



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 II

Class: XI
Date: 20.07.26
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)

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

For many years, economic development was viewed as the primary indicator of progress. Nations focused on industrial growth, urban expansion and increased consumption to improve living standards. While these developments brought significant benefits, they also placed enormous pressure on natural resources. Forests were cleared for infrastructure projects, rivers became polluted due to industrial waste, and excessive dependence on fossil fuels accelerated climate change.

Today, sustainability has emerged as one of the most important global concerns. Sustainability refers to meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is based on the understanding that economic growth, environmental protection and social well-being are interconnected and must be balanced carefully.

Governments, businesses and individuals all play an important role in creating a sustainable future. Many industries are investing in renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind power. Cities are encouraging the use of public transportation and green buildings to reduce carbon emissions. At an individual level, simple actions such as reducing waste, conserving water and choosing sustainable products can collectively create a significant impact.

However, sustainability is not merely about changing technologies or adopting environmentally friendly practices. It also requires a shift in attitudes and values. People must recognise that natural resources are finite and that short-term gains often come at long-term costs. The challenge lies in persuading societies to adopt sustainable habits even when immediate benefits may not be visible.

Experts believe that education is one of the most effective tools for promoting sustainability. When young people understand the consequences of environmental degradation and the importance of responsible consumption, they are more likely to make informed decisions. Sustainability, therefore, is not just an environmental issue; it is a shared responsibility that will shape the future of humanity.

Answer the following questions. (1×7=7)

I. Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage?

- a) Industrialisation should be stopped completely.
- b) Sustainability requires balancing development with environmental and social responsibility.
- c) Renewable energy is the only solution to climate change.
- d) Governments alone are responsible for environmental protection.

II. Complete the Analogy:

Infinite: Unlimited :: Finite Resources : _____

III. Which statement can be inferred from the passage?

- a) Technological innovation alone can ensure sustainability.
- b) Sustainable development requires behavioural changes in society.
- c) Economic growth and environmental protection cannot coexist.
- d) Sustainability is relevant only to environmentalists.

IV. Why does the author describe sustainability as a "shared responsibility"?

V. Select the option that best describes the tone of the passage.

- a) Humorous
- b) Critical and pessimistic
- c) Informative and persuasive
- d) Emotional and nostalgic

VI. The word "**degradation**" in the passage most nearly means:

VII. Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

- a) Sustainability requires balancing **environmental, social, and economic** considerations.
- b) Individual choices, when adopted collectively, can contribute to addressing global challenges.
- c) Education and awareness can empower people to make more sustainable decisions.
- d) Economic development should always be prioritised, even if it causes long-term environmental damage.
- e) Building sustainable societies depends only on government policies and not on citizens' participation.
- f) Long-term environmental protection and responsible resource use are essential for future generations.

Select the MOST appropriate combination:

- A. a, b, f and f only
- B. a, c, d and e only
- C. b, d, e and f only
- D. a, b, c and f only

SECTION B – WRITING (4 Marks)

Q2. You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing students about an Inter-House Literary Quiz Competition. Include date, venue, and eligibility and registration details.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (14 Marks)

Q3. Answer the following MCQs. (1×4=4)

That afternoon my uncle Khosrove came to our house for coffee and cigarettes. He sat in the parlour, sipping and smoking and remembering the old country. Then another visitor arrived, a farmer named John Byro, an Assyrian who, out of loneliness, had learned to speak Armenian. My mother brought the lonely visitor coffee and tobacco and he rolled a cigarette and sipped and smoked, and then at last, sighing sadly, he said, My white horse which was stolen last month is still gone I cannot understand it.

I. Which inference can best be drawn about Uncle Khosrove's reaction to John Byro's complaint?

- a) He believes material possessions are more important than emotional attachments.
- b) He considers the loss of a horse insignificant when compared to greater human sufferings.
- c) He suspects John Byro of exaggerating the incident.
- d) He is indifferent to the suffering of others.

II. The phrase "*out of loneliness, had learned to speak Armenian*" primarily suggests that John Byro:

- a) wanted to establish a deeper connection with the Armenian community.
- b) intended to impress the narrator's family.
- c) was planning to migrate to Armenia.
- d) had forgotten his native language.

III. Which of the following statements can be inferred from Uncle Khosrove's rhetorical questions?

- I. He views displacement from one's homeland as a profound tragedy.
- II. He believes emotional resilience is preferable to lamenting misfortune.
- III. He considers the theft of property a serious social crime requiring immediate action.

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

IV. The contrast between John Byro's "*sighing sadly*" and Uncle Khosrove's "*shouted*" most effectively highlights:

- a) the difference between patience and impulsiveness.
- b) the tension between personal grief and a broader perspective on suffering.
- c) the conflict between wealth and poverty.
- d) the difference between rural and urban lifestyles.

Q4. Answer the following questions in 30–40 words each. (2×3=6)

- a) How does the grandmother's attitude towards education reveal the generation gap?
- b) Explain how the poet presents the contrast between the sea and human life in "A Photograph".
- c) Why does Mourad's behaviour make Aram admire him despite knowing that keeping the horse was wrong?

Q5. Answer any ONE of the following in about 80–100 words each. (1×4=4)

A) "Change is inevitable, but relationships leave lasting impressions." Discuss with reference to "The Portrait of a Lady."

OR

B) Analyse how the poem "A Photograph" explores the themes of time, memory and loss.

ALL THE BEST