

Common Proficiency Test -2017 in Balbharti Schools

I. Syllabus, objectives, blueprint and guidelines for the conduct of the test

The Common Proficiency Test in English language for classes V and VII is aimed at knowing the English language proficiency of learners who have passed classes IV and VI respectively. Learners who undergo the English language curriculum are expected of the considerable level of English language proficiency at the end of classes IV and VI as set by the syllabus. We recognize that the experiences of every school and every learner in the each class are different and varied. This proficiency test is conducted to get informed of the areas of language which the learners do well and the areas which need attention for improvement. Let's not forget that the school based assessments (including the continuous and comprehensive assessment) would also inform us the performance of learners. The objectives of the test are:

1. To assess the English language proficiency level of learners of at end of classes IV and VI through a proficiency test on various aspects of English language viz. Reading, Writing, Grammatical aspect, Listening and Speaking.
2. To interpret the achievements of learners so as to infer conclusions to inform the teachers for remedial measures in English language teaching.
3. To study the differences in achievement with regard to gender, home, location and social group; and
4. To initiate follow up actions for over all English language proficiency of learners of Balbharti schools.

II. The syllabus and allocation of weightage for the language aspects in the test

Class V

Total marks: 60

Time 2 Hours

1. **Reading:** Two unfamiliar reading tests of about 100 - 120 words length to test the reading comprehension. The texts should be prose reading-one informative and one literary, poem. The questions on the reading texts should multiple choice questions (MCQ) with four distracters. The nature of questions include: informative, inferential, word attack, extrapolative. **The weightage for reading is 15 marks.**

2. **Vocabulary:** Familiar or unfamiliar vocabulary from previous experience or otherwise. The questions will be in context. **(10 marks)**
3. **Language / Grammatical items:** Learners will be tested of their language knowledge viz. vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, punctuation, spelling, finding the error or error correction and knowledge and use of words. **Weightage 15 marks.** Grammatical items include: (i) *nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverb;* (ii) *is, am, are, has, have;* (iii) *tense forms (simple present and present continuous, simple past and past continuous) expressing future (will and be going to);* (iv) *articles (a, an, the);* (v) *this, that, these, those (as determiners and empty subjects),* (vi) *question words,* (vii) *punctuation marks (full stop, comma, question mark and inverted commas);* (viii) *possessive adjectives and* (ix) *prepositions*
4. **Writing:** Learners are expected to write two short pieces (five to seven sentences) based on their classroom learning of writing. The writing format include: sentence completion with the given stem, short paragraphs in contexts and description based on visual. **Weightage: 10 marks**
5. **Listening:** Learners will listen to two 5 to 7 minutes short listening texts in contemporary English language and do the worksheets in given time of another 5 minutes. The listening text will play on audio player / computer at least for two times. **Weightage 10**

Class VII

Total marks: 80 marks

Time 2.30 Hours

1. **Reading:** Two unfamiliar reading tests of about 200- 250 words length to test the reading comprehension. The texts should be prose reading-informative, literary including poetry, and argumentative. The questions on the reading texts should multiple choice questions (MCQ) with four distracters. The nature of questions include: informative, inferential, word attack, extrapolative. **The weightage for reading is 20 marks**
2. **Language / Grammatical items & Vocabulary:** Learners will be tested of their language knowledge viz. grammatical knowledge, punctuation, spelling and finding the error or error correction, and vocabulary (knowledge and use of words). **Weightage 35 (Grammatical aspect 35 +Vocabulary 10) marks.** **Grammatical items include:** *time and tense, words and phrase, degrees of*

comparison, adverb, preposition, conjunction, determiner and simple sentences, punctuation marks (full stop, comma, question mark and inverted commas).

- 3. Writing:** Learners are expected to write two short pieces based on their classroom learning of writing. The writing format include: notices, posters, diary writing, short paragraphs in contexts and writing based on verbal and visual input.

Weightage: 15 marks

- 4. Listening:** Learners will listen to 7 to 10 minutes short listening texts in contemporary English language and do the worksheets in given time of another 5 minutes. The listening text will play on audio player / computer at least for two times. **Weightage 10**

III. Conduct of the Test

- a. The test will be conducted in the respective schools with an external observer. The observer may be from another (nearby) Balbharti school or expert from elsewhere. This will ensure the smooth conduct of the test. Listening test will be conducted separately for one hour and the CAT of 2.30 hours duration will be conducted on the same day.

b. Evaluation

Evaluation of the answer sheets has to be conducted area wise in order to know the area wise performance and for providing feedback.

c. Reporting

We need to interpret the performance of learners using effective statistical tools. The raw scores will have to be recorded well without losing all information about the learners. The personal information of the learner and performance have to be entered well using excel or SPSS package.

IV. Blue Print of the test

Time allocated: 2.30 Hours

Sl. No.	Aspect / Area	Weightage*(Marks)	
		Class VI	Class VIII
1.	Reading	25% (15)	25% (14)
2.	Vocabulary	17 % (10)	17 % (10)
3.	Language aspects (Grammar and functional language)	25 % (15)	25 % (16)
4.	Writing	16.5% (10)	16.5% (18)
5.	Listening	16.5% (10)	16.5% (12)
	Total	100% (60)	100% (70)

*In parenthesis are marks

Since all our questions will be application based multiple choice questions (MCQ) except in writing and some questions like complete the sentence, we need not show the kind of blue print developed for other subjects like Mathematics.

Type of Distribution

Knowledge assessment questions	20%
Understanding of concepts/processes	20%
Application based questions	30%
Skills & appreciation	30%

Difficulty level of Distribution

Easy	30%
Average	45%
Difficult	25%

V. Learning Outcomes

The following Learning Outcome rubrics are used to describe the expected outcomes of each question.

- i. Locating information ideas
- ii. Guessing meaning
- iii. Grasping meaning / ideas
- iv. Drawing inference

- v. Connecting ideas
- vi. Comparing and contrasting
- vii. Extrapolating
- viii. Expressing ideas in coherence
- ix. Decoding visual input into a coherent writing.

Things to remember:

- Language proficiency test of this type is not completely based on the syllabus prescribed.
- Learners' overall proficiency in terms of different areas viz. reading, language aspect, listening, speaking and writing are tested from completely unfamiliar text and inputs. In fact many of our learners are not exposed to the kind of test we administer now. In this regard we have to consider most of the questions as application, appreciation and extrapolation questions which require learners to reflect and apply their linguistic knowledge with understanding of the context and language use.
- The design and blue print of the question paper has been prepared based on the objectives, themes and language aspects of NCERT syllabus and the spirit of National Curriculum Framework – 2005.
- Abbreviations used
E-Essay type, LA- Long answer type, Sa-Short Answer type, VSA- Very short answer type, O- Objective type, K- Knowledge, U- Understanding, A- Application, S- Skills, Ap – Appreciation.

The following teaching from different Balbbharti school attended and developed questions which will be discussed, revised and finalised in the forthcoming weeks.