



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

TERM 1 (2025-26)

ENGLISH

Class: XII  
Date: 08.09.25  
Admission no:

Time: 3hrs.  
Max Marks: 80  
Roll no:

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

- This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- This question paper contains three sections:
  - Section A: Reading Skills
  - Section B: Creative Writing Skills
  - Section C: Literature
- Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions given for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- Separate instructions are provided with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- Adhere strictly to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

## SECTION A: READING SKILLS

1. Read the passage given below. (12)

1. An urgent problem is now threatening libraries throughout the world. Their collections, which are crucial for diverse purposes as economic development, educational research and recreational pursuits are in danger of disintegration.

2. The problem is mainly due to one cause the type of paper on which books have been printed for the past one and a half centuries. Until the 1850s, paper was produced from linen or cotton rags and proved to be relatively long-lasting. In the mid-19th century, however, the popular demand for paper and the commercial need for an economic method of production led to the use of mechanically ground wood pulp. Paper manufactured from wood pulp is highly acidic and therefore, inherently unstable. It contains lignin which causes paper to discolour and disintegrate.

3. Programmes are now being developed with two main aims in mind: on one hand, to improve the physical condition of library collections, especially by the process called 'mass deacidification' (to eliminate acid from the paper of published books and insert a buffer compound that will provide

protection against future) and on the other, to transfer the contents of existing books to another medium.

4. Libraries will only be able to carry out these special tasks with the assistance of experts such as book conservators and high technology specialists. But, there is another group whose cooperation will be crucial, if the problem of decaying collections is to be arrested: the printing and publishing industries. The existing problem that of book collections already assembled in libraries is of vast proportions. It is intensified by the continuing use of acid-based paper in book publishing. The key issue is, how to preserve the books of the future, not simply those of the past.

5. If the future dimensions of the conservation problem are to be curbed, there will be a necessity of widespread adoption of paper which is of archival quality.

6. This change does not relate to a narrowly perceived need because the long-term preservation of library collections is important both for the overall social benefits they bring as well as for the special advantages they bestow on the printing and publishing industries.

7. In the first place, libraries are of critical importance to the well-being of citizens, since they provide the knowledge base of society. They contain the record of humanity, the accumulation of ideas and insights and discoveries on which social effort and progress are possible. The destruction of libraries would represent an immense cultural loss, a form of amnesia, which would affect every member of society.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

I. Libraries can save their collections by... (1)

- A. storing them in air-conditioned rooms
- B. laminating the pages
- C. creating a dust-free atmosphere in their premises
- D. widespread adoption of paper of archival quality

II. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph two, EXCEPT (1)

- A. The paper produced from wood pulp is not everlasting.
- B. The paper produced from wood pulp is acidic in nature.
- C. The paper produced from wood pulp is still being produced.
- D. The paper produced from wood pulp is prone to discoloring.

III. Comment on the importance of libraries referred to in the paragraph one. (1)

IV. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: (2)  
The writer found the printing and publishing industries to be crucial to cause of protecting libraries in order to.....

V. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'complicate', from words used in paragraph four. (1)

- |              |             |                |                |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| A. Assembled | B. Arrested | C. Proportions | D. Intensified |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|

- VI. List the two ways in which a book by Robert Frost could be saved from deterioration and loss.  
(2)
- VII. Why did the need to produce mechanically ground wood pulp arise during the mid-nineteenth century?  
(2)
- VIII. According to the passage, linen or cotton rags were used as paper until the 1850's. Based on your understanding of the passage, state whether you promote going back to using them as paper. Give reason for your answer.  
(1)
- IX. How can the tone of the passage be best described?  
(1)
- A. Informed concern   B. Destructive criticism   C. Derisive ridicule   D. Helpless alarm

**2. Read the passage given below: (10)**

With the enormous amount of information potentially available to travelers, the Internet constitutes an important platform for information exchange between the consumer and industry suppliers (e.g. hotels, transportation sectors, attractions), intermediaries (e.g. travel agents), controllers (e.g. governments and administrative bodies), as well as many non-profit organisations such as destination marketing organisations.

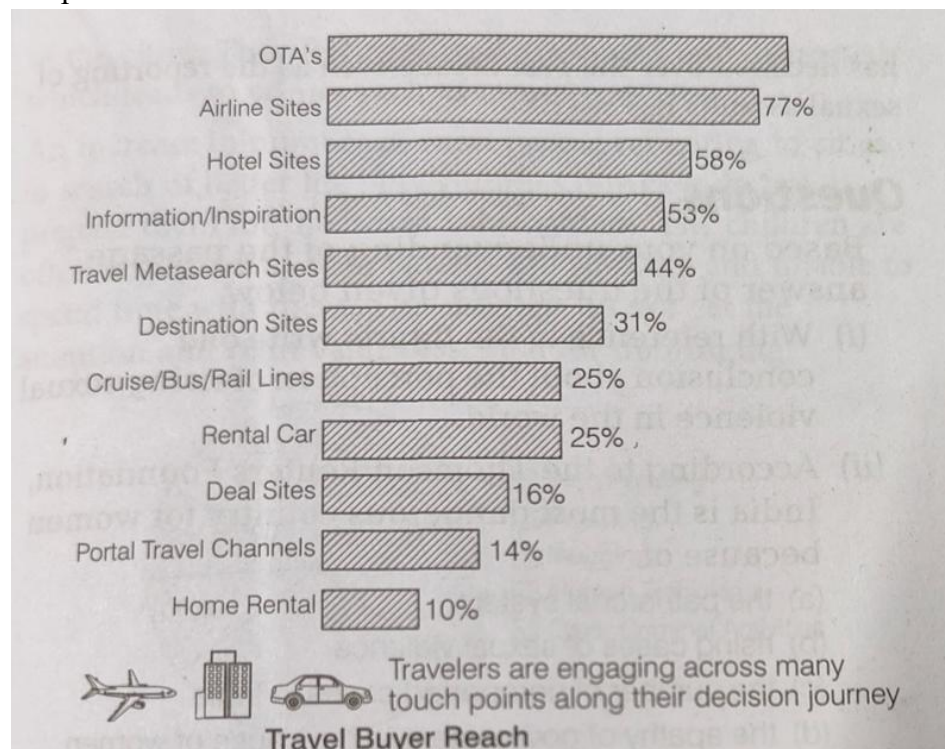
Different technological interfaces, such as search engines, online travel booking sites, and websites of destination marketing organisations facilitate the information exchange between online travellers and the so-called 'online tourism domain'.

Particularly, it has been argued that understanding the nature of the online tourism domain, i.e. the composition of online tourism related information potentially available to travelers, provides an important stepping-stone for the development of successful marketing programs and better information systems in Tourism.

The importance of social media is identified by Xiang & Gretzel (2010). Their analysis showed that social media constitute a substantial part of the search results, indicating that search engines linked the travelers directly to social media sites. Since more and more travelers seem to tap into this 'collective intelligence' available on the Web, this will challenge the established marketing practices of many tourism businesses and destinations.

The relation between social interaction, communication media and content can provide various supplementary advantages. It is more convenient and efficient way of spreading information compared to traditional media and thus, more and more companies are utilising it as a marketing channel. Furthermore, through media visibility companies are able to create more approachable image, and possibly bring awareness among new customers as well as retain existing consumer relationships.

One of the popular travel social media site Expedia Media Solutions partnered with ComScore, shed some insightful details of how travelers consume and share content prior to, during and after a trip.



It shows that the field of online content consumption is growing at a rapid pace. Another interesting point was that content is available and being accessed by consumers across more platforms and channels than ever before. Not surprisingly coming from an Expedia Solutions study, online travel agencies were found to be an important source across all platforms and throughout all stages of the booking process. It is no wonder that destinations, airlines, hotels and most travel marketers are embracing social networks such as pinterest, photo/video applications such as Instagram and Vine, as part of their storytelling toolkit, reaching out to growing crowds of travellers.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer of the questions given below.**

I. Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Passage 5.

The relation between social interaction, communication media and content can be very advantageous. (1)

Select from the following.

**True** if the statement agrees with the information

**False** if the statement contradicts the information

**Not Given** if there is no information on this

II. Who are the controllers in the field of tourism? (1)

III. What does the given passage focus on? (1)

- A. The increasing role of social media in tourism,
  - B. The increasing demand of tourism.
  - C. The need to boost tourism in India.
  - D. The Indian Tourism marketing needs.
- IV Complete the sentence appropriately. Online tourism domain can be understood as..... (1)
- V. Which of the following statements is NOT substantiated by information in Paragraph 4? (1)
- A. The established marketing practices of many tourism businesses and destinations are challenged by the online media.
  - B. social media constitutes a substantial part of the travel search results.
  - C. Search engines link the travelers directly to social media sites.
  - D. None of the above
- VI. According to the given data graph, which marketing field shows the greatest influence of tourists? (2)
- VII. What is called collective intelligence? (1)
- VIII. What facilitates the exchange of information between online travellers and the online tourism domain? (2)

## Section B

### CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18 marks)

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

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, (A) or (B) in about 50 words.**

**A.** You are Samrat /Sameeksha, Secretary Mittal Housing Society. You are going to organise a blood donation camp. Write a notice in not more than 50 words urging the members of your society to come in large numbers for this noble cause. Invent the necessary details. (4)

**OR**

**B.** An NGO has approached your school to offer book grants to the needy students. As head boy or head girl of your school, write a notice in about 50 words asking students who are need to put their requests into the box kept outside the principal's office.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, (A) or (B) in about 50 words.**

**A.** You are the cultural captain at Loyola School. Your school is organising a two-day Fitness camp over the weekend for grandparents of the school students. Create an invitation inviting the school grandparents for this fitness camp. Share information about the camp organisers and include other necessary details.

**OR**

**B.** Smt. Nirmala, your grandmother, has received an invitation from her childhood friend residing at a distance in the same city. The invite is for blessing ceremony and celebratory dinner marking the birth of a granddaughter. Your grandmother wishes to attend the event but would need to be

accompanied by a family member to assist her with her wheelchair. Create an appropriate reply accepting this invitation, on behalf of your grandmother.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.**

**A.** You are Aakash/Praniti Gupta residing at Ganesh Vihar, New Delhi. You read the following advertisement in 'The Daily Today'. Write a letter to the principal applying for the advertised post. (5)

**CARMEL JUNIOR COLLEGE**

***URGENT NEED PART TIME COUNSELLORS***

- Able to handle online queries and provide support on mental and emotional needs of the students.
- Postgraduate in Psychology
- Minimum five years of experience
- Computer literate

**OR**

**B.** You are moved by the miserable condition of the street children who make a living by collecting saleable material from rubbish dumps and live in unhealthy surroundings write a letter to the editor of a national daily requesting him to highlight their plight and urge the society and authorities to provide them with opportunities for growth and development. You are Suraj/ Lavanya of 10, Cuttak Odissa.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.**

**A.** The early morning serenity in the riverine village of Khandapada was shattered as the swelling Mahanadi breached its embankment, submerging houses, fields, and dreams. Draft a report for a local daily using the visual clues showing panicked villagers, while waiting for NDRF boats for rescue operations. You are Neeraj/Niranjana, a Staff Reporter.



**OR**

**B.** You saw a stray dog beaten to death by a group of boys. Their act infuriated you and you scolded them for their cruel act. Write the article on the topic 'Cruelty to Animals'. You are Nikhil/Naina

## SECTION C

### Literature

(40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). (1x6=6)

A. Yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
from our dark spirits. Such the Sun, the Moon.  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils.  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert makes  
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,

*(A Thing of Beauty)*

I. What does 'all' in line one refers to?

A. Things of beauty      B. Miseries of life      C. Natural things      D. Evilness

II. Why are our spirits dark?

III. Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

A. The Medicine of Nature      B. Nature as a Magnum Opus  
C. Life full of Beauty and Hope      D. Beauty Galore

IV. ....can be found in all aspects of nature.

V. What message do the given lines highlight in the context of human suffering.

VI. Answer in ONE word.

When the poet says that 'Some shape of beauty moves away the pall away from our spirits' he refers to ..... power of nature.

**OR**

B. "..... but soon  
put that thought away and  
looked out at young trees sprinting,  
the merry children spilling out  
of their homes....."

*(My Mother at Sixty-Six)*

I. Which thought did the poet put away?

A. Mother was ageing      B. Due to age she may die any time  
C. Will not be able to meet her again      D. Both (b) and (c)

II. What do 'sprinting trees' signify?

A. Running against time  
B. Time does not wait for any one  
C. Tree sprinting used as contrast to mother not moving much  
D. Both (b) and (c)

III. What is 'merry children spilling' symbolic of?

- A. Reminder of mother's young age
- C. Mother-life and energy missing

- B. Youth-full of life and energy
- D. Used as contrast to mother's old age

IV. Complete the following analogy correctly.

sprinting: running :: coming: .....

V. What were the poet's parting words?

- A. Take care Amma
- C. Go back, Amma

- B. Get well soon, Amma
- D. See you soon, Amma

VI. What is the theme of the poem?

**8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B). (1x4=4)**

**A.** To visit Antarctica now is to be a part of that history; to get a grasp of where we've come from and where we could possibly be heading. It's to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields; ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction. When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling. Imagine: India pushing northwards, jamming against Asia to buckle its crust and form the Himalayas; South America drifting off to join North America, opening up the Drake Passage to create a cold circumpolar current, keeping Antarctica frigid, desolate, and at the bottom of the world.

*(Journey to the End of the Earth)*

- I. Complete the following suitably. The passage suggests that visiting Antarctica offers insight into geological processes and 9 Earth's history by \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. How does the author imply the role of geological knowledge in understanding the Earth's past and potential future changes?
- III. The writer says, 'When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling.' What is the most likely impact on the writer?
  - A. Feels overwhelmed by the vastness of geological time scales.
  - B. Is uneasy about the rapid pace of geological changes.
  - C. Feels indifferent towards geological phenomena.
  - D. Is surprised by the lack of significant geological events over a million years.

IV. How might understanding the geological processes mentioned in the passage help scientists in predicting and mitigating future environmental changes, particularly in polar regions?

**OR**

**B.** He wished to give him some special gift on his birthday. He went to the shopping centre in Pratibandpuram and searched every shop, but couldn't find anything suitable. Finally, he spotted a wooden tiger in a toyshop and decided it was the perfect gift. *(The Tiger King)*

I. For whom the gift was bought?

- A. Dewan's son      B. King's son      C. British officer's son      D. None of these

II. The wooden tiger cost's about

- A. One annas      B. Two annas      C. Five annas      D. Ten annas

III. Why Tiger King wished to give a special gift?

IV. Why did the Tiger King consider a toy tiger as the perfect gift?



**9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (1x6=6)**

**A.** Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic, he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home.  
*(Lost Spring)*

I. Who does 'they' refer to in the given extract.

II. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

The writer states that the boys accept bangle making as naturally as his father to state that.....

III. Why is daring not a part of the children of Firozabad?

IV. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.

The "baggage" in the extract refers to.....

A. the bag containing bangles

B. the job of bangle making

C. the blame of their crimes

D. the job of selling bangles

V. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for 'they'

A. They are figures of authority

B. They are scared of government

C. They are suppressive

D. Both (a) and (c)

VI. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that Mukesh's dream will require determination and sincerity.

**OR**

**B.** And then, strangely, there was light. I was coming out of the awful yellow water. At least my eyes were. My nose was almost out too.

Then I started down a third time. I sucked for air and got water. The yellowish light was going out. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear; it wiped out terror.

There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of.

*(Deep Water)*

I. What strange thing is the narrator talking about?

A. That he was coming out

B. That the water had receded

C. That it was getting dark

D. That he had fallen asleep

II. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:

begin: start :: stop:

III. Why did all efforts come to a cease?

A. He had lost hope

B. His energy levels had exhausted

C. Drowsiness had overpowered him

D. He had come out

IV. What did the narrator feel?

A. He must try again

B. His legs felt limp

- C. He must seek revenge from the big bully  
D. His mother must come to help him
- V. Analyse "There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing to be afraid of".
- VI. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation as per the extract.  
Douglas felt quiet and peaceful because.....

**10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40-50 words each. (2x5=10)**

- I. What does 'The God that Failed' refer to? *(Poets and Pancakes)*
- II. What did Franz wonder about when he entered the class that day? *(The Last lesson)*
- III. The crofter was happy with the peddler's behaviour during his stay. But he may have been disappointed afterwards. Why? *(The Rattrap)*
- IV. What does the reference to fishermen not harming whales and the man gathering salt looking at his hurt hands signify in the poem? *(Keeping Quiet)*
- According to the author, what has been the common opinion about the interview since its invention? *(Interview)*
- VI. What is the significance of a narrator in 'Lost Spring' as opposed to a plain narrative? *(Lost Spring)*

**11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)**

- I. Describe Galesburg of 1894. *(The Third Level)*
- II. What are the significant features of the 'Students on Ice Programme'? *(Journey to the end of the world)*
- III. In 'The Cutting of My Long Hair', the narrator resists and struggles to protect her long, thick hair from being cut. However, she is eventually forced to surrender, resulting in the loss of her unique cultural identity. *(Memories of childhood)*

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. (5)**

- A. How do 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer and 'The Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost, highlight the theme of exploitation, and what similarities do they reveal about the plight of marginalised communities? *(Indigo & The Roadside Stand)*

**OR**

- B. A 'Bah! I've got plenty of time. I'll learn it tomorrow.' Franz was shocked when he heard that it was the last lesson and he hardly knew French, his mother tongue. Many of us find ourselves in similar situations and regret when all is over. Write with reference to the lesson 'The Last Lesson' from your text, the lesson learnt from this situation.

*(The Last Lesson)*

**13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (5)**

- A. Justify how Sadao's character arc is more central to the moral dilemma in the 'The Enemy' as opposed to Hana's. *(The Enemy)*

**OR**

- B. Analyse how the narrative technique used in 'The Tiger King', enhances the impact of the story on the reader. *(The Tiger King)*

**\*\*\*ALL THE BEST\*\*\***