



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: IX
Date: 12.09.25
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 Animal Migration (12 Marks)

- i. b) It showcases massive, coordinated movements that captivate observers.
- ii. d) To avoid cold climates
- iii. c) Wind speed
- iv. b) Fatal collisions with buildings
- v. b) Citizen science apps
- vi. b) They are artificial constructs in a borderless natural world.
- vii. (2M)

The monarch butterfly's journey spans multiple generations, with no single butterfly completing the round trip. This highlights their survival strategy of ensuring continuity of the species through inherited navigational instincts, showing adaptation beyond an individual's lifespan.

viii. (2M)

Ecotourism generated by the wildebeest migration funds anti-poaching efforts and conservation programmes. Its broader impact is that it sustains local ecosystems by protecting species, creating awareness, and providing income for communities that then value and safeguard wildlife.

ix. (2M)

AI contributes by (1) predicting migration patterns in response to weather shifts, and (2) analysing data from drones or satellite tags to monitor animal movements. For students, this has educational value as it demonstrates real-world applications of technology in science, and reinforces the importance of interdisciplinary learning (biology + technology).

2. Passage on Vertical Farming (10 Marks)

- i. b) Reduce dependency on imports and save space
- ii. c) They are mostly suited for leafy greens and herbs.
- iii. b) LED lighting and sensors
- iv. c) Dependency
- v. b) Offering subsidies and training
- vi. b) Vertical farming has limited crop variety and high costs.
- vii. (2M)

Cause: Limited agricultural land in Singapore → Effect: The country relies heavily on innovative solutions like vertical farming to ensure food security.

This is significant because it reduces import dependence and maximises food production in small spaces.

viii. (2M)

Researchers are experimenting with crops like strawberries and tomatoes to expand the variety grown in vertical farms. This implies that the technology has the potential to become more versatile and sustainable in the future, addressing wider food needs.

SECTION B WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

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

Q3. Diary Entry (3M)

Question: You met your favourite author during a book launch event. Write a diary entry expressing your excitement, the conversation you had, and what you learnt from the interaction.

15th August, Sunday

Dear Diary,

Today was the most memorable day of my life! I attended the book launch of my favourite author, Ruskin Bond. I was thrilled to finally meet him in person. When I nervously introduced myself, he smiled warmly and asked about my reading interests. I told him how his stories inspired me to value nature and simplicity. He encouraged me to keep writing daily, even if it was just a page, saying that consistency builds creativity. I learnt that humility and perseverance are the true marks of a writer. This meeting has left me deeply motivated to pursue my love for reading and writing with greater passion.

Marks Distribution (3M):

Content relevance: 1 mark

Expression (feelings, conversation, learning): 1 mark

Grammar, coherence & format: 1 mark

Q4. Descriptive Paragraph on Favourite Gadget (4M)

Model Answer (within 100 words):

My favourite gadget is my smartphone, a sleek device that fits comfortably in my hand. Its high-resolution screen makes reading, watching videos, and attending online classes a delight. The camera captures clear

photos and even records 4K videos, allowing me to preserve memories instantly. With apps for communication, learning, and entertainment, it feels like a complete world in my pocket. The fingerprint sensor ensures security, while the long battery life keeps it running all day. For me, this gadget is not just a phone—it is my constant companion, connecting me to knowledge, creativity, and the people I love.

Marks Distribution (4M):

Content (key features, functionality): 2 marks

Expression & organisation: 1 mark

Accuracy (grammar, word limit adherence): 1 mark

Q5. Formal Letter (7M)

Option A. Letter to Editor (Noise pollution)

Meera Nair

17, Park View Apartments

Lucknow

15 August, 2025

The Editor

The Daily Times

Lucknow

Subject: Growing Noise Pollution in Our Locality

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the rising noise pollution in our area due to unregulated construction work and frequent late-night events. The constant noise disturbs students, senior citizens, and patients, making it difficult to concentrate or rest.

Strict time limits for construction activity should be enforced, and event organisers must follow noise regulations. Police patrols can help ensure compliance, and awareness drives should sensitise residents about the harmful effects of noise pollution.

I sincerely hope that publishing this concern will encourage authorities to act promptly.

Yours faithfully,

Meera Nair

Option B. Letter to Principal (Skill Development Week)

Ankit Verma

Head Boy

Sunrise Public School

15 August, 2025

The Principal

Sunrise Public School

Subject: Proposal for Organising “Skill Development Week”

Respected Madam,

On behalf of the student council, I propose the introduction of a “Skill Development Week” in our school. The aim is to provide students with practical exposure to essential 21st-century skills such as coding, photography, creative writing, and public speaking.

Such workshops, conducted by professionals, would not only enhance student creativity but also build confidence and prepare us for future challenges. The initiative can be integrated into co-curricular activities and supported with minimal resources.

I request your kind approval for this proposal. It will certainly benefit the entire student community.

Yours sincerely,

Ankit Verma

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

Q6. Article Writing (8M)

Option A. Article on “The Role of Youth in Combating Climate Change”

The Role of Youth in Combating Climate Change

By Rohit Sharma, Class X

Climate change is no longer a distant concern; it is a global crisis demanding urgent action. Youth, with their energy and creativity, have a crucial role to play. At home, young people can reduce carbon footprints by conserving electricity, avoiding plastic, and practising waste segregation. In schools, they can lead eco-clubs, organise awareness drives, and promote tree plantation. At the community level, volunteering for clean-up campaigns, promoting cycling or car-pooling, and using digital platforms to spread awareness can make a big difference.

When the youth act as responsible climate warriors, they inspire society to adopt sustainable habits. Together, small actions can create a powerful movement to combat climate change.

Option B. Article on “The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India”

The Rise of Electric Vehicles: A Step Towards Sustainable Transportation

By Ananya Reddy, Class X

With increasing pollution and rising fuel costs, electric vehicles (EVs) are emerging as a sustainable solution in India. EVs are eco-friendly as they produce zero emissions, reduce dependence on fossil fuels,

and offer lower running costs. Many Indian cities are now witnessing an expansion of EV charging infrastructure.

However, challenges remain—high initial costs, limited charging stations, and battery disposal issues. With government subsidies and technological innovations, these barriers can be overcome. The future of India's transportation looks promising, as EVs could significantly reduce pollution and encourage cleaner living.

Indeed, electric mobility marks a bold step towards sustainable development.

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)

Q7. Fill in the blanks (3 Marks)

Answer: (i) introduce, (ii) have, (iii) will improve

Q8. Omission Editing Passage (4 Marks)

i all are aware

ii also is key

iii food as it

iv at getting at least

Q9. Do as Directed (3 Marks)

I: must

II a: must (should acceptable)

II b: can

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given.
2x4=8

A. Extract

i. Whose feet is the speaker touching?

The speaker is touching the feet of his granddaughter who has taught him to read.

ii. Why does the speaker say they can read any novel confidently?

Because, under his granddaughter's affectionate guidance, he has learnt to read fluently and independently, gaining confidence in his new skill.

iii. According to the speaker, who should be respected irrespective of gender and age?

Teachers should be respected, irrespective of their gender and age.

iv. What reason does the speaker give for respecting a teacher?

He says it is written in scriptures that teachers must be respected, and since teaching made him independent, he considers it his duty.

B. Extract

i. What does the phrase “step by step” in the order symbolize in relation to Charles Hooper’s journey?

It symbolises Charles’s gradual recovery, where with Duke’s support he took literal small steps toward regaining his mobility and eventually his career.

ii. Why is the order described as a “special tribute to Duke”?

Because Duke’s loyalty, encouragement, and companionship were the driving force behind Charles’s recovery and professional comeback.

iii. How does this appointment reflect the impact of Duke on Charles Hooper’s life?

The appointment shows that Duke transformed Charles from a helpless patient into a determined achiever, making him capable of resuming and excelling in his career.

iv. What message does this extract convey about determination and partnership?

It conveys that determination, when combined with loyalty and support from loved ones, can triumph over adversity and lead to success.

C. Extract

i. What does the phrase “haunts of coot and hern” mean?

It refers to the natural habitats or dwelling places of water birds such as coots and herons, near marshes and streams.

ii. How does the brook ‘sparkle out’ among the fern?

The brook emerges suddenly and brightly, reflecting sunlight, as it flows lively through ferns in its path.

iii. What poetic device is used in the line “To bicker down a valley”?

Onomatopoeia/Personification – “bicker” imitates the sound of flowing water and also personifies the brook as quarrelling playfully.

iv. What does the extract suggest about the movement and character of the brook?

It portrays the brook as lively, sparkling, energetic, and restless, beginning its journey with vigour.

Q11. Short Answer Questions (Any 5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

i. Why was Private Quelch nicknamed 'the Professor', and what impact did this nickname have on his standing in the platoon?

Private Quelch was nicknamed 'the Professor' because of his pedantic nature, habit of correcting others, and vast theoretical knowledge. However, this nickname made him unpopular with his peers as they found him boastful and irritating.

ii. How does Duke’s loyalty impact Chuck’s life in “A Dog Named Duke”?

Duke’s loyalty helps Chuck regain confidence, mobility, and dignity. By supporting him step by step, Duke enables Chuck to overcome his paralysis and reclaim his career and self-respect.

iii. In “The Man Who Knew Too Much,” what effect does Private Quelch’s behaviour have on his peers?

His constant interruptions and showing off irritate his peers. While they admire his knowledge, his arrogance alienates him, and he becomes the subject of derision rather than respect.

iv. Describe how Robert Frost uses symbolism in “The Road Not Taken.”

Frost uses the two diverging roads as a symbol of life’s choices. The road chosen represents decisions individuals make, while the “road not taken” symbolises opportunities left behind. It reflects the importance of choices and their lifelong impact.

v. What does the solitary reaper’s song convey in “The Solitary Reaper”?

The reaper’s melodious song conveys universal emotions of sorrow, loss, and longing. Though the exact words are unknown, the music leaves a lasting impact on the poet’s heart, transcending language barriers.

vi. What are the comic elements in the play “Villa for Sale”?

Comic elements arise from misunderstandings: Juliette desperate to sell her house, Gaston’s clever opportunism, and Mrs. Al Smith’s dramatic movie-star attitude. Their dialogues full of wit and shifting motives create humour throughout the play.

Q12. Long Answer (Any 1 × 8 = 8 Marks)

Option I. Villa for Sale

In Villa for Sale, humour develops from comic misunderstandings and the characters’ shifting motivations.

Juliette wants to sell her villa urgently but struggles to find buyers.

Mrs. Al Smith, a film actress, bluntly declares that the villa has no class but is still interested for her purposes. Her exaggerated personality adds humour.

Gaston cleverly seizes the moment. Though he pretends indifference, he realises he can profit by letting Mrs. Al Smith pay for the villa he negotiates for Juliette.

Through wit and opportunism, Gaston outsmarts Juliette and strikes a deal without investing his own money.

The comic twists arise from contrasting intentions: Juliette’s desperation, Mrs. Al Smith’s flamboyance, and Gaston’s cunning business sense. Together, they create a humorous and surprising outcome that entertains the reader.

Option II. The Road Not Taken & The Brook

Both poems present journeys, but symbolic of different themes.

In The Road Not Taken, Frost describes a traveller choosing between two roads, symbolising life’s choices. It reflects individuality, decision-making, and the consequences of paths taken or left behind.

In The Brook, Tennyson personifies the stream’s journey from the hills to the river, symbolising continuity and permanence of nature compared to fleeting human life. Its lively movement reflects resilience and constancy.

Together, these poems offer insights into human experience: life requires decisions and has impermanence, while nature represents continuity and endurance. Both journeys thus present universal truths in poetic form.