



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: IX

Date: 02.08.25

Time: 1hr

Max Marks: 25

SECTION A – READING (7 Marks)

I. Answers to the questions based on the passage:

i. Why does the author describe sports science as having "reshaped" athletic performance?

Answer: B. Because it integrates science to enhance training, competition, and recovery

ii. Which option most likely explains the significance of the 1968 Mexico City Olympics?

Answer: B. It highlighted the impact of scientific training methods like high-altitude preparation.

iii. Which of these options uses the same literary device as the line "At its heart, sports science optimizes performance through precision"?

Answer: A. This technology is a spark for athletic excellence!

iv. State one way a data-driven approach could foster teamwork among coaches, nutritionists, and psychologists.

Answer: A data-driven approach fosters teamwork by enabling coaches, nutritionists, and psychologists to share precise data, like heart rates or workload metrics, to collaboratively tailor training and recovery plans for the athlete's overall performance.

v. Provide one example of how technology supports sports science, based on Paragraph 3.

Answer: Motion capture systems analyze a golfer's swing or a gymnast's vault to pinpoint flaws, enhancing performance.

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

Phrase | Meaning

Biomechanical analysis | reduces strain and extends athletic careers

vii. Which of these best describes the tone of the line "Injury prevention and recovery are central to sports science's impact"?

Answer: B. Confident

SECTION B – WRITING & GRAMMAR (11 Marks)

II. Descriptive Essay: A Rainy Day in Your School (3 Marks)

Sample Answer:

The rain poured steadily, transforming the school into a serene, glistening haven. Water dripped from the tiled roofs, creating a rhythmic patter that echoed through empty corridors. The playground, usually bustling, was a mosaic of puddles reflecting gray clouds. Students huddled under umbrellas, their laughter mixing with the sound of raindrops. The scent of wet earth and fresh grass filled the air, blending with the faint aroma of hot tea from the canteen. Teachers, in colorful raincoats, guided younger students to classrooms, where windows fogged with condensation. The library was a cozy refuge, its silence broken only by the soft rustle of pages and the distant rumble of thunder. Despite the damp chill, the atmosphere felt alive, as students shared stories of splashing through puddles. The rain painted the school in a new light, turning routine into a moment of quiet beauty.

III. Formal Complaint Letter to the Municipal Commissioner (4 Marks)

Subject: Urgent Request to Clean and Maintain [Name of Park]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the deplorable condition of [Name of Park] in [Neighbourhood Name]. The park, once a vibrant community space, is now littered with garbage, including plastic bags, food wrappers, and broken bottles, making it unsafe and unpleasant for residents, especially children and the elderly.

The litter has attracted stray animals and created health hazards, discouraging families from using the park for recreation. The overgrown weeds and unmaintained pathways further worsen the situation, diminishing the park's appeal and affecting the community's well-being.

I urge the Municipal Corporation to take immediate action to clean the park, remove the garbage, and ensure regular maintenance. Installing dustbins and scheduling weekly cleanups could prevent further deterioration. Your prompt intervention will restore this vital community space.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your swift action.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

IV. Editing Errors (4 Marks)

Line Error Correction

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| a) People plays an important role in shaping society's future. | plays | play |
| b) They works together to solve problems and create opportunities. | works | work |
| c) Every individual have the potential to make a difference in their community. | have | has |
| d) Many has inspired others through acts of kindness and innovation. | has | have |

SECTION C – LITERATURE (7 Marks)

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

1. How did Duke's presence help Chuck Hooper regain his confidence after the accident, and which moment in the story shows their strong connection?

Answer: Duke, Chuck's dog, encouraged him to walk, starting with small steps, rebuilding his confidence post-accident. Their strong connection is evident when Duke joyfully runs ahead during Chuck's walks, motivating him to keep moving despite his physical challenges.

2. What does the poet mean by choosing the "less travelled" road, and how does this choice affect the speaker's feelings in the poem?

Answer: In "The Road Not Taken," choosing the "less travelled" road symbolizes the poet's preference for an unconventional path. This choice fills the speaker with both pride for individuality and regret, wondering about the other road's possibilities.

3. Why did Private Quelch's habit of correcting others cause problems in his training camp, and what was one consequence he faced because of this?

Answer: Private Quelch's habit of correcting others, including superiors, annoyed his peers and officers, disrupting camp harmony. One consequence was his assignment to kitchen duties as punishment for interrupting the Sergeant during a lecture.

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

1. How does Private Quelch's excessive knowledge lead to his downfall in the story, and what does this reveal about the balance between intelligence and humility?

Answer: Private Quelch's extensive knowledge, displayed through constant corrections and lectures, irritates his peers and superiors, leading to his downfall when he's assigned kitchen duties as punishment. His habit of showcasing expertise without humility alienates others, highlighting that intelligence must be balanced with humility to foster respect and cooperation. The story reveals that unchecked arrogance can undermine even the most capable individuals, emphasizing the value of modesty in social and professional settings.

OR

Explain how the poet uses the metaphor of the "two roads" to convey the theme of individual choice and its long-term consequences in life. Provide an example from the poem to support your answer.

Answer: In "The Road Not Taken," the poet uses the metaphor of "two roads" diverging in a wood to represent life's choices between conformity and individuality. The speaker's choice of the "less travelled" road symbolizes opting for a unique path, which "made all the difference," suggesting profound long-term consequences. This metaphor underscores how decisions shape one's life, often with irreversible outcomes, as the speaker reflects on the road not taken with a mix of pride and regret.