



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE MID TEST 2025-26
ENGLISH (Marking Scheme)

Class: XII
Date: 01.08.25

Time: 1hr
Max Marks: 25

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

(7 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

The Eternal Luminance of Guru Purnima

- (1) Guru Purnima, an ancient festival rooted in the profound Vedic tradition of India, is a ceremonious homage to the timeless teacher-disciple relationship. Observed on the full moon day (Purnima) of the Ashadha month, it transcends religious denominations and cultural boundaries, emerging as a metaphysical celebration of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual lineage. The term “Guru” itself is a synthesis of “Gu” (darkness) and “Ru” (remover), encapsulating the idea of one who eradicates the shadows of ignorance. This day is not merely a calendrical ritual; it is a symbolic invocation of enlightenment in a world often enshrouded by material obscurity.
- (2) Historically, Guru Purnima finds its genesis in multiple sources of sacred lore and philosophical texts. The most prominent reference can be traced to the worship of **Maharishi Ved Vyasa**, the legendary sage credited with compiling the Vedas and authoring the Mahabharata, along with the eighteen Puranas. It is in his honour that the day is also commemorated as **Vyasa Purnima**. Disciples and seekers, from ancient gurukuls to contemporary educational institutions, observe the day with solemn reverence, acknowledging the lineage of knowledge passed down through oral and scriptural traditions. The guru, in this context, is not merely a didactic figure but a metaphysical conduit between the finite and the infinite.
- (3) Mythologically, the festival is further sanctified by the story of **Lord Shiva**, who is regarded as the Adi Guru or the first teacher. According to yogic tradition, on this auspicious day, Shiva imparted the knowledge of yoga to his seven disciples—the Saptarishis—thus becoming the primordial guru. This act of transmission marked the beginning of the guru-shishya Parampara, a legacy that still shapes Indian spiritual pedagogy. Similarly, Lord Krishna's role as Arjuna's charioteer and spiritual guide in the Bhagavad Gita is another illustrious exemplar of this sacred dynamic, where the guru does not merely instruct but awakens inner clarity and resolve.
- (4) In Buddhist tradition, Guru Purnima holds equal reverence. It is believed that it was on this day that **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath**, setting in motion the Dharmachakra, or the wheel of Dharma. The discourse, known as the “Dhammacakkavattana Sutta,” marked the commencement of the Sangha, or monastic community. For the Buddhists, therefore, Guru Purnima is not only a tribute to the teacher but also a commemoration of the awakening of collective consciousness. The spiritual plurality of the day enhances its universal appeal, making it a celebration not confined to sect or school, but resonant across traditions.
- (5) In contemporary times, while the ritualistic fervour may have diluted in urban life, the essence of Guru Purnima continues to inspire pedagogical reflection. Whether through solemn ceremonies in monasteries, quiet gratitude offered to schoolteachers, or meditative

introspection under the full moon's radiance, the day beckons individuals to acknowledge those who have illuminated their paths. It is a clarion call to preserve and revere the sanctity of learning, mentorship, and inner transformation—a reminder that in every epoch, the true guru is not the one who instructs, but the one who ignites the soul.

Read and suitably complete the sentence (Paragraph 1):

I. *Guru Purnima is not just a calendrical ritual; rather, it is..* **a symbolic invocation of enlightenment in a materially obscure world.**

II. **B.** Because it was the day the Bhagavad Gita was composed by Lord Krishna and Ved Vyasa together.

III. Complete the Analogy:

Guru: Remover of darkness: Guru Purnima: **Celebration of knowledge and enlightenment**

IV. **Assertion (A):** Guru Purnima holds significance in the Buddhist tradition.

Reason (R): Gautama Buddha is believed to have attained Nirvana on this day.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. A is true, but R is false.

C. A is false, but R is true.

D. Both A and R are false.

V. What is the **meaning of the phrase** “enshrouded by material obscurity” in the context of the passage?

Ans. It means being surrounded or consumed by worldly distractions and ignorance, which obscure the pursuit of higher knowledge or spiritual clarity.

VI. What significant role did Lord Shiva play in the origin of Guru Purnima according to yogic tradition?

Ans. Lord Shiva, regarded as the Adi Guru, imparted the knowledge of yoga to the Saptarishis on Guru Purnima, thereby initiating the ancient guru–shishya tradition.

VII. What best captures the modern relevance of Guru Purnima according to the passage?

Ans. It is a reminder to value mentorship, reflect on learning, and express gratitude to guiding influences.

SECTION B- WRITING

(4 marks)

2. You are Hina Aziz, student of Class XII-D and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following - Who - What – When – Where – Why – How.

(Format-1 Content-1 Organisation-1 Accuracy of spelling and grammar-1)

SECTION C – LITERATURE

(14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x5=5

I. enforcing benefits

II. A. Coordinated help

III ...the traditional and longstanding sleeping patterns and nighttime rituals that have been part of the rural community's lifestyle for generations (deeply rooted cultural practices) [The speaker suggests that the modern practices, possibly influenced by external forces such as urbanisation or industrialisation, disrupt the natural sleep patterns of the rural inhabitants – dilute their time-tested ways.]

IV. irony

V. D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

4. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words each:

3x2=6

I. Explain how the rattrap symbolises the dual aspects of human nature.

Ans. Dual – The tendency towards greed and deceit - society, driven by wealth and gain, ensnares individuals, reducing their existence to a constant struggle to escape from materialistic enticements. The potential for redemption through empathy and kindness – kindness and trust by the ironmaster's daughter, Edla, inspires the peddler to reclaim his essential humanity and escape the identity of a thief - signified by his decision to return the stolen money and leaving a note explaining his thoughts about the world being a rattrap.

II. Discuss the significance of the toy tiger in the climax of 'The Tiger King.'

Ans. The significance of the toy tiger lies in its stark contrast to the dangerous live tigers the Maharaja had been hunting throughout his life. Its role in his death brings up the themes of irony and fate central to the story. It illustrates -- despite human efforts to control or escape destiny, it can manifest in the most unexpected and trivial forms. The toy tiger symbolises -- the ultimate futility of the Maharaja's efforts -- points to the folly of those who believe they can master fate through power or violence.

III. How can the 'mighty dead' be things of beauty?

Ans. The mighty dead refers to our glorious forefathers and ancestors who are another thing of beauty that the poet John Keats mentions. This is so because the stories of their heroic deeds, their valour and mausoleums fill us with pride, pleasure and motivation.

5. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 60-80 words:

1x3=3

A. Based on the chapter elucidate any three consequences the global warming will have on Antarctica.

Ans. Scientists warn that a further depletion of ozone layer will affect the lives of the sea animals and birds of the region. It will also affect the global carbon cycle. The burning of fossil fuels has polluted the atmosphere. It has created a blanket of carbon dioxide around the world. It is increasing the global temperature which is visible at Antarctica when we see icebergs melting away.

It shows how minor changes in the atmosphere can cause huge effects. If the global temperature keeps on increasing the human race may be in peril. Students on ice is a programme which provides the students an ample opportunity to understand how global temperature can be a big threat to human existence.

It inculcates a new understanding in them. Geoff Green thinks that high school students are the future policy makers they can help in saving the earth from ecological dangers and the effects of global warming.

B. A mistaken identity led to a discovery of a new one for the rattrap peddler. How did this impact him?

Ans. It is true that the mistaken identity led to a discovery of a new one for the rattrap peddler. The mistaken identity of the captain and the resultant goodness received by the peddler gave him the power to clear his conscience. It brought out the latent goodness that was hidden due to cruel treatment he had received from the world.

The kindness and compassion he saw lent him the conviction to become a better human and allowed him the opportunity to behave in a dignified manner befitting a captain.