



St. Paul's School, Darjeeling

Academic Year - 2026

Class VIII

ENGLISH

The paper is divided into three sections.

Section A is Comprehension, Section B is Grammar and Section C is Creative Writing.

The intention is to test the candidate's comprehending ability; grasp of grammar and creative skills which are pre-requisites for admission into standard 8.

Time: 1 hour

Full Marks: 50

SECTION A

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

At Hawaii, Cook and his men found rest and fresh food after the hardships of their long and bitter voyage in the far north. The Hawaiians were very friendly and treated Cook as a god, and the two ships remained for some time, taking fresh supplies of food and water and making repairs to the weather-beaten ships. At last, in February 1779, they left; but soon after, a gale damaged the foremast of the 'Resolution' and they were forced to return to Hawaii. This time the natives were less friendly. They no longer treated Cook as a god, and marines had to be posted to guard those repairing the 'Resolution's' mast on the beach. Then the Hawaiians stole one of the 'Discovery's' boats. Cook himself led a party ashore to recover the boat or hold the Hawaiian king captive until it was returned. But as he parleyed with the king on the shore, one of the natives attacked him with a spear while another stabbed him in the back, so that Cook fell into the water and was killed. This was on 14th February 1779. The rest of his small party escaped. Though they were eager for revenge, nothing could bring back their captain, and as he himself would have wished, they soon sailed north once more. But, as Cook had foreseen, no passage to the Atlantic was to be found.

Q.1. Match the following words, as taken from the passage, on the left with its meaning on the right.

[5x1=5]

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| (a) rest | - | a person born in a particular place |
| (b) voyage | - | relax |
| (c) natives | - | got free of |
| (d) recover | - | a journey by water |
| (e) escaped | - | get control of |

Q.2. Answer the following questions taken from the passage above.

[5x2=10]

- What did cook and his men find in Hawaii?
- How did the Hawaiians treat captain Cook the first time?
- Why was the ship forced to return after it had left Hawaii?
- How did the Hawaiians treat captain cook and his men the second time?
- Give the date when captain cook was killed?

SECTION B

GRAMMAR

Q.3. Fill in the blanks with the correct word given in the box below. [10 x ½ =5]

among , since , under , at , towards , beside , above , to , besides , between

- (a) Raj walked _____ Sally who was waiting _____ the bus stop.
- (b) Jill has been ill _____ last month and will take time _____ get well.
- (c) The boy was standing _____ a tree when a branch fell from _____.
- (d) The sweets were supposed to be shared _____ the students but Jent and Ron shared it _____ themselves.
- (e) _____ Tim, Ben too wanted to sit _____ Rose.

Q.4. Fill in the blanks with the tense of the verbs stated in the brackets. [5x1=5]

Example: Ramu **was cleaning** the bulb when it burst. (past continuous tense.....**clean**)

- (a) Ren _____ the apple yesterday.(simple past tense ...**eat**)
- (b) The team _____ tomorrow. (future continuous tense....**play**)
- (c) I _____ since morning.(present perfect continuous tense.... **practise**)
- (d) Pintu _____ very well.(simple present tense..... **read**)
- (e) I _____ now. (present continuous tense...**study**)

Q.5. Add the averbs and adverb phrases given in the brackets to the sentences:

[10 x ½ =5]

EXAMPLE : Ritik **never** comes here **now**. (**never, now**)

- (a) We have seen her. (**just, in the square**)
- (b) You must say such a thing. (**never, again**)
- (c) I have to reach the office. (**usually, by 9.30**)
- (d) My brother has his lunch. (**hardly ever, at twelve o'clock**)
- (e) He spoke. (**at the meeting, earnestly**)

SECTION C

CREATIVE WRITING

Q.6. In not more than 200 words write an essay on any one of the topics given below:

[20]

- (a) 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'. Recall the day when you had to help your friend. State what had happened; how you got to know; how you went about being of help and why you had to help.
- (b) Write a short story beginning with 'I looked, looked away, and then looked again. I could not believe my eyes. There, in front of me.....'
- (c) You happened to go to a market with your relative one day. Describe what you observed at that place. You may write about the set up; the types of people you met; the items being sold; the cleanliness; the pollution and so on.
