



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PRE MID TEST 2025-26
ENGLISH

Class: XII
Date: 01.08.25
Admission no:

Time: 1hr
Max Marks: 25
Roll no:

General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

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 "Dhammacakkappavattana 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.

I. Read and suitably complete the sentence (Paragraph 1):

Guru Purnima is not just a calendrical ritual; rather, it is...

II. Why is Guru Purnima also called *Vyasa Purnima*?

- A. Because it is the day Maharishi Vyasa was born and he authored numerous foundational scriptures.
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 : ?

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?

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

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

SECTION B- WRITING

(4 marks)

2You 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

SECTION C – LITERATURE

(14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x5=5

While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

(poem-The Roadside Stand)

I. Select the phrase that suggests the following: The so-called aids are not offered out of genuine care or consent but are imposed in a controlling and perhaps unwelcome manner.

II. What does the imagery of 'swarm' NOT represent in the given extract?

- A. Coordinated help
- B. Overwhelming force
- C. Discomfort and chaos
- D. Neglect of individual needs

III Complete the following suitably. In the line, 'destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way,' the phrase 'the ancient way' refers to _____.

IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank. The poet has used phrases like 'greedy good-doers' and 'beneficent beasts of prey' to illustrate the _____ (irony/satire) in the situation where those claiming to help the rural poor actually impose self-serving and detrimental actions on them.

V. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet criticizes the way the rural poor are treated by benefactors, suggesting it instills ambition.

Reason: The interventions are overwhelmingly calming and lead to a loss of critical thinking among the rural poor. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

- A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- 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.

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

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

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.

OR

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