



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



TERM 1 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 1

Class: IX

Date: 02.09.26

Admission no:

Time: 3 hr

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains FOUR sections-READING, WRITING, GRAMMAR and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully to answer the following questions. (12M)

Few guessed that this quiet, parentless girl growing up in New York City would one day become the First Lady of the United States. Even fewer thought she would become an author and lecturer and a woman much admired and loved by people throughout the world.

Born Anna Eleanor Roosevelt in 1884 to wealthy but troubled parents, who both died while she was young, Roosevelt was cared for by her grandmother and sent to school in England. In 1905, she married her distant cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She and her husband had six children. Although they were wealthy, her life was not easy, and she suffered several personal tragedies. Her second son died when he was a baby. In 1921, her strong athletic husband was stricken with polio, which left him physically disabled for life.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a remarkable woman who had great intelligence and tremendous strength of character. She never let things get her down. She nursed her husband back to good health and encouraged him to remain in politics. She then helped him to become Governor of New York, and in 1933, President of the United States.

While her husband was President, she took a great interest in all the affairs of the country. She became her husband's legs and eyes; she visited prisons and hospitals; she went down into mines, up scaffoldings and into factories. Roosevelt was tireless and daring. During the Depression, she travelled all over the country bringing goodwill, reassurance and help to people without food and jobs. During World War II, she visited American soldiers in camps all over the world. The United States had never known a First Lady like her.

Roosevelt also kept in touch with the American people through a daily newspaper column called “My Day.” She broadcast on the radio and delivered lectures, all firsts for a First Lady.

I. Which statement best explains why Eleanor Roosevelt was described as "her husband's legs and eyes"?

- A. She took over all the President's official duties.
- B. She gathered first-hand information by travelling widely and helped him understand the needs of the people.
- C. She was responsible for managing the President's personal schedule.
- D. She focused only on representing the President at social events.

II. Which quality most contributed to Eleanor Roosevelt's ability to overcome repeated personal hardships and continue serving society?

- A. Wealth and social status
- B. Strong family support throughout her life
- C. Resilience and strength of character
- D. Political ambition from childhood

III. What can be inferred about Eleanor Roosevelt's leadership style from her visits to prisons, hospitals, mines, and factories?

- A. She preferred making decisions from official reports.
- B. She believed effective leadership required direct engagement with people's lives and problems.
- C. She avoided public interaction whenever possible.
- D. She focused mainly on improving the country's economy.

IV. Eleanor was a strong woman who helped her husband become the President of America. How? (2)

V. During the Depression, Eleanor travelled across the country bringing _____, reassurance and help.

VI. The expression "**her husband's legs and eyes**" implies that she _____.

(managed household affairs / gathered firsthand information and supported his leadership / replaced him as President / took charge of the military)

VII. After her parents died, she was brought up by her _____

VIII. How was Eleanor Roosevelt's personality in contrast to what she became? (2)

IX. Despite facing several personal tragedies, Eleanor Roosevelt emerged as one of the most admired First Ladies of the United States. **Mention any two qualities** that helped her overcome these challenges and support each with one example from the passage. (2)

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

Overpowering prey is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. Some species like Russell's viper inject poison. Some others opt for an alternative non-chemical method—rat snakes, for instance, catch and push their prey against the ground, while pythons use their muscle power to crush their prey to death. But snakes can't be neatly divided into poisonous and non-poisonous categories.

Even species listed as non-poisonous aren't completely free of poison. The common Sand Boa, for instance, produces secretions particularly poisonous to birds. So the species doesn't take any chance—it crushes its prey and injects poison as an extra step.

Do vipers need poison powerful enough to kill hundreds of rats with just one drop? After all, they eat only one or two rats at a time.

While hunting, animals try their worst to kill most efficiently, their prey use any trick to avoid becoming a meal, such as developing immunity to poison. For instance, Californian ground squirrels are resistant to Northern Pacific rattlesnake poison.

Competition with prey is not the only thing driving snakes to evolve more and more deadly poison. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.

Some snake killers have partial immunity to poison. Famously, mongooses are highly resistant to cobra poison, and with their speed and agility, kill snakes fearlessly. It would be the death of cobras as a species if they didn't evolve a more deadly poison to stop mongooses.

Poison has another important role. It's an extreme meat softener; specific enzymes break up the insides of the prey. Normally, a reptile depends on the sun's warm rays to aid digestion.

But I wonder if we cannot use venom in our favour. In remote parts of India, local hospitality often involves leather-tough meat. I chew and chew until my jaws ache. If I spit it out or refuse, our hosts would be offended. I swallow like a python stuffing a deer down its throat and hope I don't choke. If only I had poison.

- I. Why can't snakes be classified simply as poisonous and non-poisonous? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.
(2)
- II. The passage suggests that snakes continue to evolve stronger venom mainly because
 - A. They enjoy hunting larger animals.
 - B. They need venom only for digestion.
 - C. They face resistance from prey and threats from predators.
 - D. They cannot hunt without venom.
- III. Cobras evolved stronger venom only to digest their prey more quickly. State true or false.
- IV. What does the author's reference to leather-tough meat at the end of the passage suggest?
 - A. Venom should be used in cooking.

- B. The author humorously compares venom's digestive properties with his own difficulty in eating tough meat.
- C. Venom is safe for human consumption.
- D. Python venom helps humans digest food.
- V. Why are Californian ground squirrels mentioned in the passage?
- VI. Snakes use venom not only to kill prey but also to _____ it before digestion
- VII. Which of the following best describes the Sand Boa's hunting strategy?
- A. It relies only on venom.
- B. It crushes its prey and also injects poison.
- C. It waits for the prey to die naturally.
- D. It hunts only birds.
- VIII. Why does the writer conclude the passage by saying, "If only I had poison"? Justify your answer with evidence from the passage.
- (2)

SECTION B: WRITING (22 M)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school transport to attend a cultural fest. You are Laksh Pandey, class 9th, Vice President, Cultural Club. (3M)
4. Write a factual description on your favourite app, highlighting its features, usefulness, and how it helps you in daily life. (4M)
5. **Attempt any ONE of the following:** (7M)
- A. You are Aman/Anamika Gupta, a resident of Model Town, Delhi. Write a letter to the Editor highlighting the increasing traffic congestion near schools during peak hours. Suggest measures to improve road safety. Include the hints:

OR

- B. You are the Head Boy/Head Girl. Write a letter to the Principal requesting the introduction of Mental Wellness Sessions and stress-management workshops for students. You may take help from the given **hints:**

- State the purpose
- Highlight the benefits
- Suggest the initiative
- Conclude with a request

6. **Attempt any ONE of the following:** (8M)

A. Your school is planning to start a Reading Club to encourage students to develop better reading habits. Write an article in about 120–150 words for your school magazine explaining the importance of a Reading Club, its objectives, the activities it can organise, and how it will benefit students. Give a suitable title.

OR

B. You recently attended an inter-school environmental awareness programme organised by a local NGO. Write an article in about 120–150 words for your school magazine describing your experience. Include the key lessons you learned, the importance of environmental awareness, and suggestions to make such programmes more engaging and effective in the future. Give a suitable title.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 M)

7. Complete the following blanks using correct form of verbs: (3M)

Yesterday, while I _____ (walk) towards the market, I suddenly _____ (notice) a wallet lying on the road. I _____ (pick) it up and was looking for an identity card inside it.

8. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Find the error and correct it. (3M)

	Error	correction
Have you ever wonder why.	_____	_____
a newly constructed road deteriorate	_____	_____
within a few months? Two years ago MCD come	_____	_____
up with a plan to make roads stronger.		

9. Do as directed. (4M)

I. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. (1M)

Patient: Excuse me, could you please give me something for a cold and sore throat?

Pharmacist: the throat/ and/ Certainly. I recommend/ these lozenges for/ for the cold./ a mild decongestant.

II. Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph. (3M)

Anu: What are you reading now?

Mona: I am reading a magazine.

Anu: Is there any article in it?

Anu asked Mona _____ then. Mona replied that _____ a magazine. Anu further asked _____ article in that.

SECTION D: LITERATURE (26 M)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given. **(2x4=8)**

I. “On the day of Saraswati Puja, the grandmother touched my feet. She said, ‘Today you are my teacher, and I am your student.’”

- A. On which occasion did the grandmother touch the narrator’s feet?
- B. Why did she do so?
- C. What values are highlighted in this extract?
- D. What does this act tell us about the grandmother’s humility?

II. “Then took the other, as just as fair,

And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear.”

- A. Why does the poet choose the second road?
- B. What does the road symbolize?
- C. Explain the phrase “wanted wear.”
- D. Identify one poetic device used in these lines.

III. Juliette looked at the “Villa for Sale” board with disappointment. It had been hanging outside for weeks, yet no buyer had shown genuine interest. She began to wonder if she would ever be able to sell the house.

- A. Why was Juliette disappointed?
- B. What does the “Villa for Sale” board indicate?
- C. What does this extract reveal about Juliette’s situation?
- D. Find a word from the extract that means “truly”.

11. Answer any FIVE of the following six questions in about 30–40 words each. **(2 × 5 = 10M)**

I. How does Private Quelch's overconfidence prevent him from achieving his goal of becoming an officer? Explain with examples.

II. Why is Duke considered the true hero of the story? Support your answer with evidence.

III. How does the poem ‘The Road Not Taken’ suggest that every choice in life comes with both opportunities and sacrifices?

IV. How does Wordsworth show that beauty can be found in ordinary people and everyday experiences?

V. What qualities of the grandmother make her an inspiring role model for today's students?

VI. The brook never stops flowing despite rocks and obstacles. How can this attitude help an individual preparing for a life journey?

12. Answer any ONE of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1 × 8 = 8M)

I. The three poets observe nature differently—one sees continuous movement, another finds beauty in music, while the third reflects on life's choices. Which perspective do you relate to the most and why?

OR

II. "Humour in Villa for Sale arises from misunderstandings, mistaken assumptions, and clever manipulation." Discuss this statement with suitable examples from the play.

******ALL THE BEST******