



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 2

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 POWER OF ONE SEED

A. Multiple Choice Questions ($5 \times 1 = 5$ marks)

- i. b) Seeing children walk long distances under harsh sun to fetch water
- ii. d) They laughed and doubted trees could survive in arid conditions
- iii. b) Underground water tables rose by three feet
- iv. c) She succeeded using local, recycled materials and community effort
- v. b) Individual determination with limited resources can create lasting change

B. Short Answer Questions ($5 \times 1 = 5$ marks)

- i. Sarita learned suitable plant selection, mixed planting, windbreak creation, and water conservation methods through trial and error.
- ii. The forest created jobs through honey collection, eco-tourism, and sustainable farming, increasing villagers' income.
- iii. Sarita believes community effort and simple resources are enough to restore nature without experts or government funding.
- iv. It signifies that even small actions, when nurtured patiently, can grow into life-changing transformations.
- v. Children now study under tree canopies in a cooler, healthier environment instead of overcrowded classrooms.

2. THE NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL TRAIN

A. Multiple Choice Questions ($5 \times 1 = 5$ marks)

- i. a) Mrs. Lakshmi's hip fracture and meal concerns during recovery
- ii. b) Group expanded to 150 members delivering 50 meals daily
- iii. c) Children decorate tiffins; recipients send thank-you notes
- iv. b) Bureaucratic delays and loss of personal warmth
- v. b) Sharing home-cooked meals builds genuine community bonds

B. Short Answer Questions (5 × 1 = 5 marks)

- i. Neighbours voluntarily cook extra food at home and deliver meals without money exchange, using shared responsibility.
- ii. Mrs. Lakshmi currently coordinates the meal schedule from her home after recovering from her injury.
- iii. Children decorate tiffin boxes with cheerful messages, spreading joy and emotional warmth along with food.
- iv. Recovered families leave the Meal Train, allowing space for others who are facing illness or difficulty.
- v. The Meal Train succeeds because it offers personal care, warmth, and human connection that food apps cannot provide.

SECTION B WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)

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

Email

Subject

Respected Madam,

I request permission to use the computer labs, auditorium, and multipurpose hall from 22nd–25th March to conduct a Future Skills Carnival. The programme will host robotics, coding, and AI sessions for 150 students from six schools.

Yours sincerely,

Aryan Mehta

Class X-A

Coordinator, Skill India Youth Hub

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

“Rainwater Warriors” is a community-led initiative to address summer water scarcity. It aims to support water-stressed households, apartments, and schools through collective rainwater harvesting. Residents install rooftop collection systems with filtration units and maintain community recharge pits to replenish groundwater. So far, 30 households have become water-independent, groundwater levels have risen by four feet, and water bills have reduced by 25%. The initiative promotes sustainable water use through shared responsibility and long-term conservation.

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

Option A – Indian Express

Sunshine Apartments

Pune

To

The Editor

Indian Express

Sir/Madam,

Poor street lighting in residential areas poses serious safety risks, especially for women and children after dark. Dimly lit streets restrict evening mobility, discourage outdoor play, and increase crime fears. Well-lit public spaces are basic urban infrastructure, not optional amenities. Municipal authorities must install solar streetlights, form community monitoring committees, and ensure timely maintenance. Safe lighting can restore confidence, independence, and community life. Immediate action is essential.

Yours sincerely,

Saumya Iyer (16)

OR

Option B – Times of India

Skyline Colony

Mumbai

To

The Editor

Times of India

Subject

Sir/Madam,

Rapid concretisation and shrinking green cover have turned cities into heat islands, raising temperatures by 4–6°C. This causes heat strokes, dehydration, and power overloads during peak summers. Cities urgently need cool roofs, urban forestry, and heat-reflective pavements. Municipalities must adopt Green City Master Plans with mandatory tree-cover ratios. Sustainable planning is the only way to protect public health and urban livability.

Yours sincerely,

Rohit Kapoor (16)

6. Article (≤ 150 words) – 8 Marks

Option A – School Magazine Article

Adopted for Excellence: Transforming Rural Education Through School Partnerships

Rural schools often lack resources compared to urban schools, creating learning gaps. Our school adopted three government schools to bridge this divide through teacher training, library support, and digital smartboards funded by CSR partnerships. Teachers now use interactive methods, improving classroom engagement. Board results have improved, and rural students show greater confidence and ambition. Sustainability is ensured through alumni mentorship and peer learning programmes, enabling long-term growth. This initiative supports SDG 4 – Quality Education, proving that collaboration can deliver educational equity.

OR

Option B – Newspaper Article

Skill-Sharing Saturdays: Building Tomorrow’s Workforce Today

Modern education often overlooks practical life skills. “Skill-Sharing Saturdays” address this gap by offering free weekend workshops led by doctors, electricians, chefs, and digital marketers. Youth gain employable skills, women re-enter the workforce, and seniors contribute their expertise. The initiative breaks the stigma around blue-collar work and promotes dignified livelihoods. It builds local talent while supporting SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. This model can be replicated nationwide to create community-driven skill ecosystems.

SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks (3 × 1 = 3 marks)

- (i) fitness
- (ii) improves
- (iii) builds

8. Error Correction (1 × 4 = 4 marks)

Error	Correction
(a) more	most
(b) of	in
(c) what	that
(d) the a	

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

I. Rearranging the sentence (1 mark)

Our festival symbolises the harvest season and gratitude towards nature and joyfully brings communities together.

II. Reporting the dialogue (2 marks)

(i) that the solar study room lights were working perfectly that night

(ii) that children could study till 9 PM

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

1. Ans. B. Harold would disapprove of a profession rooted in violence and fighting.

2. Ans. C. He panics and hides under the table.

3. Ans. C. There would be trouble

4. Ans. A. i,ii and iii

B.

1. Answer: To announce the rain's arrival dramatically

2. Answer: The rain's final farewell

3. Answer: It underscores the rain's role as a vital part of the natural cycle.

4. Answer: Personification

C.

1. The brutalizing effects of imprisonment and injustice.

2. The loss of his name.

3. He adopted the survival instincts and brutality of his environment.

4. He was treated like a wild animal

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

i. How had the narrator planned to surprise her grandmother? How was she herself surprised?

Ans. The narrator planned to surprise her grandmother with the novel "Kashi Yatre." However, she was surprised when her grandmother, in turn, gifted her frock material and touched her feet, expressing unexpected gratitude.

ii. What did the men who came to see Chuck in the hospital say to him?

Ans. The men expressed their concern and acknowledged the seriousness of Chuck's condition and its impact on his life. The men who came to see Chuck in the hospital asked him to take a year long leave from work and told him that they would create a new desk job for him at the company headquarters

iii. How did Private Quelch respond to mistakes made by his colleagues in the army training camp in the lesson 'The Man Who Knew Much'?

Ans. Private Quelch promptly corrected mistakes made by colleagues in the army training camp, intervening to demonstrate proper rifle handling. Despite good intentions, his habit of public correction generated resentment among fellow trainees.

iv. What is the reason behind Pescud's decision to get off the train at Coketown?

Ans. The reason behind Pescud's decision to get off the train at Coketown is his thoughtful intention to gather petunias for Jessie. This decision reflects his understanding of her likes and preferences, showcasing his considerate and affectionate nature.

v. How does the poet convey a sense of timelessness in the line "Somewhere ages and ages hence," and what does it suggest about the lasting impact of the speaker's choice?

Ans. The phrase emphasizes the enduring nature of the speaker's story, suggesting that the consequences of the chosen path will resonate across time, becoming a timeless tale.

vi. "But up-and-down brushing and pokin' and fussin". What do you understand by the line?

Ans. The line "But up-and-down brushing and pokin' and fussin'" from the poem "Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth" by Pam Ayres refers to the poet's casual and careless approach to dental care in her youth. The repetition of "up-and-down brushing" suggests a simplistic and hasty technique, and "pokin' and fussin'" conveys a lack of thoroughness and commitment to proper oral hygiene.

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

Option 1

All three poems use journeys to express important lessons about life, but each journey teaches something different.

In "The Road Not Taken," the poet describes choosing between two roads in a forest. This journey symbolises life's choices. The poet shows that decisions shape our future and we often cannot return to choose again. It teaches us to think carefully and take responsibility for our choices.

In "The Brook," the journey of a flowing brook represents steady persistence. The brook faces obstacles like rocks and bends but keeps moving forward. This suggests that life's challenges can be overcome with patience and determination.

In "Song of the Rain," the rain's journey shows selfless giving. The rain falls, nourishes the earth, and returns to the sky. It teaches that life becomes meaningful when we give back to nature and others.

Together, the poems suggest that life requires wise choices, perseverance, and a spirit of giving while facing challenges.

Option 2

The stories "A Dog Named Duke," "Keeping It From Harold," and "The Bishop's Candlesticks" highlight loyalty and hidden efforts that bring positive change.

In "A Dog Named Duke," Duke's deep loyalty helps his injured owner, Chuck Hooper, recover physically and emotionally. Duke motivates him to walk again, showing how devotion can heal.

In "Keeping It From Harold," Harold's parents hide their boxing business to protect his sensitive nature. Their secret effort reflects parental love and sacrifice, even though it creates humorous situations.

In "The Bishop's Candlesticks," the Bishop hides the Convict's crime by showing kindness and generosity. His forgiveness transforms the Convict and inspires him to lead an honest life.

In all three stories, loyalty and compassion—though hidden or unexpected—lead to positive transformation, proving that kindness has the power to change lives.

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