



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: XII
Date: 23.09.24
Name:

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

i. Answer: (a) Every cloud has a silver lining

Explanation: This proverb reflects the idea that there is something positive to be found in every difficult situation, aligning with the passage's theme of finding meaning in adversity and cultivating resilience.

ii. Answer: Viktor Frankl

Explanation: "His" refers to Viktor Frankl, the Holocaust survivor and psychologist mentioned in the passage, who developed resilience by focusing on what he could control during his time in concentration camps.

iii. Answer: Viktor Frankl demonstrated resilience by choosing to find meaning in his suffering and focusing on what he could control, such as his attitude and response. This mindset helped him endure the harsh conditions and ultimately shaped his life's work.

iv. Answer: (b) Adversities

Explanation: "Adversities" means difficulties or misfortunes, which is synonymous with "hardships," as used in the context of overcoming challenges in the passage.

v. Answer: meaning-focused coping

Explanation: The process of finding purpose and meaning in difficult situations to endure and grow beyond them is referred to as "meaning-focused coping," a key concept discussed in the passage.

vi. Answer: Acknowledging and accepting one's emotions allows individuals to process their feelings instead of suppressing them. This emotional awareness and reflection enable them to learn from their experiences, adapt to challenges, and build resilience over time.

vii. Answer: (d) Overcoming Challenges with Strength

Explanation: This title reflects the central theme of the passage, which is about building resilience and strength by overcoming challenges through deliberate choices and finding meaning in adversity.

viii. Answer: Viktor Frankl realized the importance of meaning-focused coping while enduring the horrors of concentration camps. By finding meaning in his suffering and focusing on his response to adversity, he developed resilience and laid the foundation for his psychological theories.

ix. Answer: (d) only 4 (Challenges)

Explanation: "Challenges" fits with the general theme of "fear, doubt, and insecurity" as these are all difficulties people face. "Challenges" aligns with the context of overcoming adversity and building resilience, as discussed in the passage.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Answer: To highlight the remarkable and awe-inspiring nature of bird migration.

ii. Answer: Cryptochromes in birds' eyes.

iii.

Answer: hindering their natural movement.

iv. Answer: C. Field-based

v. Answer: B. Impaired ability to detect magnetic fields

vi. Answer: The mention of the studies being published implies that the research findings are credible, have undergone peer review, and are considered significant contributions to scientific knowledge in the field of ornithology.

vii. Answer: A. Using a hybrid car to save fuel on a long road trip

viii. Answer: Dr. Thompson's research focuses on the navigational mechanisms using magnetic fields, while Dr. Patel's experiment highlights the energy efficiency strategy during migration. Both studies contribute to understanding different aspects of bird migration's purpose and mechanisms.

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 two given below, in about 50 words.

4

3. NOTICE

Format – 1 Content -2 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1

A → Correct format (as listed)

→ Drawing attention— of students of class XI

→ Mentioning the excursion ; inviting registrations

→ Giving details -D,T,V

→ Informing about parent-consent slips

→ Line with reference to the undersigned

B → Correct format (as listed)

→ Drawing attention—one and all

→ Mentioning the find and where

→ Giving details of the bag

→ Sharing details for claiming (by owner)

→ Line with reference to the undersigned

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 50 words.

4

. INVITATION & REPLY

Format – 1 , Content -2, Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1

A FORMAL LETTER - invitation

Format- that of a formal letter- Sender's address, date, designation of the receiver, followed by the receiver's address, subject, salutation, content of the invitation, complimentary close.

Content:

- Purpose of invitation
- Date /time of event
- Venue (address)

B FORMAL LETTER- Reply in third person

Format- that of a formal letter- Sender's address, date, designation of the receiver, followed by the receiver's address, subject, salutation, content of the invitation, complimentary close.

CONTENT

- In Third Person, mention of Date, Time and Venu.

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

5

25/A, Defence Colony
New Delhi
7 February 20xx
The Editor
The Hindu
M.G. Road
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Subject : Concern over eve-teasing

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to express my concern over the increasing eve-teasing in local buses.

Every day we come across tragic incidents of eve-teasing and at times women are thrown out of moving buses and they are grievously injured. The worst situation is when the onlookers turn a blind eye to the situation.

It is a matter of grave concern that the general public is becoming insensitive to the security of women and young girls. People need to be more sensitive to women's security as they are an integral part of the society. It has been rightly said that the society where women are respected, progresses better.

Women themselves should be aware of their security and respect. They need to learn martial arts or self-defence techniques. The latest defence techniques, such as pepper spray or chilli powder, should be kept handy. They should be dressed up in comfortable mode which doesn't obstruct their safety. They should shout for help and immediately react to the situation.

I am sure that my views will find some space in your reputable newspaper.

Yours faithfully
Bhavjeet Kaur

OR

Ans :

334, Naraina Vihar
New Delhi
11 April 20xx
The HR Manager
Apna Ghar
GK Part II
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Subject : Application for the post of supervisor

With reference to your advertisement for the post of a supervisor in your company, I would like to offer myself as a candidate for the same. If selected, I assure you, that I will help the company through my duties. My biodata is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully

Gunjeet Jain

Bio-Data

Name : Gunjeet Jain
Father's Name : Shri Sanjay Das
Data of Birth : 15th October, 19xx
Marital Status : Unmarried
Current Add. : 334, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi

Contact No. : 993125xxxx
Languages known : Hindi, English
Extra skills : Computer Knowledge

Educational Qualifications

- Passed class 10 with 78%
- Class 12 from National Open School 80%
- BBA (IGNOU) with 75%

Work Experience

- Worked as Supervisor on ad hoc basis at Vistas Enterprise for 2 years

References

- Mrs. Meena Kaul (CEO), Vistas Enterprise
- Dr. Rahul Goswami (CMD), Sagar Ratna

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

Ans :

Delhi-A City of Crimes

By Chinara Gulati

Delhi has become notorious for crimes-robberies in daytime, murders of senior citizens in crowded colonies, kidnappings from main roads and rapes in moving cars. This is in addition to the pick pocketing, eve-teasing and hit and run cases, rampant in all areas. With the police dragging its feet in catching the wrongdoers and the courts' lackadaisical attitude in passing judgement speedily, criminals are encouraged to continue their nefarious activities.

This situation is compounded when highly placed officials and politicians use their influence to protect the guilty. The gap between the wealthy and the underprivileged is growing, and with the open display of wealth by the former, the latter feel crime is the shortest and surest way to achieve the same goals. Movies romanticise the bad and the ugly side of life, adding fuel to the fire. People themselves break laws by not getting their servants or tenants verified or by turning a blind eye to the wrongdoings.

The city is acquiring a bad reputation. Where once only selected areas were considered unsafe, now the whole city is vulnerable.

The government needs to take strict action against the recalcitrant police officers and those who block the course of justice. Judgements in criminal cases must be swift and harsh. People must realise that they also have the responsibility of keeping crime at bay. It is only when everyone works together, we can make Delhi a place worthy to live in.

OR

Plantation Week

By Nitin Sharma

Nagpur, 16 July 20xx

The 'Plantation Week' was held in the school from 9 July to 15 July in the school premises. The students from classes 5 to 12 actively participated in the tree plantation programme. The school Principal,

Dr. Ranen Malhotra, teachers and students planted saplings in the school premises. They planted different kinds of plants such as jacaranda (neeli gulmohur), purple orchid, African tulip tree, Indian laburnum, mountain ebony, scarlet fountain tree (pichkari), rain tree, jurul and mango trees. The students also attended the orientation programme arranged by the British Council. The teachers explained about the importance of tree plantation. They also explained the negative impact, if tree are felled, on the environment and ecology. Nonetheless, the help staff told different things about the plants and their uses. At the end of the programme, there was an impressive photo session with Principal, teachers and students.

SECTION C- LITERATURE 40

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6

A.

i. (b) Futuristic

ii. TRUE

1

iii. Total Inactivity.

iv. No truck with death

1

v. breath

1

vi. (a) Aggressive

OR

B i. b)When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.

ii. a)1, 4 and 5

iii. c)1 and 4

- iv. b) deafening silence
- v. d) an edge at the top
- vi. d) To enjoy immense happiness

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4

- A.**
- i. The very moment when the astrologers reveal their secret prediction.
 - ii. b) Ten-day old child uttered a question to the astrologers
 - iii. The child asked the prophets to reveal the manner of his death.
 - iv. d) They were stupefied

OR

B.

- i. His first landlady
- ii. (c) America
- iii. full of prejudice / bias
- iv. in finding a place

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6

A.

- i. What does the expression 'things are going downhill' mean?

TO DETERIORATE OR WORSEN 1

- ii. Why does the protagonist not reveal his true identity? 1

(b) He hoped for some monetary help from the ironmaster.

- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The extract suggests that the peddler was an incorrigible fellow because apparently he _____.

DIDN'T LEARN HIS LESSON AND WAS CHEATING AND LYING AGAIN.

- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer important information about Nils Olof. 1

HE WAS A REGIMENTAL MATE OF THE IRON MASTER WHO HAD RESIGNED PREMATURELY FROM THE ARMY.

- v. Which personality traits of the ironmaster can be distinguished from the extract? Mention any two.

IMPULSIVENESS.

GULLIBILITY

1

vi. Which of the following idiomatic expressions best suggests the doings of the peddler? 1

(c) **Pull wool over someone's eyes**

OR

B.

- i. d) patriotic magnification
- ii. d) Option (iv)
- iii. c) Franz was inspired and had found a new meaning and purpose to learning.
- iv. a) receptive.
- v. a) 1869 – 1870
- vi. b) patient, dignified, emotional, courageous

Q10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 30-40 words each.

2X5=10marks

(i) For Saheb, how was work at the tea stall different from rag picking?

Answer : Saheb took up a job at a tea stall where he got eight hundred rupees a month. Though his earnings were better than what he got in rag picking, he was not happy there, as he had become a servant. He was no longer his own master and had to work according to the whims and fancies of the tea stall owner. He had lost his freedom.

(ii) How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?

Answer : Douglas' instructor was a dedicated person. He took immense pain and drove fear out of Douglas' mind by making him practice hard. He made Douglas practice for five days a week, an hour every day. First, he taught him to swim up and down by tying rope to a pulley, then the breathing exercise and finally, he made him kick his legs. He taught him different steps one by one and then asked him to swim. Finally, Douglas was able to overcome his fear of water and he became a good swimmer by rigorous and systematic practice five days a week.

(iii) State any two characteristics that can be inferred about the people from the countryside in The Roadside Stand.

(iv) Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter moon'?

Answer : The mother has been compared to the 'late winter moon' because she has become pale like the moon in the winter. She is dull and lifeless. Her face has lost its glow and is misted with wrinkles, as the winter moon is shrouded with clouds.

- v. How would the innocent be soothed out of their wits?
(A Roadside Stand)

Ans :

The selfish good-doers would outwit the simple innocent people into believing that their intentions and efforts were for their improvement, while they would be seeking their own profits from the labour of these folks.

- vi. “The battle of Champaran is won.” When and why did Gandhiji utter these words?

(Indigo)

Ans :

Gandhiji said these words when the lawyers under the leadership of Dr. Rajendra Prasad agreed to go to jail if Gandhi was arrested. He said this because he has now full-fledged support of lawyer fraternity.

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

- i. What convinced Charley that he had reached the third level at Grand Central Station and not the second level?

Ans :

The general layout of the third level was different from that of the second level. It had comparatively smaller rooms, fewer ticket windows and lesser train gates. The information booth in the centre was made of wood and looked old. The place with its brass spittoons did not look very bright. So Charley was convinced it was not the second level.

- ii. Why was the old general not in favour of Dr. Sadao's being arrested?

(The Enemy)

Ans :

Dr. Sadao told the general that he could stand only one more such attack as the later had that day. And due to this, he had to be operated upon. The general wanted Dr. Sadao to operate upon him. He had no faith in other surgeons in Japan. That is why he didn't want Dr. Sadao to get arrested.

- iii. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?

(Journey to the end of the earth)

Ans :

The Antarctica landmass, that was an amalgamated southern super-continent called Gondwana dates back to 650 million years. It can help us understand better the formation of continents and mountains like the Himalayas as they are in the modern world. Its ice-cores hold over half-million-year old carbon records that are vital to study the Earth's past, present and future.

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

5

A. The prose section 'Lost Spring', describes the aspirations and dreams of the youth and the pain of unfulfilled promises and shattered dreams. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school children. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of realistic dreams over unrealistic ones.

Dear Students,

Today, let us reflect on the lives portrayed in Lost Spring, where we see children like Saheb and Mukesh, whose dreams are stifled by poverty. Saheb, a ragpicker, dreams of playing tennis, yet the weight of his circumstances crushes those dreams. Mukesh, on the other hand, is determined to become a car mechanic, a goal rooted in reality and within his reach despite the hardships around him.

The lesson here is not to stop dreaming, but to ground our dreams in reality. Unrealistic aspirations can lead to disappointment, but realistic ones, fueled by hard work, can pave the way for success. Life might not always provide a smooth path, but persistence and a practical approach to your goals can lead to fulfillment. So, dream big, but ensure your dreams are achievable. Your future is in your hands.

Thank you.

OR

B. "Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor." Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the text about whether the poor of India are free from fear after Independence or not.

Dear Students,

Today, I want to talk about a powerful truth: freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor. In Lost Spring, we see how poverty-stricken children like Saheb and Mukesh live in constant fear. Fear of hunger, fear of exploitation, fear of losing even the little they have. Despite India's independence, many of the poor are still not free from fear. Legal justice exists, but access to it remains a distant dream for those burdened by survival.

For the poor, breaking free from fear is the first step toward true freedom. Without it, they cannot dream, speak out, or fight for their rights. As future leaders, you must work towards a society where every individual, regardless of their background, is not only protected by laws but is also free from fear and insecurity. True independence is when fear no longer holds anyone back.

Thank you.

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

5

A. Why does Tishani Doshi call her trip to Antarctica a "Journey to the End of the Earth"? What experience did she have during this expedition?

Ans :

Tishani Doshi calls her trip to Antarctica a 'Journey to the End of the Earth' because she crosses nine time zones, six checkpoints, three water bodies and many ecospheres to reach there. The entire journey takes one hundred hours. She is wonder-struck by the immensity and isolation of the region. She is also relieved to see its expansive wide landscape and uninterrupted blue horizon. Antarctica provides young students like her with a platform to study changes in the environment. The programme is also likely to help them develop a new respect and understanding of our planet. Antarctica is also the perfect place for them to study how little climatic changes can have big repercussions and how global warming and further depletion of the ozone layer can affect the Antarctic region. The study of the Antarctica will help them to understand the earth's past, present and future.

OR

B. The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress. We need to overcome them through different ways. Write a paragraph with reference to 'The Third Level', and express your thoughts about the ways to overcome it.

Ans :

We can overcome the anxieties and insecurities bred by our inevitable existence in the modern world by getting involved in some practical and beneficial activities. Cultivating hobbies, spend time with family and friends, going on trips and excursions, pursuing meditation and exercises help us live a balanced and healthy life. Reading good books is equivalent to having good friends with great insight. They not only enrich us with the vast store of knowledge but also help us to learn from other's experience and stay rooted to some basic qualities of humanity. Joining hobby classes, gym, attending social events like birthdays and weddings, going for outdoor games, interacting meaningfully through social-networking sites and writing diaries, etc. can also help us relieve our worries and stay focused and disciplined in life. Simple activities like listening to music, playing with pets, an occasional dinner out, watching cinema or plays or going to places like parks, etc. can go a long way in helping us get rid of stress, boredom and insecurities.