



**BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION**  
**SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS**  
**SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**  
**MID TERM EXAMINATION 2024-25**  
**ENGLISH CORE (301)**



**Class: XI**  
**Date: 19.09.24**  
**Name:**

**Duration: 3 hrs.**  
**Max Marks: 80**  
**Exam No:**

**Section A- Reading Skill: 26m**

**1. Read the passage given below:**

**[10]**

- 1 My first tryst with Shakespeare several years ago was an enforced one. The Merchant of Venice was a prescribed book in class 9 when I was at school. I had read the wonderful Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare and considered myself an authority on the stories. I did not think it necessary to read the antiquated language or trudge through several seemingly abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point. To spend a whole year deciphering a play when I had understood the story in a few pages seemed to be a sheer waste of time. Yet, somewhere along the way, I was drawn into the world of 'The Merchant of Venice', their portly argosies, the signors and rich burghers and the news on the Rialto. The language yielded its riches slowly, the characters became well drawn, more rounded and the impassioned speeches of Shylock and Portia stirred up a flurry of unexamined questions. Since then, I have read several other plays, have seen a couple of theatrical performances and watched young Leonardo Di Caprio in a modern Romeo and Juliet film. Shakespeare has been around.
2. Shakespeare has shaped the writing and storytelling in the English language like no other writer has. He liberally borrowed, bent and brought new words into the English language from addiction, bump critic to worthless and zany. The phrases that he coined roll off our tongues as over-used adages - All that glitters is not gold (The Merchant of Venice), Jealousy is a green-eyed monster (Othello), and the perennial 'All's well that ends well'. He has influenced several writers and been quoted by many of them. One of my favorite's authors P.G. Wodehouse had the odd Shakespearean phrase popping up in whacky situations like the 'milk of human kindness' sloshing inside someone or references to Banquo and Macbeth explained to Bertie by the estimable Jeeves who knew his Shakespeare. The plays have been translated into most languages, including several regional Indian *bhashas*. They have lent themselves to film adaptations, including Vishal Bharadwaj's, Maqbool (Macbeth) and Omkara (Othello).
3. The tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare cover every possible theme, and idea—love, greed, jealousy, racism, friendship, mistaken identities, murder, mutiny, politics, feminism and revenge. Like any other celebrity, he has been the subject of speculation and controversy. There have been several conspiracy theories afloat on the 'real' authorship of the plays, including a recent claim by a professor in Sicily that Shakespeare was actually Italian. Despite everything, Shakespeare's appeal is universal, the stories transcend language and nationalities. However, more than 400 years after Shakespeare's birth, I can't help wondering if anyone will read his works in the days to come.
4. The average attention span in front of a television channel is about 4 seconds before flicking on the remote to move to another. It is perfectly acceptable to massacre the rules of grammar and syntax before you can say 'why this kolaveri di?' When you can tell a whole story in 140 characters, reading 14 sentences can be a chore. Who will have the desire or patience to dredge up the treasures that lie within?
5. Shakespeare's works have proved to be sturdy, unshakable through the centuries, moving with the times, lending themselves to newer forms. I hope they don't get relegated to a few

diehard literature students or musty libraries. Who knows, we might yet have a different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to the GenNext, a form that will induce them to approach an original play with a sense of anticipation, of beginning a quest to understand and appreciate a good story, well told.

Nothing of him that does fade, but doth suffer a sea-change into something rich and strange.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- A** Choose the most appropriate statement to complete the sentence. **1**  
The author had considered himself an authority on Shakespeare \_\_\_\_.  
(a) after reading Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare  
(b) after reading the prescribed book for class 10  
(c) after finding no use for antiquated languages  
(d) after mastering the abstruse paragraphs to get to the main point
- B** State in about 40 words two ways by which Shakespeare has enriched the English language. **2**
- C** Select the antonym for the word 'zany' in para 2 of the text. **1**  
(a) conventional  
(b) conversational  
(c) contemptible  
(d) condemnable
- D** Based on your understanding of the text, analyze what might bring back popularity to Shakespeare's work in our times? **1**
- E** Rationalize the statement 'Shakespeare influenced other writers' in 40 words. **2**
- F** What speculations does the author make about Shakespeare's works? **1**
- G** Select the reason that is NOT relevant why Shakespeare's popularity as an author might decline. **1**  
(a) The rules of grammar are being mutilated currently in both the spoken and written form of the language.  
(b) Attention spans are curtailed and reading complete sentences is unlikely.  
(c) The televised editions of Shakespeare are far more appealing.  
(d) No one will have the desire and patience to dredge up the treasure of Shakespeare's content in the coming days.
- H** The author visualizes a newer version of Shakespeare's works by the GenNext. What is that likely to be? **1**  
(a) A form to induce them to approach the plays as a very old type writing style that is boring.  
(b) A form that will make them realize that nothing new is totally new.  
(c) A different form of Shakespeare that will appeal to GenNext.  
(d) A form for diehard literature students and old libraries only.

**2 Read the following passage and answer:**

**[8]**

- 1.** Missouri is home to 13 kinds of lizards, all of which are harmless and non-venomous. Like other reptiles, lizards are ectotherms, or cold-blooded. They are closely related to snakes, and some even look and behave just like snakes. Most Missouri lizards are long, slender reptiles with scales, a long tail, and four legs with claws on their toes. They are different from snakes because they have legs, ear openings, and eyelids. However, as with other animals, there are exceptions. The western slender glass lizard, which lives in many Missouri counties, is legless, but it has eyelids and ear openings, which snakes lack
- 2** Our lizards live in three types of habitats - forests, glades and Prairies. Those living in forests use clearings, where they bask in the sun on fallen logs. Glade species bask in the sun on rocks, as well as take shelter under them at night. Prairie lizards have no problem finding places to bask, but they take shelter in animal burrows or under dead grass.
- 3** All lizards eat insects (grasshoppers, ants, crickets, and beetles) and spiders. They are valuable as a natural control of destructive species, such as termites. Skinks and fence lizards are known to eat the winged life stage of termites (called alates) as they emerge from underground in mid-spring. And the eastern collared lizard is an important predator of other

lizards.

- 4 Lizards use their tongues to pick up odors in their environment. They use their small, strong teeth to grab and crush insects. If you capture a large skink or a fence lizard, its bite will feel like nothing more than a pinch. However, collared lizards have a larger head and strong jaws and can cause a superficial bite that may bleed slightly. A lizard can release part or all of its tail when a predator grabs it. Once the tail is broken off, the lizard quickly runs for shelter and is safe for the moment, leaving a squirming tail to confuse or distract the predator. A lizard's tail has special muscles that constrict at a breakpoint and prevent any blood loss. After a lizard has lost its tail, a new one will eventually grow back, but it will not be as colorful or elegant as the original one. It may take three or four months to grow the replacement.
- 5 Missouri's 13 kinds of lizards require specific natural habitats and protection from unnatural predators. Many people enjoy having lizards around their homes and enjoy watching them. Landowners who are interested in helping lizards can do the following: provide brush piles and rock piles for shelter.
- 6 Encourage nesting by providing open, loose soil such as flower or vegetable gardens near lizard shelters. Keep domestic cats from going near where lizards live. Cats are major predators in North America, and lizards have no defense against them.

**On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.**

- A** Which of the following statements is relevant to the context? **1**
- (a) Missouri lizards differ from snakes as they have legs, ear openings and eyes and those found in the west are legless but have eyes and ear openings.
  - (b) Missouri lizards resemble snakes with legs, ear openings and eyes but western ones are just like snakes.
  - (c) Generally, lizards have legs, ear openings and eyes unlike snakes, except those in the west.
  - (d) Missouri lizards and snakes do not differ as both have eyelids, ear openings and legs.
- B** Choose the habitats of lizards in the world. **1**
- (a) Lizards choose to live in the forests.
  - (b) The Glade lizards bask on rocks and shelters.
  - (c) They live in glades and Prairies.
  - (d) All of the above
- C** Select the option that best conveys the reason why lizards discard their tails. **1**
- Lizards discard their tails.
- (a) to escape from predators and confuse the enemy with their squirming tail
  - (b) to grow a new tail in place of the old one
  - (c) to run faster for shelter when it is raining
  - (d) to confuse and run from other lizards
- D** \_\_\_\_\_ in para 2 means 'to enjoy sitting in the sun'. **1**
- (a) Glades
  - (b) Burrows
  - (c) Bask
  - (d) Shelter
- E** State one reason why cats should be kept away from lizard shelters. **1**
- F** State a point to challenge the given statement. All lizards eat only insects. **1**
- G** State in 40 words how lizards use different parts of their bodies. **2**

3. Read the passage given below for note making:

[8]

Keeping cities clean is essential for keeping their residents healthy. Our health depends not just on personal hygiene and nutrition, but critically also on how clean we keep our cities and their surroundings. The spread of dengue and chikungunya are intimately linked to the deteriorating state of public health conditions in our cities.

The good news is that waste management to keep cities clean is now getting attention through the Swachh Bharat Mission. However, much of the attention begins and stops with the brooms and the dustbins, extending at most to the collection and transportation of the mixed waste to some distant or not so distant place, preferably out of sight.

The challenge of processing and treating the different streams of solid waste, and safe disposal of the residuals in scientific landfills, has received much less attention in municipal solid waste management than is expected from a health point of view.

One of the problems is that instead of focusing on waste management for health, we have got sidetracked into “waste for energy”. If only we were to begin by not mixing the biodegradable component of solid waste (close to 60 percent of the total) in our cities with the dry waste, and instead use this stream of waste for composting and producing a gas called methane.

City compost from biodegradable waste provides an alternative to farmyard manure (like cow-dung). It provides an opportunity to simultaneously clean up our cities and help improve agricultural productivity and quality of the soil. Organic manure or compost plays a very important role as a supplement to chemical fertilizers in enriching the nutrient-deficient soils. City compost can be the new player in the field.

Benefits of compost on the farm are well-known. The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps with drought-proofing, and the requirement of less water per crop is a welcome feature for a water-stressed future. By making the soil porous, use of compost also makes roots stronger and resistant to pests and decay. Farmers using compost, therefore, need less quantity of pesticides. There is also evidence to suggest that horticulture crops grown with compost have better flavor, size, color and shelf-life.

City compost has the additional advantage of being weed-free unlike farmyard manure which brings with it the seeds of undigested grasses and requires a substantial additional labour cost for weeding as the crops grow. City compost is also rich in organic carbon, and our soils are short in this.

Farmers clearly recognize the value of city compost. If city waste was composted before making it available to the farmers for applying to the soil, cities would be cleaned up and the fields around them would be much more productive.

Quite apart from cleaning up the cities of biodegradable waste, this would be a major and sustainable contribution to improving the health of our soil without further damage by excessive chemical inputs. What a marvelous change from waste to health!

The good news is that some states are regularly laying plastic roads. Plastic roads will not only withstand future monsoon damage but will also solve a city’s problem of disposing of non-recyclable plastic. It is clear that if the mountains of waste from our cities were to be recycled into road construction material, it would tackle the problem of managing waste while freeing up scarce land.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. [5]

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. [3]

**SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (16 Marks)**

4 Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 6th of March for cleaning of the water tank. Write a notice in about 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan Kumar/Karuna Bajaj, Secretary, Janata Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool. [3]

- 5 As the principal of reputed college, you have been invited to inaugurate a book exhibition in your neighborhood. Draft a reply to the invitation in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function. [3]
6. Send a **formal letter of invitation in 50 words** to Dr Mehra, noted novelist and educationist to speak on, 'Importance of books. You are Lena/ Sanjay, Secretary Literary Club, SS Public School. Mention day date time and venue. [5]
- 7 Travel is an important part of man's education. It enables a person to learn manners, customs, languages and history of different people and places and also widens the circle of acquaintances. Write **an article in about 120 to 150 words** on "Travel, an Important Source of Education". [5]

8 **SECTION C: GRAMMAR ( 7 marks)**

- A Choose the correct verb form from these in the bracket: [2]
- The Earth..... (move, moves, moved) around the sun.
  - I.....(written, have written, write) her hundreds of letters by now.
  - I.....(have slept, was sleeping, had been sleeping) for two hours when you woke me up
  - Hurry up the ballet.....(will start, is about to start, starts)
- B Rearrange them to form a meaningful sentence. [2]
- who could not pay/ he earned a little/ the price/ by serving as a model/ of a professional model/ to the two young artists.
  - Because for forty years/ a failure in art/ wishing to paint/ a master piece/ he had been/ a paint brush/ but never had put/ he was/ to the canvas
- C Find the error in the following sentences: Incorrect Correct [3]
- A one-eyed man was travelling \_\_\_\_\_
  - through a bus one day. He was \_\_\_\_\_
  - carrying a huge bag on him \_\_\_\_\_
- shoulder. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION D: LITERATURE (31 Marks)**

- 9 **Read the extract and answer these questions:** [4]
- 'He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten.'
- Why the boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun?
    - To rule peacefully.
    - Due to suggestion by astrologer.
    - To respect to God Amun.
    - To keep his citizens happy.
  - How has archaeology changed through the decades?
    - focuses more on treasure
    - focuses more on physical findings
    - focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and mysteries of death
    - focuses on timings
  - When was the tomb of King tut discovered?
    - 1920

- (b) 1921
- (c) 1922
- (d) 1923

(iv). What name did Amenhotep IV change to?

- (a) Amanaten
- (b) Analia
- (c) Akhenaten
- (d) Amenhola

**10. Read the extract and answer these questions:**

**[3]**

The sea holiday was a past, mine is her laughter. Both wry

With the labored ease of loss.

Now she's been dead nearly as many years

As that girl lived. And of this circumstance

There is nothing to say at all.

Its silence silences.

- a) What does the sea symbolize in the poem?
- b) How old was poet's mother in the photograph?
- c) What does the poet mean by saying 'its silence silences'?

**11. Answer these questions not more than 20 words:**

**[3]**

- a) What does George do to enjoy himself?
- b) What was the address of Mrs. Dorling's?
- c) What unforeseen problem did Carter encounter when he reached King Tut's mummy?

**12. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**[6]**

- A** What are the themes of the play 'The Mother's Day'? **2**
- B** Why was Tut's body buried along with gilded treasures? **2**
- C** What problem does Mrs. Pearson face? Who do you think is responsible for this state of affairs? **2**

**13. Answer the following questions in 50-70 words:**

**[3]**

- A.** What is Mrs. Pearson's opinion of Charlie Spence? How does Doris react to it?  
OR
- B.** What has the camera captured in the poem 'Photograph'?

**14. Answer of the following in about 120-150 words each:**

**[12]**

- A.** What efforts did the narrator make to save the ship and its passengers?  
OR

From a foster mother in the village to a lonely old lady in the city describe grandmothers' journey through the later part of her life.

- B.** Why do you think the narrator of the story want to forget 'the address'?  
OR

**6**

Despite identifying his horse, what made John Byro believe that the horse that the boys were riding was 'My Heart' - a twin of his stolen horse? What light does the incident throw on his character?