



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 2

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) (A) 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) (C) Educational toys will make education more pragmatic.

(iv) Educational toys enhance personality by **igniting curiosity**, improving **focus**, and developing **cognitive abilities**.

(v) (B) (c) and (e)

(vi) The passage shows that the educational system is being revolutionised through **experiential learning**, **mini-labs**, **VR-based learning**, and **hands-on gadgets** that help students learn **scientific concepts** faster and retain them longer. These innovations make education **interactive**, **contextual**, and **practical**.

(vii) Grassroot education benefits through **affordable prototypes**, **mini-labs**, and **practical learning tools** for tier-2 and tier-3 schools lacking infrastructure. These projects help students build **motor skills**, gain **scientific exposure**, and learn through **experiential activities** otherwise unavailable.

(viii) (B) Ignite interest

(ix) Yes, it is justified because play helps in **cognitive development**, enhances **social skills**, strengthens **motor abilities**, and supports **experiential learning**. Playtime helps children **retain concepts**, stay **curious**, and learn **joyfully**, proving it is a vital part of education.

2. PASSAGE 2

(i) (C) Newspaper

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

(iii) People share information believing it will **benefit others** and ensure their **safety**.

(iv) Authentic evidence is essential because it builds **credibility**, prevents **fake news**, and ensures **public trust** in journalism.

(v) New entrants face the threat of being **easily misled by fake information** due to low **digital literacy**.

(vi)

- **Misinformation: False information shared unknowingly**
- **Fake news: False information created intentionally** to mislead

(vii) People **below 20** and **above 50** fall victim because they are either **new to the internet** or **less adaptable digitally**, making them more prone to **believing fake news**.

(viii) Some respondents believe **media** must identify fake news, while others expect **individuals** to verify information. This shifting of responsibility creates a **blame game**, leading to continued spread of misinformation.

SECTION B – WRITING (18 Marks)

3. NOTICE WRITING (ANY ONE)

(a) Notice – Innovation & Robotics Lab(BOX)

Keywords: **Inauguration, Robotics Lab, Hands-on learning, Venue & Date, Tech 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) Notice – Security Guards & Maintenance Increase

Keywords: **Security arrangement, Gate Nos. 2, 3 & 4, Maintenance increase ₹1000, Residents' safety**

4. LETTER / INVITATION (ANY ONE)

(a) Acceptance Letter

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) House Warming Invitation

Keywords: **House Warming Ceremony, Venue, Date & Time, Cordially invited**

5. LETTER/APPLICATION Writing (ANY ONE)

(a) Job Application – Assistant Director

Keywords: **Degree in Filmmaking, Camera handling, Multitasking, Communication skills, Fresher accepted**

Format: 1

Organisation of Ideas: 1

Content: 2

→ 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

Keywords: **Civic responsibility, Garbage bins, RWA meetings, Awareness, Plant more trees, Park maintenance**

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

6. ARTICLE / REPORT (ANY ONE)

(a) Article – Impact of OTT Platforms

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

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

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

(b) Report – Clean River Drive

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: **500 students, Yamuna bank, Plastic waste collection, Environmental organisations, Awareness, Future drives**

SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 Marks)

7. Extract 1 (A ROADSIDE STAND)

- (i) (C) The water-wraith was shrieking.
- (ii) (C) disappointment
- (iii) It shows the villagers' **innocent hopes** that remain **unfulfilled** despite waiting all day.
- (iv) The poet expresses **sympathy, sadness, and frustration**.
- (v) It suggests that the cars are **indifferent, self-centred**, and do not care for the poor.
- (vi) Word rhyming with “bound”: **sound**

7. Extract 2 – KEEPING QUIET (OPTION B)

- (i) (A) Urging
- (ii) False
- (iii) Benefits:
 - **Self-reflection**
 - **Peace and unity / Reduction in conflict**
- (iv) **silence**
- (v) **Both (I) and (II) can be inferred from the extract.**
- (vi) It is “exotic” because such **universal silence, peace, and unity** is **rare** and would create a moment of **human togetherness**.

8. Extract (ANY ONE)

(a) JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH

- (i) (C) The exposure to reality
- (ii) Warning: **Small environmental changes can cause large-scale destruction.**
- (iii) TRUE
- (iv) People ignore climate change when living in **comfort zones**, far from the visible reality of melting ice.

(b) THE TIGER KING

(i) (B) Determination

(ii) Irony: Tigers **celebrate**, though the King wants to **kill** them all.

(iii) Shows the king's **authoritarian** and **dictatorial** nature.

(iv) FALSE

9. Extract (ANY ONE)

(a) LOST SPRING

(i) (B) Looking for something that can fetch money

(ii) (D) Brought disaster

(iii) ...draws **sympathy** of readers.

(iv) The advice sounds **meaningless** because there is **no school** in his area.

(v) Saheb's **eagerness/hope** to attend school.

(vi) FALSE

(b) POETS & PANCAKES

(i) (C) Visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio

(ii) (C) Excitement and pain

(iii) The audience was **confused, unresponsive**, unable to understand the poet.

(iv) His **accent / language barrier**

(v) They watched **simple Tamil films**, had **no exposure** to English literature.

(vi) FALSE

10. SHORT ANSWERS (ANY FIVE)

(i) The line shows fear that the Germans may impose their **language on everything**, symbolising **total domination**.

(ii) Douglas and Mukesh show **strong determination**—Douglas fights his **fear of water**, Mukesh persists to become a **motor mechanic** despite poverty.

(iii) The poet shows **contrast** between the **joyous energy** of children and the **pale ageing** of her mother.

(iv) Keats calls legends of the **mighty dead** a **thing of beauty** because they give **inspiration, pride, and comfort**.

(v) Jansie is **realistic** and **practical**, aware of **limited opportunities**.

(vi) Umberto Eco means the novel's success depended on **timing**—his **experience, ideas, and cultural context** at that moment.

11. SHORT ANSWERS (ANY TWO)

(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) Bama lacked **maturity** to understand **untouchability**, so she laughed at the vadai incident without understanding its **social impact**.

(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 ANSWERS (ANY ONE)

A. LOST SPRING + INDIGO – Apathy & Exploitation

Keywords: **poverty, child labour, social injustice, indentured labour, landlords, British exploitation, Gandhi's intervention**

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. Portrayal of Women (Speech)

Keywords: **oppression, dreams, freedom, aging, poverty, social pressure, identity**

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.

13. LONG ANSWERS (ANY ONE)

A. THE ENEMY

Keywords: **medical care, washing wounds, risking lives, sheltering, helping escape**

In *The Enemy*, Dr. **Sadao** and **Hana** make several courageous efforts to save the life of the injured American soldier despite the danger it brings to their family. As a dutiful doctor, Sadao offers immediate **medical treatment**, performs surgery, and removes the bullet with great care. Hana supports him by **washing the wounds**, cleaning the patient, and tending to him even though she feels uncomfortable and fearful. Both of them continue to **feed** the soldier, monitor his recovery, and protect him from being discovered by authorities. Their compassion grows stronger than their patriotism, and they ultimately choose humanity over national loyalty. Knowing the consequences, Sadao arranges a boat and secretly helps the soldier **escape**, thus **risking their lives** to uphold moral duty and save an innocent human being.

B. ON THE FACE OF IT

Keywords: **empathy, acceptance, overcoming prejudice, Mr. Lamb's positivity, breaking stereotypes**

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.