



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

PERIODIC TEST 1 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 1

Class: XII
Date: 13.06.26
Admission no:

Time: 1hr
Max Marks: 25
Roll 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

(7 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

Contemporary warfare has undergone a significant transformation in the 21st century, moving beyond traditional state-centric conflicts. Modern wars are increasingly characterized by asymmetrical engagements, hybrid strategies, and the use of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber tools, and drones. Unlike earlier wars confined to battlefields, contemporary conflicts extend into civilian spaces, blurring the line between combatants and non-combatants.

Cyber warfare has emerged as a crucial dimension, where state and non-state actors launch digital attacks to disrupt infrastructure, spread misinformation, and weaken national security. Incidents linked to Russia during the Russia-Ukraine War highlight the growing importance of information control. The use of drones and autonomous weapons has further transformed warfare by enabling precise strikes while raising ethical concerns about civilian harm and accountability.

Contemporary conflicts also have severe socio-economic and humanitarian consequences. Wars lead to displacement, food shortages, and economic instability. According to the United Nations, millions have been displaced due to conflicts in regions like Syria and Yemen. Additionally, essential resources such as food and energy are often used as tools of control, increasing civilian vulnerability.

The economic effects of war extend globally. Conflicts disrupt supply chains, causing inflation and energy crises. The Russia-Ukraine War, for instance, significantly affected global oil and grain markets, with developing nations suffering the most due to their dependence on imports.

Beyond physical and economic damage, modern warfare causes psychological trauma and social division. The spread of misinformation fosters mistrust and polarization. This has led to the concept of "cognitive warfare," where the goal is to influence people's thoughts and perceptions.

Although international laws like the Geneva Conventions exist, their enforcement remains weak. Violations against civilians and infrastructure continue, revealing limitations in global governance.

In conclusion, contemporary warfare extends beyond territorial battles, encompassing technological, economic, and psychological dimensions, requiring stronger global cooperation and ethical accountability.

I. Why did the Russia-Ukraine War affect global economies?

- A) It stopped international diplomacy
- B) It disrupted oil and grain supply chains
- C) It caused technological collapse
- D) It ended global trade

II. Assertion (A): Contemporary warfare directly impacts civilian life.

Reason (R): Modern conflicts extend beyond battlefields into civilian and digital spaces.

- 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.

III. Which of the following best explains “cognitive warfare”?

- A) Use of drones in combat
- B) Influencing thoughts and perceptions of people
- C) Economic sanctions during war
- D) Military occupation of territories

IV. Contemporary War: Cyber warfare:: Resource control: _____

- A) Industrial growth
- B) Food and energy as tools of coercion
- C) Climate change
- D) Urbanization

V. Meaning of “asymmetrical” in the passage:

VI. How does the passage illustrate the shift from traditional warfare to contemporary warfare, and in what ways do technological advancements contribute to expanding the impact of war beyond the battlefield? Support your answer with relevant points from the passage.

VII. Evaluate how contemporary warfare differs from traditional warfare. Discuss the role of technology, its socio-economic and psychological impacts, and the limitations of international laws in addressing modern conflicts.

SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS

(4 marks)

2. You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. Your institution is organizing an Inter-School Seminar on “The Impact of Technology on Modern Warfare”. Draft a formal invitation to be sent to various schools in your city, inviting students and teachers to participate in the seminar. Include necessary details such as date, time, venue, theme, and RSVP details.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

(14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x5=5

*“Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
let’s not speak in any language,
let’s stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.”*

I. What is the immediate action the poet urges everyone to do at the beginning of the extract?

II. What does ‘not speak in any language’ primarily suggest?

- A. A rejection of all forms of communication
- B. A moment of universal silence beyond linguistic barriers
- C. The inability of people to understand each other
- D. The dominance of one global language

III. Complete the following suitably:

The act of ‘counting to twelve’ symbolises _____.

IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank:

The speaker _____ (promotes / discourages) introspection and collective stillness.

V. Choose the correct assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract:

Assertion: The poet emphasizes the need for a temporary pause in human activity.

Reason: The pause is intended to create an opportunity for self-reflection and global harmony.

- A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

4. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words each:

3x2=6

I. How does the contrast between Saheb-e-Alam’s dreams and his reality highlight the theme of lost childhood in *Lost Spring*? Support your answer with relevant examples from the text.

II. How does the author use satire to expose the foolishness of the Tiger King’s actions and the system that supports him?

III. Why did Douglas prefer to go to the YMCA swimming pool to learn swimming?

5. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 60-80 words:

1x3=3

A. “Saheb-e-Alam’s story represents the harsh realities of child labour and the vicious cycle of poverty in Firozabad.”

Elaborate on this statement with reference to the second part of *Lost Spring*. Discuss the socio-economic conditions, traditions, and lack of opportunities that trap families in the bangle-making industry, and analyse how these factors affect the dreams and future of children like Saheb-e-Alam.

OR

B. “Small, ordinary victories in daily life often lead to the most meaningful lessons.”

Discuss this idea with reference to the chapter *Deep Water*, highlighting how the narrator’s experiences reflect the significance of such achievements.

*****ALL THE BEST*****