



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

TERM 1 - 2025-26

ENGLISH

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:

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"Navigating Social Media: The Modern Teen's Dilemma"

From sunrise to midnight, millions of teenagers worldwide scroll, swipe, and double-tap their way through a mosaic of images, messages, and memes. For many, social media offers an instant connection to friends, trends, and global events—bridging distances that used to feel insurmountable. With just a ping, news from another continent, a friend's latest selfie, or an inspiring activist campaign is at their fingertips.

Ironically, the very platforms meant to unite can also fragment. Studies show that excessive screen time often correlates with spikes in anxiety, sleep disruption, and self-esteem dips. The curated perfection of influencer photos, viral "challenges," and the pressure to respond rapidly to messages can turn fun into fatigue. Some teens feel compelled to keep pace, fearing exclusion if they log off—even briefly.

But digital life isn't just black or white. Social media empowers young people to launch creative projects, raise their voices on causes, and organize support for classmates in times of need. In 2024, when a local flood devastated a city in Kerala, students used Instagram stories and group chats to coordinate rescue drives, sharing updates faster than official channels.

As awareness of these paradoxes grows, adolescents and educators worldwide are exploring "digital wellness" practices—mindful scrolling, app-free zones, and group challenges to reduce screen time. Tech companies too, are rolling out new safeguards: reminders when scrolling gets excessive, privacy features to filter content, and controls to silence online bullying.

Ultimately, the future of teen social media use hangs on conscious choices. The dilemma isn't about abandoning the digital world, but steering through its currents with care. As one counselor put it, "Like a river, social media can nourish or overwhelm—you must learn when to swim and when to step ashore." In this evolving landscape, teens are both passengers and captains, deciding where to connect and when to disconnect—choices that will shape their wellbeing for years to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. Why does the passage refer to social media as 'bridging distances'? (Paragraph 1)

- a) It increases competition among teens.
- b) It allows instant communication across locations.
- c) It makes physical travel unnecessary.
- d) It restricts information access.

ii. Complete the sentence with the most appropriate inference:

The mention of Kerala students' flood response shows that social media can _____ traditional emergency communication methods in times of crisis.

iii. Select the option that best conveys the meaning of 'curated perfection' in the context of social media images. (Paragraph 2)

- a) Randomly posted unedited pictures.
- b) Carefully selected and enhanced content to appear flawless.
- c) Original photographs without filters.
- d) Images showing only real-life struggles.

iv. How might digital wellness practices help teens manage social media anxiety? Provide a brief explanation. (Paragraph 4)

v. Which phrase from Paragraph 2 suggests that teens feel pressure to be constantly online?

vi. If the passage were to be titled to emphasize its theme of choice, which option would be most fitting?

- a) Screens and Streams: The Teen Connection
- b) Swim or Sink: Navigating Social Media
- c) Teens Online: The Power of Images
- d) Digital Wellness: The New Adventure

vii. What potential irony does the passage highlight in teen social media use? Answer in 20-30 words. (Paragraph 2)

2M

viii. Why does the author liken teenagers to both 'passengers and captains' in their online lives? Analyze in 30-40 words. (Paragraph 5)

2M

ix. Infer two ways tech companies could 'mitigate risks' as described in the passage. List them briefly. (Paragraph 4)

2M

2. Read the following.

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In recent years, the concept of “circular economy” has gained global attention as a sustainable alternative to the traditional “take–make–dispose” model. Unlike the linear economy, where resources are extracted, turned into products, and eventually discarded as waste, the circular economy aims to keep materials in use for as long as possible. This involves designing products for durability, repairability, and recyclability, and creating systems for recovering resources at the end of a product’s life cycle.

Proponents argue that the circular economy can significantly reduce environmental degradation and resource depletion while boosting innovation and economic growth. For instance, companies in the fashion industry are experimenting with biodegradable fabrics and clothing rental services to reduce textile waste. Similarly, electronics manufacturers are developing modular devices whose components can be upgraded without replacing the entire product.

However, transitioning to a circular economy is not without challenges. One major obstacle is the lack of standardised recycling infrastructure across countries. In many developing economies, waste segregation at source is minimal, making it difficult to recover high-quality materials. Moreover, consumer behaviour plays a crucial role — without public willingness to repair, reuse, or recycle, even the most advanced systems may fail.

Governments, businesses, and communities must work collaboratively to make circular practices the norm. Policy incentives, such as tax breaks for sustainable products, can encourage businesses to adopt eco-friendly designs. Public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives can motivate individuals to make conscious consumption choices.

The success of the circular economy depends on a mindset shift: seeing waste not as an inevitable by-product but as a resource with untapped potential. In doing so, societies can reduce environmental impact while fostering economic resilience in the face of climate change and resource scarcity.

(Adapted from World Economic Forum Reports - August 2025)

Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above information.

i. Why might the circular economy be creatively envisioned as a 'never-ending loop' in contrast to the linear model?

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|--|---|
| a) It promotes endless waste generation. | b) It cycles resources continuously without disposal. |
| c) It extracts resources in a straight line. | d) It focuses on short-term product lifespans. |

ii. Complete the following with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The phrase 'untapped potential' in Paragraph 5 evokes the imagery of a _____ (hidden treasure waiting to be discovered / discarded item with no value / temporary solution to scarcity / policy tool for governments).

iii. State which of the following is True.

- a) Consumer behaviour is irrelevant to the success of circular systems.
- b) Waste segregation is highly effective in all developing economies.
- c) Modular devices allow upgrades without full replacement.
- d) Public campaigns discourage conscious consumption.

iv. What does the author imply by linking 'mindset shift' to viewing waste as a 'resource with untapped potential'? Provide a creative interpretation.

v. Fill in the blank by choosing the appropriate option from those given in the brackets.

Paragraph 3 presents a _____ (utopian vision / realistic hurdle / fictional scenario) in the form of inadequate recycling infrastructure.

vi. If the circular economy were a 'puzzle,' what role do governments play according to Paragraph 4, and why?

- a) Missing pieces – due to lack of incentives.
- b) Assemblers – by providing policy incentives to fit sustainable practices.
- c) Observers – watching businesses lead.
- d) Disruptors – creating more challenges.

vii. How do biodegradable fabrics in fashion metaphorically 'weave sustainability' into everyday life? Explain briefly in 20-30 words. (Paragraph 2)

2M

- viii. List two ways public awareness campaigns could 'spark' individual action, inferred from the passage. (Paragraph 4) 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. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use the school library for an after-school debate practice session for an upcoming inter-school debate competition. You are Prachit Verma, Class X-D, Debate Club President. 3M

4. Write a factual description of your favourite holiday destination in not more than 100 words, describing its location, attractions, and why it appeals to you. 4M

5. Attempt any ONE of the following in about 120 words: 7M

A. Many urban areas are facing severe air pollution due to traffic emissions, industrial waste, and construction dust. This impacts public health and quality of life.

As Bipin Kapoor, 15, Shanti Vihar, Delhi, write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the seriousness of the issue and suggesting steps authorities and citizens can take to control air pollution.

OR

B. India's traditional handloom industry is struggling to survive against mass-produced textiles.

As Saurabh Singh of 32, Lakshmi Nagar, Varanasi, write a letter to the editor of a national daily on the importance of preserving traditional weaving arts, the threats they face, and ways to promote them nationally and internationally.

6. Attempt any ONE of the following in about 150 words: (1 × 8 = 8 marks)

A. Imagine you are Tanya Ruhan, Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic "Sports and Academic Success: Striking the Right Balance", discussing how sports help in discipline, teamwork, and stress management, and how students can balance them with academic priorities.

OR

B. You are Manav K, Class X. Write an article on the topic "Wildlife Corridors: Saving Species from Extinction", explaining what wildlife corridors are, how they benefit biodiversity, and the challenges in creating them. Conclude with your opinion on whether such projects should be prioritised over urban expansion.

(A wildlife corridor is a strategically planned strip of natural habitat that connects fragmented or isolated animal populations, allowing them to move safely between larger habitats.)

SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Fill in the blanks with the correct option given in brackets. (3 × 1 = 3 marks)

(i) Neither the students nor the teacher _____ (was / were) ready for the surprise test.

(ii) This is the first time he _____ (has visited / had visited) our school.

(iii) The manager said that the report _____ (is / would be) submitted by Monday.

8. In the given passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word before and after it. (4 × 1 = 4 marks)

- i. Climate change has become serious concern for the planet.
- ii. Many animals face threat due to loss of their natural habitats.
- iii. We all can contribute reducing waste and conserving water.
- iv. Protecting environment is our responsibility for future.

9. Rewrite the following sentences as directed.

(1 + 2 = 3 marks)

- i. He does not like coffee or tea. (Rewrite using neither...nor)
- ii. Join the two sentences using an appropriate connector without changing the meaning:
 - a. She was tired. She continued to work.
 - b. "She was late. She missed the bus."

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)

10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given.
2 x 4 = 8

A. "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

- i. What irony is evident in the lines spoken by Ozymandias?
- ii. How does the poet use the imagery of the "colossal wreck" to convey the theme of the poem?
- iii. What message does Shelley convey about human pride and ambition through this extract?
- iv. How does the structure of this sonnet support the message of impermanence?

B. MRS. JORDAN: I'll tell you what's been going on in this house, Father. Nothing short of robbery.

MRS. SLATER: Be quiet, Elizabeth.

MRS. JORDAN: (rising) I'll not be quiet. Oh, I call it double-faced.

- i. What is Mrs. Jordan referring to as 'robbery'?
- ii. Why does Mrs. Slater want Elizabeth to be quiet?
- iii. What does the conversation reveal about the relationship between the sisters?
- iv. How does the drama use humour to comment on family relationships?

C. "Use your wits and follow fashion. Puff your lungs out with your passion."

Trembling, terrified to fail, Blind with tears, Blind with tears, the nightingale Heard him out in silence, tried,

Puffed up, burst a vein, and died.

- i. Who is the speaker of the lines "Use your wits and follow fashion," and what advice is being given?
- ii. How does the nightingale react to the speaker's advice, and what emotions does it experience?

iii. What is the significance of the phrase “Puffed up, burst a vein” in the context of the nightingale’s struggle?

iv. What message does the extract convey about blind ambition and its consequences?

Q.11. Answer any five of the following in about 30-40 words. (2 × 5 = 10 marks)

i. What role does the tiger play in the story Mrs. Packtide’s Tiger beyond being just an animal?

ii. What lesson about value and dignity is conveyed through Patol Babu?

iii. In Nor Marble, nor the Gilded Monument, how does the poet contrast physical monuments with poetry?

iv. Discuss the impact of social satire in “Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger.”

v. Why does the wedding guest listen to the Mariner’s story in spite of being in a hurry to attend the wedding?

vi. How do Nicola and Jacopo show maturity beyond their age in their actions?

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. 1x8=8

Examine how the theme of selflessness and sacrifice is portrayed through the characters in “Two Gentlemen of Verona” and “The Letter”. How do Nicola and Jacopo, as well as Coachman Ali, demonstrate true strength of character? Support your answer with incidents and analysis.

OR

Discuss how humour and irony are used to expose human weaknesses in “A Shady Plot” and “The Dear Departed.” Compare the treatment of relationships—whether marital or familial—in both works, providing relevant examples from the texts to support your answer.

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