



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

ANNUAL EXAMINATION - 2025-26

ENGLISH

MARKING SCHEME – SET 1

Class: IX

Date: 23.02.26

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 (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

10

### 1. The Silent Strength: Understanding the Lives of Invisible Hands

#### A. Multiple Choice Questions

- i. b) They are treated as background figures and lack recognition despite their essential contributions
- ii. d) Because the tragedy lies in lack of human recognition, not just economic hardship
- iii. c) Customer psychology, household management, structural knowledge—skills undervalued due to societal hierarchies
- iv. b) Lack of education, limited access to skill programmes, and occupational discrimination
- v. d) Dignity-focused initiatives including fair wages, safety standards, and recognition programmes in some cities

#### B. Short Answer Questions (15–20 words each)

- i. Ramesh's routine shows his dedication, discipline, and commitment as he works daily before dawn, regardless of conditions.
- ii. The passage shows that beyond poverty, the real issue is society's failure to acknowledge workers' dignity and humanity.
- iii. The pandemic revealed that invisible workers lacked safety nets, insurance, and support during sudden loss of income.
- iv. A civilised society is measured by how it treats and values those who build and maintain it.
- v. Fair wages and workplace safety standards are two dignity-focused initiatives mentioned in the passage.

### 2. The Boy Who Refused to Forget

#### A. Multiple Choice Questions

- i. b) He was afraid that elderly people's stories and knowledge would disappear when they passed away
- ii. c) They gradually opened up and began to feel valued and important
- iii. b) He thought it was impractical and felt students should focus on textbooks instead
- iv. c) Traditional knowledge, skills, and stories were more valuable than material wealth
- v. c) Progress should include respecting and preserving the knowledge and stories of previous generations

**B. Short Answer Questions (15–20 words each)**

- i. Arjun feared that valuable stories, traditions, and wisdom of elders would be lost forever after their death.
- ii. His persistence inspired other students to recognise and value their village's cultural and historical richness.
- iii. Villagers shared traditional recipes and forgotten irrigation techniques with Arjun through the Memory Archive.
- iv. Elders felt invisible because modern society ignored their experiences, wisdom, and contributions.
- v. The greatest knowledge is found in the hearts and minds of experienced elders, not just in books.

**SECTION B WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)**

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

**3. Formal Application (≤ 50 words) – 4 Marks**

To  
The Principal  
XYZ School

Subject: Permission to use school facilities for Zero Waste Week

Respected Madam,

I request permission to use the playground, science labs, and art rooms from 15th–17th February for Zero Waste Week. The event will host workshops for 120 students from five neighbouring schools.

Yours sincerely,

Priya Sharma

Class X-B

Head, Green Brigade Club

#### **4. Factual Description (≤ 100 words) – 5 Marks**

Our community transformed an abandoned playground into a Community Skill Garden to promote sustainability and skill development. Local youth learn organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and composting through practical sessions. These activities are guided by local farmers and retired agricultural experts, ensuring hands-on learning and knowledge transfer. The garden has improved green cover, encouraged environmental responsibility, and created a shared learning space. It now serves as a model for community participation, skill-building, and sustainable living.

#### **5. Letter to the Editor (≤ 120 words) – 7 Marks**

##### **Option A: The Hindu**

Green Valley Apartments

Bengaluru

To

The Editor

The Hindu

Subject: Need for safe play spaces for children

Sir/Madam,

Urban apartments increasingly lack safe green spaces, forcing children indoors or onto unsafe roads. This has led to rising screen addiction, obesity, anxiety, and poor motor development. Parks and play areas are not luxuries but essential urban infrastructure. Resident Welfare Associations and municipal bodies must collaborate to convert unused land into safe play zones and maintain existing parks. Healthy children need open spaces to grow physically and mentally. Immediate action is necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Aarav Patel (16)

**OR**

##### **Option B: Deccan Chronicle**

Lakeview Colony

Hyderabad

To

The Editor

Deccan Chronicle

Subject: Plastic pollution despite bans

Sir/Madam,

Despite plastic bans, single-use plastics continue to clog drains, causing floods and health risks during monsoons. Water bodies and wildlife suffer, while public hygiene declines. Community-level solutions like cloth bags, steel containers, and bulk purchasing must be promoted. Local bodies should conduct plastic audits and reward zero-plastic households. Environmental responsibility begins at home, and urgent collective action is needed.

Yours sincerely,

Kavya Reddy (16)

## **6. Article ( $\leq$ 150 words) – 8 Marks**

### **Option A: School Magazine Article**

Lighting Dreams: How Solar Energy is Transforming Slum Education

In many slum communities, lack of electricity forces children to stop studying after sunset. Our school's initiative to create Solar Study Rooms has removed this darkness barrier. Powered by solar panels, these rooms provide lights, fans, and charging points, enabling uninterrupted evening study. First-generation learners now prepare confidently for exams, and attendance has improved. However, scaling these rooms requires funding, maintenance, and student volunteers for mentoring. This project supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 7 (Clean Energy), proving that sustainable solutions can light both homes and dreams.

**OR**

### **Option B: Community Newsletter Article**

**Generations Connected: Rediscovering Wisdom in Grandparents' Stories**

The gap between digital-native youth and traditional wisdom holders is widening. Our Grandparents' Wisdom Circles bridge this divide through weekly gatherings where elders share storytelling, herbal remedies, financial wisdom, and conflict resolution skills. These lessons remain highly relevant today,

promoting emotional intelligence and practical living. Elders feel valued and less lonely, while teenagers develop a rooted identity and respect for experience. The initiative breaks age stereotypes and builds strong intergenerational bonds. It also preserves community knowledge sustainably, supporting intergenerational equity and lifelong learning.

### SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)

**7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in brackets. (3×1=3 marks)**

- (i) winning
- (ii) depends
- (iii) have introduced

**8. Error Correction (1 × 4 = 4 marks)**

Error	Correction
(a) at	in
(b) who	which
(c) offer	offers
(d) from	for

**9. Do as directed (1 + 2 = 3 marks)**

I. Rearranging the sentence (1 mark)

Our village is famous for its rich agricultural heritage and traditional crafts, and we take pride in preserving folk dances.

II. Reporting the dialogue (2 marks)

- (i) if he had seen the community garden blooming that morning
- (ii) that the sunflowers were taller

### 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.**

- i) Ans. B. I-d, II-a, III-b
- ii) Ans. D. 1, 2 and 5
- iii) Ans. D. sarcastic.
- iv) Ans. C. jitters-confidence-apprehension-delight

**B.**

**1. Why does the speaker mention telling the story “with a sigh”?**

Ans. The sigh suggests a complex mix of emotions, potentially indicating a blend of nostalgia, reflection, and perhaps a touch of regret about the chosen path.

**2. What does the phrase “Somewhere ages and ages hence” suggest about the timeline of the speaker’s storytelling?**

Ans. It suggests that the speaker will reflect on the decision for a significant period, emphasizing the enduring impact of choices.

**3. How does the speaker describe the road chosen?**

Ans. The speaker took the road less traveled by, emphasizing the uniqueness and individuality of the chosen path.

**4. What is the significance of the phrase “that has made all the difference”?**

Ans. The phrase suggests that the choice of the less-traveled road has had a profound and transformative impact on the speaker’s life.

C.

**1. What opportunity does the maid present to Juliette?**

Ans. b) A job that pays eight hundred francs for eight days

**2. Why does Juliette express gratitude that she’s not quite so hard up?**

Ans. Though she wanted to sell the villa she was not in a desperate need to earn money.

**3. What would Juliette need to do to earn the mentioned amount?**

Ans. Juliette would need to peel potatoes for one minute and make an omelette the next to earn the suggested amount.

**4. How does Juliette respond to the maid’s suggestion?**

Ans. Juliette responds by expressing gratitude but states that she’s not in a financial situation that desperate.

**11. Answer the following six questions in about 30–40 words each. (2 × 6 = 12 marks)**

**i. Why was the grandmother in tears?**

Ans. – Grandma cried due to her feelings of dependence and embarrassment about being uneducated. She lamented the societal disregard for girls’ education during her time and regretted not going to school.

**ii. Why do you think Charles Hooper’s appointment as Assistant National Sales Manager is considered to be a tribute to Duke?**

Ans. Charles Hooper’s appointment as Assistant National Sales Manager is a tribute to Duke because it acknowledges the dog’s vital role in Hooper’s recovery, highlights the positive influence Duke had on his life, and serves as a symbol of the powerful bond they shared.

**iii. Why did Corporal Turnbull take revenge on Private Quelch by assigning him permanent cookhouse duties?**

Ans. Corporal Turnbull sought revenge on Private Quelch for humiliating him in front of others. Assigning him permanent cookhouse duties was a punitive measure to put him in his place.

**iv. Will no one tell me what she sings?’ Why does the poet ask this question? What, according to the speaker, might be the theme of the girl’s song?**

Ans. The English poet is not familiar with the language of the Scottish Highlanders. So he cannot follow the meaning of the Highland girl’s song. That is why he asks this question.

The poet tries to guess what could be the theme of the song. He imagines that the song perhaps tells the tale of some unhappy events of the past or of some battle that had been fought in the distant past. He also thinks that the song may be about some loss or pain.

**v. With eyes severe and beard of formal cut, full of wise saws and modern instances.” Which stage is this? State the reason for this kind of behaviour.**

Ans. His eyes have a severe expression and his beard displays a formal cut. He is always giving wise advice to others, always connecting them with present day instances. This is the stage when man plays the role of a Judge. He accepts the bribe of chicken and meat. He is living a life of ease and has put on a good weight. He has been through youth, a sentimental lover, a daring soldier, so the time is ripe for him to play this role of a wise adviser.

**vi. Why did Bill think of trying out a job as an instructor?**

Ans. Bill believed that by giving up boxing and taking on a more “respectable” profession like teaching, he could shield Harold from potential prejudice and negative associations with boxing. This would ensure Harold’s acceptance in his social circles and protect him from any harm or ridicule. Taking on a new challenge like teaching could be a way for Bill to prove to himself and others that he is capable of success beyond the world of boxing.

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1 × 6 = 6 marks)**

**Option 1**

In both *Villa for Sale* and *The Bishop’s Candlesticks*, characters face temptation, but they respond in very different ways.

In *Villa for Sale*, Mrs. Al Smith and Gaston use clever tricks and quick thinking to get what they want. Mrs. Al Smith pretends to be a rich customer to pressure Gaston into lowering the price of the villa. Gaston, though tempted by the chance to sell the villa at a higher price, cleverly turns the situation around and sells it to her husband for a much lower amount. Their actions show smartness, presence of mind, and practical thinking.

In contrast, in *The Bishop’s Candlesticks*, the Bishop responds to temptation with kindness and forgiveness. When the Convict steals the Bishop’s silver candlesticks, the Bishop protects him from the police by saying they were a gift. This act of kindness changes the Convict’s heart and inspires him to live an honest life.

These moments teach us that human nature can be both clever and compassionate, but kindness has the power to truly transform lives.

**Option 2**

Both *Best Seller* and *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read* show that true value lies beyond money and outward appearances.

In *Best Seller*, John Pescud believes that real life love is practical, unlike unrealistic storybook romances. However, his own life proves him wrong when he marries Jessie, a simple girl from a small town. Their love is genuine, respectful, and lasting. This real-life romance surprises John and teaches him that true love can be as meaningful as stories.

Similarly, in *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read*, the grandmother’s learning journey changes her life. She learns to read not for money, but for self-respect and independence. When she reads a story on her own, she gains confidence and feels proud of herself. Her determination leads to happiness and self-worth.

Both stories show that personal growth, love, and dignity bring true happiness, often in unexpected ways

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