



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE-MIDTERM 2025-26

ENGLISH

Marking Scheme

Class: X

Date: 04.08.25

Admission no:

Time: 1hr

Max Marks: 25

Roll no:

SECTION A – READING (7 Marks)

I. Answers to the questions based on the passage:

i. Why would the author describe AI in healthcare as a "ground-breaking paradigm"?

Answer: B. Because it fundamentally changes healthcare delivery and accessibility

ii. Which option most likely explains the significance of the 2016 World Health Organization's push for technology-driven health equity?

Answer: B. It promoted technology to improve healthcare access and equity.

iii. Which of these options uses the same literary device as the line "AI's core strength lies in its ability to process vast datasets"?

Answer: A. This technology is a lighthouse for medical innovation!

iv. State one way AI could personalize treatment plans for patients.

Answer: AI personalizes treatment plans by predicting patient responses based on genetic and historical data, tailoring therapies like cancer treatments.

v. Provide one example of how AI enhances healthcare accessibility, based on Paragraph 3.

Answer: AI-driven mobile apps provide health advice in multiple languages to patients in underserved areas like rural India.

vi. Complete the following with a phrase from Paragraph 4:

Phrase | Meaning

Healthcare professionals' training | ensures AI complements human judgment

vii. Which of these best describes the tone of the line "Healthcare professionals, trained to collaborate with AI systems, act as stewards"?

Answer: B. Optimistic

SECTION B – WRITING & GRAMMAR (8 Marks)

II. Email to the Principal for Book Donation Drive (4 Marks)

Sample Answer:

Subject: Request for Permission to Organize a Book Donation Drive

Dear [Principal's Name],

I seek your permission to organize a book donation drive at our school on [proposed date, e.g., 15 August 2025] from [time, e.g., 9 AM to 12 PM]. The drive aims to collect books for underprivileged students, fostering their education and literacy. It will benefit the community by providing access to learning resources. Your support will greatly enhance this initiative's impact.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Class/Section]

III. Descriptive Essay: A Memorable Evening at a Local Festival (3 Marks)

Sample Answer:

The local festival glowed under a starlit sky, vibrant with energy. Stalls lined the streets, adorned with twinkling lights, offering spicy chaat and sugary jalebis, their aromas mingling with the scent of fresh marigolds. Folk music echoed, blending with the chatter and laughter of families. Children clutched glowing balloons, their faces lit with joy, while elders shared stories by a bonfire's warmth. The rhythmic beats of dhol drums stirred excitement, urging people to dance spontaneously. Colorful sarees and turbans swirled in the crowd, creating a kaleidoscope of tradition. The cool evening breeze carried a sense of unity, as strangers bonded over shared sweets. That evening, the festival's warmth and vibrancy left an indelible mark, a memory of community and celebration.

IV. Omitted Word Identification (4 Marks)

- a) Music **is** a powerful way to express emotions.
- b) It brings people **together** and creates lasting memories.
- c) Listening **to** music can reduce stress and anxiety.
- d) Many enjoy playing instruments **and** singing to unwind.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (7 Marks)

V. Short Answer Questions (Any Two, 2x2=4 Marks)

1. What is the significance of Coachman Ali's daily visits to the post office in "The Letter"? Support your answer with one detail from the story.

Answer: Coachman Ali's daily visits to the post office signify his desperate hope for a letter from his estranged daughter, Miriam. His persistence, despite years of disappointment, reflects his enduring love, as seen when he waits patiently each morning.

2. What does the inscription on Ozymandias's statue reveal about his character in the poem "Ozymandias"?

Answer: The inscription, "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!" reveals his arrogance and belief in his eternal power, contrasting with the ruined statue, highlighting his hubris.

3. What role does Lavinia's reaction to the ghost Helen play in resolving the conflict in "A Shady Plot"?

Answer: Lavinia's acceptance of Helen, the ghost, as a real entity helps resolve the conflict by dispelling her suspicions about John's fidelity. Her decision to keep Helen as inspiration aids John's writing, easing external pressures.

VI. Long Answer Question (Any One, 1x3=3 Marks)

1. Compare and contrast the use of irony in "Ozymandias" and "The Letter" to convey their central messages.

Answer: In "Ozymandias," situational irony underscores the futility of pride, as the king's grand statue lies in ruins, mocking his boastful inscription. In "The Letter," dramatic irony reveals the postmaster's initial dismissal of Ali's pain, only to empathize after his own daughter's distress. While "Ozymandias" uses irony to critique hubris, "The Letter" employs it to highlight empathy's value, both emphasizing human limitations through contrasting lenses.

2. How does Elsie Brown use humour in "A Shady Plot" to explore the conflict between creativity and external pressures?

Answer: Elsie Brown uses humour in "A Shady Plot" through the ghost Helen's sarcastic interactions and John's comical struggles to write ghost stories under pressure. Helen's complaints about overworked ghosts humorously reflect John's creative block, highlighting how external demands, like Lavinia's expectations, stifle creativity, resolved when Helen inspires him.