**, since it is the young workers who feed them (v) Worker bees pass the nectar from mouth to mouth and slowly remove the water until it thickens into honey, then seal it in wax cells **(2)** (vi) Bees carry pollen that helps plants produce fruits and seeds, and much of our food depends on this **(1)**; numbers are falling because of pesticides, loss of wild flowers and changing weather (any two) **(1)** (vii) larvae **(1)** (viii) falling **(1)**

Q2. (i) (b) grass **(1)** (ii) (b) new shoots grow from its underground stems **(1)** (iii) (b) Its roots hold the soil and prevent landslides **(1)** (iv) (b) the mass flowering of bamboo in Mizoram **(1)** (v) Any two: building houses, bridges and fences; weaving baskets, mats and furniture; cooking or pickling young shoots **(1 + 1)** (vi) Any two: its roots prevent soil erosion and landslides; it absorbs a lot of carbon dioxide; it grows back quickly; it can replace wood and plastic **(1 + 1)** (vii) harvested **(1)** (viii) unusual **(1)**

SECTION B: WRITING

Q3. Notice (4): Format (the word NOTICE, school name, date, heading, name and designation of writer) **(1)**; content (what, when, where, who can take part, whom to contact) **(2)**; expression **(1)**

Sample notice:

> ***ABC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI NOTICE*** *26 November 2026* ***Tree Plantation Drive*** *The Eco Club is organising a tree plantation drive on the school grounds on Saturday, 5 December 2026, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Students of Classes 6 to 8 who wish to take part should give their names to the undersigned by 2 December. Saplings and tools will be provided. Aditi Secretary, Eco Club*

Q4. Letter (8): Format (sender's address, date, receiver's address or greeting, subject for a formal letter, salutation, complimentary close) **(2)**; content (clear request or description with two or three reasons or details) **(3)**; expression (organisation, grammar, vocabulary) **(3)**

Q5. Paragraph or story (8): Content (relevant ideas, logical flow; for the story, a clear beginning, middle and end, and a title) **(4)**; expression (accuracy, vocabulary, sentence variety) **(4)**

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (1 mark each)

Q6. (a) rises (b) are playing (c) had finished (d) will visit / are visiting

Q7. (a) The plants are watered by the gardener every morning. (b) A beautiful poem was written by Riya. (c) A new bridge is being built by the workers. (d) Aman posted the letter.

Q8. (a) Mother said that she was baking a cake. (b) The teacher told us to open our books. (c) Rohan asked me where I lived. (d) Meera told me that she would call me the next day.

Q9.

Incorrect	Correct

Incorrect	Correct
go	went
see	saw
has	had
buyed	bought

Q10. (a) must / should (b) on (c) May / Can (d) for

SECTION D: LITERATURE

Q11 (2 marks each; any four). Value points: (a) Claribel was a canary. Sven, one of the workers, brought her on board secretly; there was no rule against keeping a pet, and she soon became everyone's favourite. (b) The narrator found Claribel lying still and unconscious instead of singing; he himself had a headache and felt dull and unwell, a sign that something was wrong with the air. (c) She studied cosmic rays and the tiny particles they produce, using photographic plates, at the Bose Institute in Kolkata with D. M. Bose. (d) In 2019, a star (HD 86081) was officially named "Bibha" in her honour by the International Astronomical Union. (e) The tree grows slowly and survives setbacks before it finally blossoms, showing that good things take time and that steady care and patience are rewarded.

Q12 (6): Content **(4)**; expression **(2)** Value points: Claribel became unconscious because the oxygen in the station's air had fallen dangerously low; the air purifier had failed and the alarm meant to warn the crew had also failed; noticing the bird, the narrator realised the danger and alerted the others, who fixed the problem and saved everyone; the canary acted like the birds miners once took into mines; lesson: small changes can warn us of big danger, so we should pay attention to them. **OR** Value points: one of very few women to study physics at that time; worked on cosmic ray research at the Bose Institute and found early evidence of new particles; went abroad for a doctorate in Manchester; worked at leading Indian research institutions; kept doing research in a field with almost no women; a star named after her in 2019; inspires girls to follow their interest in science.

Q13 (6): Content **(4)**; expression **(2)** Value points: Tenali Rama, a courtier known for his wit, uses clever words and humour to settle a difficult situation at the court (accept any correct incident from the chapter); he avoids anger and force, keeps everyone calm and wins people over; the king values him because his solutions are fair and leave no bitterness; lesson: a calm, clever and kind response often solves problems better than force. **OR** Value points: the speaker plants a cherry seed and watches it grow; the young tree faces damage and difficulty but keeps growing through the seasons; when it finally blossoms, it brings joy and attracts birds and insects; the speaker feels a deep sense of wonder and belonging; lesson: nature rewards care and patience, and people should protect and value trees.

End of marking scheme.