



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



PRE BOARD 3 - 2025-26

ENGLISH (301)

SET 2

Class: XII
Date: 09.01.26
Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs.
Max Marks: 80
Roll no:

SECTION A – READING (22 Marks)

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. 12

In recent years, the understanding of health has expanded beyond the simple absence of disease. Children today face a wide variety of nutritional challenges influenced by lifestyle, environment, and food choices. Along with the well-known problem of undernutrition, there has been a noticeable rise in diet-related disorders that were once associated only with adults. The combination of reduced physical activity, processed food intake, and irregular eating habits has significantly changed children's nutritional profiles across the globe.

Undernutrition continues to remain a major concern, particularly in developing regions. Children who do not receive adequate proteins, vitamins, and minerals are prone to stunted growth and weak immunity. Such children often fall ill, miss school frequently, and struggle to perform physical or mental tasks effectively. Stunting, wasting, and being underweight are not merely medical terms but indicators of compromised childhood potential.

At the same time, another concern has silently grown—over-nutrition. Children who constantly consume high-calorie fast foods and sugar-rich beverages tend to put on excessive weight. This condition may progress to obesity, which increases the risk of diabetes, hypertension, and joint problems even before adulthood. Ironically, both insufficient and excessive nutrition can lead to severe health complications.

Equally significant is the problem of hidden hunger — deficiencies of essential micronutrients such as iron, zinc, and vitamin D. These deficiencies may not always be immediately visible but can lead to fatigue, poor concentration, weak bones, and frequent infections. Many children eating enough food may still lack the nutrients necessary for healthy development.

Experts emphasise that balanced nutrition and awareness are the keys to addressing this triple challenge. Encouraging families to choose wholesome meals, promoting outdoor activity, ensuring routine health check-ups, and educating children about healthy choices can bring meaningful change. Schools and policymakers must also join hands to make nutritious meals accessible and affordable so that every child can grow to their full potential.

Answer the following questions:

I. According to the passage, which of the following has contributed most to changing nutritional patterns in children? (1)

- (a) Increase in classroom activities
- (b) Rise in home-cooked meals
- (c) Reduced physical activity and processed food intake
- (d) Strict school routines

II. Which of the following terms best describes “hidden hunger”? (1)

- (a) Lack of carbohydrates
- (b) Deficiency of micronutrients
- (c) Starvation due to poverty
- (d) Excessive salt consumption

III. Quote any one example from the passage that indicates the long-term consequence of undernutrition. (2)

IV. Match the following conditions with their results: (1)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Obesity | 2. Stunting |
| 3. Micronutrient deficiency | 4. Wasting |

- (i) weak immunity
- (ii) joint pain and diabetes risk
- (iii) severe weight loss
- (iv) restricted height growth

Choose the correct option:

- (a) 1–ii, 2–iv, 3–i, 4–iii
- (b) 1–i, 2–ii, 3–iii, 4–iv
- (c) 1–iv, 2–i, 3–ii, 4–iii
- (d) 1–iii, 2–ii, 3–iv, 4–i

V. What “triple challenge” is highlighted in the passage? (1)

VI. Why might a child who eats sufficient food still suffer from poor concentration and fatigue? (2)

VII. How does the author justify that over-nutrition is as serious as undernutrition? (1)

VIII. Suggest any two strategies mentioned in the passage that can improve children’s nutritional health. (2)

IX. Complete the analogy appropriately: (1)
Balanced diet : healthy development :: Excess junk food : _____

Q2. Read the following case-based passage and answer the questions. (10 Marks)

1. **Introduction:** In recent decades, digital learning tools have become increasingly popular among students. This case study analyses preferences for online learning platforms compared to traditional printed textbooks across different age groups.
2. **Methodology:** A survey was conducted involving school children, college students, and working professionals pursuing distance learning. Participants were asked to state their

preferred learning medium and the reasons for their choice. Responses were categorised and examined.

3. **Survey Understanding:** The survey focused not only on the choice of learning medium but also on the circumstances that shaped those choices, such as accessibility, habit, convenience, cost, and learning style. Participants explained how their preferences influenced their study consistency and understanding of concepts.
4. **Results:** The survey revealed the following trends: school children showed greater reliance on printed books, college students often preferred a blend of digital and print resources, while many working professionals opted for digital platforms because of flexibility.
5. **Implications for Interventions:** The findings indicate a need to design learning resources suited to each age group's situation. Schools may incorporate structured digital exposure for young learners, universities can continue blended learning models, while adult learners may benefit from flexible modular online courses. Ensuring internet access and training teachers in digital pedagogy will further improve learning outcomes.
6. **Conclusion:** The study highlights that the objective is not to replace one medium with another but to ensure effective learning. Understanding learner needs can help educators develop inclusive and adaptable learning environments for the future.

Answer the questions that follow:

i. Complete the sentence:

The introduction links technological growth to learning preferences to show that

_____.

(1)

ii. The statement “to determine preferred learning medium and assess reasons behind it” would be classified as:

(1)

- (a) Research objective
- (b) Data analysis
- (c) Result statement
- (d) Limitation of study

iii. Give two reasons why working professionals showed a preference for digital platforms.(2)

iv. Classify the following as **motivation** or **influence**:

(1)

Sentence 1: Lack of time encourages adults to choose online courses.

Sentence 2: Habit of reading printed books makes children prefer textbooks.

v. Identify the correct demographic group:

(1)

Riya attends college and uses both e-books and hard copies.

She belongs to the group of —

- (a) school children
- (b) elderly learners
- (c) college students
- (d) professional trainees

vi. Why do universities prefer blended learning according to the passage?

(1)

vii. Explain how the suggested interventions can improve learning outcomes. (2)

viii. What is the ultimate goal for educators as mentioned in the conclusion? (1)

- (a) Eliminating textbooks completely
- (b) Promoting only online education
- (c) Creating adaptable learning systems
- (d) Increasing exam difficulty

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)

Q3. Attempt ANY ONE in about 50 words. (4)

A. Write a notice informing students of Classes XI–XII about a career counselling workshop on overseas education opportunities being organised in your school. Invite registrations and include necessary details. Put the notice in a box.

OR

B. As President of the Environment Club, draft a notice about an inter-house plantation drive, mentioning date, venue, and limited entries per House. Put the notice in a box.

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE in about 50 words. (4)

A. Write a formal invitation (card format) from Rohan Mehta, Director – Cultural Forum, inviting school principals to the launch of “Heritage for Young Minds” initiative. Mention one highlight.

OR

B. You have received an invitation to a family reunion from your cousin. Write an **informal** reply accepting it. You are **Reena/Raja Thomas**.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE in 120–150 words. (5)

A. Write a letter to the editor highlighting the need to promote road safety awareness among school students, suggesting measures schools and parents can adopt. You are Nitin Arora, Gurugram.

OR

B. Yuva Rajkaar Rakesh by 43JN Colony Cochin you read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised write a job application along with your bio data.

EDUNET INNOVATIONS

Requires

Marketing Executive

Qualifications: Graduation in commerce with post-graduation in marketing advertising business or economics

Skills: Strong communication presentation and interpersonal skills proficient in software and data analysis detail oriented and understanding of product field

Experience: Min. 2 years in the same field.

Apply with detailed bio data to the general manager.

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE in 120–150 words. (5)

A. Write an article on commercialisation of festivals analysing the reason for commercialisation and its impact on the younger generation. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas you are Vinita or Vinith Yadav of 12th.

- Impact of globalisation on celebration of festivals
- Sanctity and essence of festivals
- Role of media in commercialising festivals
- Suggest ways in which individuals and communities can work together to preserve tradition and culture.

OR

B. Every Sunday morning you have observed senior residents of the colony teaching children from the neighbouring slums you are impressed by the spirit of giving back to the community. You are Shalu or Shaleen news reporter for a national daily write a report in 120 to 150 words on the community initiative you may use the following cues.

Volunteerism- Teach Underprivileged children-be a part of fundraising-help with Shelter-join groups

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 Marks)

Q7. Read the following extracts and answer ANY ONE – A or B. (6 Marks)

A. A thing of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such sunshine does it bring
That even in the midst of despair,
Some shape of delight appears,
Like a green bough in the middle of arid plains.

(A Thing of Beauty)

- I. What emotion does a “pall” refer to here? (1)
(a) joy (b) gloom
(c) excitement (d) surprise
- II. State whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE: (1)
The poet believes beauty has the power to emotionally heal human beings.
- III. Complete the sentence: (1)
The comparison of “green bough in arid plains” suggests that _____.
- IV. How does the poet suggest that beauty has psychological value for humans? (1)
- V. Which of the following BEST rhymes with “bring”? (ring / long / mind) (1)
- VI. Which poetic device is used in “arid plains”? (1)
(a) paradox (b) metaphor
(c) alliteration (d) irony

OR

B. ...Her face seemed tired, marked by the slow passing of years,
Yet there was calm acceptance in her eyes.
The poet turned away towards the bright airport scene,
But the thought of separation stayed quietly within.

- I. The dominant emotion expressed by the poet is — (1)
(a) anger (b) fear of loss
(c) annoyance (d) confidence
- II. What does the expression “calm acceptance” suggest about the mother? (1)
- III. Choose the option that DOES NOT describe the mother. (1)
(a) ageing (b) peaceful
(c) energetic (d) fragile
- IV. Assertion (A): The bright airport scene contrasts with the poet’s inner turmoil. (1)
Reason (R): The poet wanted to distract herself from painful thoughts.
(a) Both A and R are true and R explains A
(b) Both A and R are true but R doesn’t explain A
(c) A true, R false
(d) A false, R true
- V. What universal theme is reflected through these lines? (1)
- VI. The repetition of the idea of “looking away” suggests _____. (1)

Q8. Read ONE of the extracts and answer the questions. (4 Marks)

A. Antarctica is like an open laboratory, where traces of ancient air remain locked in ice. These frozen layers record centuries of environmental change. Scientists travel thousands of miles to drill cylinders of ice and read the past as if turning the pages of a diary written by nature itself.
(*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

- I. Why is Antarctica compared to a “laboratory”? (1)
- II. Select the option that BEST explains why scientists study ice cores. (1)
(a) to locate hidden treasure (b) to study future wars
(c) to know historical climate patterns (d) to measure ocean depth
- III. The phrase “pages of a diary written by nature” refers to _____. (1)
- IV. Mention one feature of the extract that makes it factual. (1)

OR

B. From the day he was born, predictions followed him like a shadow. The astrologers whispered that tigers and his destiny were strangely linked. As he grew, pride swelled in him, and fear turned into challenge. He declared that no tiger could ever defeat him. (*The Tiger King*)

- I. What literary device is being used by hinting about the future events? (1)

- II. Which emotion is MOST clearly reflected in the King's declaration? (1)
(a) humility (b) arrogance
(c) confusion (d) compassion

III. What central idea of the story does this extract highlight? (1)

IV. How does this extract establish irony in the narrative? (1)

Q9. Read ONE of the extracts given and answer the questions. (6 Marks)

A. The classroom seemed strangely different that morning. People sat silently, as though breathing too loudly might disturb the moment. The flags on the walls, the maps, the copies neatly stacked — everything appeared suddenly precious to me. I realised how much I had taken these ordinary sights for granted. *(The Last Lesson)*

I. Name any two sensory images used by the author. (1)

II. Why did everything in the classroom appear “precious” to the narrator? (1)

III. The comparison “as though breathing too loudly might disturb the moment” suggests _____. (1)

IV. Which line indicates the narrator's feeling of regret? (1)

V. What does the narrator mean by “taken for granted”? (1)

VI. Which headline best expresses the theme? (1)

- (a) A Noisy Classroom (b) A Student's Realisation
(c) A Teacher's Complaint (d) A Usual School Day

OR

B. They moved like quick shadows through the lanes, bare feet coated with dust, eyes bright with unspoken dreams. Some wore oversized shirts, some had no shirts at all. Yet their laughter echoed loudly, filling the air with a strange mixture of joy and longing. *(Lost Spring)*

I. Why does the author compare the boys to “shadows”? (1)

II. The description of clothing mainly highlights — (1)

- (a) fashion sense (b) poverty
(c) climate (d) laziness

III. Explain the contrast in “joy and longing”. (1)

IV. Quote a phrase from the extract that shows the children's poverty. (1)

V. What does the phrase “unspoken dreams” suggest? (1)

VI. The tone of the passage can be best described as — (1)

- (a) humorous (b) sarcastic
(c) compassionate (d) angry

Q10. Answer ANY FIVE in 40–50 words each.

(5 × 2 = 10)

- I. Why did Gandhi refuse to leave Champaran despite the official order? (*Indigo*)
- II. How does Douglas' near-drowning incident influence his later attitude toward life? (*Deep Water*)
- III. Why did the peddler call the world a "rattrap"? (*The Rattrap*)
- IV. Umberto Eco with reference to 'The Name of Rose' says, "I think if I had written The Name of Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he have meant? (*Interview*)
- V. Why does Jansie try to convince Sophie about her unrealistic dreams? (*Going Places*)
- VI. What made Subbu an indispensable figure in the Gemini Studios? (*Poets and Pancakes*)

Q11. Answer ANY TWO in 40–50 words each.

(2 × 2 = 4)

- I. How does Mr. Lamb help Derry develop self-acceptance? (*On the Face of It*)
- II. Explain how the toy tiger becomes an instrument of destiny in the Maharaja's life? (*The Tiger King*)
- III. Why did Zitkala-Sa feel humiliated at the dining table in the boarding school? (*Memories of Childhood*)

Q12. Answer ANY ONE in about 120–150 words.

(5 Marks)

A. "Keeping Quiet" urges collective introspection. Discuss how silence can help humanity rethink violence, environmental destruction, and selfish behaviour. Use examples from the poem.

OR

B. Choose ANY TWO characters and describe their **moment of realisation**:

-Franz (*The Last Lesson*)

- Douglas (*Deep Water*)

-The peddler (*The Rattrap*)

- The poet (*My Mother at Sixty-six*)

Explain:

- What triggers- How they change afterward- What message is conveyed

Q13. Answer ANY ONE in about 120–150 words.

(5 Marks)

A. In *The Enemy*, cultural values clash with personal conscience. Explain how patriotism, humanitarianism, and family tradition shape Sadao's actions. Support with textual examples.

OR

B. In *The Third Level*, the line between imagination and reality becomes blurred. Analyse how this narrative technique highlights Charlie's desire to escape modern life and his fascination with the past.

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