



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: XI

Date: 04.09.26

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs.

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

General Instructions:

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

SECTION A READING SKILLS

(22 marks)

1. Read the passage and answer the questions

12M

Once an organ donor's family gives its consent and the organs are matched to a recipient, medical professionals are faced with the onerous challenge of transporting organs while ensuring that the harvested organ reaches its destination in the shortest possible time. This is done in order to preserve the harvested organs and involves the police and especially the traffic police department.

The traditional method of transporting organs by road is referred to as a "green corridor". This process entails police escorting an ambulance, so as to move around traffic – usually a specific traffic lane is chosen and all signals on the route stay green to ensure it to reach its destination in the shortest possible time. A 'green corridor' is a route cleared and cordoned off by the traffic police to ensure the smooth and steady transportation of harvested organs, on most occasions, to those awaiting a life-saving transplant. Organs tend to have a very short preservation time, such as the heart which has to be harvested and transplanted within four hours or the lungs which can be preserved for only six hours once they are harvested.

The first green corridor in India was created by Chennai Traffic Police in September 2008 when they accomplished their task of enabling an ambulance to reach its destination within 11 minutes during peak hour traffic. That organ saved a nine-year old girl whose life depended on the transplant.

Similarly, such green corridors have been created by traffic police of various cities such as Pune, Mumbai, and Delhi NCR etc. Personnel are stationed at selected points to divert, control and clear the traffic giving way to the ambulance. Apart from this, a motorcade of police vehicles accompanies the ambulance ensuring that it does not face any problems. Delhi Traffic Police provided a green corridor from IGI Airport to Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Vasant Kunj for transportation of a liver. The distance of 14 kms was covered in 11 minutes.

Most states do not have enough well-trained experts to retrieve or perform transplant procedures. Also, there is an acute shortage of advanced healthcare facilities to carry out a transplant. So, it is referred to other big centres in metropolitan cities. Organs retrieved from Aurangabad, Indore, Surat, Pune are sent to Mumbai as these cities do not have super-speciality healthcare centres, informed officials.

"In India, about fifty thousand to one lakh patients are suffering from acute heart failure and need heart transplant at any point of time. In a private set-up, a heart transplant costs ` 15-20 lakhs, which is followed up by postoperative medication of about ` 30,000 per month lifelong."

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

I. The onerous task the author is talking about in para 1 is:

- A. finding organ donors
- B. finding doctors capable of performing transplants
- C. to carry the harvested organ in the shortest possible time
- D. to arrange the requisite facilities for the transplant

II. Why don't most of the people go for the heart transplant?

III. Why do most states refer organ transplant cases to big hospitals?

IV. What is referred to as a 'green corridor'?

- A. Transporting organs while ensuring that the harvested organ reaches its destination.
- B. Traditional method of transporting organs by road.
- C. Preserving the harvested organs involving the traffic police department.
- D. None of the above.

V. The phrase '**cordoned off**' in the passage implies a temporary restriction. Which combination of situations best reflects its meaning?

I. Police block roads to allow an ambulance carrying a donated organ to pass.

II. Students are prevented from entering a laboratory during a chemical spill.

III. A road is decorated for a cultural parade without restricting entry.

IV. Security personnel isolate a crime scene until the investigation is completed.

Options:

A. I and III only

B. II and IV only

C. I, II and IV only

D. I, III and IV only

VI. What is **NOT TRUE** about green corridor?

- A. It is a route cleared and cordoned off by the traffic police.
- B. The first green corridor in India was created by Chennai Traffic Police.
- C. Various corridor created by traffic police are Pune, Mumbai, Delhi NCR etc.
- D. Delhi Traffic Police provided a green corridor from Chennai Airport to Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

VII. What is the major challenge for medical professionals once organs are matched to a recipient? Explain

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VIII. Why heart and liver need to be transplanted as soon as possible?

Pick the option showing the **CORRECT** use of the word 'personnel' as it is used in the passage.

- A. Only personnel who work here are permitted to go inside.
- B. She works in personnel.
- C. You are requested to send your application to the personnel department.
- D. The changed rules are not accepted by the personnel here.

IX A well-coordinated organ transport system is essential in India because

X. A patient in a city without a super-speciality transplant centre urgently requires a donated heart available in another city. Based on the passage, explain two reasons why creating a *green corridor* is essential in such a situation.

2

2. Read the given passage carefully:

10M

At least a third of the huge ice fields in Asia's towering mountain chain are doomed to melt due to climate change, according to a landmark report, with serious consequences for almost 2 billion people. Even if carbon emissions are dramatically and rapidly cut and succeed in limiting global warming to 1.5°C, 36% of the glaciers along in the Hindu Kush and Himalaya range will have gone by 2100. If emissions are not cut, the loss soars to two-thirds, the report found.

The glaciers are a critical water store for the 250 million people who live in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, and 1.65 billion people rely on the great rivers that flow from the peaks into India, Pakistan, China and other nations.

According to the new report requested by the eight nations, the mountains span is intended to change. More than 200 scientists worked on the report over five years, with another 125 experts peer reviewing their work. Until recently the impact of climate change on the ice in the HKH region was uncertain, said Wester. "But we really do know that it's time to take action, and action is urgently needed," he added. The HKH region runs from Afghanistan to Myanmar and is the planet's "third pole", harbouring more ice than anywhere outside Arctic and Antarctica. Limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires cutting emissions to zero by 2050. If the global rise is 2°C, half of the glaciers are projected to melt away by 2100.

The melting glaciers will increase river flows through to 2050 to 2060, he said, pushing up the risk of high- altitude lakes bursting their banks and engulfing communities. But from the 2060s, river flows will go into decline. The Indus and central Asian rivers will be most affected. "Those areas will be hard hit," said Wester. Lower flows will cut the power from the hydro dams that generate much of the region's electricity. But the most serious impact will be on farmers in the foothills and downstream. They rely on predictable water supplies to grow the crops that feed the nations in the mountains' shadows. But the changes appear to be causing the pre-monsoon river flow to fall just when farmers are planting their crops. Worse, said Wester, the monsoon is also becoming more erratic and prone to extreme downpours. "One-in- 100 year floods are starting to happen every 50 years," he said.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

I. By how much percentage will the glaciers have gone in the Hindu Kush and Himalaya range by 2100?

- A. 32 % B. 34 % C. 36% D . 38%

II. Pick the option that lists the statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

- I. Even if global warming is limited to **1.5°C**, all the glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region will be preserved.
II. Around **1.65 billion people** depend on rivers originating from the Hindu Kush Himalaya.
III. If carbon emissions are not reduced, **about two-thirds** of the glaciers could disappear by 2100.
IV. The Hindu Kush Himalaya is often referred to as the planet's "**third pole**" because it contains more ice than anywhere outside the Arctic and Antarctica.

- A. I only B. I and II
C. II and III D. III and IV

III. The HKH region runs from _____ and is the planet's "third pole".

IV. For how many people living in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region, the glaciers are a critical water store?

V. Based on the given graphical representation of the data in the passage, choose the option that lists the statement that is **TRUE** with respect to the slashing of emissions.

- A. If carbon emissions are slashed rapidly, there will be 2.1° C rise in temperature in mountains.
B. If carbon emissions are not cut half the ice would be lost.

- C. If carbon emissions are slashed surface global warming would rise by 4.5°C.
D. If surface global warming is increased by 5.5°C then only 1/3rd of ice will be lost.
- VI.** Which word in para 3 has the same meaning as ‘bearing’?
- VII.** Based on the reading of the text, list any TWO effects of melting glaciers after 2060. (2)
- VIII.** Identify the tone of the passage (Analytical & Cautionary/ Optimistic & Celebratory/ Satirical & Critical)

SECTION B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.

A You are the Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association of Green Valley Apartments. One of the residents is relocating abroad and wishes to sell his/her flat. Draft a notice to be displayed on the society notice board informing interested buyers about the availability of the flat. 4

OR

B Venezia Charity Community has planned to conduct a drive to collect old and preloved books and magazines. As the director of the charity community, draft a notice in not more than 50 words to inform the residents of your Housing Society about the date and area of collection. Furnish necessary details also.

4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.

A. You are hosting a success party of your directorial debut documentary film “The Barren Land” on 15th September 2026. Prepare an invitation to invite all your childhood friends. Give necessary details also. Write in a box. 4

OR

B. You are the CCA Co-ordinator of G.D. Public School, Jammu. Write an invitation to Dr Stanzin, a certified art therapist from Leh to conduct a seminar for students on ‘Art Therapy the Way Forward’ to introduce them to the utility of art in dealing with personal and social problems. Give necessary details of date, time and venue.

5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words

A. You are Shobana/Shabeer, residing in Prestige apartments, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru. You are concerned about the garbage collection in your locality as it is done without proper segregation. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily in about 120-150 words explaining your concern along with the rationale behind the importance of garbage segregation. Suggests ways in which the Residents welfare association (RWA) can participate in this programme. 5

OR

B. You have observed that differently abled persons do not get adequate opportunities and facilities from people or the authorities with regard to their participation in the workforce. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the Editor of “The Times of India” in 120-150 words explaining the measures that should be initiated to provide necessary assistance to make their life meaningful and productive. You are Royston/Karen.

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words

A. You are Ravi/Rajani, a class XII student. Write an article for a youth magazine on selfie safety, advising youngsters to be more cautious and careful. Use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the article. **5**

- Don't pose near moving trains or other moving vehicles
- Don't pose with wild animals
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Keep away from stairs, drop-offs
- Casual posting of selfies-poses a threat

OR

B. Choice of course after clearing Senior School Examination produces a great deal of stress on the minds of our students. Counselling can be of great help to them. Write an article in 120-150 words on the topic "Role of counselling in choice of course" You are Motilal/ Manav. Use the following clues.

Clues

- deciding a career goal important
- discover their potential and interests
- the pressure starts building up- at the threshold
- counselling can help-decide your career based on your aptitude, skills, interests, performance and personality
- strengths and weaknesses
- Counsellor identifies that unique quality and guides informed choice.
- Even in the future, counselling helps in setting goals and gives directions to life

SECTION C

LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: -

1x6=6

A. Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings

She launches away, towards the infinite

And the laburnum subsides to empty. (*Laburnum Top*)

I. Which poetic device is used in the first line of the extract?

- a. Metaphor b. Simile c. Personification d. Alliteration

II. Why does the poet describe the bird's departure as "towards the infinite" instead of simply saying that it flew away?

III. What is the condition of the tree when the bird flies away?

IV. The tree appears animated because _____.

V. "*And the laburnum subsides to empty.*" What does the word "empty" convey in this context?

VI. If the goldfinch had not returned to the tree, how would the central idea of the poem be affected? Justify your answer in one sentence.

OR

B. "The mummy is in very bad condition because of what Carter did in the 1920s," said Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

(*Discovering of the Tut: The Saga Continues...*)

I. What inference can be drawn about Howard Carter's handling of the mummy?

- a. He followed modern scientific methods
- b. He treated the mummy with great respect
- c. He caused damage due to lack of care.
- d. He preserved the mummy perfectly.

II. Why does Zahi Hawass criticise Carter's actions?

- a. Carter stole the treasures
- b. Carter ignored ancient rules
- c. Carter's methods harmed the mummy
- d. Carter delayed the discovery

III. How does this statement reflect the change in archaeological practices over time?

IV. Which central theme of the chapter is reflected in Zahi Hawass's statement?

V. Zahi Hawass believes that the poor condition of Tut's mummy is mainly the result of:

- a. natural ageing over centuries
- b. Carter's excavation methods in the 1920s
- c. environmental pollution
- d. repeated CT scans

VI. What value should modern archaeologists learn from the condition of Tut's mummy?

8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (4x1=4)

A. Mrs. Fitzgerald: [impressively] Now you listen to me. You admitted yourself you were spoiling 'em and they didn't appreciate you. Any apologies any explanations-and you'll be straight back where you were. I'm warning you, dear. Just give 'em a look-a tone of voice-now an again, to suggest you might be tough with 'em if you wanted to be-an' it ought to work Anyhow, we can test it. (*Mother's Day*)

I. About whom was Mrs Fitzgerald talking?

- a. Mr Pearson
- b. Doris
- c. Cyril
- d. All of them

II. How was the listener spoiling them?

- a. by bearing their maltreatment.
- b. by standing up for his/her rights
- c. by not treating them like the boss of the family
- d. none of the above

III. What way had been suggested by Mrs Fitzgerald to the listener to set the family right?

IV. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below:

Statement 1: Mrs. Pearson was spoiling her family.

Statement 2: Mrs. Fitzgerald's suggestion helped her to handle her family.

- a. Statement 1 is true but statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 1 is false but statement 2 is true.
- c. Both statement 1 and 2 cannot be inferred.
- d. Both statement 1 and 2 can be inferred.

OR

B. There in the good old days when I was nine and my cousin Mourad was twelve, we were still living in poverty. Infact, we were so poor that we could not afford to buy the horse. The whole tribe was poverty-stricken, but honest. (*Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*)

I. What contrast does the author highlight in the extract?

- a. wealth and power
- b. wealth and dishonesty
- c. poverty and honesty
- d. Childhood and adulthood

II. Why is the statement "we could not afford to buy a horse" important in the context of the story?

- a. It shows the boy's carelessness
- b. It explains the tribe's occupation
- c. It sets up the central conflict of the story
- d. It highlights the tribe's dislike for horses

III. What does the author's tone in the extract reveal about his attitude towards his community?

IV. Which act of Mourad can be considered the act of moral insensitivity in the chapter?

9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (1x6=6)

A. "By morning on January 3, the pumps had the water level sufficiently under control for us to take two hours' rest in rotation. But we still had a tremendous leak somewhere below the waterline and, on checking, I found that nearly all the boat's main rib frames were smashed down to the keel. In fact, there was nothing holding up a whole section of the starboard hull except a few cupboard partitions. We had survived for 15 hours since the wave hit, but Wavewalker wouldn't hold together long enough for us to reach Australia." *(We're not afraid to die ...if we're all together...)*

I. The narrator allowed the crew to rest in rotation because he understood that survival depended on

- A. waiting for rescue.
- B. abandoning the boat immediately.
- C. sailing faster towards Australia.
- D. balancing physical endurance with continuous repair work.

II. Which discovery made the narrator realise that Wavewalker was still in grave danger despite controlling the water level?

III. Complete the statement.

The extract highlights that true courage is demonstrated when _____.

IV. Why does the author describe the damaged rib frames and hull in such detail? (Answer in one sentence.)

V. What quality of the narrator is reflected when he continues repairing the boat despite believing it may not reach Australia?

VI. What can be inferred about the narrator's leadership from this extract? *(Answer in one sentence.)*

OR

B. I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset, she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the verandah breaking the bread into little bits, hundreds of little birds collected round her creating a veritable bedlam of chirruping. *(The portrait of a lady)*

I. What can be inferred about the grandmother's personality from her acceptance of seclusion?

II. Complete the statement.

The grandmother spent her afternoons _____.

III. What does the word "seclusion" mean in the given context?

IV. Why does the narrator say that "the common link of friendship was snapped"?

V. Which literary device is used in the phrase "a veritable bedlam of chirrupings"?

VI. If you were in the narrator's place, what could you have done to strengthen the "common link of friendship" with your grandmother?

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each: (5x2=10)

I. What does the grandmother's dislike for western education suggest about her beliefs? *(Portrait of a lady)*

II. Things that are hard to bear are sweet to remember. In the light of this statement, express your feelings about the pain one goes through after losing a dear one. *(Photograph)*

III. What changes did king Tut bring out during his reign? *(Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)*

IV. "That was the turning point in our friendship." What was the turning point? *(Portrait of a lady)*

V. What is the significance of 'Yellow' in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'? *(The Laburnum Top)*

VI. How did the narrator hurt himself on January 2? *(We're not afraid to die...if we're all together...)*

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 -50 words each: (2x2=4)

I. When the narrator revisits Mrs. Dorling, how do the household objects act as a symbol of memory and loss? *(The Address)*

II. “A man could be the father of his son’s flesh but that did not mean that he was the father of his spirit.” Do you agree with this statement? Why/Why not? *(Summer of a beautiful white Horse)*

III. What was Doris and Cyril’s reaction to Mrs. Annie Pearson’s query about ‘stout’? *(Mother’s Day)*

12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (1x5=5)

A. Both chapters 'The Portrait of a Lady' and 'A Photograph' explore the theme of recollections of memories of their loved ones. With reference to these chapters, describe the commonality between the main Idea and characters.

OR

B. What do you understand by the statement, “Archaeology has changed substantially...” Discuss with reference to the chapter ‘Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues.’ What do you learn from modern technology? *(Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)*

13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (1x5=5)

A. Can stealing be justified for any reason? Discuss Aram and Mourad’s stealing of a horse in the light of this statement? *(Summer of a beautiful white Horse)*

OR

B. The play ‘Mother’s Day’ is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the woman in a family. Bring out briefly the elements of humour and satire. *(Mother’s Day)*

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