



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



PRE-BOARD 2 - 2025-26

ENGLISH

SET 1

Class: XII

Date: 13.12.25

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

## General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises **13** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains **THREE** sections –

**Section – A:** Reading Skills

**Section – B:** Creative Writing Skills

**Section – C:** Literature

- (iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iv) Separate instructions are given with each question / part, wherever necessary.
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

## Section – A: Reading Skills

(22 Marks)

### 1. Read the text given below:

12 M

- (1) Five enterprises received approval and grants for prototype development of sustainable educational toys.
- (2) The government authorities, educational institutions and EdTech start-ups are planning to introduce state-of-the-art, made-in-India educational toys that not only throw light on Indian values and civilizations, but also help in developing children's critical thinking, and decision-making skills.
- (3) "One such enterprise is working on different types of projects that can teach children how electromagnets and magnetic fields work. These projects can resolve a lot of issues in many schools in tier two and three cities that don't have proper infrastructure. Another is working on an excavation site to teach children about ancient Indian civilizations. It has implanted a few artifacts at the site, which the children will have to find so that they are able to learn how to preserve and label artifacts. Another startup has proposed to create miniaturized labs for schools in tier 2 and 3 cities where children can learn concepts of Physics. "We will ensure that these prototypes are developed within a year and then the production can be scaled up," says the senior manager of the project talking about the importance of indigenously-built educational toys.
- (4) Playtime is vital for the cognitive development of children and toys are an essential component that helps enhance specific cognitive abilities and skill sets. "Well-designed toys ignite students' curiosity,

increase focus and can be very beneficial in helping them master a skill and enhance understanding. These can be in the form of visuals, auditory aids, kinaesthetic, or a mixture of all three.” says HOD, Early Childhood Education.

- (5) Toys offer an engaging avenue to teach mathematical, verbal, problem-solving skills. “Toys that engage students in experiential learning enhance their special awareness and fine motor skills. Those designed for two or more players help students develop better social skills as they learn to negotiate, settle differences, etc, with their peers.”
- (6) Experiential gadgets and toys enable students to learn faster and retain lessons longer. “A child’s interest is piqued when he is taught in a contextual framework as opposed to rote learning. The Indian education system has been witnessing several innovations with the development of toys and gadgets that can be used and felt in person or through VR platforms across subjects, be it Science, Technology, Math or Engineering.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage given above:**

- (i) By tier 2 and tier 3 cities, the author refers to 1
  - (A) Metro cities
  - (B) Cities with huge population
  - (C) Underdeveloped cities
  - (D) Cities with less population
- (ii) Complete the sentence with evidence from the text. 1  
 The made-in-India educational toys serves dual purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- (iii) The author’s point of view that can be inferred from the above passage is that 1
  - (A) educational toys are the booming business.
  - (B) educational toys are meant to entertain children.
  - (C) educational toys will replace teachers.
  - (D) educational toys will make education more pragmatic.
- (iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately: 1  
 Educational toys enhance the personality of children by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- (v) Read the five headlines (a) – (e), given below: 1
  - (a) Sustainable Educational Toys are Developmentally Appropriate.
  - (b) Sustainable Educational Toys Promote Free play.
  - (c) Sustainable Educational Toys – Free and Widespread.
  - (d) Sustainable Educational Toys – Experiential Learning.
  - (e) Sustainable Educational Toys – Hinder Interaction with people. Identify the option that displays the headline that DOES/DO NOT correspond with what the passage highlights.
  - (A) only (e)
  - (B) (a) and (b)
  - (C) (c) and (e)
  - (D) only (d)
- (vi) What evidences do you gather from the passage to state that educational system is revolutionized by educational toys? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- (vii) Explain in about 40 words, how education at grassroot level is benefitted by these projects. 2
- (viii) As opposed to learning by heart, experiential toys 1
  - (A) ignite interest
  - (B) challenge the teachers
  - (C) replace textbooks
  - (D) confuse learners
- (ix) Playing is usually considered a distraction. Is it justified on the part of the narrator to assert that playing is an important aspect of education? Write your answer in about 40 words. 2

**2. Read the text given below:****10 M**

- (1) People below the age of 20 and above the age of 50 are more likely to believe fake news. Those relatively new to the use of the internet still do not grasp the concept of fake information over these platforms, reveals a new survey 'Countering Misinformation in India'. This survey has been conducted jointly by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- (2) At least 40% of the respondents believed in 'misinformation' received over social media if it came with leading backgrounds and evidence, while 34% of them believe the information when it is shared by a trustworthy organization.
- (3) The dominant factor that drives people to forward such information is their belief that it might benefit others and help in their safety. In fact, that was the response of almost 50% of the respondents. This was compounded by the fact that at least 20% of the respondents expressed their lack of trust in conventional media thus their faith in contents shared by common people over social media.
- (4) But even then, newspapers still remain the top source of information for most. At least 53% of the respondents trust what is generally perceived as neutral media and only 29% trust technology and social media platforms.
- (5) However, what was surprising was that almost 45% of the respondents did not even know about the existence of fact-checking organization and most did not even know that journalists had to verify data before they let it out. Only 26% of the respondents believe that it is the responsibility of the media to curb or identify fake news. Many respondents also put the responsibility of identifying such fake news on an individual.
- (6) The survey has found that first time or early users of the Internet platforms are more susceptible to fake news than others. There is a need for building capacities and creating a National Civic Digital Literacy Strategic Plan.

**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:**

- (i) Select the option that comes under conventional media: **1**  
(A) Instagram (B) Newspaper  
(C) Facebook (D) E-mail
- (ii) Select the correct option: **1**  
One factor that prompts people to believe fake news is that  
(A) it supports their point of view (B) they are biased  
(C) it is from a reliable site (D) it has more 'likes' and 'shares'
- (iii) What according to the passage are the intentions of people who share information? **1**
- (iv) Why is it important for journalists to give authentic background and evidence in their reporting? **1**
- (v) Complete the sentence appropriately: **1**  
The threat faced by the new entrants in social media is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vi) Explain your understanding of the difference between 'misinformation' and 'fake news'. **1**
- (vii) As per your inference drawn from para (1), which category of people fall as victims to fake news? **2**
- (viii) What is the blame game that goes on in fixing the onus of identifying fake news? **2**

**Section – B: Creative Writing Skills****(18 Marks)**

**Note:** All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

- 3. Attempt ANY ONE of the following two, in about 50 words. **4****

- (a) Bharat Public School, I.P. Nagar, has recently constructed a Science Park, a dedicated area where specific equipment based on principles of science are setup.

As Rashi Kapoor, President of Science Club, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of the same. Mention relevant details.

**OR**

- (b) You are the President, RWA Silver Oak Society. Draft a notice for the society notice board informing residents about the appointment of security guards at Gate Nos. 2, 3 & 4 and an increase of ₹ 1,000 in the annual maintenance charges to meet the expenditure. Mention relevant details.

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two in about **50** words.

**4**

- (a) You are a student counsellor of N.J. Public School. You are invited by S.M. International School, Kala Puram, to address Class XII students on Goal Setting & Time Management. Write a formal letter of reply accepting the invitation and confirming your presence at the stated time, include relevant details.

**OR**

- (b) You are Mr. Anmol Gupta. You are planning to celebrate your sister's silver jubilee wedding anniversary. Draft the invitation card to be sent to relatives and friends, sharing all relevant details.

5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two, in **120-150** words.

**5**

- (a) You are Niharika / Nitish, a qualified software engineer. You saw the given advertisement in a newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Draft an application for the position advertised.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TECH MAHINDRA</b> Requires Software Engineer</p> <p>Qualification : B.E. Computer Science Experience : Min. 2 yrs. in the relevant field Age : Not more than 28 yrs. Skills : Knowledge of HTML, Research skills, Software building Apply to The Manager, Tech Mahindra, 40, L.G. Road, Teenalipuram.</p>
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**OR**

- (b) The civic authorities have upgraded the central park in your colony with a walking track, open air gym, and a children's play corner with swings.

Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on the responsibilities of citizens to support civic authorities in ensuring the upkeep of neighborhood parks. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Reena/Trikha.

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose – Help Civic Authorities/Upkeep maintenance of parks<br/>Conduct R.W.A meetings.</li><li>• Put up notices.</li><li>• Increase the number of garbage bins and create awareness of its proper utilization.</li><li>• Put notices on the fixed timings of parks and instructions on how to use the park effectively.</li><li>• Motivate residents to plant more trees and flowers in the park.</li></ul> |
|---|

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in **120-150** words.

5

- (a) You are Vinita, a student of Class XII. You decide to write an article on 'Impact of OTT Platforms on Youth' for your school magazine. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas to compose this article.

- easy to access
- violent & brutal scenes
- teens' addiction to OTT
- insomnia

Suggestions:

- censor for OTT
- time limitation
- choice of content
- parental monitoring

**OR**

- (b) Your school recently organized an adventure trip to Manali. Students from various classes joined the trip and participated in various activities. As a student editor, write a report on the trip to be published in your school newsletter. You are Lata of Class XII. Use the cues given below along with your own ideas to compose this report.

- date, duration
- no. of students
- activities:  
trekking, river rafting
- students' feedback

**Section – C**

**Literature, Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text**

**(40 Marks)**

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions on **ANY ONE** of the given two.

6

- (a) Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear

The thought of so much childish longing in vain, The  
sadness that lurks near the open window there, That  
waits all day in almost open prayer.

For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car, Of  
all the thousand selfish cars that pass,

Just one to inquire what a farmer's prices are And  
one did stop, but only to plow up grass In using  
the yard to back and turn around;

And another to ask the way to where it was bound;

*(A Roadside Stand)*

- (i) Select the option that has the same literary device as in 'The sadness that lurks near the open window there'.
- (A) Lucy moved across the room like a warship sailing into battle.  
 (B) Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.  
 (C) The water-wraith was shrieking.  
 (D) The pen is mightier than the sword.
- (ii) They prayed for the stopping of a car. When one car finally stopped, it brought \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of the roadside stand.  
 (A) help (B) happiness  
 (C) disappointment (D) cash flow
- (iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, '.....childish longing in vain'.
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.  
 The emotion of the poet reflected in the above extract is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (v) The expression 'selfish car' suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vi) Based on the rhyme scheme evident in the last two lines of the extract, which word would rhyme with last line?

\_\_\_\_\_

brass

\_\_\_\_\_

reply

\_\_\_\_\_

sound

**OR**

- (b) ... but soon  
 put that thought away, and  
 looked out at Young  
 Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
 out of their homes, but after the airport's security check,  
 standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a  
 late winter's moon and felt that old  
 familiar ache, my childhood's fear, (My Mother at Sixty-six)

- (i) Select the correct option.  
 The impact of 'merry children' on poet's mind \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) caused anxiety (B) created a sense of longing  
 (C) brought comfort (D) reminded her of her own childhood
- (ii) The tone of the poet expressed in the above lines is  
 (A) sadness and helplessness  
 (B) excitement and eagerness  
 (C) appreciation and gratitude  
 (D) anger and anxiety
- (iii) The words 'wan, pale' indicate the mother's \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately.  
 The poet looked at her mother again to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (v) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line 'felt that old familiar ache'.
- (vi) 'put that thought away'.  
 What is the intention of poet that can be inferred from the above line?

8. Read the two extracts given below and answer the questions on **ANYONE**.

4

(a) The reason the programme has been so successful is because it is impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blase about polar ice caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you can visibly see glaciers retreating and ice shelves collapsing, you begin to realise that the threat of global warming is real. Antarctica, because of her simple eco-system and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. *(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

(i) As per the given extract, the reason for the success of the programme is

(A) the participation of young students.

(B) the journey to Antarctica.

(C) the exposure to reality.

(D) it was impossible to go near south pole.

(ii) Complete the following sentence.

The warning that can be inferred from the above extract is \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) State whether the statement given is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract.

Global warming is a threat to human survival.

(iv) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line "It's easy to be blase about polar ice caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone".

**OR**

(b) From that day onwards, it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram. The State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition. *(The Tiger King)*

(i) Select the correct option:

'... he would attend to all other matters only after killing hundred tigers.' This reflects Tiger King's

(A) courage

(B) determination

(C) selfishness

(D) kindness

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers. The above statement is ironical in the Sense \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) '... if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated'.

What trait of the king is reflected in the above line?

(iv) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The King's ambition is to save people from the tigers.

9. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions on **ANY ONE**.

6

(a) "Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighbourhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives.

“I have nothing else to do,” he mutters, looking away.

“Go to school,” I say glibly, realizing immediately how hollow the advice must sound.

“There is no school in my neighbourhood. When they build one, I will go.”

*(Lost Spring)*

(i) Choose the correct option.

The expression ‘scrounging for gold’ refers to

- (A) searching for gold items.
- (B) looking for something that can fetch money.
- (C) rummaging the garbage.
- (D) digging to find food to eat.

(ii) The influence of nature in Saheb’s life was that it .

- (A) brought prosperity
- (B) yielded food for them
- (C) gave them home
- (D) brought disaster

(iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate word.

Saheb’s conversation with the narrator draws \_\_\_\_\_ of readers towards Saheb.

(iv) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line “..... realizing how hollow the advice must sound”.

(v) The expression ‘when they build one, I will go’ indicates Saheb’s \_\_\_\_\_ to go to school.

(vi) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.

‘... his home is not even a distant dream’ states that Saheb sees his home often in his dream.

**OR**

(b) Then the poet spoke. He couldn’t have addressed a more dazed and silent audience – no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement – What are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry. The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

*(Poets and Pancakes)*

(i) Choose the correct option:

The reason for the bewilderment of the audience is

- (A) unknown identity of the visitor.
- (B) that the speaker had not been introduced to them.
- (C) visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio.
- (D) that they did not understand English.

(ii) By ‘thrills and travails’ the author refers to

- (A) joy and happiness
- (B) interest and aspiration
- (C) excitement and pain
- (D) shocks and surprises

(iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, “He could not have addressed a more dazed and silent audience”.

(iv) The failure of the speaker to connect with the audience with reference to the extract is his .

(v) What information in the extract reveals the fact that the people have no exposure other than to their own circle?

(vi) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.



The audience were enthralled by the poet's impressive speech.

**10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in 40-50 words each: 5x2 = 10**

- (i) Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" *(The Last Lesson)*
- (ii) Analyse the characters of William Douglas from 'Deep Water' and Mukesh from 'Lost Spring' in terms of their determination and will power in pursuing their goals. *(Deep Water & Lost Spring)*
- (iii) What is Pablo Neruda's complaint against fishermen? *(Keeping Quiet)*
- (iv) How and why does Keats relate 'mighty dead' to the 'Thing of Beauty'? *(A Thing of Beauty)*
- (v) 'Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy'.  
What inference about Jansie's character is drawn from the above line? *(Going Places)*
- (vi) Are the different celebrities in 'The Interview' justified in condemning interviews? *(The Interview)*

**11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in 40-50 words each: 2 x 2 = 4**

- (i) My stamp collecting, for example, that's a temporary refuge from reality. How can a hobby give one an escape from reality? *(The Third Level)*
- (ii) "The words that Annan spoke to me that day made a deep impression on me." How was Annan able to inspire Bama? *(Memories of Childhood)*
- (iii) What do you think Derry's mother contribute to his sense of alienation and isolation? *(On the face of it)*

**12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words: 5**

- A. 'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' highlight the apathy of society and exploitation by those in power. Elaborate. *(Lost Spring & Indigo)*

**OR**

B. The different portrayals of women in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Going Places', 'Lost Spring', and 'My Mother at Sixty-six', offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share-

→ the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience.

→ the importance of understanding each individual woman's challenges and experiences.

Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts. listed above. You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts...

*(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers/Going Places/Lost Spring & My Mother at Sixty-six)*

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in 120-150 words: 5**

- A. What efforts were made by Dr. Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man? *(Enemy)*

**OR**

- B. Optimism in one's attitude helps deal with all the challenges in life. Prove the statement by referring to the character of Mr. Lamb from the chapter "On the Face of It". *(On the face of it)*