



**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. : \_\_\_\_\_**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)**

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully:**

**12**

**The Power of Resilience in Overcoming Adversity**

Resilience is the remarkable ability of humans to bounce back from adversity, adapt to challenging circumstances, and emerge stronger from trials. This powerful trait has been the subject of many studies, revealing that resilience is not an inborn quality but rather a skill that can be cultivated through conscious effort and practice. It is built through a series of intentional decisions and actions, particularly in moments of hardship.

One such example can be seen in the life of Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor and renowned psychologist. During his time in concentration camps, Frankl faced unimaginable suffering and loss. Despite this, he chose to find meaning in his suffering, a decision that ultimately contributed to his survival and shaped his life's work. Frankl's resilience stemmed from his decision to focus on what he could control: his attitude and response to the brutality around him. He later wrote extensively about how finding purpose, even in the darkest of times, can help individuals endure and transcend their circumstances.

Frankl's approach aligns with what psychologists now term as "meaning-focused coping." This strategy involves finding a sense of purpose and understanding in adversity, which can create a buffer against the psychological impacts of stress. Research has shown that individuals who employ meaning-focused coping are more likely to experience post-traumatic growth—a positive psychological change that occurs as a result of struggling with challenging life circumstances.

However, the journey to resilience is not without its challenges. Many people are overwhelmed by their hardships and feel paralyzed by fear, doubt, and insecurity. It is easy to become disheartened when confronted with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Yet, as Frankl's example illustrates, the key lies in small, consistent efforts to reframe one's perspective and find meaning in the midst of pain.

Developing resilience also involves acknowledging and accepting one's emotions rather than suppressing them. It requires a conscious effort to reflect on personal experiences, learn from them, and use them as stepping stones for growth. By taking small, manageable steps, individuals can gradually build their resilience and navigate the complexities of life more effectively.

In conclusion, resilience is not an overnight achievement but a gradual process of growth and adaptation. By making deliberate choices, finding meaning in adversity, and maintaining a positive

attitude, individuals can cultivate resilience and transform their lives. Understanding this principle allows us to approach our own challenges with greater courage and determination, knowing that each small step we take contributes to our overall strength and well-being.

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

**i.** Select a proverb that echoes the statement, "By making deliberate choices, finding meaning in adversity, and maintaining a positive attitude, individuals can cultivate resilience and transform their lives." 1

- (a) Every cloud has a silver lining (b) Actions speak louder than words  
(c) A rolling stone gathers no moss (d) The early bird catches the worm

**ii.** Complete the sentence appropriately by referring to the word underlined. 1

Based on the information given in the excerpt about Viktor Frankl, the narrator infers "Frankl's resilience stemmed from his decision to focus on what he could control." "His" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

**iii.** Explain in about 40 words, how did Viktor Frankl demonstrate resilience during his time in concentration camps. 2

**iv.** After reading the above passage, select the word that means the same as 'hardships'. 1

- (a) Triumphs (b) Adversities (c) Opportunities (d) Comforts

**v.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

"Finding purpose, even in the darkest of times, can help individuals endure and transcend their circumstances." We call this process \_\_\_\_\_.

**vi.** Explain in about 40 words, how acknowledging and accepting one's emotions can contribute to building resilience. 2

**vii.** Based on the information given in the excerpt, select the suitable title for the given passage. 1

- (a) The Science of Resilience (b) Viktor Frankl: A Journey Through the Holocaust  
(c) How to Build a Positive Attitude (d) Overcoming Challenges with Strength

**viii.** Explain in about 40 words, how Viktor Frankl realized the importance of meaning-focused coping in his life. 2

**ix.** "Fear, doubt, and insecurity." Which of the following words given below can you add to the given line that agrees with the general theme? 1

- (1) Empathy (2) Courage (3) Acceptance (4) Challenges (5) Confidence

**Codes:**

- (a) only 4 (b) 2 and 5 (c) 3 and 4 (d) only 1

**Q2. Read the following passage carefully:** 10

### **The Mysteries of Migratory Birds**

Bird migration is one of nature's greatest phenomena. Every year, billions of birds travel thousands of miles between their breeding and wintering grounds. The mystery of why and how these birds

undertake such arduous journeys has intrigued scientists for centuries. Two significant studies have sought to unravel these mysteries, focusing on the purpose and mechanisms behind bird migration.

### **Study 1: Dr. Emily Thompson's Research on Navigational Abilities**

(Published in Ornithology Journal, Volume 65, Issue 9)

- i) Dr. Emily Thompson and her team explored the navigation abilities of migratory birds, particularly their reliance on Earth's magnetic fields.
- ii) The researchers fitted several species of migratory birds with tiny magnetic sensors to track their movements across different regions.
- iii) It was observed that birds use the Earth's magnetic field as a navigational tool, aligning themselves to specific magnetic lines to guide their journey.
- iv) The study also discovered that certain proteins in birds' eyes, called cryptochromes, are sensitive to magnetic fields and may help birds 'see' the magnetic lines of Earth.
- v) Dr. Thompson concluded that this magnetic sense is crucial for birds to find their way during migration, especially when visual cues such as the sun or stars are obscured by clouds.

### **Study 2: Dr. Raj Patel's Experiment on Energy Efficiency**

(Published in Journal of Avian Biology, Volume 72, Issue 4)

- i) Dr. Raj Patel and his colleagues investigated the energy efficiency of migratory birds during their long flights.
- ii) The experiment involved monitoring the heart rates and oxygen consumption of birds flying in a wind tunnel that simulated long-distance migration conditions.
- iii) Results showed that birds flying in a V-formation expended significantly less energy than those flying alone, as they benefit from the aerodynamic effects of the leading bird's wingtip vortices.
- iv) Birds flying at the back of the formation had lower heart rates and reduced oxygen consumption, indicating that the V-formation is a strategy to conserve energy during migration.
- v) Dr. Patel's team concluded that energy efficiency is a critical factor in the success of long-distance migration, allowing birds to travel vast distances with minimal energy expenditure.

### **Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

- i.** What might be the MOST likely purpose of the author's use of the phrase "nature's greatest phenomena" while referring to bird migration?
- ii.** Provide a response, in a phrase, from Study 1 of the text given above.

According to Dr. Thompson's research, what helps migratory birds navigate using the Earth's magnetic field?

- iii.** Complete the sentence with an appropriate inference.

The choice of "tiny magnetic sensors" was likely driven by the need to study birds' navigation without .

- iv.** Select the option that DOES NOT display the nature of these experiments correctly.

A. Comparative      B. Analytical      C. Field-based      D. Experimental

v. In the absence of cryptochromes, what is the likely consequence for migratory birds?

- A. Improved navigation using magnetic fields      B. Impaired ability to detect magnetic fields  
C. Enhanced energy efficiency during migration      D. Increased reliance on visual cues

vi. The text makes a mention of the studies being published. What implication does this hold for the readers? (Answer in 30-40 words)

vii. Which of the following can we cite as an example to explain the meaning of “energy efficiency,” as used in the line - "energy efficiency is a critical factor in the success of long-distance migration"?

- A. Using a hybrid car to save fuel on a long road trip  
B. Exercising regularly to improve overall fitness  
C. Drinking coffee to stay alert during work  
D. Buying a more expensive phone with better features

viii. In terms of the purpose of bird migration, examine how the findings in Dr. Thompson's research and Dr. Patel's experiment align or differ. (Answer in 30-40 words)

### SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

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

**Q3.** Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 50 words. 4

A. You are Asha, the Activity Coordinator of Vomaji Public School, Mumbai. Your school is organising an excursion to Elephanta Caves for students of Class XI. Interested students will need to make a payment of Rs 500 each. Draft a notice about this, in about 50 words, for your school notice board, inviting registration of students interested in going for the excursion along with necessary details. Also, inform that registrations would be invalid without parent-consent slips, available in the Activity Room.

**OR**

B. You are Mr. Afsal Ansari, the RWA Secretary of your residential society. While on your evening walk in the neighbourhood park, you found a small faux-leather bag containing a few documents and some cash. You write a notice in about 50 words to be put up on the RWA\* notice board, asking the owner to identify and collect it from you. Write this notice, with the necessary details.

**Q4.** Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two given below, in about 50 words. 4

A. You are V. Gajender, the Secretary of the Literary Club of Model Public School, Vellore. Your club members are staging Anton Chekhov's play 'Uncle Vanya', as part of their annual showcasing. Draft an invitation in not more than 50 words for Mr. Mohan Rakesh, noted theatre and cinema artist and Chairperson of The Drama School, Chennai requesting him to be the guest of honour for the event.

**OR**

**B.** You are Simran Sodhi, the Personal Assistant of the IG (Inspector General), Police, Chandigarh. The IG has received an invitation from the 'Women's Institute for Self Defence', Chandigarh (WISDC) to preside over the Graduation Ceremony of the current batch of women cadets and address them. You draft a formal reply, on behalf of the IG, to the Chairperson of WISDC, accepting the invitation. Write this reply and include all the necessary details.

**Q5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

**A.** You are Bhavjeet Kaur of 25/A, Defence Colony, New Delhi. You are deeply concerned about the growing apathy of people towards eve-teasing in local buses. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and suggesting ways in which are women can ensure their own safety.

**OR**

**B.** During summer months after your exams are over, you want to utilize your time by working in a leading chain of superstores. You are Gunjeet/ Gagan. Write an application for the post of a supervisor giving your complete bio-data to the HR Manager, Apna Ghar, GK Part II, New Delhi.

**Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.**

**5**

**A.** Every day you read in the newspaper about the increasing rate of crimes in Delhi. You live in Delhi and feel really bad about it. As Chinar Gulati, write an article for your school magazine on the topic.

**OR**

**B.** You are Nitin Sharma, the newly elected Secretary of Einstein Society of Cambridge School, Nagpur. Write a report in 120-150 words for the school magazine about the 'plantation week' held recently in your school.

### **SECTION C- LITERATURE 40**

**Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

**6**

**A.** What I want should not be  
confused

with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;

I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded

about keeping our lives moving

and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence

might interrupt this sadness

of never understanding ourselves

and of threatening ourselves with

death.

i. Which of the following qualities is best represented in the given extract? 1

(a) Ambitious (b) Futuristic (c) Concerned (d) Hypocritical

ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. The repetition of the letter 'w' in 'we were' depicts alliteration. 1

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

People should not misunderstand the poet's suggestion of \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. Pick out is the phrase that suggests that the poet does not talk about 'total inactivity' related to no action in life which means end of life. 1

v. If this poem is not written in free verse, which word would rhyme with line 5. 1

head                                      Treat                                      breath

vi. Select the option that is NOT true about the tone of the poet in the above lines? 1

(a) Aggressive (b) Suggestive                                      (c) Moralising (d) Informative

**OR**

**B.** Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

i. Pick the quote that matches best with—

**'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead.'**

- a) In the night of death, hope sees a star, and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
- b) When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.
- c) Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.
- d) Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once.

ii. Pick the option that refers to what 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' suggests.

- 1. inspirational deeds of great men
- 2. a ceaseless series of dreams
- 3. an infinite source of strength
- 4. an elixir of life for upliftment of the soul
- 5. an eternal source of delight
- 6. a boundless gift of love

a) 1, 4 and 5      b) 2, 3 and 5      c) 1, 2 and 6      d) 2, 4 and 6

iii. Pick the option that pairs the **TRUE** statements based on the extract, from the list below.

- 1. The bushes with fragrant flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.
- 2. Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.

3. Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar of joy.
4. Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us.

a) 1 and 2      b) 2 and 4      c) 1 and 4      d) 2 and 3

iv. Pick the option that uses the same literary device as the 'mighty dead'.

- a) sleepless nights      b) deafening silence      c) glaring lights      d) time is a thief

v. What does 'brink' mean?

- a) roof top      b) a rocky space      c) mountain top      d) an edge at the top

vi. Why does poet ask everyone to drink the 'Immortal drink'?

- a) Because John love it too.      b) This drink will bring them closer to nature  
c) Because it tastes good      d) To enjoy immense happiness

**Q8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.      4**

**A.** At that very moment, a great miracle took place. An astonishing phrase emerged from the lips of the tendar- old Jilani Jung Bahadur, 'O wise prophets!'

i. In the phrase 'At that very moment' which moment is the author talking about?

ii. What miracle did take place?

- a) Ten-year-old child asked a question to the astrologers  
b) Ten-day old child uttered a question to the astrologers  
c) Both (A) and (B)  
d) Neither (A) nor (B)

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract:

The child asked the prophets to\_\_\_\_\_.

iv. How did the astrologers react?

- a) They were afraid      b) They got amazed      c) They started trembling      d) They were stupefied

**OR**

**B.** "He remembered his old teacher of anatomy, who had been so insistent on mercy with the knife, and then he remembered the face of his fat and slatternly landlady. He had great difficulty in finding a place to live in America because he was a Japanese. The Americans were full of prejudice and it had been bitter to live in it, knowing himself their superior. How he had despised the ignorant and dirty old woman who had at last consented to house him in her miserable home! He had once tried to be grateful to her because she had in his last year nursed him through but it was difficult, for she was no less repulsive to him in her kindness." (The Enemy)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately.

1

\_\_\_\_\_ had cared for Dr Sadao when he fell ill in America.

**ii.** Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1

The Americans were full of prejudice and it had been bitter to live in \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) Dr Sadao's place (b) The General's place (c) America (d) The White Man's place

**iii.** How were the Americans, according to Sadao? 1

**iv.** What difficulty did Dr Sadao face in America? 1

**Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6**

**A.** "But of course it is you, Nils Olof!" he said. "How you do look!" The man with the rattaps had never before seen the ironmaster at Ramsjo and did not even know what his name was. But it occurred to him that if the fine gentleman thought he was an old acquaintance, he might perhaps throw him a couple of kronor. Therefore he did not want to undeceive him all at once. "Yes, God knows things have gone downhill with me," he said. "You should not have resigned from the regiment," said the ironmaster.

**i.** What does the expression 'things are going downhill' mean? 1

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

(a) He just casually went with the situation.

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

(c) He was afraid of not getting food and shelter.

(d) He was hoping to escape getting arrested.

**iii.** Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

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

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

**v.** Which personality traits of the ironmaster can be distinguished from the extract? Mention any two. 1

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

(a) Slip of the tongue (b) To err is human, to forgive divine

(c) Pull wool over someone's eyes (d) The sleep of the just

**OR**

**B.** M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world — the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy!

**i.** Which of the following can be attributed to M. Hamel's declaration about the French language? 1



- a) subject expertise    b) nostalgic pride    c) factual accuracy    d) patriotic magnification

ii. Read the quotes given below.

1

Choose the option that might best describe M. Hamel's viewpoint.

(i) Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own --Johann

(ii) Language is the road map of culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.

--Rita Mae Brown

(iii) A poor man is like a foreigner in his own country.

--Ali Ibn Abi Talib

(iv) The greatest propaganda in the world is our mother tongue, that is what we learn as children, and which we learn unconsciously. That shapes our perceptions for life.

--Marshal McLuhan

- a) Option (i)    b) Option (ii)    c) Option (iii)    d) Option (iv)

iii "I was amazed to see how well I understood it."

1

Select the option that does **NOT** explain why Franz found the grammar lesson "easy".

- a) Franz was paying careful attention in class this time.  
b) M. Hamel was being extremely patient and calm in his teaching.  
c) Franz was inspired and had found a new meaning and purpose to learning.  
d) Franz had realized that French was the clearest and most logical language.

iv Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was

1

- a) receptive.    b) appreciative.    c) introspective.    d) competitive.

v. "The Last Lesson" story was written in which year?

1

- a) 1869 – 1870    b) 1870 – 1871    c) 1872- 1873    d) 1870 – 1872

vi. "I never saw him look so tall". Which of the following best captures M. Hamel on the last day of school?

1

- a) cranky, miserable, dedicated, resigned  
b) patient, dignified, emotional, courageous  
c) calm, nostalgic, disappointed, patriotic  
d) proud, reproachful, persistent, heroic

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?
- (ii) How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?
- (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'?
- v. How would the innocent be soothed out of their wits?
- vi. "The battle of Champaran is won." When and why did Gandhiji utter these words?

**Q11. 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?
- ii. Why was the old general not in favour of Dr. Sadao's being arrested?
- iii. Why is Antarctica the place to go to if we want to study the earth's past, present and future?

**Q12. 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.

**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.

**Q13. 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?

**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.