



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



PRE BOARD 1 (2025-26) ENGLISH

Class: XII
Date: 15.11.25
Admission no:

Time: 3hrs.
Max Marks: 80
Roll no:

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

(22 Marks)

1.

1. (A) Slow living promotes mindfulness and balance in daily life. (1 mark)
2. The phrase “simple pleasures” refers to enjoying small, everyday joys like morning walks, cooking, or meaningful conversations. (1 mark)
3. It improves productivity because focused and joyful activities refresh the mind and reduce stress. (1 mark)
4. (B) The Slow Food Movement inspired the philosophy. (1 mark)
5. Critics say slow living is a privilege for people with flexible jobs or financial comfort. (1 mark)
6. It means adopting a calm and mindful approach rather than changing your schedule — doing things with focus and purpose. (2 marks)
7. It means being fully aware and grateful for the present rather than worrying about the future. (1 mark)
8. One can practice it by enjoying a cup of tea without distractions. (1 mark)
9. (B) Persuasive. (1 mark)
10. The author conveys that slow living helps individuals lead balanced, meaningful, and eco-friendly lives by being mindful and intentional. (2 marks)

2.

1. (B) The main purpose was to understand trends in online learning preferences. (1 mark)
2. Live classes are preferred because they offer real-time interaction and engagement. (1 mark)
3. Live interactive classes have the highest overall preference. (1 mark)
4. Students find AI-based learning useful but still prefer teacher-led guidance. (1 mark)

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5. Institutions may struggle to balance technology with personal teacher interaction. (2 marks)
6. (B) Live and recorded classes are both highly rated. (1 mark)
7. Self-paced courses let students learn at their own speed. (1 mark)
8. The data helps policymakers promote blended learning combining flexibility and human connection. (2 marks)

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

3. (A) Notice – Talent Hunt Competition

(4 marks)

Key Points: Heading, Date, Issuer, Event details, Encouragement.

CRESCENT SCHOOL, DELHI
NOTICE

Date: 10 November 2025

TALENT HUNT COMPETITION

The Cultural Society invites entries for the Talent Hunt Competition on 20 November 2025 in the school auditorium. Students may participate in singing, dancing, mimicry, or instrumental performances. Interested students should register by 15 November.

Mehak Sharma
(Secretary, Cultural Society)

OR
(B) YOGA AWARENESS CAMP

NOTICE

Date: 10 November 2025

CITY SPORTS CLUB

A Yoga Awareness Camp will be held on 25 November 2025 at Green Park, 7:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Residents can register at the club office by 20 November.

Arun Nair
(Member, City Sports Club)

4. (A) Formal Invitation

(4 marks)

HORIZON PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Management, Principal, Staff and Students cordially invites Dr. Ramesh Kumar to inaugurate the school's ECO-DAY CELEBRATION on 25 November 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the school auditorium.

Ritika Sen
Head Girl

OR

(B) Formal Reply

(4 marks)

Aditya Singh
27, Park View Apartments
Pune

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for inviting me to judge the interschool debate. Owing to prior commitments, I regret my inability to attend. I wish the event great success.

Yours sincerely,
Aditya Singh

5. (A) Letter to Editor – Cyberbullying

(5 marks)

Key Points: Issue – Impact – Suggestions – Awareness.

Full Answer: Teenagers are increasingly targeted through online harassment. Schools must educate about digital safety, enforce cyber laws, and parents should monitor online behavior. Awareness campaigns can help curb this menace.

OR

(B) Job Application – Junior Content Writer

(5 marks)

Key Points: Cover letter, Bio-data.

Rohit Kumar
16, Station Road,
Jaipur

Date:

The HR Manager
XYZ Media Pvt. Ltd.
Mumbai

Subject: Application for Junior Content Writer

Dear Sir,

In response to your advertisement, I wish to apply for the above post. I hold a B.A. in English and have experience in blogging and creative writing. I assure you of my dedication and skill.

Bio-data: Education, Experience, Skills, Contact details.

Yours faithfully,
Rohit Kumar

6. (A) Article – AI: Boon or Bane

(5 marks)

Key Points: Definition, Merits, Demerits, Balanced view.

Artificial Intelligence has revolutionized learning with personalized tools but also reduces human creativity and critical thinking. Students must use AI responsibly as a supportive aid, not a substitute for effort.

OR

(B) Report – Annual Sports Meet

(5 marks)

Key Points: Date, Venue, Events, Results, Principal's remarks.

The Annual Sports Meet of B.K. Birla Centre for Education was held on 10 November 2025 with great zeal. Events included races, relays, and football finals. Principal Dr. Rajeev Kumar Chauhan congratulated winners and praised the spirit of sportsmanship.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

(40 Marks)

7(A) My Mother at Sixty-six

- I. The imagery of 'ashen face' suggests the mother's frailty and nearness to death. (1)
- II. (A) Sudden – The realisation strikes the poet abruptly. (1)
- III. 'As old as she looked' conveys the idea of mortality. (1)
- IV. (B) Avoid painful thoughts – The poet distracts herself from her mother's ageing. (1)
- V. Emotion – Fear of loss and helplessness. (1)
- VI. Universal theme – Ageing, mortality, and parent-child bond. (1)

7(B) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

- I. The phrase 'terrified hands' shows her life of fear and oppression. (1)
- II. The tigers represent courage and independence. (1)
- III. (B) Bound by marital and societal constraints. (1)
- IV. Contrast – Aunt Jennifer is weak and submissive; her tigers are bold and free, symbolising her suppressed desires. (2)
- V. Idea – Art outlives human suffering; the spirit of freedom continues. (1)

8(A) The Third Level

- I. (B) He romanticises the simplicity of the past. (1)
- II. Louisa discourages him to prevent obsession with illusion. (1)
- III. Phrase showing escapism – 'I wanted to go back to Galesburg.' (1)
- IV. It shows Charley's longing for escape from modern stress, contrasting illusion with reality. (1)

8(B) On the Face of It (4 marks)

- I. Emotion – Self-hatred and fear. (1)
- II. (B) He sees beyond Derry's face. (1)

- III. Derry means he fears his own reflection and rejection. (1)
- IV. Mr Lamb bridges the distance by kindness and encouraging acceptance. (1)

9(A) The Rattrap

- I. (B) Kind and respectful. (1)
- II. He feared exposure of his identity and theft. (1)
- III. The 'rattrap' symbolises the world's temptations that trap people in greed. (1)
- IV. The blacksmiths' shock shows social prejudice against the poor and reformed. (2)
- V. It foreshadows his moral awakening and redemption. (1)

9(B) Going Places

- I. (A) Arrival of night. (1)
- II. Sophie feels frustration and longing for a better life. (1)
- III. The humble setting contrasts her fantasy world. (1)
- IV. The 'crooked back' symbolises struggle; 'delicate bow' represents fragile dreams. (2)
- V. Theme – Conflict between dreams and harsh reality.

10. Short Answer Questions (Any five)

(5×2=10)

- I. In 'The Last Lesson', French symbolises pride, identity, and love for the mother tongue.
- II. In 'Deep Water', Douglas overcomes fear through determination, step-by-step practice, and willpower.
- III. In 'A Thing of Beauty', Keats conveys that beautiful things give eternal joy and relieve human suffering.
- IV. In 'Keeping Quiet', the poet appeals for calm introspection to bring peace and unity.
- V. Mukherjee shows interviews as intrusive acts violating privacy, turning art into gossip.
- VI. Anees Jung uses first-person narration in 'Lost Spring' to create authenticity and empathy for the poor.

11. Short Answer Questions (Any two)

(2×2=4)

- I. Dr Sadao hesitated because the soldier was an enemy, but his ethics as a doctor compelled him to save life.
- II. Zitkala-Sa's haircut symbolises loss of identity and forced assimilation into Western culture.
- III. Kalki shows the Tiger King as arrogant, obsessed with power, and superstitious, leading to his tragic death.

12(A) Umberto Eco – The Interview

(5 marks)

Key Points: Eco's philosophy, detective-story logic, intellect–imagination link.

Eco believes writing combines rational structure and creative imagination. His detective fiction reflects this balance—each clue is logical, yet driven by curiosity and intuition. Through this, he highlights the harmony between intellect and imagination that defines true scholarship.

12(B) Poets and Pancakes – Dream vs Reality

(5 marks)

Sophie dreams of fame and glamour, contrasting with the dull reality of her working-class life. The office boy in

‘Poets and Pancakes’ also imagine stardom while stuck in routine tasks. Both reveal the human tendency to escape mundane existence through imagination.

13(A) On the Face of It & Deep Water – Triumph of Human Spirit

(5 marks)

Both stories celebrate courage and perseverance. Derry overcomes insecurity through Mr Lamb’s wisdom, while Douglas conquers his fear of water through relentless effort. They affirm that willpower and positive attitude can defeat fear and isolation.

13(B) Zitkala-Sa & Bama – Humiliation and Resistance

(5 marks)

Zitkala-Sa’s forced haircut and Bama’s caste discrimination portray oppression. Yet both resist—Zitkala through education and Bama through writing. Their experiences show empowerment through awareness and self-expression.