



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



**Class: XI**  
**Date: 27.01.24**

**Duration: 3 hr.**  
**Max Marks: 80**

**Section A Reading**

**I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [10]**

- A. d
- B. c
- C. b
- D. c

E. b) Teamwork and discipline

F. d) A is false, but R is true

G. The author believes that technological advancements, while beneficial, have eroded basic human values such as empathy and concern for others. **One example** is the Internet, which, although a boon for knowledge and information, has reduced actual contact with teachers, friends, and elders leading to incomplete learning. **Another example** is the rise of virtual friendships on social networking sites, which cannot replace the holistic benefits of physical interaction and outdoor play.

H. The metaphor "never-ending race" implies that modern city life is fast-paced, competitive, and driven by a relentless pursuit of goals, often leading to stress and a lack of peace. In contrast, village life is depicted as peaceful and calm, offering a slower and more harmonious way of living. This comparison highlights the emotional and mental toll of urban lifestyles compared to the simplicity of rural life.

I. FALSE

**II. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [8]**

- A. c
- B. a
- C. b
- D. d
- E. c
- F. a
- G. b
- H. c

**III. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

A) Use any suitable format for note making [3]

Title: 1m, numbering and indenting: 1m, Key: 1m

B) Summary in about 50 words. [5]

Content: 2m, Expression- 1m.

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

<b>4.</b>	ABC School NOTICE	<b>[3]</b>
Date: 10 January 2025		
Found: Purse in School Library		
A purse has been found in the school library. The rightful owner is requested to provide necessary details about the purse to claim it. Please contact Jatin of Class 11-A during school hours.		
Jatin		
Class 11-A		

5. Dr Avinash Bhalla  
Address: [Your Address]

[3]

[Insert Date]

The Director  
Health Services, Haryana  
Civil Hospital, Ambala

Subject: Acceptance of Invitation to Workshop on 'Child Care'

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am honoured to receive your invitation to attend the workshop on 'Child Care' scheduled for 20 May, 20XX, at 10 a.m. at Civil Hospital, Ambala. I am pleased to confirm my participation and look forward to contributing to this valuable session alongside other esteemed practitioners. Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Avinash Bhalla

6. 21, Kailash Park  
New Delhi

[5]

10 January 2025

The Editor  
[Name of the Newspaper]  
New Delhi

Subject: Addressing the Menace of Stray Dogs in Our Colony.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw your attention to a growing concern in our colony, Kailash Park. The increasing number of stray dogs has become a significant problem for residents. These dogs often create a nuisance by barking incessantly at night, chasing vehicles, and sometimes even attacking pedestrians, especially children and elderly people.

While we acknowledge the need for compassion toward animals, their unchecked population poses a risk to public safety and hygiene. Stray dogs frequently rummage through garbage, scattering waste and contributing to unsanitary conditions.

We request the concerned authorities to take immediate action by organizing sterilization drives, setting up shelters, and ensuring proper food and care for these animals to balance public safety with animal welfare.

Your support in highlighting this issue in your esteemed newspaper will help raise awareness and prompt the necessary measures.

Yours sincerely,  
Arun/Anjali

7. **The Menace of Racism** [5]

Racism is a deeply ingrained societal issue that undermines the principles of equality and humanity. It is a form of discrimination based on race, skin colour, or ethnic background, often leading to prejudice, hatred, and exclusion. Despite the progress in promoting diversity and

inclusion, racism continues to plague societies worldwide, affecting individuals and communities emotionally, socially, and economically.

Racism is not confined to any specific group; anyone can experience it. Victims often face humiliation, isolation, and psychological trauma, which can have long-term effects on their well-being. Moreover, racism disrupts social harmony and creates barriers to equal opportunities in education, employment, and justice.

To combat racism, it is essential to promote awareness and education about its harmful effects. Teaching empathy, cultural understanding, and respect for diversity can help eradicate racial prejudices. Governments and institutions must enforce anti-discrimination laws and create platforms for open dialogue to address grievances.

Every individual has a role to play in ending racism. By standing against stereotypes, speaking out against injustice, and fostering inclusion, we can build a society where everyone is treated with dignity and fairness, regardless of their race or background.

### SECTION C: GRAMMAR

(7 Marks)

- A. a) she was going to attend [2]  
b) she had an interview next day  
c) she would not be able to go  
d) could possibly come after the interview.
- B. i) b [2]  
ii) b
- C. a) teacher teachers [3]  
b) was were  
c) hurry hurriedly

### SECTION D: LITERATURE (31 Marks)

9. Read the extract and answer the following: [4]

- a) i  
b) iii  
c) i  
d) iii

10. Read the extract and answer these questions: [3]

- a) "Where did my childhood go?"  
b) The concept of Hell and Heaven.  
c) As a child, the poet considered all the adults as an epitome of love and sincerity. He believed that their love was true and they were ready to do anything for their loved ones.

11. Answer all these questions not more than 20 words: [3]

- a) The Laburnum tree has flowers that fall like bars and, when the bird sits behind the flowers, the shadow of the flowers on her face looks like she is wearing a mask that has bars on it. Thus, 'barred' is actually an adjective for the flowers and has been transferred and applied to the bird.  
b) No, they do not, as a new language would be difficult to learn, especially if it is written in a different script. This is the case here, as Marathi, English and Urdu are written in three different scripts.  
c) The words 'empty hand' signify that both the father and the son want to forgive each other and extend a hand of friendship to each other, but neither of them is willing to be the first one to do so. This means that although they are longing to forgive each other, their egos are coming in the way so that none of them wants to be the first one to do so.

**12. Answer all the following questions in 30-40 words: [6]**

**A.** The seeds lying on Earth require water to germinate and take shape. When it rains, the seeds start germinating and change into the form of saplings. In this way, the seeds which would have dried up or get wasted get a new lease of life by rain.

**B.** Mayday calls are distress signals sent through the radio by ships facing trouble in the sea. They are made to get help from other ships passing nearby. The boat 'Wave walker' was not getting replies to its Mayday calls because the boat had reached a remote part of the sea where other ships did not go.

**C.** 'The Tale of Melon City' has the following two instances of irony

(i) The king has been proclaimed to be just and placid but he is neither.

(ii) The so-called 'wisest' man of the city gave a stupid suggestion to decide who should be the next king of the city.

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 50-70 words: [3]**

**A.** The grandmother had died. Thousands of sparrows came and sat in the courtyard next to the grandmother's body. They were totally silent. Even when the narrator's mother threw some crumbs of bread to them, they did not eat them. When the grandmother's body was carried off to be cremated, they flew away silently. Thus, the sparrows paid a silent homage to the grandmother.

**B.** The narrator and his family loved adventures. The narrator wanted to duplicate the 'round-the-world' voyage made by the famous explorer Captain James Cook 200 years ago. So, he set sail in Wavewalker, a boat specially designed and made for the purpose. Perhaps the dangers and adventure involved in the voyage and their desire to accomplish something unique beckoned them to undertake the journey.

**14. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 120-150 words each: [12]**

**A.** Both the author and Tsetan reached Darchen during the late night. They found a guesthouse to stay in. However, the author had serious sleep problems at night as he was suffering from the effects of the high altitude as well as a blocked nose. The next day, Tsetan took him to the Darchen Medical College for getting him treated. The doctor there told them that it was a common problem in this area and gave some medicine for him.

Then Tsetan left him to return to Lhasa as, from here onwards, the author would have to go on foot. At Darchen, he found people very relaxed and unhurried, but he could not find pilgrims there as he had reached there very early in the pilgrim season. Then he met Norbu, who was a Tibetan working in Beijing. He also had come for kora. They decided to climb Kailash together, as both were not devout pilgrims and had no desire to prostrate themselves all-round the mountain.

**OR**

Yes, Betrayal of trust is an evil which may afflict people of any time or any age. In this materialistic world 'trustworthiness has become as rare quality, as everyone wants to achieve maximum material gain. People do not mind cheating others for their own personal greed. In the present story Mrs. Dorling is one such character. She is greedy and she could make out how insecure Mrs. S felt about her personal valuables. Mrs. Dorling is cunning enough to take advantage of the situation by offering to keep Mrs. S' valuables in her safe custody, through inside she knew that she would never return these possessions. When Mrs. S' daughter (the narrator) comes to Mrs. Dorling's house to have a look at her family's possessions. Mrs. Dorling first denies having recognised her. She refuses to even talk to the girl. This behavior is really shameful. She betrayed Mrs. S' trust.

**B.** It is a fact that a ruler must have common sense and intelligence to judge things in their correct perspective. Multiple situations and varied people require quick judgement and ability to differentiate between right and wrong. People tend to fool others to save themselves, which is very well-reflected in the chapter 'The Tale of Melon City'.

The king is so foolish that he is not able to see through the excuses of others and pays heavily by losing his own life. The architect or the people who set the noose were far more intelligent than the king so they could easily trap him in an unavoidable situation. For a leader it is essential to be a good administrator who should be intelligent. He should be able to analyse and rationalise the situation; otherwise, he can be in a difficult situation from which it will be difficult to come out.

**OR**

The play very humorously and interestingly depicts the status of the mother in a family. Through the character of Mrs. Annie Pearson, the play very subtly depicts the plight of women, especially the housewives.

Playing of magic, exchange of personalities and the shook behavior of Mrs Annie Pearson's family members are all humorous as well as satirical.

My relations with my mother are very healthy and friendly. We are more like friends and enjoy each other's company.

I try to help my mother in the kitchen as well as in other household work. I realise that my mother keeps busy the whole day taking care of everyone's needs. I try to help her as much as I can and really appreciate her selfless efforts without demanding anything. I respect my mother and have much regard for her.