



# 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: 27.02.25**

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

## General Instructions:

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

## Section A Reading (26 Marks)

### I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. We live in an age of wonders and miracles. It has been called the 'Age of Science' and different aspects of our life that changed in the preceding centuries have been attributed to science. This is completely true, but it is only one side of the coin. The flip side is that as we have advanced more in the field of technology, something fundamental to humanity has been left behind. Values such as empathy and concern for our fellow human beings are gradually being eroded due to the onslaught of our ever-evolving lifestyles, aided by the marvels of technological advancements
2. Take the example of the Internet. On one hand, access to information and knowledge at the click of a button is a veritable boon to everyone (especially students) and this has made our lives much simpler. On the other hand, it has severely limited actual contact with teachers, friends and elders. Thus, the learning that a person gain is incomplete as he or she cannot easily take the advice that another person can give on the basis of knowledge and practical experience that is at his or her disposal.
3. Today, a small child can access and navigate the Internet with an ease that still astounds those from the older generation. But what is even more astounding is the neglect of the basic human traits of friendship, relationships and family values. Owing to all the technological advancements and the gadgets available today, children often miss out on the most enriching childhood experiences such as playing outdoor games with friends, which apart from being immensely enjoyable and physically exhilarating, also develop traits such as teamwork and discipline at an early age.
4. But now when the concept of friends is gradually being limited to virtual friends on social networking sites, one shudders to think of the implications for the personality development of a child because the time spent with computers or mobile phones for entertainment can never really substitute for the holistic benefits of outdoor play. Such examples can be found in plenty.
5. Now if we compare the hustle and bustle of modern city life and the peace and calm of a rustic village life, we can see that in cities, life is a race with a variety of factors. It is a race that everyone tries their level best to win, but nobody actually wins as it never ends.

6. So, there is an urgent need to stop for a moment and think about where we are actually heading, is it development or destruction? Do we have to wait until people have grown so much apart from each other that we cannot see the suffering of our own species due to our mindless greed, or can we still mend our ways?
7. To answer this question, I will take the help of that most magnificent of human feelings-hope. I sincerely wish that we, as the most intelligent species on earth, would take our fair share of responsibility and sincerely think about the path we should follow. Though mankind will possibly last for a long time thanks to its determination and sheer ingenuity, we have to make sure we do not lose our humanity somewhere along the way.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

- I. Which of the following is not true about the internet? [1]  
(a) It provides an easy access to information and knowledge.  
(b) It has made our lives simpler.  
(c) It has limited actual contact with teachers and friends.  
(d) It can easily give advice based on personal experience.
- II. Internet hampers the holistic growth of a child by [1]  
(a) encouraging human traits of friendship, society and family  
(b) enriching childhood experiences of outdoor games.  
(c) providing virtual friends and gadgets.  
(d) developing teamwork and discipline.
- III. The word 'Veritable' in para 2 means: [1]  
(a) upgrade  
(b) genuine  
(c) latest  
(d) Perfect
- IV. Find the word in PARA 8 which can replace 'the power of creative imagination/cleverness'. [1]  
(a) Magnificent  
(b) Sincerely  
(c) Ingenuity  
(d) Understanding
- V. Virtual friends: Social networking sites:: Outdoor games : \_\_\_\_\_ [1]  
(a) Entertainment  
(b) Teamwork and discipline  
(c) Gadgets  
(d) Solitary play
- VI. Assertion (A): Modern lifestyles have made human interactions more fulfilling. [1]  
Reason (R): Technology has limited physical contact with friends, teachers, and elders.  
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.  
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.  
(c) A is true, but R is false.  
(d) A is false, but R is true.

VII. What are the author's views on the impact of technological advancements on human relationships? Provide at least two examples from the passage. [2]

VIII. The author describes modern city life as a "never-ending race." What does this metaphor imply, and how is it contrasted with village life in the passage? [1]

IX. The author believes that humanity cannot mend its ways and is destined for destruction. [1]

- a) True
- b) False

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

**MY FIRST-EVER ROLLERCOASTER RIDE**

- i. I have come to a theme park to meet rollercoaster enthusiast Jay Murray, to find out what makes these rides so popular. Jay estimates he has been on 700 rides in the past 10 years, and is surprised that I have never been on one. He says that one of the attractions of these rides is that you feel out of control, but safe. Jay really wanted to emphasize the importance of safety. "All rides are tested for 1,000 hours before they open to the public," he said. "They also do a test run on every ride each morning, and there's a thorough annual inspection too."
- ii. Rollercoasters first appeared in 17th-century Russia. These were sloping structures up to 15 meters high, built of wood, with a layer of ice on the surface which people would slide down. Rollercoasters with wheeled sledges were developed soon afterwards. Later, in Pennsylvania, in the USA, a train that had been used to deliver coal was converted to carry passengers on day trips.
- iii. This gave a man called LaMarcus Thompson the idea to open a park with pleasure rides at Coney Island, New York. A school teacher by profession, he had the eye of a designer, and the mind of a businessman. In just three weeks, he raised enough money from the rides to pay for the cost of building the park.
- iv. By 1888, Thompson had built nearly 50 rollercoasters around the USA and Europe. He introduced new technologies such as cables to pull trains uphill, but it was another man, John Miller, who came up with a design for an under-friction wheel, which kept trains firmly attached to the rails. This meant that they could go faster and on steeper tracks, without falling off. This invention appeared in 1912.
- v. The introduction of steel tracks meant that the structures were significantly stronger making rides safer. This also enabled engineers to be more ambitious in their designs, with the knowledge that the rides would still feel smoother. The tracks became quieter too, which was another bonus.
- vi. Modern rides have a range of features, including floorless trains, free-fall drops, rolls and loops all of which mean that if you go on a ride these days, the experience is so intense. "That's why I love them," said Jay. "You forget who you are for a minute. The names of some famous rides reflect these features".
- vii. Tower of Terror, Formula Rossa and Steel Dragon are just some examples.

Name of ride	Country	Height	Total cost	Max. Speed
Tower of Terror	Australia	115 Meters	A \$16 million	161km/h
Formula Rossa	United Arab Emirates	52 meters	£19.5 million	240km/h
Steel Dragon	Japan	97 meters	US\$ 52 million	153km/h

However, there are limits to the physical forces that a person can tolerate on a ride. People can cope more easily with the positive vertical- the feeling of being pressed into their seats...than the negative vertical, which pushes them out of it. Interestingly, Jay points out that the desire to make rollercoaster rides higher and faster is slowly being replaced by a trend towards more complex rides which offers a more lasting experience. Jay explains: "A world famous ride such as Kingda Ka (in the USA) is over in less than ten seconds although such a ride is thrilling, and gives you a rush of adrenaline, there is an alternative. You can try a ride like Helix (in Sweden), which lasts for two minutes – it's my number one at the moment." All the same, Jay was eager for me to experience 'air time' – the moment when you reach the top and hang, weightless, before plunging down the other side. And when I finally did, I had to admit that it was fantastic!

I. How do theme parks make sure each ride is safe every day? [1]

- (a) daily inspection
- (b) open ride
- (c) by test run
- (d) None of these

II. What were the earliest rollercoasters covered in? [1]

- (a) layers of ice
- (b) dust
- (c) wood
- (d) coal

III. What did the railway in Pennsylvania originally transport? [1]

- (a) wood
- (b) coal
- (c) both (a) and (b)
- (d) rollercoasters

IV. What was the occupation of the man who first designed the rides at Coney Island? [1]

- (a) business
- (b) engineer
- (c) designer
- (d) teacher

V. What was the name of the device which was invented in 1912? [1]

- (a) cable
- (b) Tower of Terror
- (c) Under-friction wheel
- (d) Steel Dragon

VI. According to the table, how tall is Tower of Terror: [1]

- (a) 115 meters
- (b) 110 meters
- (c) 75 meters
- (d) 100 meters

VII. Which term refers to the force that pushes you into your seat while on a ride? [1]

- (a) Physical force
- (b) positive vertical
- (c) Negative vertical
- (d) None of the above

VIII. Which features makes Jay Muray believe that rollercoaster rides will change in the future?

[1]

- (a) thrilling
- (b) weightless
- (c) more complex rides
- (d) simple

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

1. The hectic pace of city life and the rapidly changing lifestyles are adding up to cause an alarming increase in the incidence of heart attack among the upwardly mobile youth in the city. Although presently this number is fairly small, there has been a rise in the occurrence levels. Earlier heart Attacks were not common among youth in the age group of 30 to 45 years
2. One of the primary reasons for the rise in incidence of heart attack is because people here are genetically more vulnerable to heart ailments than the rest of the world. Another significant reason which contributes to increased risk of heart attacks among the youth is the unhealthy lifestyles. There has been a change in food habits, increase in stress levels, drastically changed living patterns with sedentary habits and erratic sleep. All this clubbed with a predisposition to heart attacks can further increase the risk.
3. Other equally contributory factors to heart attack risk are smoking, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and of course, a family history. The onset of heart attack can be detected with a few visible warning signs like chest discomfort while walking, and/or shortness of breath etc. But it is important to note that many heart-attacks can be silent without any symptoms or forewarning.
4. Although people who are genetically predisposed to heart attacks cannot actually reverse the risk, they can make amends by trying to lead a sensible life style by making a few modifications in their food and exercise habits.
5. One of the most important preventive measures is to stop smoking. Since work related stress is common among the youth today, it is another vital reason to trigger heart attacks. Youth should learn to de-stress and relax more often.
6. Unhealthy food habits and a sedentary life style can lead to obesity and a chain of other problems. Working out or adopting a disciplined exercise regimen can help in keeping weight in check. Brisk walking is another very good option. Everybody should follow a regular health screening to rule out diabetes and hypertension, and do a stress test, undergo a lipid profile test and check their body mass index regularly.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes using at least four recognizable abbreviations. Give a suitable title to the passage too. [3]  
(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. [5]

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

4. You are Jatin of class 11 A you found a purse at the school library. Write a notice in about 50 words for the notice board of your school asking its rightful owner to furnish necessary details to claim back from you. [3]
5. You are Dr Avinash Bhalla. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Haryana who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'child care' on 20 May, 20XX at 10 a.m. in Civil Hospital Ambala. Respond to the invitation. [3]
6. You are Arun/Anjali of 21 Kailash Park, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Editor of the local newspaper about the menace of stray dogs in your colony. [5]
7. Racism is bad. Anyone and everyone can be exposed to racism write an article in 150 to 200 words on the topic of racism. [5]

### SECTION C: GRAMMAR (7 Marks)

- 8.
- A. Read the conversation given below and complete the following passage by filling in the blank places appropriately. Do not add any new information. [2]  
Seema: Are you going to attend Deepti's marriage?  
Preeti: I have an interview tomorrow. So I'll not be able to go.
- Seema: The function is at 12 o'clock.  
Preeti: Then maybe I can come after the interview.  
Seema: That is a good idea.  
Seema asked Preeti whether (a).....Deepti's marriage. Preeti replied that (b).....so (c).....Seema said that the function was at 12 o'clock. Preeti replied that she (d) .....which Seema thought was a good idea.

- B. Rearrange the jumbled words to form a meaningful sentence: [2]

(i) P: four dogs and a cat  
Q: Venita Coelho lives  
R: with her  
S: in Goa

- (a) QRSP                      (b) QSRP                      (c) RSPQ                      (d) PRSQ

(ii) P: of children's literature  
Q: has made a mark  
R: in the world  
S: the writer

- (a) PRQS                      (b) SQRP                      (c) SQPR                      (d) PRSQ

- C. Find the error in the following sentences: [3]

S. no.		Incorrect	Correct
	The next day during an break	an	the
a)	When all the teacher and students		
b)	was eating their snacks, the boy's mother		
c)	left the school building hurry.		

### SECTION D: LITERATURE (31 Marks)

**9. Read the extract and answer the following:**

[4]

The noose was set up somewhat high.  
Each man was measured by and by.  
But only one man was so tall  
He fitted. One man. That was all

- I. Why was the noose set up?
  - A. To hang the culprit of the arch
  - B. To measure everyone's height
  - C. To enlighten the king
  - D. All of these
- II. Who does 'one man' in the last line refer to?
  - A. The wisest man
  - B. The old man
  - C. The king
  - D. The architect
- III. The phrase 'by and by' here means \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. One by one
  - B. All together
  - C. Some of them
  - D. The last man
- IV. What is the correct sequence of the episode according to the poem/text?
  - i. The king decided to postpone the consideration
  - ii. They sought an advice from the wisest man
  - iii. The workman blamed the mason
  - iv. A melon was crowned the king
  - v. The king lost his crown under the arch
  - A. i, ii, iii,iv, v
  - B. ii, iii, iv, v,i
  - C. v, iii,i,ii,iv
  - D. iii, i, ii,iv,v

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

[3]

**"Where did my childhood go?  
Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,  
Was it the time I realized that..."**

- I. What question does the poet ask again and again in this poem?
- II. What did the poet realise when he crossed the age of eleven years?
- III. How did the adults seem to the poet when he was a child?

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

- I. What does the phrase 'her barred face identity mask' mean?
- II. Do you think that the ruled always adopt the language of the ruler?
- III. What do the words 'an empty hand' signify?

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

- I. Latent seeds get a life by rain. Explain.
- II. What are midday calls? Why wasn't the ship getting any replies to its Midday calls??
- III. Give two instances of irony in 'The Tale of Melon City'.

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

**A.** Explain how did the sparrows pay their homage to the dead grandmother.

**OR**

**B.** In the story 'We are not afraid to Die... If we can all be together' where and why did the narrator want to go?

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

**A.** Describe the authors experience at Darchen.

**OR**

Betrayal of trust is an evil which may afflict people of any time or any age. Discuss this statement in the context of the chapter 'The Address'.

**B.** It is essential to possess intelligence and common sense to rule over others. Comment in the context of the chapter 'The Tale of Melon City'.

**OR**

The play 'Mother's Day is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family. Express your views with reference to the play.