

SAMPLE PAPER TERM -1 (2026-27)
CLASS-VIII ENGLISH

Time: 3Hours

MM: 80

General Instructions :

1. This paper consists of three sections A, B and C.
2. Attempt all the questions.
3. Do not write anything on the question paper except your name, class, section and roll number.
4. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the answer sheet as per the numbering given in the question paper.
5. Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.
6. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions given with each question.
7. Strictly adhere to the word limit given with each question.
8. Attempt the paper neatly and in a presentable manner.

SECTION-A (READING)

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1×8=8)

Arjun was an avid birdwatcher, a hobby that made him an outlier among his peers who were mostly obsessed with the latest high-octane video games and virtual reality simulations. Every Sunday, while his friends stayed indoors hunched over glowing screens, Arjun would shoulder his worn-out backpack and head to the local wetlands. Equipped with a pair of antique binoculars and a tattered notebook, he spent hours in the humid silence of the marshes. His classmates often teased him, calling him 'Professor Birdy' and mocking his interest in "boring, feathered creatures." However, Arjun remained undeterred; he found a profound sense of peace in the rhythmic, sharp calls of the kingfishers and the effortless, graceful flight of the herons. Over time, his casual observations evolved into scientific documentation, as he began recording rare migratory patterns that even the seasoned local experts had somehow overlooked.

The tranquility of the wetlands was suddenly threatened when a local developer proposed a massive plan to drain the area to build a multi-storey shopping mall and luxury apartments. The community was initially divided, but many residents were lured by the promise of modern entertainment and the potential increase in property values. Seeing the heart of his sanctuary at risk, Arjun decided to act. He spent weeks organising a small but high-impact exhibition at the community centre. He showcased detailed sketches of the local flora and fauna alongside hard data explaining how these wetlands served as a natural sponge, preventing local flooding during monsoons. His sincerity and the sheer volume of his meticulously gathered research moved the town council and the public. A. He was arrogant and felt superior to his friends.

B. He was resilient and stayed committed to his personal values.

C. He was socially awkward and didn't know how to interact.

D. He was secretly planning to quit birdwatching.

(ii) Which of the following statements best reflects the **theme** of the passage?

Recognizing the ecological disaster that a mall would cause, the council eventually scrapped the development plan and declared the wetlands a protected bird sanctuary. Arjun's 'boring' hobby had ultimately saved the environmental heart of the town.

(i) What can be inferred about Arjun's character from his reaction to being teased?

- A. Economic development should always take precedence over nature.
- B. Technology is the only way for the youth to progress.
- C. Individual passion supported by evidence can drive significant social change.
- D. Birdwatching is a hobby that requires expensive equipment.

(iii) Choose the statement that best describes the change in the community's perspective.

- A. They realized the mall would be too expensive to build.
- B. They shifted from valuing commercial growth to recognizing ecological importance.
- C. They decided to build the mall on a different protected site.
- D. They began to mock the builder instead of Arjun.

(iv) Identify the **tone** of the passage when describing Arjun's documentation of the birds.

- A. Dismissive and sarcastic
- B. Serious and appreciative
- C. Aggressive and loud
- D. Mournful and sad

(v) What does Arjun's use of an exhibition show about his understanding of persuasion?

- A. He believed that shouting at the council was the best way.
- B. He understood that visual evidence and scientific data are more convincing than just emotions.
- C. He wanted to sell his sketches to the town council.
- D. He thought the community center was a good place for a party.

(vi) Complete the following by filling in the blank:

By documenting rare patterns despite being mocked, Arjun demonstrated _____.

(vii) Complete the given sentence:

The town council reversed their decision because Arjun proved that the wetlands _____.

(viii) Replace the underlined word with its **synonym** from the passage:

The scientist remained **brave and persistent** in his research despite the criticism.

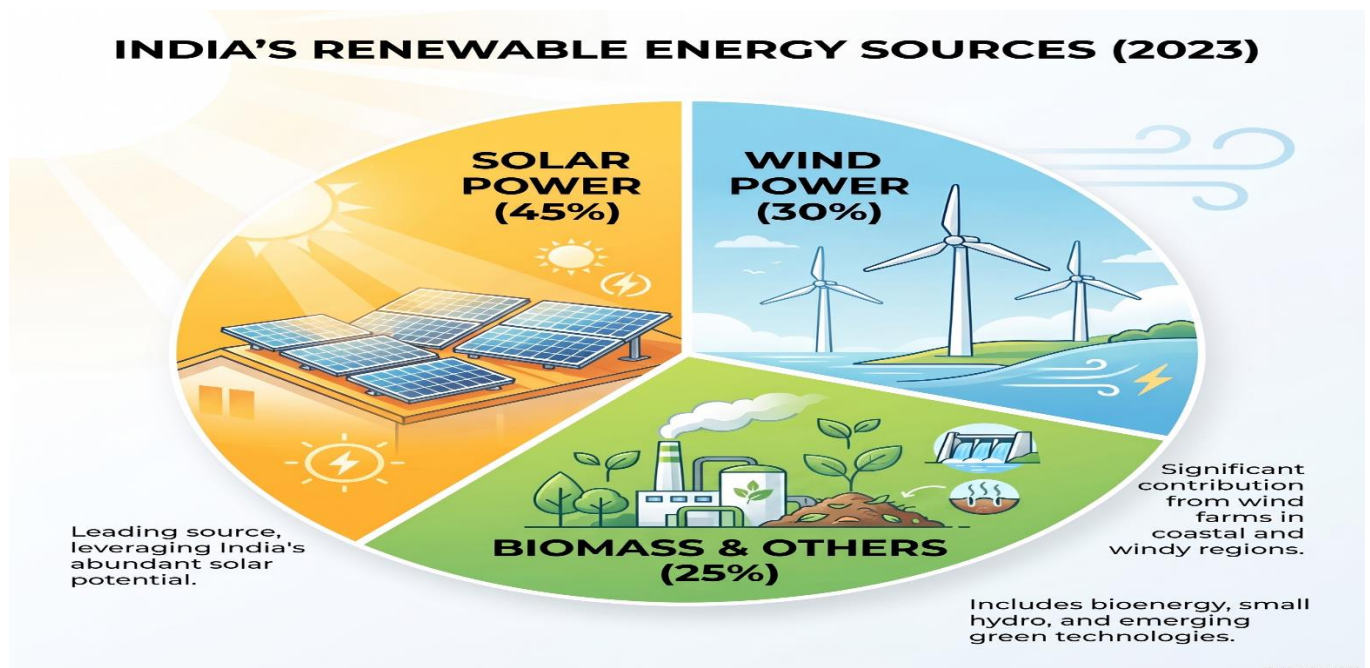
2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:(1×12=12)

Renewable Energy: India's Green Leap

(I) India has rapidly emerged as a prominent global leader in the adoption of renewable energy, marking a significant shift in its developmental trajectory. As of 2024, the nation has achieved a remarkable milestone, sourcing approximately 40% of its total installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources. This transformation has been largely driven by the 'National Solar Mission,' which has served as the cornerstone of the country's energy policy. Over the last decade, this mission has facilitated a staggering 20-fold increase in solar power capacity across the subcontinent. This transition is not merely an environmental endeavor; it has also become a powerful engine for socio-economic change. The renewable sector has created over 500,000 'green jobs,' particularly in rural areas, providing stable and dignified employment to youth who previously felt compelled to migrate to overcrowded cities in search of work.

(II) The impact on the agricultural sector has been equally profound. A comprehensive report from the Ministry of Power in 2023 highlighted that the introduction of solar-powered irrigation pumps has allowed farmers to save an average of 30% on their annual fuel and maintenance costs. Furthermore, in the remote and hilly regions of the country, where traditional power lines often fail to reach, small-scale solar grids have been a game-changer. Approximately 75% of schools in these areas now enjoy consistent electricity, enabling the use of digital classrooms and modern educational tools that were once a distant dream.

(III) Despite these successes, the path to a fully green future is not without significant hurdles. One of the primary challenges is the high initial cost associated with large-scale battery storage systems, which are essential for storing energy for use when the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing. Additionally, the existing national grid requires a massive, robust upgrade to handle the fluctuating nature of renewable power supplies. Ensuring a balance between the rapid expansion of solar farms and the protection of local ecosystems also remains a delicate task. As India moves forward, the focus is now shifting towards 'Green Hydrogen' and offshore wind projects to further diversify its energy portfolio and maintain its momentum towards a net-zero future.



(i) Identify the quote which matches the theme of the passage.

A. "A nation's true progress lies in embracing renewable energy while protecting the environment and improving people's lives." – Anonymous

B. "Fossil fuels are the only way to ensure a stable economy." – Traditional Theory

C. "Migration is the only solution for rural poverty." – Old Proverb

D. "Nature is a treasure to be used wisely for development, without considering future needs." – Industrial View

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False:

The transition to green energy has increased the rate of youth migration from rural to urban areas.

(iii) What was a significant educational benefit of small-scale solar grids?

A. They provided free textbooks to all students.

B. They allowed remote schools to use digital classrooms due to consistent power.

C. They eliminated the need for teachers in hilly regions.

D. They made the school buildings larger.

(iv) Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): India is significantly reducing its carbon footprint in the electricity sector.

Reason (R): 40% of the installed electricity capacity now comes from non-fossil fuel sources.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

B. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.

D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

(v) Which of the following conclusions can be best drawn from the provided data in the pie chart?

A. Wind power is currently the most utilised renewable source in India.

B. Solar power is the leading contributor to India's renewable energy mix.

C. Biomass has been completely replaced by wind power.

D. Renewable energy has already overtaken fossil fuels in total usage.

(vi) Complete the following:

Cause

Effect

National Solar Mission implementation _____

(vii) Analyse and compare how 'green jobs' and solar pumps benefit different rural demographics.

(viii) Pair the features with their outcomes based on the passage:

COLUMN A

- (1) Solar power capacity growth
- (2) Green jobs
- (3) Solar pumps for farmers
- (4) Schools in hilly regions

COLUMN B

- (a) Rural employment
- (b) 20-fold increase
- (c) 75% coverage
- (d) 30% fuel savings

Choose the correct option:

A. 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

B. 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d

C. 1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b

D. 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a

(ix) Choose the word which **DOES NOT** mean the same as "cornerstone".

A. Foundation

B. Core

C. Impediment

D. Mainstay

(x) Complete the given analogy:

Rural Migration: Urban Overcrowding:: Green Jobs: _____

(xi) "The existing national grid requires a massive, robust upgrade." Write a synonym for 'robust' as used in this context.

(xii) Mention any one technological challenge mentioned in the passage regarding the renewable energy transition.

SECTION-B (WRITING AND GRAMMAR)

(30 Marks)

3. Your school is organising a Donation Drive for an Old Age Home. As the Cultural Secretary, draft a notice informing students about the collection of useful items and the schedule. (Word limit: 50)

OR

(4)

You are Sneha/Saurabh, a student of Green Park International School. Write a formal e-mail to your School Principal requesting a 'Section Change' so that you can be in the same section of your sibling to share study materials and commute together. (Word limit: 50)

4. "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Using ideas from the unit 'Success Comes to Those Who Will and Dare', write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly on the topic "Success Comes to Those Who Will and Dare." Emphasise the importance of determination, hard work, resilience and a positive attitude.

(Word limit: 100–120)

(8)

OR

You are **Rohan/Riya**. Your school recently organised an awareness programme on responsible digital behaviour. The session changed your perspective on the way young people use technology. Write a letter to your friend sharing the key takeaways from the programme and explaining how they can be applied in daily life.

(Word limit: 100–120 words)

5. The following passage has not been edited. One word is missing in each line. Write the missing word along with the words before and after it.

(1×4=4)

	Before	Missing word	After
Our school organising a competition.	(a) _____	_____	_____
Many students are in the event.	(b) _____	_____	_____
The teachers encouraged everyone	(c) _____	_____	_____
to participate great enthusiasm.	(d) _____	_____	_____

6. Rearrange the following words/phrases into meaningful sentences: (1×4)

(a) elders / a / are / our / great / of / source / wisdom

(b) we / elders / respect / values / must / and / follow / traditional / our

(c) mutual / gap / generation / the / understanding / bridging / requires

(d) and / respect, / are / built / trust / families/ on / strong / understanding

7. Read the given conversation and report it by filling in the blanks appropriately: 1×4=4)

Mother: Did you finish your project on 'Changing Trends'?

Rahul: No, I will complete it by this evening.

Mother: Why are you taking so much time?

Rahul: I am collecting information from various news articles.

Mother asked Rahul (a) _____. Rahul replied in the negative and said (b) _____. Mother then asked him (c)

_____. Rahul replied that (d)

8. Choose the correct words from the options given below to complete the following passage:

(1×3=3)

Ananya always believed that success (a) _____ (comes/come/came) to those who never give up.

Last year, she (b) _____ (participated/participates/participate) in a national science competition.

Although she (c) _____ (didn't win/doesn't win/hasn't won) the first prize, the experience (d) _____ (taught/teach/teaches) her valuable lessons about determination and hard work.

9. Do as directed:

(1×3=3)

- (a) Although the road looks clear, pedestrians _____ always be alert while crossing it. (Fill with appropriate modal)
- (b) What a remarkable achievement you have made exclaimed the Principal (Rewrite the sentence using appropriate punctuation marks.)
- (c) The quality of the books, along with their attractive illustrations, _____ impressed the visitors. (Fill correct verb that agrees with the subject)

SECTION – C (LITERATURE)

(30 MARKS)

10. Attempt ANY ONE extract out of the two given below.

(1×4=4)

**My grandmother was a genius. You'd like to know why?
Because she could climb trees. Spreading or high,
She'd be up their branches in a trice. And mind you,
When last she climbed, she was sixty-two.**

- (i) Why does the speaker refer to their grandmother as a "genius"?
A. She possessed immense wisdom and knowledge.
B. She was remarkably skilled at climbing trees of all shapes and sizes.
C. She could build houses high up in the treetops.
D. She taught the speaker how to climb trees quickly.
- (ii) Identify the figure of speech in the line "My grandmother was a genius" and explain its effect.
- (iii) What tone does the poet adopt in the opening lines?
A. Melancholic and nostalgic
B. Conversational and admiring
C. Critical and analysing
D. Formal and solemn
- (iv) Explain the significance of the line "she'd be up their branches in a trice."

OR

**All this pain of a young boy,
My mother you transformed into pious strength
With kneeling and bowing five times
For the Grace of the Almighty only, My Mother.
Your strong piety is your children's strength,
You always shared your best with whoever needed the most,**

- (i) **Assertion (A):** The mother's devotion served as a pillar of strength for her children during difficult times.

Reason (R): She offered prayers five times a day solely to earn material goods for her household.
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, but **(R)** is false.

D. **(A)** is false, but **(R)** is true.

(ii) How did the mother transform the young boy's pain into "pious strength"?

A. By encouraging him to pursue higher studies.

B. Through her constant prayer, devotion, and faith in the Almighty

C. By protecting him from the outside world.

D. Through strict discipline and hard physical labour.

(iii) What quality of the mother is highlighted in the line "You always shared your best with whoever needed the most"?

(iv) Find out the word from the extract which means the same as- 'Reverent'

11. Attempt ANY ONE extract out of the two given below.

(1×4=4)

'No,' she answered, ' I never eat more than one thing. Unless you had a little caviare. I never mind caviare.

My heart sank a little. I knew I could not afford caviare, but I could not very well tell her that. I told her the waiter by all means to bring caviar. For myself, I chose the cheapest dish on the menu and that was a mutton chop.

'I think you're unwise to eat meat,' she said. 'I don't know how you can expect to work after eating heavy things like chops. I don't believe in overloading my stomach.

(i) Identify the literary device used in the lady's statement: "I don't believe in overloading my stomach."

A. Metaphor

B. irony

C. Hyperbole

D personification

(ii) What justification does the lady offer for criticising the narrator's order?

A. She claims that meat causes digestive issues.

B. She believes eating heavy things like chops hinders one's ability to work.

C. She feels eating meat is unethical.

D. She considers mutton chops to be poorly cooked at Foyot's.

(iii) State whether the given statement is **true** or **false**:

The lady guest displays clear irony and hypocrisy throughout her interaction with the narrator.

(iv) Complete the analogy based on the character traits:

Narrator: embarrassed and complaint: lady guest: -----

OR

When he had dug two beds, the king stopped and repeated his questions. The hermit again gave no answer, but rose, stretched out his hand for the spade, and said, 'Now rest awhile--- and let me work a bit.'

But the king did not give him the spade and continued to dig. One hour passed, and another. The sun began to sink behind the trees, and the king at last struck the spade into the ground and said, 'I came to you, wise man, for an answer to my questions. If you can give me none, tell me so and I will return home.'

(i) What does the king's persistent labour reveal about his desire for answers?

A. His impatience and pride as a ruler.

B. His deep commitment, patience, and humility.

C. His disbelief in the hermit's wisdom.

D. His desire to avoid returning to his kingdom.

(ii) Is true wisdom often taught through patience and practical experience rather than direct instruction? Comment.

(iii) What action did the king take when the sun began to sink behind the trees?

A. He immediately left the forest in anger.

B. He struck his spade into the ground and directly asked the hermit for an answer.

C. He fell asleep near the hermit's hut out of exhaustion.

D. He demanded that the hermit pay him for his labour.

(iv) Find a word from the extract that refers to "small patches of ground prepared for planting."

Q.12. Answer any SIX questions out of the seven given below. (word limit : 30- 40 words)

(2x6=12)

(a) Explain the irony in ' I'll grow old disgracefully.' What does this line reveal about granny's personality? (Granny's Tree Climbing)

(b) What helped the child to grow into a strong and fearless person?(My Mother)

(c) Swami painted his teacher in the darkest colours. Was he right in doing so? Comment.

(d) The king made peace with his enemy. Elucidate

(e) Why did granny call the period of rest as a brief season in hell? How did she finally get rid of it?

(f) In the phrase "...he felt like an executioner," what literary device is used, and what does it signify? ' (Father's Help)

(g) The poet employs a series of vivid images in the opening stanza of the poem ' My Mother'.

Mention and explain how those images can be associated with the poet's mother. (My Mother)

Q.13 . Answer ANY ONE out of the two questions given below in 70- 80 words (4)

Analyse how the narrator's socio economic status shapes his reactions throughout the luncheon. Provide at least three textual examples.

OR

'Loaf about less on Sundays and you will be without a headache on Monday.' In the light of this statement, analyze Swami's father's character in the lesson ' Father's Help'.

Q 14 Answer ANY ONE out of the two questions given below in 100- 120 words. (6)

Imagine that you are the king. After returning from the hermit's hut, write a diary entry describing the lessons you learnt, the change in your thinking after meeting the wounded man, and the way these lessons will influence your future decisions as a ruler. (Three Questions)

OR

Imagine you are the narrator. Write a letter to your cousin describing your experience of meeting the lady . Analyse how this incident made you realize that appearances can be deceptive and that one should not make assumptions about people based on first impressions. Share your personal thoughts and reflections on the humorous and ironic aspects of the event, and what lesson it taught you about human nature. (The Luncheon)

