



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



ENGLISH MS

Class: IX
Date: 27.02.25
Admission no:

Duration: 3 hours
Max Marks: 80
Roll no:

General Instructions:

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

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

I. Read the passage and answer the questions.

(1X10=10)

1. We live in an era where it is difficult to miss fast and junk food and the rise in teenage obesity and related health issues due to it.
2. During teenage, weight gain is normal but when it goes beyond control the person becomes obese. Our body requires energy to function, which is derived from the food we eat but when the intake of food becomes more than the amount that the body requires, the excess energy is stored as body fat.
3. Contemporary lifestyle sees an increasing consumption of junk food and spending time watching television and playing computer games. Overeating along with lack of physical exercise are the major causes leading to teenage obesity. Large intake of high - calorie food and low - nutrient food leads to unnecessary weight gain. Besides these, obesity can also be genetically inherited where some people have the genetic tendency to burn calories more slowly compared to others. Stress is also a reason for obesity where people resort to overeating to alleviate their stress. Teenage obesity is growing immensely and has been named an 'obesity epidemic':
4. Several health issues arise out of it like diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol, sleep disorders, hormonal imbalance, and asthma. Along with these, obesity can also result in psychological problems like low self - esteem due to the constant jeering of peers. Obese teens are more prone to being teased and physically bullied compared to others of their age.
5. Therefore, it is necessary to control excessive weight gain. Inactivity is the major cause of obesity and regular exercise is the best way to control it. Physical activity like jogging. Swimming and playing outdoor games can help to keep one fit. A balanced diet with lots of vegetables, fruit, and whole grains is also essential. Junk food and soft drinks should be substituted with lots of vegetables, fruit, and whole grains in the diet. Drinking around 8 - 10 glasses of water also helps to reduce calorie intake.
6. Parents have an important role in controlling teenage obesity as they should try to set examples by following a healthy diet and leading a healthy lifestyle. A combined effort of the parents and kids can help to control this eating disorder.

QUESTIONS:

1. According to the author, why is it difficult to miss junk food for teenagers today?
2. According to the passage, junk food is the major cause of obesity. True/false.
3. Obese teens are more prone to be bullied. The term 'prone' refers to.....
4. What is the meaning of the phrase 'constant jeering of peers' in the passage?
5. If a teenager follows a good diet, can still lead him to obesity.
 - a. heredity
 - b. junk food
 - c. bad habits
 - d. laziness
6. Select the option with the underlined words that can substitute the word 'alleviate' (paragraph III).
 - a. Sameer had been promoted to the Manager's position.
 - b. The medicine reduced the headache soon.
 - c. The teacher was too angry with the class.
 - d. Richa's marks have been increased since last complaint made to her parents.
7. According to the passage, which emotion leads to over - eating in teenagers?
8. Select the problems that obesity may lead to, according to the passage.

(1) diabetes	(2) vertigo	(3) high blood pressure and cholesterol
(4) hormonal imbalance		(5) sleeping disorders

 - a. (1), (2), (3)and (4)
 - b. (3), (4) and (5)
 - c. (1), (2) and (5)
 - d. (1), (3), (4) and (5)
9. How does the consumption of high-calorie, low-nutrient food contribute to teenage obesity as mentioned in the passage?
10. Explain the role of parents in controlling teenage obesity according to the passage.

ANSWERS:

1. Due to contemporary lifestyle and increasing consumption of junk food.

2. True.

3. Likely to experience.

4. Continuous mocking or teasing by peers.

5. a. heredity.

6. b. The medicine reduced the headache soon.

7. Stress.

8. d. (1), (3), (4) and (5).

9. High-calorie, low-nutrient food leads to obesity by providing excess energy, which the body stores as fat due to a lack of essential nutrients.

10. Parents control teenage obesity by setting examples with healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle, encouraging children to follow them.

II. Read the passage and answer the questions. (1X10=10)

Chocolate diamonds that are actually brown diamonds are compared to the well - known white diamond, which aren't of much worth. Diamonds are produced in mines. The best known diamond mines are in Australia, South Africa and Russia. The largest diamond mine was discovered in 1976 in the desert of Australia near a little creek named Lake Argyle.

Diamonds are created under very extreme conditions of pressure and high temperature. It is a general misunderstanding that there exist only white colourless diamonds. Actually, diamonds exist in many different colours.

Of all the diamond mines in the world, almost 80% of the diamonds produced are brownish in colour. Because these were found in such large quantities compared to the other coloured diamonds, these were considered as low - valued diamonds, only good for the industrial sector. But, a famous man called Le Vian came with a marketing campaign to increase the popularity of the chocolate diamond. Instead of calling it a brown diamond, he gave it popular names like caramel, chocolate, cinnamon and cognac. Since his marketing campaign, chocolate diamonds are becoming very popular.

The value of a diamond is based on its shape, brightness and colour. Because white diamonds are rare, their value is based on the fact that there are not many white diamonds found around easily. But if you look at the shape and brightness, then the brightest diamond in this world known to men is the brown diamond. Before the development of the Argyle Diamond Mine in Australia in 1986, most brown diamonds were considered worthless for jewellery; they were not even assessed on the diamond colour scale, and were predominantly used for industrial purposes.

However, marketing strategies changed in the 1980s and brown diamonds have become popular gems. The change was mostly due to the supply: the Argyle mine, with its 35 million carats (7,000 kg) of diamonds per year, makes about one third of global production of natural diamonds; 80% of Argyle diamonds are brown. The percentage of brown diamonds is lower in other mines, but it is almost always a significant part of the total production. Consequently, scientific research on causes of brown colour in diamond and ways to alter it has intensified.

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Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph

1. We can say that the misunderstanding that there exist only white colourless diamonds is comparable with the existence of the stars and other planets during the daytime because _____.

2. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. The statement that, brown - coloured diamonds were considered low - valued diamonds, is a (fact/ opinion) because it is a (subjective judgement/ objective detail).

3. Justify the following, in about 40 words.

Brown diamond transformed under Le Vian and became a popular gem.

4. write about the conditions under which the chocolate diamonds are created.

5. State any one inference on which the value of a diamond depends.

6. What inference do you draw about the role of Argyle Diamond Mine? (Answer in about 40 words)

7. Which of the following facts does one NOT get acquainted with from the study mentioned in the passage?

a. Discovery of brown diamonds in Australia, South Africa and Russia.

b. Intensification of scientific research on the causes of brown colour in diamonds and ways to alter it.

c. Brown diamond has different names like caramel, chocolate, cinnamon and cognac.

d. Marketing strategies have made brown diamonds as valuable as white diamonds.

8. How did the marketing strategies of Le Vian challenge the traditional perceptions of brown diamonds and influence their value? 2

9. What role did the Argyle Diamond Mine play in changing the perception of brown diamonds from industrial use to valuable gems?

1. they are not visible or noticeable due to the overwhelming presence of something else, like the sun during the day and the prevalence of white diamonds in the diamond market.

2. fact, objective detail.

3. Le Vian's marketing campaign transformed brown diamonds by rebranding them with names like "chocolate" and "cinnamon," making them more desirable and increasing their popularity in the jewelry market.

4. Extreme pressure and high temperature.

5. Shape, brightness, and colour.

6. The Argyle Diamond Mine plays a key role in producing brown diamonds, accounting for 80% of global production, thus influencing the popularity and research on brown diamonds.

7. a. Discovery of brown diamonds in Australia, South Africa, and Russia.

8. Le Vian's rebranding of brown diamonds with appealing names like "chocolate" and "cinnamon" transformed their image, increasing their desirability and value in the market.

9. The Argyle Diamond Mine's large-scale production of brown diamonds helped popularize them as valuable gems, changing their perception from industrial use to prized jewels.

SECTION B- GRAMMAR (10 marks)

III. Do as directed

(1x10= 10 marks)

A. Rearrangement the words to make meaningful sentences: (1X5=5)

1. Because / decided / he / the / to / team / lead / was / ambitious / and / hardworking / project

- **Answer:** He decided to lead the project team because he was ambitious and hardworking.

2. Though / she / late / arrived / the / meeting / was / very / she / important / still / did / not / miss / out

- **Answer:** Though she arrived late, she still did not miss out on the important meeting.

3. Had / that / he / I / not / the / situation / resolve / much / to / of / work / would / have / sooner

- **Answer:** Had I not resolved the situation sooner, he would have had much work to do.

4. The / home / make / you / help / clean / needed / to / really / me / my / with

- **Answer:** You really needed to help me clean my home.

5. They / decided / to / do / a / project / that / would / the / community / help

- **Answer:** They decided to do a project that would help the community.

B. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct question number. (1X5=5)

	Incorrect	Correct
The giant panda are the	a. <u>are</u>	<u>is</u>
Official symbol in the WWE	b. <u>in</u>	<u>of</u>
for nature. They are playing animals and	c. <u>playing</u>	<u>playful</u>

could make a variety of sounds.

d. could can

It is not an easier thing to take care of pandas in a zoo.

e. easier easy

SECTION C-WRITING SKILL (24 marks)

IV. Email Writing

(4 Marks)

Write an email (100) to the school administration, expressing concerns about the current school schedule. Discuss how the schedule impacts your ability to focus, manage assignments, or participate in extracurricular activities. Offer suggestions on how the schedule could be adjusted to promote better work-life balance for students.

Clarity and Purpose (1)

Tone and Professionalism (1)

Structure and Organization (1)

Grammar and Spelling (1)

V. Informal Letter

(5 Marks)

Write a letter to your friend, discussing a cause or social issue you feel passionate about (e.g., environmental conservation, animal rights, mental health awareness). Explain why it matters to you and how others can help make a difference.

Clarity and Purpose (1)

Tone and Friendliness(1)

Structure and Organization(1)

Grammar and Spelling(1)

Personal Touch and Engagement(1)

VI. Formal Letter

(7 Marks)

Write a letter (150 words) to the Manager of a local bookstore requesting the availability of specific books (e.g., reference books or novels for academic purposes). Include details about the books you are looking for and the reason for your request.

Content (2 Marks)

Tone and Professionalism (1 Mark)

Structure and Organization (1 Mark)

Language and Vocabulary (1 Mark)

Grammar and Spelling (1 Mark)

VII. Article writing

(8 Marks)

Excessive use of computer makes children lose on outdoor games which are essential for developing a healthy body and a healthy mind. Write an article on the topic 'Children And Computer Addiction'. You are Sameer/Simran.

Content and Relevance (2 Marks)

Format (1 Mark)

Clarity and Structure (1 Mark)

Grammar and Spelling (1 Mark)

Creativity and Originality (1 Mark)

Tone and Style (1 Mark)

Conclusion (1 Mark)

SECTION D – LITERATURE (26 marks)

VIII. A) Read the extracts and answer the questions by selecting the correct options. (1x4=4)

I contrived to keep out of her sight as much as I could, but I never lost track of her. The last station she got off at was away down in Virginia, about six in the evening. There were about fifty houses. The rest was mud, mules, and speckled hounds.

A tall old man, with a smooth face and white hair, looking as proud as Julius Caesar was there to meet her. His clothes were frazzled but I didn't notice that till later. He took her little satchel, and they started over the plank walks and went up a road along the hill. I kept along a piece behind 'em, trying to look like I was hunting a garnet ring in the sand that my sister had lost at a picnic the previous Saturday.

(i) The extract tells us that Virginia was a _____ populated town.

- A. densely
B. highly
C. sparsely
D. **hardly**

(ii) Choose the option that uses the word 'frazzled' in the same way as the extract.

- A. I feel pretty frazzled most weeks these days.**
B. The cuffs of his brown shirt looked frazzled.
C. Father finally arrived home, tired and frazzled.
D. Mother was frazzled looking after all the guests had left.

(iii) Read the statements (1) and (2) given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates the statements.

- (1): The speaker pretended that he was searching for a lost ring.
(2): The speaker wanted to hide the fact that he had been following her.
A. [1] is true but [2] is false.
B. [2] is contradictory to [1].
C. [1] is the reason for [2].
D. [2] is the result of [1].

(iv) Select the option that displays the characteristics of the speaker.

1. discreet 2. vain 3. ambitious
4. observant 5. finicky 6. cautious

- A. 1, 4 and 6**
B. 2, 3 and 5
C. 1, 3 and 6
D. 2, 4 and 5

B. Read the extracts and answer the questions: (1x4=4)

All the worlds a stage and all the men and women merely players.

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages.

- (i) What is the world compared to in the excerpt?
(ii) What do 'exits' and 'entrances' symbolize in the passage?
(iii) What does the phrase "one man in his time plays many parts" suggest about human life?
(iv) What is meant by 'the seven ages' in the last line of the passage?

(i) In this excerpt, the world is compared to a stage.

(ii) "Exits" and "entrances" symbolize the birth and death of individuals, signifying the beginning and end of their time on earth, just like actors entering and leaving a stage during a play.

(iii) "One man in his time plays many parts" suggests that throughout their lives, humans take on various roles and experiences different phases, similar to an actor playing multiple characters in a play.

(iv) "The seven ages" refers to the different stages of a person's life, often described as childhood, youth, adulthood, old age, etc., implying that life can be divided into distinct periods with unique characteristics.

IX. Answer ANY SIX of the following questions in about 30- 40 words each (2 X 6 = 12)

1. The Best Seller" reveals the hypocrisy of Pescud. Why do people say something and practise something else? How can we avoid being hypocrites?

Pescud in "The Best Seller" criticizes romances for their unrealistic portrayals, yet he himself indulges in similar behavior, revealing his hypocrisy. People often say one thing and practice another due to fear of ridicule, to gain favor, or out of ignorance. To avoid hypocrisy, we should speak and act with sincerity, be truthful, and not fear judgment or false prestige. Truthfulness is always the best policy in the long run.

2. What does Major Percy Stokes mean when he said the scales have fallen from his eyes. Do you think he was the one who convinced his brother in law not to participate in the big fight?

When Major Percy Stokes said "the scales have fallen from his eyes," he meant that Bill Bramble had finally come to the realization of the wrongness of his profession and lifestyle. Major Stokes had always disapproved of Bill's career as a boxer and had been sending him letters, urging him to reconsider the fight. He particularly emphasized how the fight would affect Bill's son, Harold. This persuasion ultimately led Bill to change his mind and decide not to participate in the fight. Thus, it was Major Stokes who convinced Bill to stop.

3. Describe Private Quelch in your own words.

Private Quelch, nicknamed "Professor," was disliked for constantly lecturing others and correcting his superiors. His arrogance led to punishment, but he continued to show off his knowledge, proving his habits were unchangeable.

4. What drew the attention of the narrator towards the reaper?

The girl's voice was extremely melodious and she sang a sorrowful song. The narrator was so enamoured by her song that he stopped for a while on his way and listened to her sing though he could not understand the dialect or the subject matter of the song

5. What is the significance of the words 'entrances' and 'exits' in the poem 'The Seven Ages' Human life has been compared by the poet to a stage of theatre where actors, appear, enact their roles and quit. 'Entrances' here signify human births and 'exits' deaths. Human beings take birth, play their parts and die.

6. What were the consequences of the poet's actions in her childhood according to the poem 'Oh! I wish I'd looked After Me Teeth' ?

In her childhood the poet ate a number of sweets of all kinds. She did not brush her teeth carefully. The result was that cavities developed beneath her teeth, and she had to go to the dentist and underwent a lot of pain.

7. "I am like earthly life"

Why does the poet call rain as earthly life ?

The poet calls rain as earthly life because the fate of rain is like that of man on the earth. When the child is born, it grows up into the young man and then an old man, and finally dies

in the end. Similarly, rain is born in the form of a cloud in the sky. When the cloud bursts, it dies.

X. Answer any ONE of the following in about 150-200 words

(1x6=6)

1. ‘I’m a number, number 15729’. An individual’s human identity is being degraded to a mere number. What does your conscience tell you about this ?

Answer. The convict became a victim of circumstances. He was once a normal human being. He led a poor life with his wife, Jeanette, in a little cottage. She was ill and starving. He was out of work and had no money to buy food for his wife. So he stole money to buy her food and was caught by the police. He tried to explain to the policemen why he had stolen. But they laughed at him and he was sentenced to ten years in the prison hulks. The convict was treated like a beast. He was tortured and beaten. The policemen chained him like a wild beast and lashed him like a hound. He was fed on filth and was covered with vermin. He slept on the board and when he complained, he was lashed again. They treated him cruelly and took away his soul and made him a devil. They took away his name. Now he was not a man; he was a number; number 15729 and he had lived in Hell for ten long years. He lost faith in the essential goodness of man. As for the church he began to hate church. He was so fed up with the society that he told the Bishop that he did not want any of his Faith, Hope and Charity. He considered himself a devil and told the Bishop that his efforts to convert him would fail. He lost belief in religion. He had no identity, no faith in humanity, no faith in church and religion.

Thus, a man who is brutally treated loses his identity and conscience. But it is the society which is at fault in making him what he is.

2. Examine the cultural differences highlighted in the play, especially in Gaston’s comments about Americans. How does this contribute to the humor?

Answer. Gaston’s comments about Americans in the play reflect cultural differences and contribute to the humor through satire and stereotyping. His remarks, such as “You folk are queer. You think about the past all the time. We always think about the future,” and, “What a pity you don’t try to copy us more,” play on common stereotypes and perceptions about cultural contrasts between Europeans and Americans. The humor arises from the exaggeration of cultural traits and the play’s exploration of misunderstandings and preconceived notions. Gaston’s comments, while satirical, also serve to highlight the comedic potential in cultural clashes and the misinterpretation of values. The stereotyping adds a layer of amusement as it pokes fun at the characters’ limited understanding of each other’s cultural perspectives. In essence, the humor in Gaston’s comments lies in the exaggeration of cultural differences and the playful exploration of cultural stereotypes, providing a comedic lens through which the audience can view the characters’ interactions.