



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE - Code No. 101

TERM 1 EXAMINATION (2026-27)

CLASS - X

SET B

Class: X

Date: 09.09.26

Admission no:

Time: 3hr

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

General Instructions

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- This question paper contains four sections:
 - Section A: Reading Skills
 - Section B: Writing Skills
 - Section C: Grammar
 - Section D: Literature
- Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof on your answer sheet.
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

1 Every night, thousands of satellites and an even larger number of discarded rocket parts and fragments circle silently above our heads, travelling at speeds fast enough to circle the Earth in ninety minutes. Space agencies now track more than thirty thousand objects large enough to cause serious damage, and millions of smaller fragments too tiny to monitor but still capable of piercing a spacecraft at orbital speed. Scientists call this growing cloud of debris a quiet but urgent problem, one that could eventually make certain orbits too dangerous to use at all.

2 Much of this debris comes from decades of launches, discarded satellites, and the occasional collision or explosion in orbit. A single event, such as a satellite breaking apart after a crash, can scatter thousands of new fragments, each one becoming a fresh hazard for every other object sharing that orbit. 'Every collision creates more debris, and more debris means a higher chance of further collisions,' explains orbital-safety researcher Priya Nair, who studies this chain reaction, sometimes called the Kessler syndrome, at a space research institute. Left unchecked, she warns, certain crowded orbits could become unusable within a matter of decades.

3 The risks are not merely theoretical. The International Space Station regularly performs small manoeuvres to dodge fragments predicted to pass dangerously close, and astronauts have on occasion been asked to shelter in escape capsules as a precaution. Commercial satellite operators, too, must now factor in the rising cost of collision-avoidance manoeuvres and insurance, expenses that were barely a consideration only twenty years ago.

4 Encouragingly, engineers and policymakers are beginning to respond. Newer satellites are increasingly designed to burn up safely in the atmosphere at the end of their working lives, rather than lingering in orbit indefinitely. Several companies are testing methods to capture and remove old debris directly, using nets, harpoons or robotic arms, though none of these solutions has yet been proven at a large scale. International guidelines now recommend that satellites be removed from busy orbits within twenty-five years of the end of their mission, though compliance remains inconsistent.

5 For Nair, the challenge is as much about cooperation as it is about engineering. 'Space does not belong to any single country or company, and neither does the debris we leave behind,' she says. 'If we want future generations to keep using space safely, we need shared rules, not just clever technology.' As more nations and private companies launch satellites each year, the question of who is responsible for cleaning up the resulting mess is likely to become one of the defining challenges of space exploration in the coming decades.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Why do scientists consider growing space debris a 'quiet but urgent problem'? (Paragraph 1) 1

- a) Because it is invisible to space agencies and cannot be tracked at all.
- b) Because it receives little public attention despite posing a serious and worsening risk.
- c) Because it only affects a small number of satellites currently in orbit.
- d) Because it will resolve itself naturally over time without any intervention.

II. Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

In the line 'Left unchecked, she warns, certain crowded orbits could become unusable', the phrase 'left unchecked' indicates ____ (a certainty that has already occurred / a warning about a possible future consequence if no action is taken / a suggestion that the problem is exaggerated). (Paragraph 2) 1

III. Give two reasons why a single collision in orbit can make the debris problem significantly worse. Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 2) 2

IV. What does the writer mean by describing collision-avoidance costs as 'expenses that were barely a consideration only twenty years ago'? (Paragraph 3) 1

- a) These costs have become a significant and newly important concern for satellite operators.
- b) Such costs did not exist at all until recently.
- c) Satellite operators still do not consider these costs important.
- d) These expenses are expected to disappear in the future.

V. Complete the following with the appropriate option.

The phrase 'burn up safely in the atmosphere' brings up the imagery of _____. (Paragraph 4) 1

- a) satellites exploding dangerously in orbit.
- b) old satellites being deliberately guided to a controlled, harmless disintegration.
- c) satellites being permanently stored in space.
- d) debris being launched further away from Earth.

VI. What would be the most suitable title for paragraph 4? 1

- a) Early Efforts to Manage and Reduce Orbital Debris
- b) The Rising Cost of Space Exploration
- c) Why Satellites Should Never Be Launched Again
- d) The History of International Space Law

VII. Which phrase from paragraph 3 bears evidence to the fact that debris poses a real, practical danger to human life in space? 1

VIII. Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. 2

Paragraph 5 includes a ____ (statistic / appeal for international cooperation / description of a technology) by Priya Nair.

IX. Why does the writer say the question of responsibility for space debris is 'likely to become one of the defining challenges of space exploration'? Answer in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 5) 2

2. Read the following passage carefully: 10

EXHIBITION 12 - 13 Nov
YOUNG INVENTORS' FAIR - 2025

The Young Inventors' Fair is a state-level exhibition held every November where school students showcase original working models addressing everyday problems, from low-cost water filters to solar-powered charging stations. Over 4,500 students from more than 300 schools registered last year, and a panel of engineers and scientists judges the models on originality, usefulness and craftsmanship. The top three entries receive funding to develop their prototypes further with mentorship from a local engineering college.

TALK SERIES 2 - 3 Dec
NIGHT SKY LECTURE SERIES - 2025

Organised at the Regional Science Centre, this two-day lecture series invites astronomers to speak with the public about recent discoveries in space science, followed by guided telescope viewing after dark, weather permitting. Now in its sixth year, the series has grown from a single evening talk to a full weekend event attracting over 2,000 visitors, including many families with young children. Free telescope-viewing slots must be booked in advance due to high demand.

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above information.

I. Why might the tag 'Young Minds Solving Real Problems' be more suitable for the Young Inventors' Fair than 'A Celebration of School Talent'? 2

II. Complete the following with the correct option.
The Night Sky Lecture Series is held _____. 1

- a) every alternate year
- b) twice a year
- c) once in five years
- d) annually

III. State which of the following is True. 1

- a) The Night Sky Lecture Series began as a full weekend event and has since shrunk to a single evening.
- b) The Night Sky Lecture Series began as a single evening talk and has since grown into a full weekend event.
- c) The Night Sky Lecture Series does not include any telescope viewing.

IV. What does the writer wish to convey by stating that over 4,500 students from more than 300 schools registered for the fair last year? 1

V. What might be the most likely reason the top three entries at the fair receive mentorship from an engineering college? 1

- a) To help the students develop their prototypes into more refined, usable products.
- b) To ensure the college receives credit for the students' work.
- c) To reduce the number of entries in future years.
- d) Because the rules require every entry to be mentored.

VI. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from those given in the brackets.
Telescope-viewing slots must be booked in advance most likely to ____ (limit how many people attend the fair / manage high demand and ensure an orderly experience for visitors). 1

- VII.** If the inventors' fair focuses on practical problem-solving, what does the lecture series most likely focus on? 1
- a) Building working models for competitions.
 - b) Encouraging public curiosity and engagement with scientific discovery.
 - c) Training students for engineering entrance exams.
 - d) Promoting tourism in the region.

- VIII.** What might be the most likely reason the fair is judged by a panel while the lecture series simply invites the public to attend? 2

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

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

- 3.** Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to organise a book donation drive in the school library during the coming week. You are Ishita Verma, Class X-A, President, Literary Club. 3

- 4.** Write a factual description of your school's science laboratory in not more than 100 words, highlighting its key features and equipment. 4

- 5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 words** 7

A. Many schools in smaller towns still lack trained sports coaches and proper playing fields, leaving talented young athletes with little opportunity to develop their skills beyond occasional inter-school matches.

As Arjun Deshmukh, 27 Station Road, Nashik, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting this lack of sports infrastructure in schools, its effects on students, and suggesting practical measures to address it.

OR

B. Several historic monuments in smaller Indian towns remain poorly maintained and largely unknown to tourists, despite holding great architectural and cultural value, gradually falling into disrepair due to neglect.

As Meher Kaur of 8, Model Town, Amritsar, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the neglect of lesser-known historic monuments and suggesting measures to protect and promote them.

- 6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 150 words** 8

A. Imagine you are Ryan D'Souza of class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic 'Building Healthy Habits Beyond the Classroom', discussing the importance of balanced nutrition, regular physical activity and adequate sleep for students.

OR

B. You are Naina Kapoor, class X. Write an article on the topic 'Should Homework Be Reduced in the Digital Age?', discussing whether traditional homework is still necessary given the availability of digital learning tools, weighing its benefits against concerns about student stress and screen time.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 marks)

- 7. Fill in the blanks (i) - (iii) with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. 3x1=3**

Solar energy is quickly (i) _____ (become / becoming / became) one of India's most reliable power sources in rural areas. Farmers in many states say that (ii) _____ (a / an / the) solar pump installed on their land has reduced diesel costs sharply. Over the past decade, thousands of villages (iii) _____ (has switched / have switched / switches) to solar-powered irrigation.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheet, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word after it, as shown in the example. 4

S.No.	Text	Word Before	Omission	Word After
e.g.	The children were waiting for the school bus.	waiting	for	the
i	Reading books regularly helps students improve vocabulary communication skills.			
ii	Teachers encourage every student participate actively in discussions.			
iii	The library provides wide range of books for all age groups.			
iv	Many students now prefer reading the evening after finishing homework.			

9. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct question number in your answer sheet. Remember to underline the correction. One has been done as an example. (3 × 1 = 3)

S. No.	Line as printed	Error	Correction
(a)	Good reading habits improves vocabulary and language skills.	improves	improve
(b)	A well-stocked library provide students an opportunity to explore new ideas.	_____	_____
(c)	Many children are interested on science and technology from an early age.	_____	_____
(d)	Teachers should encourage students to complete his work independently.	_____	_____

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

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

A. "A snake came to my water-trough
On a hot, hot day, and I in pyjamas for the heat,
To drink there."
(Snake)

- I. What does the detail 'in pyjamas for the heat' suggest about the setting and time of day? 1
- II. Why might the poet emphasise that the snake came 'to drink' rather than for any other reason? 1
- III. What is suggested by the poet noticing and describing the snake's arrival in such careful detail? 1
- IV. What mood does the opening of the poem create for the reader? 1

B. "It was Mrs Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger."
(Mrs Packletide's Tiger)

- I. What does the phrase 'pleasure and intention' suggest about Mrs Packletide's motives? 1

- II.** What does the deliberate, formal tone of this opening line suggest about how the narrator views Mrs Packletide? **1**
- III.** Why might the writer choose to reveal Mrs Packletide's goal so directly in the very first line? **1**
- IV.** What does this opening line prepare the reader to expect about the story's tone? **1**

C. MRS. JORDAN: What bureau was that, Father?

ABEL: Why, my bureau — the one I bought —

MRS. JORDAN: (pointing to the bureau) Was it that one, Father?

ABEL: Ah, that's it. What's it doing here? Eh?

(A pause. The clock on the mantelpiece strikes six. Everyone looks at it.)

Drat me if that isn't my clock too! What the devil's been going on in this house?

(The Dear Departed)

- I.** What does Abel's confusion on seeing his own bureau and clock in this room suggest about the situation? **1**
- II.** What is ironic about Mrs Jordan pointing out the bureau to her own father? **1**
- III.** How does the clock striking six at this exact moment add to the comic timing of the scene? **1**
- IV.** What does this extract suggest about how quickly the family acted after believing Abel had died? **1**

11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30-40 words each. 5x2=10

- I.** How does the narrator's growing respect for Nicola and Jacopo in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' challenge his initial assumptions about them?
- II.** Explain briefly how self-deception drives Mrs Packletide's actions throughout 'Mrs Packletide's Tiger'.
- III.** How does the postmaster's decision at the end of 'The Letter' reflect a change in his character?
- IV.** What role does mistaken identity play in creating humour in 'A Shady Plot'?
- V.** How does 'Virtually True' use its central character's discovery to raise questions about trust in a digital world?
- VI.** What does the frog's manipulation of the nightingale reveal about the theme of exploitation in 'The Frog and the Nightingale'?

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8=8

- I.** Both 'Ozymandias' and 'The Frog and the Nightingale' explore how pride and self-importance eventually lead to downfall. Compare how the two poems use their central characters to convey this theme.

OR

- II.** Compare how humour is used as a narrative device in 'A Shady Plot' and 'Patol Babu, Film Star' to comment on human vanity and self-importance.

The End of the Question Paper