



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

TERM 1 - 2025-26  
ENGLISH  
MARKING SCHEME

Class: X  
Date: 03.09.25  
Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs  
Max Marks: 80  
Roll no:

## General Instructions:

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

## SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

### 1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

#### 1. Passage on Social Media (12 Marks)

- i. Why does the passage refer to social media as 'bridging distances'?

Ans: (b) It allows instant communication across locations. ✓

- ii. Kerala flood reference inference:

Social media can outpace / supplement / outrun traditional emergency communication methods in times of crisis.

- iii. Meaning of 'curated perfection':

Ans: (b) Carefully selected and enhanced content to appear flawless. ✓

- iv. How might digital wellness practices help teens manage social media anxiety?

Ans: By encouraging mindful use, limiting screen time, and creating boundaries, teens can avoid constant comparison and pressure, reducing fatigue and anxiety.

- v. Phrase suggesting pressure to stay online (Para 2):

Ans: "fearing exclusion if they log off—even briefly"

- vi. Best title emphasizing theme of choice:

Ans: (b) Swim or Sink: Navigating Social Media ✓

vii. Potential irony (20–30 words):

Social media, designed to connect and entertain, ironically causes isolation, anxiety, and fatigue due to constant pressure, comparisons, and overexposure to curated perfection.

viii. Why ‘passengers and captains’? (30–40 words)

Teens are passengers because they are influenced by the flow of online trends, but also captains because they can consciously choose when to engage or disconnect, shaping their digital wellbeing.

ix. Two ways tech companies could mitigate risks (Para 4):

By introducing screen-time alerts to control excess usage.


By enabling content filters and anti-bullying safeguards to protect mental health.

2. Passage on Circular Economy (10 Marks)


i. ‘Never-ending loop’:

Ans: (b) It cycles resources continuously without disposal. 

ii. Untapped potential imagery:

Ans: Hidden treasure waiting to be discovered 


iii. True statement:

Ans: (c) Modular devices allow upgrades without full replacement. 


iv. Mindset shift interpretation:

Waste should not be seen as useless but as a valuable resource, like raw material for new innovation, if people change perspective towards sustainability.

v. Paragraph 3 presents:

Ans: (realistic hurdle) 

vi. Governments’ role in the puzzle:

Ans: (b) Assemblers – by providing policy incentives to fit sustainable practices. 

vii. Biodegradable fabrics metaphor (‘weave sustainability’ 20–30 words):

Biodegradable fabrics integrate eco-friendly choices into everyday life, showing how fashion can literally “weave” sustainability into people’s daily routines while reducing waste.

viii. Two sparks from awareness campaigns (Para 4):

Encouraging individuals to repair, reuse, recycle materials.

Promoting conscious consumerism like choosing eco-friendly products.

2M

### **SECTION B WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)**

(All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.)

#### **3. Application (3M, not more than 50 words)**

To

The Librarian

ABC School

Subject: Request for use of library after school hours

Respected Sir/Madam,

I, Prachit Verma (Class X-D), President of the Debate Club, request permission to use the school library after school for debate practice for the upcoming inter-school competition. Kindly grant approval for our sessions.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Prachit Verma

#### **Marks Distribution (3M):**

Content relevance: 1 mark

Expression (feelings, conversation, learning): 1 mark

Grammar, coherence & format: 1 mark

#### **4. Factual Description – Favourite Holiday Destination (not more than 100 words, 4M)**

My favourite holiday destination is Shimla, a beautiful hill station in Himachal Pradesh. Located amidst snow-capped mountains and pine forests, Shimla offers scenic views, pleasant weather, and colonial charm. Attractions include the Mall Road for shopping, Ridge for cultural events, and Jakhoo Temple for spirituality. I enjoy its cool climate, vibrant markets, and peaceful walks. The blend of natural beauty and lively town life makes Shimla the perfect retreat from city stress.

#### **Marks Distribution (4M):**

Content (key features, functionality): 2 marks

Expression & organisation: 1 mark

Accuracy (grammar, word limit adherence): 1 mark

#### **5. Letter (Any ONE, in about 120 words, 7M)**

A. Letter about Air Pollution

15, Shanti Vihar

Delhi

17 August 2025

The Editor

The National Daily

Subject: Urgent Need to Control Air Pollution in Cities

Sir/Madam,

Through your newspaper, I wish to highlight the grave problem of air pollution in urban areas, mainly from traffic emissions, industrial waste, and construction dust. This is harming public health, causing respiratory diseases and lowering our quality of life. Authorities must enforce stricter emission norms, promote public transport, and regulate construction activities. Citizens should avoid burning waste and plant more trees. Immediate action from both government and public can help us breathe clean air again.

Yours sincerely,

Bipin Kapoor

**B. Letter about Handloom Industry**

32, Lakshmi Nagar

Varanasi

17 August 2025

The Editor

The National Daily

Subject: Preserve India's Traditional Weaving Arts

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw attention to the threats faced by our traditional handloom industry due to mass-produced textiles. Weavers struggle with low incomes and declining demand. Handlooms represent our heritage and provide livelihoods. The government should offer subsidies, organise exhibitions, and promote exports. Public awareness campaigns and including handloom products in fashion trends can support artisans. Let us preserve this rich art form for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Saurabh Singh

**Marks Distribution (7M):**

Content (relevance, clarity of concern/proposal): 3 marks

Expression & cohesion: 2 marks

Formal format (address, subject, salutation, ending): 1 mark

Grammatical accuracy: 1 mark

**6. Article (Any ONE, about 150 words, 8M)**

**A. Sports and Academic Success: Striking the Right Balance**

## **Sports and Academic Success: Striking the Right Balance**

**By Tanya Ruhan, Class X**

Balancing sports and academics is essential for a student's all-round development. Engaging in sports builds discipline, teamwork, and leadership, while also relieving stress after a long day of studies. Physical activity improves concentration and keeps the mind sharp, which can lead to better academic performance. To balance both, students should create a realistic timetable, allocating time for studies as well as exercise. Setting priorities, avoiding procrastination, and maintaining regular routines help in managing assignments alongside sports practice. Schools should encourage flexibility for student athletes, and parents should support their children's interests in both fields. When managed well, sports and academics complement each other, preparing students for success both inside and outside the classroom.

### **B. Wildlife Corridors: Saving Species from Extinction**

#### **Wildlife Corridors: Saving Species from Extinction**

**By Manav K, Class X**

Wildlife corridors are strips of natural habitat that connect isolated animal populations, allowing safe movement between forests or reserves. These corridors help animals find food, migrate, and mate, thus preventing inbreeding and extinction. They sustain biodiversity by supporting genetic diversity and healthy populations. However, challenges include land acquisition, conflicts with farmers, and pressure from urban development. Creating effective corridors requires strong laws, public support, and careful planning. In my opinion, wildlife corridors should be prioritised over urban expansion because they preserve ecosystems vital for life on Earth. Protecting wildlife helps balance nature and supports human wellbeing now and for the future.

#### **Marks Distribution (8M):**

Content (relevance, clarity of concern/proposal): 3 marks

Expression & cohesion: 3 marks

Formal format (address, subject, salutation, ending): 1 mark

Grammatical accuracy: 1 mark

### **SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)**

#### **7. Fill in the blanks with the correct option (3 × 1 = 3 Marks)**

- (i) Neither the students nor the teacher **was** ready for the surprise test.
- (ii) This is the first time he **has** visited our school.
- (iii) The manager said that the report **would be** submitted by Monday.

#### **8. Omission Correction Passage (4 × 1 = 4 Marks)**

Write the missing word along with the word before and after it.

Line	Word Before	Missing Word	Word After
i	become	a	serious
ii	face	a	threat

- iii contribute to reducing
- iv Protecting the environment

### 9. Sentence Rewriting (1 + 2 = 3 Marks)

- i. He likes **neither** coffee **nor** tea.
- ii. Join the two sentences using an appropriate connector without changing the meaning:
  - a) She was tired, **yet** she continued to work.
  - b) She was late, **so** she missed the bus.

### SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 Marks)

#### 10. Extract-based Questions (Answer any two extracts, $2 \times 4 = 8$ Marks)

##### A. Ozymandias

- i. Irony: Ozymandias boasts about his great empire, but all that remains are ruins and meaningless fragments, making his glory futile.
- ii. Imagery of “colossal wreck”: It shows the decay of once-mighty human achievements and highlights the inevitable decline caused by time.
- iii. Message on pride and ambition: Shelley's poem warns that human pride and ambition are temporary and cannot escape the ravages of time.
- iv. Sonnet structure supporting impermanence: The organized yet broken structure mirrors the rise and fall of Ozymandias's empire, reinforcing the theme of impermanence.

##### B. The Dear Departed (Conversation: Mrs. Jordan & Mrs. Slater)

- i. Mrs. Jordan refers to the family members taking possessions from their father's belongings without consent as ‘robbery’.
- ii. Mrs. Slater wants Elizabeth to be quiet to avoid revealing their selfishness and possibly causing conflict.
- iii. The conversation reveals a strained, conflicted relationship between the sisters full of distrust and quarrels.
- iv. The drama uses humor by exaggerating selfishness and greed in family members, highlighting weaknesses in relationships in a comic manner.

##### C. The Frog and the Nightingale

- i. The speaker is the frog, who advises the nightingale to “use your wits and follow fashion,” meaning she should mimic popular trends to succeed.
- ii. The nightingale reacts with fear, anxiety, and blind obedience, feeling terrified but trying to comply.
- iii. “Puffed up, burst a vein” signifies the nightingale's violent overexertion and emotional strain that ultimately leads to her death.
- iv. The extract conveys that blind ambition and imitation without authenticity can be harmful and self-destructive.

#### 11. Short Answer Questions (Any five, $2 \times 5 = 10$ Marks)

- i. Role of the tiger in "Mrs. Packtide's Tiger":

The tiger symbolizes Mrs. Packtide's vanity and desire for social bragging. Beyond being an animal, it represents human greed and illusion of power.

ii. Lesson from Patol Babu:

Patol Babu teaches that dignity in one's work and commitment is more valuable than fame or money, showing pride in sincere effort.

iii. Physical monuments vs poetry in "Nor Marble, nor the Gilded Monument":

The poet contrasts temporary physical monuments that decay with poetry's lasting power to immortalize memories and emotions.

iv. Social satire in "Mrs. Packletide's Tiger":

The story humorously criticizes social pretension, vanity, and cruelty masked by societal norms, exposing human follies.

v. Why wedding guest listens to Mariner's story:

Despite urgency, the wedding guest is captivated by the Mariner's charm and glowing, hypnotic eyes, which hold him spellbound.

vi. Nicola and Jacopo's maturity:

They display maturity by taking responsibility for their sister's care, working hard and sacrificing personal interests to support family.

## **12. Long Answer (Any one, 150 words approx, 8 Marks)**

### **Option I: Selflessness and Sacrifice in "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "The Letter"**

Nicola and Jacopo in Two Gentlemen of Verona work tirelessly doing odd jobs to afford treatment for their sister, showing selflessness and familial love. Their sacrifices reflect great strength of character as they put others before themselves. Similarly, Coachman Ali in The Letter patiently waits every day hoping for news about his daughter, displaying emotional endurance and quiet suffering. All three characters demonstrate dignity in hardship, patience, and a willingness to endure personal loss for loved ones, embodying true strength through acts of self-sacrifice. Through their actions, the stories teach the value of altruism and devotion.

### **Option II: Humour and Irony in "A Shady Plot" and "The Dear Departed"**

Both plays use humour and irony to expose human weaknesses. In A Shady Plot, John's fear and Mrs. Lavinia's misunderstanding highlight the fragility and suspicion within marital relationships. The irony of superstition causing chaos adds comic effect. In The Dear Departed, family members' greed and hypocrisy in fighting over property before the father's death mock familial selfishness. The exaggerated characters and witty dialogues make serious issues entertaining, showing how humour can reveal human folly and strained relationships, providing social commentary on marriage and family dynamics.

..... ***ALL THE BEST*** .....