



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

ANNUAL EXAMINATION- 2026

Painting (049) Set-B

Class: XI

Date: / 01/ 2026

Admission no:

Time: 1hrs

Max Marks: 30

Roll no:

General Instructions:

- (i) The question paper has 15 questions in all.
- (ii) All questions are compulsory

Section-A

- Q1. The world famous gesture of Lord Shiva in the Nataraja Sculpture, his hand posture are? (1)**
a. Abhayahasta b. Dolahasta c. Damruhast d. All of these
- Q2. The history of Indian Bronze sculpture goes back to the Indus Valley Civilization where the archaeologist found- (1)**
a. Dancing Girl b. Chariot c. Bull d. All of these
- Q3. Many remarkable bronze sculptures have been casted in South India like Nataraja and Devi Uma ? (1)**
a. Wife of Shiva b. Wife of Vishnu c. Wife of Raj-Raja first d. None of these
- Q4. Gol Gumbaz or Gumbad is the mausoleum of- (1)**
a. Muhammad Adil Shah b. Sahjahan c. Qu tub-ud-din Aibak d. Iltutmish
- Q5. Where is located Gol Gumbad?- (1)**
a. Delhi b. Mumbai c. Hyderabad d. Karnataka
- Q6. In which dynasty two school of art named Gandhar School and Mathura school was developed (1)**
a. Mouryan dynasty b. Shunga Dynasty c. Gupta Dynasty d. Kushana Dynasty
- Q7. What is the Primary colour? (1)**
a. Green b. Blue c. White d. Orange
- Q8. Which of the following is a Visual art? (1)**
a. Music b. Dance c. Painting d. Poetry

Section-B

- Q9. Where is Ajanta located? How many caves are there Give the brief description of them. (2)**
Ans. Ajanta consists of 30 rock-cut Buddhist caves (2nd century BCE–6th century CE), famous for their wall paintings and sculptures depicting the life of Buddha and Jataka tales. They served as monasteries and prayer halls and are masterpieces of ancient Indian art.
- Q10. Explain the sculpture Ravana shaking Mount Kailash. (2)**

ANS. The relief shows Ravana trying to lift Mount Kailash, the divine home of Lord Shiva. Ravana is carved beneath the mountain, using his many arms to shake it, while Shiva calmly presses it down with his toe—symbolizing divine power over ego and pride.

The sculpture beautifully expresses movement, strength, emotion, and balance, and is considered a masterpiece of Indian rock-cut art.

Q11. Write the short note of Nataraja sculpture?

(2)

ANS. The **Nataraja** sculpture represents Lord Shiva as the **Cosmic Dancer**, symbolizing the **cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction**. In this form, Shiva dances within a **ring of fire**, showing the universe in motion. One foot crushes the dwarf demon (Apasmara), which stands for **ignorance**, while the raised foot gives **liberation**. The four arms express balance—one hand shows protection (abhaya mudra), another holds fire (destruction), and another holds a drum (creation). The Nataraja image is especially famous in South Indian bronze art and is closely associated with the temple traditions of **Chidambaram Temple**. It is admired for its **perfect balance, graceful movement, and deep spiritual meaning**.

Q12. Explain the main feature of Qutub Minar?

(2)

ANS. • It is a **73-metre tall victory tower** made mainly of **red sandstone and marble**.

• The minar has **five storeys**, each marked by a **projecting balcony**.

• Its surface is richly decorated with **Arabic calligraphy and geometric designs**.

• The tower **tapers upward**, giving it an elegant, soaring look.

• Built in the early Delhi Sultanate period, it shows a fine blend of **Islamic and Indian architectural style**

Q13. Write the short note of Taj Mahal.

(2)

ANS. e. The Taj Mahal is a magnificent white-marble mausoleum located in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It was built by Mughal emperor **Shah Jahan** in memory of his wife **Mumtaz Mahal**. Constructed in the 17th century, the Taj Mahal is famous for its **perfect symmetry, large central dome, slender minarets, and delicate marble inlay work** with floral designs and calligraphy. It stands on the banks of the Yamuna River and is considered a **symbol of eternal love**. The monument is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture and is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Section-C

Q14. Describe the Mara Vijay sculpture.

(6)

ANS. The **Mara Vijay (Victory over Mara)** sculpture is an important Buddhist relief found at the **Ajanta Caves**.

This sculpture represents the moment when **Gautama Buddha** attains enlightenment while being tempted and attacked by **Mara**, the personification of evil and desire.

Buddha is shown seated calmly in meditation, touching the earth with his right hand (Bhumisparsha Mudra), calling the Earth as witness to his victory. Around him, Mara and his army appear in violent and restless movements, trying to disturb Buddha with fear and temptation. In contrast, Buddha's peaceful posture and serene expression symbolize inner strength, wisdom, and self-control. Artistically, the

sculpture shows excellent **composition, dramatic contrast, expressive figure rhythmic movement** .The central calm figure of Buddha balances the chaotic surrounding forms, creating powerful visual impact.

Q15.Explain the compositional arrangement of the Gol Gumbad

(6)

ANS. • Square Plan with Central Dome

The building is laid out on a **large square platform**, crowned by a **huge hemispherical dome** placed exactly at the center, creating a strong sense of balance and unity.

• Four Corner Minarets

Each corner has a tall octagonal **minaret**, visually anchoring the structure and framing the central dome. These minarets provide vertical emphasis against the wide horizontal base.

• Single Vast Interior Hall

Inside is one enormous hall without pillars, covered by the dome. This open space enhances the monumentality and creates dramatic spatial impact.

• Whispering Gallery

A circular gallery runs inside the dome. Sound travels clearly across it, showing both **architectural planning and acoustic understanding**.

• Plain Exterior, Powerful Massing

The exterior is simple, with minimal decoration, relying on **solid forms, proportions, and symmetry** for visual strength rather than ornament.

• Strong Centralization

All architectural elements—walls, minarets, and openings—lead the eye toward the **dominant central dome**, giving the structure a calm yet powerful composition.

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