



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



PRE-BOARD 2 - 2025-26 ENGLISH MARKING SCHEME (301) SET 1

Class: XII

Date: 13.12.25

Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs

Max Marks: 80

Roll no:

SECTION A: READING (22 Marks)

1. PASSAGE 1

(i) (D) Cities with less population

(ii) The made-in-India educational toys serve the dual purpose of **highlighting Indian values** and **developing critical-thinking & decision-making skills**.

(iii) (D) Educational toys will make education more pragmatic.

(iv) Educational toys enhance the personality of children by **sharpening cognitive abilities**, improving **focus**, and **boosting curiosity**.

(v) (C) (c) and (e)

(vi) The passage shows that the educational system is being revolutionised by toys because they **introduce experiential learning**, provide **miniaturised labs**, use **VR platforms**, and offer **hands-on understanding** of scientific concepts, making learning **interactive** and **skill-oriented**. (2)

(vii) At the grassroots, these projects help schools in **tier-2 and tier-3 cities** by providing **low-cost prototypes**, **mini labs**, and **practical learning tools**, compensating for **poor infrastructure** and helping children develop **scientific awareness** and **motor skills**. (2)

(viii) (A) Ignite interest

(ix) Yes, the narrator justifies that playing is an important aspect of education because **play enhances cognitive growth**, builds **social skills**, improves **motor abilities**, and supports **experiential learning**. It helps children **retain concepts longer** and makes learning **enjoyable and meaningful**. (2)

2. PASSAGE 2

(i) (B) Newspaper

(ii) (A) It supports their point of view

(iii) Their intention is to **benefit others** and **ensure their safety** by sharing information they assume to be helpful.

(iv) It is important because authentic evidence ensures **credibility**, prevents **misinformation**, and maintains **public trust** in journalistic reporting.

(v) The threat is the **susceptibility of new users to fake information** due to lack of digital literacy.

(vi)

- **Misinformation** = **Incorrect information shared unknowingly**.
- **Fake news** = **False information created deliberately to mislead**.

(vii) People **below 20** and **above 50** are most vulnerable because they are either **early users** **lacking digital literacy** or **less adaptable to online media**, making them easily influenced by misleading online content. (2)

(viii) The blame game continues because some believe **media** should identify fake news, while others say **individuals** must verify facts, resulting in **unclear responsibility** and continued spread of misinformation. (2)

SECTION B: WRITING (18 Marks)

(*Model answers are provided. Keywords highlighted.*)

3. NOTICE WRITING (ANY ONE)

(a) NOTICE – Science Park (BOX)

Keywords: **Inauguration**, **Science Park**, **Equipment**, **Demonstration**, **Science Club**

Format :1

Content: 2

Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1

Box, name of issuing authority- organisation/ agency (top centre), **NOTICE** (centre), date of issue (aligned left)

Authorisation name, designation & signature (bottom left)

NOTE-full credit if all aspects included. Partial credit (½ mark) if one-two aspects are missing. No credit if more than two aspects are missing.

(b) RWA Notice – Security Guards

Keywords: **Security arrangements**, **Gate Nos. 2, 3 & 4**, **Maintenance increase**, **Residents' safety**.

4. INVITATION WRITING (ANY ONE)

(a) Acceptance Letter (Counsellor)

Format – 1

Content -2

Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1

A-(Letter type formal / third person)

B-(Letter type formal, first/ third person)

Keywords: Accepting invitation, Goal Setting, Time Management, Addressing students, Confirmation.

(b) Invitation Card – Silver Jubilee

Keywords: 25th Wedding Anniversary, Venue, Date & Time, Cordially invited.

5. LETTER/ APPLICATION WRITING (ANY ONE)

(a) Job Application – Tech Mahindra

Keywords: B.E. Computer Science, 2 years experience, HTML, Software building, Research skills.

Format: 1

Organisation of Ideas: 1

Content: 2

Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1

→ Covering Letter • Reference to the advertisement • Conveying suitability for the position (as advertised) • Submission of application

→ Bio data as separate enclosure • Profile of self • Educational Qualifications (include advertised requirements) • Work experience/s (if relevant) • References • Any other relevant information

(b) Letter to Editor – Upkeep of Parks

Format: 1 (Note -use of 'Yours truly' at close)

Organisation of Ideas: 1

Content: 2 As per cues + ideas

Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar: 1

Keywords: Civic responsibility, Garbage bins, Awareness, Maintenance, Community participation.

6. ARTICLE / REPORT (ANY ONE)

Format:1 Organisation of Ideas:1 Content:2 Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar:1

Article Writing Format • Title & By line Organisation & Content:

(a) Article – Impact of OTT Platforms

Keywords: Easy access, Addiction, Violence, Insomnia, Parental monitoring, Content choice.

(b) Report – Trip to Manali

Format • Headline & By line • Reporting place and date Paragraphing organisation (Introductory paragraph + one or two Body paragraphs including event details + Concluding paragraph inclusive of witness accounts) Organisation & Content:

Keywords: Trekking, Rafting, Students' feedback, Adventure trip, Duration.

SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)

7. Extract Question (ANY ONE)

(a) ROADSIDE STAND

(i) (C) The water-wraith was shrieking.

(ii) (C) Disappointment

(iii) It indicates the villagers' desperate yet unfulfilled hope for help that never arrives.

(iv) The emotion is sympathy mixed with frustration.

(v) It suggests that passing cars are indifferent/ ignorant and self-centred, ignoring the poor.

(vi) Word rhyming with "sound": around

(b) MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX

(i) (C) Brought comfort

(ii) (A) Sadness and helplessness

- (iii) The words indicate the mother's **weak health** and **old age**.
- (iv) To **reassure herself** of her mother's presence before leaving.
- (v) The ache refers to her **fear of losing her mother**.
- (vi) The poet tries to **avoid negative thoughts** about death.

8. Extract 2 (ANY ONE)

(A) JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH

- (i) (C) **The exposure to reality**
- (ii) Warning: **Small environmental changes can cause major global damage**.
- (iii) **TRUE**
- (iv) It means people ignore climate change when they remain in **comfort zones**, detached from reality.

(B) TIGER KING

- (i) (B) **Determination**
- (ii) It is ironic because tigers **celebrate being hunted**, which is **illogical**.
- (iii) It shows his **arrogance** and **authoritarian nature**.
- (iv) **FALSE**

9. Extract 3 (ANY ONE)

(a) LOST SPRING

- (i) (B) **Looking for something that can fetch money**
- (ii) (D) **Brought disaster**
- (iii) ...draws **sympathy** of readers.
- (iv) She realises the advice is **meaningless**, as there is **no school**.
- (v) Saheb's **eagerness/hope** to go to school.
- (vi) **FALSE**

(b) POETS & PANCAKES

- (i) (C) Visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio**
- (ii) (C) Excitement and pain**
- (iii) Audience was confused and unprepared, unable to follow him.**
- (iv) His accent / language barrier**
- (v) They lived within a limited cultural circle, exposed only to simple Tamil films.**
- (vi) FALSE**

10. FIVE Short Answer Questions

(sample key points provided)

- (i) Germans may impose their language on even pigeons, showing total domination.**
- (ii) Both Douglas and Mukesh show determination, one overcoming fear of water, the other striving to become a motor mechanic.**
- (iii) Fishermen exploit the seas, harming marine life.**
- (iv) The 'mighty dead' are heroes whose legacy is a beauty forever.**
- (v) Jansie is practical, aware of limitations of their social class.**
- (vi) Celebrities claim interviews are intrusive and misrepresent them.**

11. TWO Short Answers (40–50 words each)

- (i) A hobby like stamp collecting provides an escape from daily stress by offering a peaceful distraction. It allows a person to temporarily withdraw from reality, focus on something enjoyable, and experience relaxation and mental comfort away from routine pressures.**
- (ii) Annan inspired Bama by teaching her to develop self-respect and recognise the injustice of caste discrimination. His guidance helped her understand the importance of dignity, confidence, and education, motivating her to challenge oppressive practices and work towards changing her circumstances.**
- (iii) Derry's mother deepens his sense of isolation by constantly restricting his social interactions out of overprotection. Her fear of others' reactions makes her limit his opportunities to connect, causing Derry to feel unwanted, lonely, and cut off from the world around him.**

12. LONG ANSWER (ANY ONE)

A. LOST SPRING & INDIGO – APATHY AND EXPLOITATION

Keywords: **poverty, landlords, indentured labour, social injustice, Gandhiji, child labour**

Both *Lost Spring* and *Indigo* vividly expose society's apathy and the exploitation of the vulnerable. In *Lost Spring*, children like Saheb and Mukesh live in crushing poverty, trapped in child labour due to social neglect and the dominance of landlords and moneylenders. Their dreams are suppressed by social injustice, leaving them with no opportunity for education or progress.

Similarly, in *Indigo*, poor peasants of Champaran suffer humiliation under British planters who forced them into indentured labour through unfair agreements. Their suffering continued until Gandhiji intervened, fighting fearlessly for their rights. Both texts show how those in power exploit the weak, emphasising the urgent need for compassion, justice, and systemic change.

B. WOMEN IN LITERATURE (SPEECH)

Keywords: **oppression, dreams, social barriers, aging, identity, freedom, diversity of experiences.**

Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts, I realised how powerfully they present the diversity of women's experiences in society. In *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*, Aunt Jennifer symbolizes women who suffer under patriarchal oppression, expressing her desire for freedom only through her art. In contrast, *Sophie from Going Places* represents the dreams and aspirations of young women, highlighting how societal and economic limitations restrict their ambitions. Meanwhile, the mother in *My Mother at Sixty-six* reflects the emotional reality of ageing, dependence, and the quiet struggles women endure within families.

These portrayals remind us that every woman carries a unique story shaped by her circumstances, pressures, and hopes. Understanding this diversity helps us develop empathy, respect individual journeys, and challenge the stereotypes that oversimplify women's lives.

Thank you.

13. LONG ANSWER (ANY ONE)

A. THE ENEMY – EFFORTS BY SADAO & HANA

Keywords: **medical treatment, hostility, human compassion, moral dilemma, ensuring escape, humanity dissolves.**

The lesson *The Enemy* highlights that **hostility between people is often created by war**, not by **personal hatred**. Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon, finds an injured American prisoner of war washed ashore. Although America is Japan's enemy during the war, Sadao's actions show that **human compassion** rises above national boundaries. He and his wife, Hana, struggle between their duty to the nation and their **responsibility as human beings**. Ultimately, Sadao chooses

to treat the soldier, risking his own safety and reputation. The story shows that individuals are not born enemies; circumstances like war force people into opposing roles. Through Sadao's **moral dilemma** and his final decision to help the soldier escape, the lesson conveys that **humanity, kindness, and professional ethics** are stronger than hatred imposed by war. It proves that war creates enemies—**humanity dissolves them**.

B. MR. LAMB – OPTIMISM

Keywords: **positivity, acceptance, encouragement, overcoming disability, inspiring Derry.**

In *On the Face of It*, **Mr. Lamb** embodies true **positivity** and becomes a powerful symbol of hope for Derry. Despite his own **disability**, he chooses **acceptance** over self-pity and lives joyfully, welcoming everyone with warmth. His calm outlook teaches Derry that physical deformity does not define a person's worth. Through gentle **encouragement**, he helps the boy realise that fear of people's comments only limits life further. Mr. Lamb's ability to find beauty in ordinary things and stay active despite hardships shows the importance of **overcoming disability** with courage and inner strength. His words and behaviour deeply **inspire Derry** to step out of isolation, face the world, and believe in himself. Ultimately, Mr. Lamb's unwavering optimism transforms Derry's attitude and becomes a turning point in the boy's emotional growth.