



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

FINAL ASSESSMENT (2025-2026)

ENGLISH

SET I

Class : VIII

Time: 2 ½ hours

Date: 12 /03 /2026

M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ All questions are compulsory.
- ✓ The question paper consists of four sections:
 - Section A - Reading - 20 Marks
 - Section B - Writing - 15Marks
 - Section C - Grammar - 15Marks
 - Section D - Literature - 30Marks
- ✓ Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section and number your questions correctly.
- ✓ While attempting MCQs, write the correct option number along with the answer.
- ✓ Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.
- ✓ This paper consists of 9 printed pages.

SECTION A- READING		20 Marks
Q. I	<p>Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>1. We often think of human memory as a video camera, faithfully recording every moment of our lives to be played back later exactly as it happened. However, this comparison is far from the truth. If our minds were truly like cameras, we would be overwhelmed by useless details—the pattern of a rug we saw once ten years ago, or the color of a stranger’s shoes on a subway. Instead, memory is more like an artist than a machine. It does not just record; it selects, paints, and sometimes even edits the past to fit the story of who we believe we are today.</p> <p>2. To understand how this works, imagine your mind as a vast, sprawling library. In this library, there are millions of books, but there is no catalog system that stays the same. When we experience something new, our brain acts like a librarian placing a new book on a shelf. However, unlike a real library where a book stays unchanged, the "books" in our minds are rewritten every time we take them down. Each time we recall a memory, we are essentially reconstructing it, adding a little bit of our current feelings and knowledge to the original event. This is why two people can experience the exact same event but remember it in completely different ways years later.</p> <p>3. The "ink" used to write these memories is often emotion. Scientists and psychologists have found that we are far more likely to remember events that are accompanied by strong feelings, whether they are moments of great joy or instances of fear. A dull afternoon spent waiting for a bus might fade within</p>	12

	<p>hours, but a moment of embarrassment in front of a class might stay vivid for decades. The brain prioritizes these emotional moments because, historically, they were likely important for our survival. Remembering where a dangerous animal lives is far more valuable than remembering the shape of a cloud.</p> <p>4. However, for this system to work, there must also be a mechanism for cleaning. Forgetting is often viewed as a failure of the mind, a sign of aging or weakness, but it is actually a crucial function of a healthy brain. If we remembered every single breakfast we ever ate or every license plate we ever saw, our minds would become cluttered and inefficient. This process, often called "pruning," allows the brain to clear away the junk to make room for new, relevant information. In this sense, forgetting is the janitor that keeps the library of the mind functional.</p> <p>5. There is also a deceptive side to this mental architecture. Because we reconstruct memories rather than playing them back, we are prone to false memories. We can be influenced by old photographs, stories told by family members, or even dreams, eventually mistaking them for things we actually experienced. A person might vividly remember a childhood party not because they recall the event itself, but because they have looked at a photograph of it so many times. The line between true history and imagination is thinner than we like to admit.</p> <p>6. Beyond the individual, there is also the concept of "collective memory." This is the memory shared by a group of people, a society, or a nation. Just as an individual uses memory to build a personal identity, a society uses history, monuments, and holidays to build a group identity. However, collective memory is also subject to the same editing process. Societies often choose to remember their victories and forget their failures, polishing their history to create a more flattering reflection of themselves.</p> <p>7. Ultimately, our memories are the foundation of our identity. We are, in many ways, a collection of what we remember. Without the bridge of memory connecting our past to our present, we would essentially be strangers to ourselves every morning. While it may be imperfect, fading, and sometimes inaccurate, this complex web of recollections is what gives our lives continuity and meaning. It reminds us not only of where we have been but also shapes where we are going.</p>	
	<p>1. The author compares memory to an "artist" in Paragraph 1 to suggest that:</p> <p>(a) Memory is colorful and bright. (b) Memory is creative and not always 100% accurate. (c) Only people who are good at art have good memories. (d) Memories are worth a lot of money.</p> <p>2. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?</p> <p>(a) Ideally, a healthy brain should retain every single detail of a person's life, including insignificant daily events. (b) Memories are often reconstructed and altered by our current feelings each time we recall them. (c) Strong emotions, such as fear or joy, act like "ink" that helps make memories more vivid and lasting.</p>	

(d) Collective memory allows societies to build a group identity, similar to how individuals build personal identities.

3. In the metaphor of the 'Librarian,' what does the act of placing a new book on a shelf represent?

- (a) The initial encoding of a new experience.
- (b) Forgetting an old, useless event.
- (c) The loss of information over time.
- (d) Recalling a childhood dream.

4. Look at this sentence from the passage: "*Scientists and psychologists have found that we are far more likely to remember events that are accompanied by strong feelings...*"

Which of the following correctly identifies the tense and function of the phrase "have found"?

- (a) Simple Past: To describe a specific experiment that happened once in the past.
- (b) Present Continuous: To describe an action that is currently happening right at this moment.
- (c) Present Perfect: To describe an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past and is still relevant to the present.
- (d) Past Perfect: To describe a discovery that was made and then forgotten before a new discovery was found.

5. According to the final paragraph, what would be the consequence if the "bridge" of memory connecting our past to our present were broken?

6. What is the 'ink' used by the human brain to write memories? How does it help in the formation of memories?

7. In the following question, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R).

Assertion (A): The author claims that every time we remember an event, we are essentially "rewriting" a book rather than just reading it.

Reason (R): The human brain functions exactly like a video camera, storing a permanent, unchangeable recording of the past.

Choose the correct answer from the options provided below:

- (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.

8. For our minds to remain efficient, the process of _____ is necessary to clear away 'mental junk.'

9. Find the word which means *producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images in the mind.*(Para 3)

	<p>10. Find the Synonym of the word which means <i>spreading out over a large area in an untidy or irregular way</i>. (Para 2)</p> <p>11. Complete the following analogy.</p> <p>The Librarian : The Janitor :: Encoding Memories : _____</p> <p>(a) Reconstructing History (b) Forgetting Information (c) Emotional Ink (d) Collective Identity</p> <p>12. Write a suitable title for the passage.</p>	
Q. II	<p>Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:</p> <p>1. Not so long ago, tattoos were definitely not the ‘in’ thing. Fashions change, however, and tattoos are fast becoming a common sight. But before you rush to join the likes of Edward VII, Sean Connery, and pause for a moment –getting a tattoo is a lot easier and cheaper than getting rid of one. The art of tattooing goes back a long way. The Egyptians used to tattoo each other 3,000 years ago, and the oldest known example is on the body of a 4000 years old iceman who was found frozen in the mountain snow on the Italian-Austrian border in 1993.</p> <p>2. In more modern times, tattoos were reintroduced to Europe by Captain Cook and his crew on their return from Tahiti in 1771-hence the traditional association of tattoos with sailors. The word ‘tattoo’ itself comes from the Tahitian word <i>tatau</i> – onomatopoeic for the sound made by their tattooing instrument.</p> <p>3. Tattoos are put in place by means of a tattoo gun, which has a cluster of needles which jab in and out rapidly. The artists change colors by dipping the tip of the gun into various color inks as a painter does into a palette. Being on the receiving end of a tattoo gun is a painful process, especially for the first couple of minutes; after that the body’s natural painkiller –endorphin-starts to come into play, and the pain apparently subsides into a kind of vibrating, buzzing sensation. The use of aspirin is not recommended, as they thin the blood and can lead to bleeding.</p> <p>4. Though not pleasant, the process is not dangerous, provided the tattoo is applied by a qualified artist in a clean and properly supervised environment. Infections can, however, result from using a ‘scratcher’ – someone who’s bought a tattoo gun by mail order and has no idea how to use it safely.</p> <p>5. Tattoos can be removed, but it can be a painful process and it can leave scars. Only laser treatment can remove them completely but it is very expensive. In other words, it is much easier to get a tattoo than to remove one. In a recent survey, one-third of men and women questioned, regretted getting tattooed. So the undecided would be well advised to stick those temporary tattoos that you put on for the evening and remove with baby oil the next day.</p>	8

	<p>1. Why is it advised to think carefully before getting a tattoo?</p> <p>(a) Because tattoos are much harder and costlier to remove (b) Because tattoos are expensive to apply (c) Because tattoos are easier to remove than to get (d) Because tattoos are painful to apply</p> <p>2. How did tattoos become associated with sailors in Europe?</p> <p>(a) They were spread by Roman soldiers (b) They were popularized by medieval knights (c) They were introduced by Egyptian traders (d) They were reintroduced by Captain Cook’s crew after visiting Tahiti</p> <p>3. How does the body reduce the pain of tattooing after the first few minutes?</p> <p>(a) By slowing down the tattoo gun (b) By numbing the skin with ink (c) By producing endorphins (d) By releasing adrenaline</p> <p>4. Find the idiom used in para 3 which means <i>To become active or start having an effect.</i></p> <p>5. Why is it safer to get a tattoo from a qualified artist rather than a “scratcher”?</p> <p>6. What is the antonym of <i>old</i> used in the passage? (Para 5)</p> <p>7. Find the synonym of the word <i>poke</i> from the passage. (Para 3)</p> <p>8. Would you like to get a tattoo for yourself? Why or why not?</p>	
	SECTION B – WRITING	15 Marks
Q. III	You are the secretary of the housing complex where you reside. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, requesting the residents to attend a meeting to discuss probable improvements required, including the beautification of the complex.	4
Q. IV	In our daily lives, we often admire celebrities, athletes, or leaders. Yet, there are countless ordinary people—such as doctors, teachers, farmers, and volunteers—who quietly shape the world with their dedication and compassion. Write an essay on the topic “ The Real Heroes of the World ”, highlighting who you believe the true heroes are and why their contributions matter more than fame or wealth.	5
Q.V	Nowadays, students spend hours on mobile phones, social media, and online games. While technology makes learning and communication easier, too much screen time can lead to digital addiction, affecting health, studies, and relationships. Imagine you are Abid/Abida of Class VIII , writing for your school magazine. Compose an article on the topic “ Digital Addiction: How to Balance Online and Offline Life ”, suggesting practical ways to use technology wisely and maintain a healthy lifestyle.	6

Q.IX	<p>Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners from the given options.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Any, none, every, an, this, several, a, those, each, much, some</p> </div> <p>Last month, our class was assigned a project for the annual science fair. (1) _____ specific task was to build a sustainable energy model. My partner and I spent (2) _____ weeks researching solar power until we finally understood the mechanics. However, we encountered a problem: (3) _____ of the batteries we bought worked properly. We had to visit (4) _____ university lab to ask for professional advice. The professor there was very kind and gave us (5) _____ useful tips on how to fix the wiring. On the day of the fair, (6) _____ student in the hall was impressed by our working model.</p>	$\frac{1}{2} \times 6=3$
SECTION D- LITERATURE (30 MARKS)		
Q.X	Answer ANY 3 with reference to the context given.	$3 \times 3=9$
	<p>1. <i>All right. Coins don't talk. They jingle or go khanak-khanak. But I'm telling you, that day they actually spoke! One coin said, 'What are you thinking about? Those fresh, hot jalebis coming out of the kadhao in the shop over there, they're not coming out for nothing.'</i></p> <p>(i) Why does the boy imagine the coins speaking to him? (ii) How do the coins try to persuade him? (iii) When does this imagined conversation happen?</p> <p>2. <i>"O! Father and Mother, if buds are nip'd And blossoms blown away, And if the tender plants are strip'd Of their joy in the springing day, By sorrow and cares dismay,"</i></p> <p>(i) What do "buds" and "blossoms" symbolize? (ii) What does "nip'd" or "strip'd" signify in the context of the poem? (iii) What is the poet trying to convey to the parents?</p> <p>3. <i>"The Poetry of earth is never dead; When all the birds are faint with hot sun, And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead; That is the Grasshopper's- he takes the lead"</i></p> <p>(i) What happens to the birds when the sun becomes too hot? (ii) Whose voice is heard running from hedge to hedge in the meadow? (iii) How does the Grasshopper contribute to the "poetry of earth"?</p> <p>4. <i>The fawn lifted its nose, scenting him. He reached out one hand and laid it on the soft neck. The touch made him delirious. He put his arms around its body. A light convulsion passed over it but it did not stir."</i></p>	

	(i) Why does Jody feel overwhelmed when he touches the fawn? (ii) How does the fawn respond to Jody's presence? (iii) What does the word 'convulsion' suggest about the fawn's physical reaction when the boy embraced it?											
Q.XI	Match the following words with their correct meanings.	$\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 1\frac{1}{2}$										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Word</th> <th>meanings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. adjacent</td> <td>a. comes through loud and clear</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. shrills</td> <td>b. curses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. delusion</td> <td>c. nearby</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>d. false impression or belief</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Word	meanings	1. adjacent	a. comes through loud and clear	2. shrills	b. curses	3. delusion	c. nearby		d. false impression or belief	
Word	meanings											
1. adjacent	a. comes through loud and clear											
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Q.XII	Answer any 6 questions in brief. (30-40 words)	$1 \times 6 = 6$										
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Which poetic device is used in "pleasant weed"? In the story 'Jalebis', what did the narrator do to escape punishment from his teacher and parents? What message does the poem 'Geography Lesson' convey? How does the fight between the two boys end? Why is the mist called 'Melancholy'? Explain the meaning of <i>romance at short notice was her speciality in the 'The Open Window'</i>. How does Ruskin Bond describe the hill station and valley in one sentence? 											
Q.XIII	Choose the correct meaning of the highlighted words in the given sentences.	$\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = 1\frac{1}{2}$										
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The climbers avoided the treacherous path because it was slippery and unsafe. (a) honest (b) great (c) dangerous (d) talking confusedly The soldier stood unflinching in front of danger, showing no sign of fear. (a) breaking (b) unhappy (c) shaken (d) looking straight at each other When the boy broke the vase, his mother scowled at him in anger. (a) attacked (b) looked angrily (c) shivered (d) threatened 											
Q.XIV	Answer any 4 questions in detail. (60-80 words)	$3 \times 4 = 12$										
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How according to Keats, is the poetry of earth 'never ending?' Explain with references from the poem. 											

2. Framton Nuttel visits the countryside to cure his nerves but ends up fleeing in panic because of Vera's fabricated story. What does this incident reveal about the importance of critical thinking and not accepting information blindly?

3. How does Ruskin Bond show both the beauty and the challenges of the monsoon season in *A Short Monsoon Diary*?

4. The boy in the story is torn between temptation and responsibility. Using examples from the lesson, explain how his actions reflect the challenges children face in making the right choices.

5. Ranji feels proud of his ability to swim, while Suraj is proud of his strength in wrestling. How does the story show that everyone has different talents? Why is it important to respect the abilities of others?
