



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



TERM 1 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 2

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

(22M)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(12M)

1. Keep your watch accurate. For some people, moving up the time on their watch will help them get up earlier. For others, they will remember that the time on the watch is wrong and will disregard it altogether. It may be helpful to set your watch just two minutes ahead instead of five or ten.
2. Keep a clock, phone, computer or anything that displays time in each room of your house. One of the easiest ways to run late is simply by not realising that the time is passing as quickly as it is.
3. Set all your clocks and watches at the same time. Don't be an optimist. Things usually take longer than what you'd expect, even without major delays. If you have a dinner appointment at 7:30 p.m., don't think you can work till 7 p.m., then take a bath, dress and arrive on time. Realistically, calculate the time you will take at each step and then add 10 minutes more to allow for unexpected delays, or you cannot get to your job in time.
4. Wake up when you are supposed to wake up. Don't hit the snooze button, keep on lying in bed, and watch TV at the very start of your day. Maybe try even setting your clock 10 minutes earlier than you need. If you have difficulty with this, move your alarm clock to somewhere away from your bed; that way, you have to get up to turn it off. Commit yourself to being 15 minutes early for everything. If you have to reach your place of work at 8:00, don't even tell yourself this. Just tell yourself (and everyone else who listens—but don't annoy them or make them think that they are late or early!), "I have to be at work at 7:45." If you do this, you will be on time even with little unforeseen delays. You will be on time even with a traffic jam.

I. According to the passage, why might setting your watch 10 minutes ahead backfire for some people?

- A. It makes the watch battery drain faster
- B. People may realize it's wrong and start ignoring it completely
- C. It causes confusion with other people's time
- D. It is illegal in some workplaces

II. The author suggests keeping a clock in every room primarily because:

- A. It makes the house look more organized
- B. People often lose track of time when they can't see it
- C. It helps save electricity
- D. It encourages people to buy more clocks

III. The suggestion to set a watch "just two minutes ahead instead of five or ten" is based on the assumption that:

- A. Two minutes is enough to make someone hurry
- B. A small lie is more believable than a big lie
- C. People are more likely to trust a slightly inaccurate time
- D. Digital watches cannot be set beyond 2 minutes

IV. The expression "moving up the time on their watch" implies that some people _____ (lie to themselves to get up earlier / break their watches / prefer digital clocks / want to reach late)

V. The expression "hit the snooze button" implies that a person _____ (wakes up immediately / delays getting up and risks being late / sets multiple alarms / keeps the alarm far from bed)

VI. If you have an appointment at 7:30 p.m., you should realistically calculate time for each step and then add _____ more minutes for unexpected delays.

VII. For some people, setting their watch just _____ minutes ahead works better than setting it 5 or 10 minutes ahead.

VIII. The author suggests committing yourself to being_____ minutes early for everything.

IX. Which 2 suggestions from the passage would help Riya the most? **(2m)**

X. Rohan keeps one clock only in his kitchen and often runs late for morning classes. Which point of the passage is he violating and why? **(2m)**

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(10 Marks)

1. Music is perhaps the most popular and widely practised form of Fine Arts, transcending all kinds of cultural and linguistic barriers. Any form of fine art is difficult to master and almost impossible to perfect, and music is no exception.

2. Nature, it is learnt, has blessed almost two-thirds of the human race with musical ability of some sort. Music has the power to bring out the deepest emotions. It can make one cry or bring a smile on one's face. In fact, it is a magic medicine and many seek refuge in it when they are depressed or stressed. It is this intimacy that makes us listen to music or even hum or sing sometimes. This singing, or realistically speaking, expressing one's emotion musically, sometimes takes a serious turn. This desire to show musical expression in public then becomes a serious business profession. And from here the musical journey begins.

3. This desire to sing before an audience is innocent and beautiful and indeed it is perfectly alright to have such a genuine desire. But it is also important to understand that singing is an intricate art—a highly refined one at that—which requires systematic, prolonged and strict training to be acceptable. This is an aspect we forget in our keen desire to reach the stage and perform. It is almost like preparing a formal meal for some specially invited guests, without even having learnt and trained in the basics of cooking. This is why we have more noise and less music nowadays.

4. These days almost everyone sings and it does not stop here. Most of us want to become professional singers. Result: a complete disregard for and ignorance of the training part, as the need is never felt to go through one and the urge to get to the stage and perform overcomes even a little desire to learn, if any. If at

all, somewhere along the way one feels the need to gain some knowledge and training, it leads to hurried shortcuts and half-hearted attempts, best described as 'Crash Courses'.

5. It is observed that those who have attained the so-called partial success, suddenly feel that they lack the required knowledge and have not learned enough. But it is too late by then. It should be understood here that the stage or a performance brings in a different mindset within the artist. It is always recommended, and rightly said, that while on stage, cover the mistakes and weaknesses, if any, and get along. But the contrary is true when it comes to acquiring knowledge and during the learning process. While under training, the student is expected to make mistakes but then rectify those mistakes under the supervision and guidance of the teacher. Therefore, it is good to make mistakes and then be corrected during the process of learning as this subsequently makes one flawless and educated. This is a different mindset. And these two mindsets discussed above (those of a performer and that of a student) cannot co-exist.

I. Why does the author say “transcending all kinds of cultural and linguistic barriers” about music?

- A. Because music can be understood by everyone regardless of language
- B. Because only trained musicians can understand it
- C. Because music is taught in schools worldwide
- D. Because music is the easiest fine art

II. What is the main reason the author gives for “more noise and less music nowadays”?

- A. Lack of good instruments
- B. People want to perform without systematic training
- C. Audiences don’t appreciate music
- D. Music is now only for professionals

III. The comparison to “preparing a formal meal without learning cooking” is used to show that:

- A. Cooking and music are the same
- B. Performing without training leads to poor results
- C. Guests prefer simple food
- D. Training is not needed for either

IV. According to the passage, who possesses some musical ability?

V. During training, a student is expected to make mistakes and then _____ them under the guidance of a teacher.

VI. The author compares performing without training to preparing a formal meal without learning the basics of _____

VII. Do you agree with the author that the performer mindset and student mindset “cannot co-exist”? Give a reason from the passage to support your view. **(2m)**

VIII. What assumption is the author making about modern audiences when he says we have “more noise and less music nowadays”? **(2m)**

SECTION B: WRITING SKILL (22 Marks)

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to conduct a cleanliness awareness campaign in your school. You are Aditya Singh, Environment Club Member. **(3 M)**

4. Write a factual description in 100–120 words of a smart library. Mention its facilities, digital resources, organisation, and benefits for readers. **(4M)**

5. Attempt any ONE of the two given below : (7 M)

A. Declining Reading Habits : With the increasing use of mobile phones and social media, students are losing interest in reading books. This has adversely affected their vocabulary, creativity, and communication skills. You are Tarun/Tiya, Write a letter to the Editor suggesting measures to revive the habit of reading among young people.

-State the problem

-Highlight the consequences

-Suggest practical solutions

-Conclude with an appeal

OR

B. Poor Condition of Government Hospitals : Government hospitals in your city suffer from overcrowding, shortage of doctors, unhygienic conditions, and lack of essential medicines. Write a letter to the Editor requesting the government to improve healthcare facilities.

-State the problem

-Highlight the consequences

-Suggest practical solutions

-Conclude with an appeal

6. Attempt any ONE of the given below: (8M)

A. A major robbery recently took place in your city, creating fear and concern among the residents. Write an article in about 120–150 words for your school magazine describing the incident, its impact on the public,

the possible reasons behind the rise in crime, and the measures that can be taken by citizens and the authorities to ensure safety. Give a suitable title.

OR

B. You recently visited the Trade Fair held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, with your friend. Write an article in about 120–150 words for your school magazine describing your experience. Include the main attractions of the fair, the different stalls and exhibits you visited, what you learned from the visit, and why such fairs are beneficial for students and the public. Give a suitable title.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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

Our school _____ (hold) a Science Exhibition next Friday. Students _____ (prepare) their projects for the last two weeks. Some _____ (make) working models, while others designed charts and presentations.

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

	Error	Correction
Last month, our class visit a historical fort near the city.	_____	_____
The guide explain the importance of the monument in detail	_____	_____
Every student were listening carefully to his explanation	_____	_____

9. Do as directed: (4m)

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

Children/ under twelve years/ should not/ take/ this medicine/ without/ medical advice.

B. Read the following conversation carefully and complete the sentences into indirect speech : (3M)

Father: Have you seen my spectacles, Jack

Jack: No, father. I haven't.

Father: Can you help me find my spectacles?

Father asked Jack _____ spectacles.

Jack replied in negative saying that _____ (seen).

Father asked Jack _____

SECTION D: LITERATURE (26 Marks)

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

I. "I wind about, and in and out,

With here a blossom sailing,

And here and there a lusty trout,

And here and there a grayling."

A. What does the phrase "wind about" suggest about the brook?

B. Name the two living things mentioned in the extract.

C. What picture of nature does the poet create?

D. Identify one poetic device used in these lines.

II. 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".

III. On the day of Saraswati Puja, my 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?

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

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

II. How does Robert Frost use the image of two roads to represent the difficult decisions people face in life?

III. Compare the determination shown by Duke and the grandmother. How do both characters inspire readers to overcome challenges?

IV. How does the song of the solitary reaper affect the poet even though he does not understand its meaning?

V. Do you think Private Quelch deserved the punishment he received? Give reasons to support your answer.

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

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

I. While one poet celebrates the beauty of a simple song, another reflects on life's decisions, and the third admires the endless journey of a stream. Which poem do you find the most relevant to modern life? Give reasons to support your answer.

OR

II. "The play reminds us that quick thinking can change an unfavourable situation into an opportunity."
Explain this statement with reference to Gaston's actions.

*****All the Best *****