



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

POST MIDTERM TEST 2025-26  
ENGLISH

Class: IX  
Date: 06.01.26  
Admission no:

Time: 1hr  
Max Marks: 25  
Roll no:

## General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

## SECTION - A READING

(7 Marks)

### I. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

Many schools proudly display awards for cleanliness, academic excellence, or sports performance. Yet, a quiet transformation often goes unnoticed: the shift towards genuinely sustainable habits. When a school decides to reduce its environmental footprint, the real test lies not in a single “cleanliness drive” but in the routines that follow. A corridor free of litter on Inspection Day means little if, on ordinary mornings, dustbins overflow with disposable cups and snack wrappers.

At Horizon Public School, the management introduced a year-long sustainability audit instead of a one-time competition. Students collected data on electricity use, water consumption, and the volume of waste generated in different blocks. The findings were uncomfortable. Classrooms with the most modern equipment often wasted the most energy, and events that celebrated “eco-awareness” produced piles of plastic decorations. Gradually, however, this data became a tool for reflection. Student committees recommended smaller, practical changes, such as shared project materials, limited printing, and the reuse of event banners. The school realised that genuine responsibility meant questioning even its most well-intentioned practices.

### A. Multiple Choice Questions ( $4 \times 1 = 4$ marks)

1. What, according to the passage, is the “real test” of a school’s environmental commitment?
  - a) Winning awards for cleanliness
  - b) Organising a single cleanliness drive
  - c) Maintaining sustainable routines after campaigns end
  - d) Decorating corridors for Inspection Day
2. What did the sustainability audit at Horizon Public School mainly involve?
  - a) Conducting surprise checks in classrooms
  - b) Collecting data on resource use and waste
  - c) Holding essay competitions on the environment

d) Planting trees on the campus

3. Why were the findings of the audit described as “uncomfortable”?

- a) They showed that students were not interested in studies
- b) They revealed that eco-themed events also caused waste
- c) They proved that the school had no modern equipment
- d) They suggested that awards should be cancelled

4. Which option best captures the central idea of the passage?

- a) Modern equipment should be removed from schools
- b) Competitions are the best way to promote cleanliness
- c) True sustainability requires continuous self-examination and small changes
- d) Environmental projects are a waste of time

**B. Very Short Answer Questions (3 × 1 = 3 marks)**

- 1. Why does the passage say a clean corridor on Inspection Day “means little”?
- 2. How did student committees use the data gathered from the audit?
- 3. What did the school ultimately realise about “genuine responsibility”?

**SECTION B- WRITING & GRAMMAR (8 Marks)**

**II.** You are Riya/Rahul, a student of Horizon Public School, Pune. You have noticed that during normal school days, some students make fun of other students' parents, considering it as entertainment, which hurts feelings and spreads negativity. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Times of India* highlighting this issue and suggesting measures to promote respect. You may use the following points:

4M

- Emotional harm caused
- Need for school awareness sessions
- Parents and teachers as role models

**III. Do as directed**

4M

**A. Rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice:**

- 1. The school organises cultural events every month.
- 2. Parents guide students towards better behaviour daily.

**B. Reported Speech:**

Mira: Are you coming to the science fair tomorrow?

Raj: Yes, I've prepared a model on renewable energy.

Mira asked Raj (i) \_\_\_\_\_. Raj replied (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ a model on renewable energy.

**SECTION C – LITERATURE (10 marks)**

**IV. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:**

3x1=3

**When I cry the hills laugh;  
When I humble myself the flowers rejoice;  
When I bow, all things are elated.  
The field follows in the footstep of the rain,  
And the clouds prepare for their journey towards the sky.**

**Questions:**

1. Identify the literary device used in "When I cry the hills laugh" and explain its effect on the rain's relationship with nature.
2. What does the rain's "humbling" and "bowing" symbolize in terms of its role in the natural cycle?
3. How does this extract reflect the poem's central theme of harmonious reciprocity between sky, rain, and earth?

**V. Attempt ANY TWO of the four questions given below, within 30-43 words each. 2x2 = 4**

1. Where and how does the narrator meet John Pescud?
2. Why does Pescud decide to follow the girl from the train?
3. Why does the rain say it rises "impalpable" from the land and sea?

**VI. Attempt the questions given below. 1x3=3**

1. How does Pescud's own love story become a "best seller" that beats the books he laughed at?

\*\*\*\*\*All the Best \*\*\*\*\*