



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



HINDUSTANI MUSIC (PERCUSSION – TABLA) (CODE 036)

PRE-MIDTERM EXAMINATION (JULY 2026)

Class: XII

Time Allowed: 1 Hour

Maximum Marks: 25

General Instructions:

1. This question paper is divided into three sections: **Section A, Section B, and Section C.**
2. **Section A** contains 6 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) carrying **1 mark each**. All questions are compulsory.
3. **Section B** contains 2 Short Answer type questions carrying **2 marks each**. Internal choice is provided.
4. **Section C** contains 3 Long Answer type questions carrying **5 marks each**.

SECTION A

Q1. Which iconic master of the Banaras Gharana was widely celebrated for his powerful *khula baaj* (open-hand style) and received the Padma Vibhushan?

- (A) Pandit Anindo Chatterjee (B) Pandit Kishan Maharaj
(C) Ustad Allah Rakha (D) Pandit Kumar Bose

Q2. Identify the composition format that features a fixed structural template, starts with a thematic *Mukh*, and expands using systematic *Paltas* and a final *Tihai*:

- (A) Tukda (B) Paran
(C) Kayda (D) Uthan

Q3. Guru Purushotam Das and Raja Chatrapati Singh are foundational masters celebrated for expanding the repertoire and performance aesthetics of which traditional percussion tradition?

- (A) Delhi Tabla Gharana (B) Farrukhabad Tabla Gharana
(C) Punjab Gharana (D) Pakhawaj Playing Styles

Q4. What is the precise layout of *Vibhags* (divisions) in the structure of Jhaptaal?

- (A) 4/4/4/4 (B) 2/3/2/3
(C) 3/2/2/3 (D) 2/2/3/3

Q5. In the standard *Taal Notation System*, which of the following symbols is universally used to designate a *Khali* (empty/silent wave) beat?

- (A) + (B) ×
(C) 0 (D) 2

Q6. Directions: In the question below, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice.

Assertion (A): Chautala and Ektala share the exact same total number of *Matras* (beats).

Reason (R): Both Chautala and Ektala are composed of 12 *Matras*, but they differ fundamentally in their *Theka* compositions, *Vibhag* markers, and performance applications.

- (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.

SECTION B

Q7. Summarize the salient performance features, tonal characteristics, and stylistic contributions associated with the biography of Raja Chatrapati Singh.

OR

Provide a brief account of the life, training lineage, and core artistic achievements of Guru Purushotam Das.

Q8. Write out the basic *Theka* of Jhaptala in *Thah* (single speed) layout. Ensure you clearly write out the *Bols*, corresponding *Matra* digits, and standard structural signs (×, 2, 0, 3).

OR

Write out the basic *Theka* of Sultala in *Thah* (single speed) layout, including all necessary *Vibhag* boundaries and structural signs.

SECTION C

Q9. Write a comprehensive biographical study of Pandit Kishan Maharaj. Your answer must cover the following aspects systematically:

- Family lineage and early training under his Guru.
- Salient stylistic features of his performance technique.
- Notable contributions to elevating the status of solo Tabla presentation.

Q10. Using the standard Bhatkhande or traditional notation system, compose a complete Kayda in either Teentala or Jhaptala. Your documentation must explicitly detail:

- The foundational *Mukh* / Theme.
- At least two logical expanding variations (*Paltas*).
- A mathematically sound closing *Tihai*. (*Ensure all Matras, Vibhags, and Tali-Khali markings are mathematically aligned*).

Q11. Execute a comprehensive comparative analysis pairing Chautala and Ektala together. Construct a comparison framework that analyzes:

- Aggregate beat counts (*Matras*) and internal structural divisions (*Vibhags*).
- The placement mapping of *Taali* and *Khali* markers.
- The distinct musical genres or vocal accompaniment styles, where each specific Tala is traditionally implemented.

OR

Execute a comprehensive comparative study pairing Jhaptala and Sultala. Clearly delineate their shared similarities in structural length alongside their contrasting parameters in performance application and execution.

*****All The Best*****