



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE-MID TERM TEST 2026-27

ENGLISH

SET 1

Class: X  
Date: 24.07.26  
Admission no:

Time: 1hr  
Max Marks: 25  
Roll:

## SECTION A – READING SKILLS (7 Marks)

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

### *Remote Work Productivity Trends*

The shift to remote and hybrid work models has generated substantial data on productivity, employee wellbeing, and organisational performance. According to a 2023 global survey by Stanford University involving over 5,000 employees, remote workers reported a 13% increase in productivity compared to office-based staff. This improvement was attributed to fewer distractions, flexible schedules, and reduced commuting time, which saved an average of 72 minutes per day. However, the same study revealed that long-term remote work led to a 22% rise in reported feelings of isolation among younger employees under 35.

Data from Microsoft's Workplace Trends Report further indicates that hybrid teams completed collaborative tasks 18% faster when supported by digital collaboration tools, yet email volumes increased by 31%, contributing to digital fatigue. Companies that implemented structured hybrid policies, such as mandatory office days for team meetings, showed 27% lower turnover rates. In contrast, fully remote organisations experienced higher rates of burnout, with 41% of employees citing difficulty in disconnecting from work.

Analysts highlight that data privacy concerns have grown alongside these trends. A 2024 Gartner report noted that 68% of organisations increased employee monitoring software usage, raising questions about trust and autonomy. On the economic front, organisations saved between 20-40% on office space costs, allowing reinvestment in employee training and technology. Nevertheless, productivity gains were not uniform across sectors; creative industries reported only marginal improvements of 4-6%, while IT and finance sectors benefited most.

These findings suggest that successful remote work strategies require careful data-driven decision-making. Policymakers and HR professionals must balance quantitative metrics with qualitative human factors to sustain long-term gains without compromising employee mental health.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What is the primary focus of the passage?
  - a) The complete failure of remote work models
  - b) Data analysis of productivity and challenges in remote/hybrid work
  - c) Only the financial savings from remote work

d) Government policies on office spaces

2. What does the word “marginal” mean in paragraph 3?

a) Extremely large    b) Very small or slight    c) Equal to average    d) Highly successful

3. According to the passage, what single term describes the feeling of separation experienced by many remote workers?

4. What two main benefits of remote work are mentioned in the Stanford University survey data?

5. “Hybrid teams completed tasks faster due to digital tools.” Is this statement True or False according to the passage? Give one reason from the text.

6. Based on the data presented, what can be inferred about the impact of full remote work on employee retention?

7. Why does the passage suggest that productivity gains were not the same across all industries? Support with one example from the text.

### **SECTION B – WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (11 Marks)**

**Q2.** You recently visited a historical monument during a school excursion. Write a descriptive paragraph in about 100-120 words: **3M**

You may use the following cues:

- Location and first impression
- Architectural beauty and details
- Surrounding gardens and atmosphere
- Your personal feelings and experience

Write your answer in a single well-organised paragraph.

Use vivid and sensory details to make the description lively.

**Q3.** You are Kush/Kushi, member of a student’s council at ABC Public School. Recently, you participated in an Inter-School Model United Nations (MUN) Conference. The experience made you realise the importance of discipline, effective communication, and responsible behaviour in enhancing a school's reputation. **4M**

Write a letter to the Principal expressing your views on how students can take responsibility for improving these qualities in the school. Suggest a few measures to encourage positive change among students.

**Q4.** The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank number. **4 X 1 = 4**

i. The government has launched the new initiative to protect environment.

ii. People must took active part in this campaign.

iii. We should avoid to use plastic bags in our daily life.

iv. Such small steps can makes big difference for future generations.

**SECTION C – LITERATURE (7 Marks)**

**Q5. Answer the following questions in brief.**

**2 x 2 = 4**

- i. You can feel other's pain only when you go through it yourself. Validate this statement with reference to the story, 'The Letter' and why it took place?
- ii. What does Ouija board in 'A Shady Plot' symbolize?

**Q6. Answer the following question in 50 to 75 words.**

**1 x 3 = 3**

- i. Although The Letter is realistic and The Shady Plot is humorous with supernatural elements, both stories explore human emotions and relationships.

Analyse how the two authors use different literary techniques to convey meaningful messages about human nature. Give suitable examples from both texts.

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