



# 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 2

**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:

In the modern world, warfare has evolved beyond conventional battles fought between armies on physical terrain. Today's conflicts often involve a blend of military force, digital strategies, and economic pressure. Cyber-attacks, misinformation campaigns, and the use of artificial intelligence have become integral tools in shaping outcomes without direct physical confrontation.

One of the defining features of contemporary warfare is its reach into civilian life. Critical infrastructure such as power grids, healthcare systems, and communication networks are often targeted, making ordinary citizens vulnerable. This shift has raised ethical questions regarding accountability and the protection of non-combatants.

Another aspect of modern warfare is its global impact. Conflicts in one region can disrupt international trade, leading to shortages of essential goods and rising prices worldwide. Nations dependent on imports often face the greatest challenges during such crises.

Moreover, psychological warfare has gained prominence. By spreading fear, confusion, and propaganda, conflicting parties attempt to influence public opinion and weaken the morale of opponents. This manipulation of perception is as powerful as physical force in achieving strategic goals.

Despite the existence of international laws, enforcing them remains a challenge. Violations continue, highlighting the need for stronger global cooperation and more effective mechanisms to ensure accountability.

Furthermore, the rapid advancement of technology has blurred the lines between war and peace. Conflicts are no longer confined to declared battles but often exist in a constant "grey zone," where nations engage in covert operations, proxy wars, and strategic deterrence without

formal declarations. This ambiguity makes it difficult to identify aggressors and respond appropriately, increasing the risk of prolonged instability. As warfare continues to evolve, it becomes crucial for nations to adapt their defence strategies while also prioritizing diplomacy and dialogue to prevent escalation and maintain global stability.

**I.** What is one major characteristic of modern warfare?

- A) It is limited to battlefields
- B) It combines military, digital, and economic strategies
- C) It avoids civilian areas
- D) It focuses only on diplomacy

**II.** Assertion (A): Modern warfare affects civilians directly.

Reason (R): Important public systems are often targeted during conflicts.

- 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.** What does psychological warfare aim to do?

- A) Destroy infrastructure
- B) Influence people's thinking and morale
- C) Increase military strength
- D) Promote peace

**IV.** Modern warfare: Cyber-attacks :: Psychological warfare: \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Economic growth
- B) Propaganda and fear
- C) Trade agreements
- D) Environmental damage

**V.** Find a word from the passage that means 'responsibility for one's actions.'

**VI.** How does the passage highlight the global consequences of modern conflicts?

**VII.** Analyse how modern warfare has expanded beyond physical combat. Discuss its technological and psychological dimensions.

### **SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (4 marks)**

**2.** You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Your school is organising an Inter-School Debate Competition on the topic "*Technology: A Boon or a Threat in 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 extract and answer the questions: (1×5=5)**

“Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.”

**I.** What change does the poet imagine among fishermen?

**II.** The phrase ‘would not harm whales’ suggests:

- A. Loss of livelihood
- B. Compassion and awareness
- C. Fear of the sea
- D. Environmental laws

**III.** Complete the sentence:

The ‘hurt hands’ of the salt gatherer symbolise \_\_\_\_\_.

**IV.** The poet \_\_\_\_\_ (highlights / ignores) human suffering caused by continuous labour.

**V.** Assertion: The poet suggests that stillness can bring sensitivity towards others.

Reason: People become more aware of suffering when they pause their activities.

- A. Both true, and R explains A
- B. Both true, but R does not explain A
- C. A true, R false
- D. A false, R true

**4. Answer the following in 40–50 words each: (3×2=6)**

**I.** In *Lost Spring*, Mukesh differs from other children who accept bangle-making as fate. How does his desire to become a motor mechanic reflect his courage and ambition? What does his determination reveal about his character and ability to challenge social norms?

**II.** In what ways does the story *The Tiger King* criticize authority and blind belief? How does it highlight the arrogance of rulers and the dangers of unquestioned faith in predictions and superstition within society?

**III.** What role does fear play in *Deep Water* in shaping Douglas’s initial swimming experiences, and how does it influence his thoughts, actions, and confidence in the water?

**5. Answer any ONE in 60–80 words: (1×3=3)**

**A.** Poverty often traps individuals in a cycle that is difficult to escape, restricting their opportunities and limiting their future prospects.” Discuss this statement with reference to *Lost Spring*, focusing on the lives of bangle-makers in Firozabad. How do social, economic, and environmental factors contribute to their continued exploitation, and why is breaking free from this cycle so challenging for them?

**OR**

**B.** Courage is not the absence of fear but the determination to overcome it, especially in moments of intense struggle and self-doubt.” Explain this idea with reference to *Deep Water*, highlighting how Douglas confronts and conquers his fear of water, and what this reveals about true courage and perseverance.

***ALL THE BEST***