



# BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS

SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 2 2024-25

ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (101)



**Class: X**

**Date: 09.12.24**

**Name:**

**Duration: 3 hrs.**

**Max Marks: 80**

**Exam No.:**

## General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- I. This question paper has 12 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- II. This question paper contains three sections:  
Section A: Reading Skills,  
Section B: Writing Skills  
Section C: Grammar  
Section D: 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 passage given below:

12

- 1) I got posted in Srinagar in the 1980s. Its rugged mountains, gushing rivers and vast meadows reminded me of the landscapes of my native place – the Jibhi Valley in Himachal Pradesh. Unlike Srinagar that saw numerous tourists, Jibhi Valley remained clouded in anonymity. That's when the seed for starting tourism in Jibhi was planted. I decided to leave my service in the Indian Army and follow the urge to return home.
- 2) We had two houses – a family house and a traditional house, which we often rented out. I pleaded with my father to ask the tenant to vacate the house so that I could convert it into a guesthouse. When my family finally relented, I renovated the house keeping its originality intact, just adding windows for sunlight.
- 3) I still remember the summer of 1992 when I put a signboard outside my first guesthouse in Jibhi Valley! The village residents, however, were sceptical about my success. My business kept growing but it took years for tourism to take off in Jibhi Valley. Things changed significantly after 2008 when the government launched a homestay scheme. People built homestays and with rapid tourism growth, the region changed rapidly. Villages turned into towns with many concrete buildings. Local businesses and tourists continued putting a burden on nature.
- 4) Then, with the 2020-21 pandemic and lockdown, tourism came to a complete standstill in Jibhi Valley. Local people, who were employed at over a hundred homestays and guesthouses, returned to their villages. Some went back to farming; some took up pottery and some got involved in government work schemes. Now, all ardently hope that normalcy and tourism will return to the valley soon. In a way, the

pandemic has given us an opportunity to introspect, go back to our roots and look for sustainable solutions.

5) For me, tourism has been my greatest teacher. It brought people from many countries and all states of India to my guesthouse. It gave me exposure to different cultures and countless opportunities to learn new things. Most people who stayed at my guesthouse became my repeat clients and good friends. When I look back, I feel proud, yet humbled at the thought that I was not only able to fulfill my dream despite all the challenges, but also play a role in establishing tourism in the beautiful valley that I call home.

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

- (I) How does the setting contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere of the story in the passage? 1
- (a) The setting creates a sense of isolation and desolation, enhancing a melancholic mood.
  - (b) The setting adds to the vibrancy and liveliness, contributing to an upbeat and cheerful atmosphere.
  - (c) The setting has no impact on the mood and atmosphere of the story.
  - (d) The setting evokes a sense of nostalgia, connecting the narrator's experiences with their native place.
- (II) State how the emotions felt by the author when renovating the traditional house for the guesthouse are analogous to the anticipation and excitement one might experience when transforming a cherished space into a fulfilling and purposeful endeavour. 2
- (III) What is the main flaw in the actions of local businessmen in relation to nature? 1
- (a) Excessive deforestation for commercial purposes.
  - (b) Unregulated construction and rapid development.
  - (c) Overreliance on government work schemes.
  - (d) Failure to adapt to sustainable agricultural practice
- (IV) After which paragraph of the story, would the following paragraph most likely be placed?  
The bad times made me reflect on my business and I thought of choosing a different option 1
- (V) Briefly explain (in 30-40 words) any two elements that classify the passage as a narrative or autobiographical account. 1
- (VI) Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/ phrase from paragraph 5 that means the same. 1
- “After joining the international conference, the young scientist had experience to cutting-edge research.”
- (VII) What is the most significant lesson that the author learned during the pandemic? 1
- (a) The importance of rapid tourism growth.
  - (b) The necessity of diversifying business options.
  - (c) The resilience of the local community.
  - (d) The effectiveness of government work schemes.
- (VIII) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- From the statement, ‘The village residents, however, were sceptical about my success’ one can infer that .....

(IX) Complete the sentence appropriately. 2

If the title, 'A Tale of Missed Opportunities' would be given to the passage, it would be inappropriate, as compared to the title 'Establishing Tourism in Jibhi Valley' because .....

(X) State whether the given assertion is **TRUE** or **FALSE**. 1

The author plays a pivotal role in establishing tourism in the region despite initial skepticism and subsequent challenges.

**2. Read the following table displaying the performance and interest of four students of different calibre in academics and co-curricular activities.** 10

Name	Mathematics	Science	English	Overall Average (100)	Interest in Co-curricular Activities	Performance in the Inter School Competition
Ravi	75	80	70	75	Sports(Cricket, Football)	Won 1st Place in Inter School Football Tournament
Mohit	95	90	85	90	Debate, Quix, Elocution	Awarded Best Speaker in Inter School Debate Competition
Raghu	55	60	50	55	Painting, Drama, Photography	Displayed artwork in Inter School Art Exhibition
Lata	100	96	95	97	Robotics, Coding, Chess	Secured 2nd place in Inter School Robotics Challenge

**Answer the following questions based on the above table.**

(I) Identify the student from the above table who has artistic ideas. 1

(II) Lata has an interest in robotics and coding. Choose the best career option for her the given options 1

- (a) Event Organiser
- (b) App Developer
- (c) Choreographer

(III) Which interests of Raghu can help him relax whenever he is stressed? 2

(IV) Give one justification to prove that 1

- (a) Lata's actions are based on accurate calculations, and
- (b) Lata is capable of cracking any competitive examination.

(V) Select the correct option to fill in the blank and complete the analogy. 1

Guitar: Music: Photograph: .....

(VI) Complete the given sentence with the appropriate reason, with reference to the information in the given table. 1

From the table given above, we can infer that even though Raghu is an average student, yet he is..... than Lata.

- (VII) Explain why situation (c) showcases the sportsmanship quality of Ravi. 2
- a) In an inter-school cricket tournament, Ravi played well and helped the team win the match.
- b) In an inter-school cricket match, it was Ravi who cheered his team as captain and took important decisions during the match.
- c) After an inter-school cricket match, Ravi congratulated the opposite team for winning the match.
- (VIII) Choose the correct option, which proves that Mohit is a good debater. 1
- (a) Mohit shouts at the beginning of any discussion and does not let others speak.
- (b) Mohit argues without any facts while presenting his ideas.
- (c) Mohit can convince others with valid points and facts.

### SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS

(22 marks)

3. You are Alok Bansal or Alka Bansal a student of grade 10 at Greenfield High School. Due to a sudden family emergency, you need to leave town for a week. Write an email in about 50 words to your class teacher requesting leave from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Make sure that you mention the reason for your leave. 3

From:	
To:	
Cc:	xyz123@gmail.com
Date:	30 July 2024, 5:04pm
Subject:	

4. Write a factual description of a Florists shop that you recently visited. Include details about the appearance of the shop, the variety of the flowers available, the atmosphere and the services provided by the florist, in about 100 words. 4
5. A. You've noticed that instead of the opposite, living in modern cities has forced people to adopt the habit of "late to sleep and late to rise." As you become aware of the damage this does to an individual's health, write a letter to the editor of a national daily drawing attention to the issues at hand. You may take ideas from Unit-1 'Health and Medicine'. You are Mohit/Meetika of 112, Lawrence Road, South Ex, New Delhi. 7

**OR**

- B. You have recently shifted to a new house in South Extension. It's been over a month since you noticed your neighbour dumping garbage outside your building. Despite several reminders, they have been rigid in their actions, and now you feel frustrated. Write a letter of complaint to the health ministry regarding the same. You may take ideas from MCB Unit 4, 'Environment'. You are Rishabh, residing in C 8/9 Hauz Khas, South extension.

6. Write an article on any one of the following topics: 8

- A. You're disturbed by the recent death of Avni, the tigress who had two 10-months-old cubs. You come to understand that the root causes of this are human encroachment and the avarice of land-grabbing corporations. Write an article to be published in 'The National Times' about your concern

and the need to take urgent action to stop the decline in the number of tigers in India. You are Amit Malhotra.

**Clues:** Ecological balance disturbed- Awareness campaigns- Local people suffer- Threat of extinction  
**OR**

**B.** There are frequent power cuts in your locality. You strongly feel that it is time to shift to solar power. Write an article on the topic "Solar Power, An Apt Global Solution for the Energy Crisis".

**Clues:** Renewable energy- Reduce energy bills- Completely clean- No water pollution- No greenhouse gas effects, Carbon free, no emissions- Low maintenance cost.

**SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 marks)**

**7. Fill in the blanks (A) - (C) with the appropriate option given below. 3x1=3**

**A.** During (i) ..... (**the/ a/ an**) hottest part of the year, many of our city streets seem to be on fire (ii) .....(**with/ from/ over**) masses of Gulmohar flowers. This (iii) ..... (**are/ is/ were**) one of the most beautiful trees. People take shelter under it.

**B.** In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word **4x1=4** along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below.

S.no	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
(A)	One thing we all must do to cooperate			
(B)	With police and pay heed to their advice			
(C)	They warn as to aware of dangerous item.			
(D)	We should not spread false information any activity.			

**C. Do as directed. 3**

**a)** Rearrange the following jumbled words/ phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.

Interviewer: Did you go that smart home technology is advancing rapidly?

Interviewee: No, I didn't. What does smart home technology include?

Interviewer: DEVICES/CONTROL/HOME/THAT/YOU/ALLOW/TO/HEATING **1**

**b)** Report the dialogues to complete the paragraph that follows. **2**

Raja: Our school is celebrating dance day tomorrow.

Mahira: Who is your chief guest?

Raja: Our chief guest is the honorable prime minister himself.

Mahira: That is quite incredible.

Raja told Mahira (i) .....

Mahira wanted to (ii) .....

**SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)**

**8.** Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, **for any two excerpts**, of the three, given. **4+4=8**

**A.** In the midst of this procedure a jesting voice from inside called, "Coachman Ali!" The old man got up, raised his eyes to heaven in gratitude and stepping forward put his hands to the door. "Gokul Bhai!". "Yes, who is there?" "You called out coachman Ali's name didn't you. Here I am. I have come for my letter." "It's a mad man, sir, who worries us by calling every day for letters that never come," said the clerk to the postmaster. The old man went back slowly to the bench on which he had been accustomed to sit for five long years.

- (i) Explain the meaning of the term, 'accustomed' in the line, 'The old man went back slowly to the bench on which he had been accustomed to sit for five long years.'
- (ii) In the story, how is Coachman Ali being referred to as a "mad man" a commentary on societal perceptions and judgments?
- (iii) Identify a line from the extract that reveals that Ali has been waiting for a letter from his daughter for a long time.
- (iv) Upon knowing that he hadn't received any letter from his daughter yet, he went back slowly to the bench. State an inference that can be drawn about Ali's feelings and thoughts.

*(The letter)*

**B.** "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

- (i) Based on the lines "Nothing beside remains. Round the decay," what can you infer about the current state of Ozymandias?
- (ii) Explore the meaning behind Ozymandias's declaration, "Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
- (iii) Identify the tone in the given lines "Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
- (iv) Identify the poetic device used in the following line: Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare.

*(Ozymandias)*

**C.** ANTONY: O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?

Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,  
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.  
I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,  
Who else must be let blood, who else is rank:  
If I myself, there is no hour so fit  
As Caesar's death hour, nor no instrument  
Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich  
With the most noble blood of all this world.

- (i) List the meaning of the line "Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich".
- (ii) Identify the phrase that indicates that Antony regarded Caesar as the most noble man in the world.

- (iii) How does Antony's farewell to Caesar suggest the depth of their friendship?  
(iv) How does Antony represent the sad demise of a once-strong and honourable leader using the image of Caesar lying "so low on the ground"?

*(Julius Ceasar)*

**9. Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 30-40 words:**

**5x2=10**

- (i) Although Nicola and Jacopo were young boys, the author refer to them as gentlemen. Why did he do so?  
(ii) In the play, 'Dear Departed', grandfather made certain changes in his will. Why did he do that?  
(iii) How long does a poet feel can the lover live in the rhyme written by him?  
(iv) Analyse the frog's plan of taking advantage of nightingale's talent in the poem the frog in the nightingale.  
(v) How was Sebastian Shultz finally rescued by Michael?  
(vi) Why was Patol Babu so anxious to know his lines?

**10. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 150 words:**

**8**

A. Lack of trust shakes the very foundation of human relationships how does Lavinia's suspicious nature threatens to wreck their marriage.

**OR**

B. How do the themes of guilt and regret manifest in both the poem the rhyme of the ancient mariner and snake what triggers these feelings in the protagonist?