



**BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION**  
**SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS**  
**SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**  
**MID TERM EXAMINATION 2024-25**  
**ENGLISH CORE (301)**



**Class: XII**  
**Date: 23.09.24**  
**Name:**

**Duration: 3 hrs.**  
**Max Marks: 80**  
**Exam 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 (22 marks)**

**Q1. Read the following passage carefully:**

**12**

Answer Key for Passage: Adaptations in Extreme Environments

i. The passage is primarily concerned with .

**A. describing the ways organisms adapt to extreme environments**

ii. According to the author, the discovery of extremophiles has .

**C. challenged assumptions about life's limitations**

iii. The mention of Antarctic fish is intended to .

**B. highlight an adaptation to extreme cold**

iv. Cacti are mentioned in the passage to .

**A. illustrate how plants survive in extreme environments**

v. Life on other planets might be possible because .

**A. organisms on Earth adapt to similar conditions found on other worlds**

vi. What misconception did scientists previously have about life?

**Scientists previously believed that life could only exist within a narrow range of environmental conditions, assuming that extreme environments were uninhabitable.**

**However, the discovery of extremophiles challenged this idea, showing that life can thrive in much more varied and extreme conditions.**

vii. How do antifreeze proteins help Antarctic fish survive?

**Antifreeze proteins in Antarctic fish bind to ice crystals in their blood, preventing the crystals from growing. This adaptation keeps the fish's body from freezing solid, allowing them to survive in sub-zero water temperatures.**

viii. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the phrase "life is far more resilient and adaptable than previously thought"?

**A. Life is stronger than ever imagined.**

ix. What partial explanation does the author give for the ability of kangaroo rats to survive without water?

**Kangaroo rats obtain all the moisture they need from the seeds they consume, which allows them to survive without ever drinking water during their entire lives.**

**Answer Key for Passage 2 (Artificial Intelligence)**

i. Countries are confronted with the need to develop regulations for AI because .

**C. it has dual-use potential, for both constructive and destructive purposes**

ii. The carbon footprint of data centers is a concern because .

**A. they require vast amounts of electricity**

iii. India's National AI Strategy emphasizes .

**C. AI for social inclusion**

iv. plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation.

**B. AI technology**

v. AI-driven diagnostic tools raise concerns about .

**Patient data security and the potential for bias in diagnoses if the AI is trained on incomplete or skewed data sets.**

vi. How is AI used to mitigate climate change?

**AI helps in climate change mitigation by predicting weather patterns, optimizing energy usage, and modeling environmental policies. It is also used in renewable energy management and conservation efforts.**

vii. What ethical concerns arise from the use of AI in healthcare?

**Ethical concerns include data privacy, security issues related to patient information, and the potential for AI to perpetuate biases in diagnosis and treatment if trained on skewed data.**

viii. State True or False.

**True** — AI weaponization is a concern discussed by the United Nations.

**SECTION-B**

**CREATIVELITERATURE SKILLS (18MARKS)**

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words (4 Marks)

A. Notice for Sale of Old Sports Goods

G.D.G. Public School, Pune

NOTICE

Sale of Old Sports Goods

10th October 2024

This is to inform all students that old sports equipment such as bats, balls, and rackets will be available for sale in the school sports room on 15th October 2024 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Interested students are requested to make use of this opportunity.

Rohini

Sports Secretary

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Notice, Title, Date, Signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Details about sale, date, venue) – 2 Marks

Expression (Clarity and correctness) – 1 Mark

B. Notice for Creative Writing Workshop

Modern School, Bangalore

NOTICE

Creative Writing Workshop

10th October 2024

This is to inform all students that a two-week Creative Writing Workshop will be held from 20th October to 3rd November 2024. The workshop aims to inspire aspiring writers and improve creative writing skills. Interested students can register with the undersigned before 18th October.

Anushka

Workshop Coordinator

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Notice, Title, Date, Signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Details about workshop, objectives, date) – 2 Marks

Expression (Clarity and correctness) – 1 Mark

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words (4 Marks)

A. Invitation to Author for Creative Writing Workshop

St. George High School

10th October 2024

Dear Ms. Karuna K.,

We cordially invite you to conduct a creative writing workshop at our school. Your insights will greatly benefit our students. The proposed dates for the workshop are 20th to 25th October 2024. Kindly let us know your availability.

Warm regards,

English Department

St. George High School

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Sender's Address, Date, Salutation, Signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Invitation, event details) – 2 Marks

Expression (Politeness, correctness) – 1 Mark

B. Formal Reply for Wedding Invitation

123, Raja Ki Mandi, Agra

10th October 2024

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Shankar,

Thank you for inviting me to the wedding of your son Ankush on 25th October 2024. I am pleased to accept the invitation and look forward to joining the celebration.

Warm regards,

Vikram Gaur

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Sender's Address, Date, Salutation, Signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Acceptance, date) – 2 Marks

Expression (Politeness, correctness) – 1 Mark

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words (5 Marks)

A. Letter to Editor on Stray Animals Menace

21 Kailash Park

New Delhi

10th October 2024

The Editor,

The Local Newspaper,

New Delhi.

Subject: Stray Animals Menace in Kailash Park

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw attention to the increasing number of stray animals in our colony. Stray dogs and cattle roam the streets, posing a threat to residents and causing accidents. This has led to health concerns and disruptions in daily life.

I urge the authorities to implement stricter measures to control the stray animal population and ensure that they are vaccinated and safely relocated. Public awareness programs could also be conducted to promote animal care and safety.

I hope your newspaper will help raise awareness about this issue.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Arun/Anjali

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Sender's address, date, salutation, subject, signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Problem, suggestions) – 3 Marks

Expression (Clarity, coherence) – 1 Mark

B. Job Application for Accountant Post

34, Raj Lanes

Delhi-12

10th October 2024

The Area Manager,

ABC Consultants,

2, Chandni Chowk,

New Delhi-06.

Subject: Application for the Post of Accountant

Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for the position of Accountant, as advertised in The Hindu. I hold a B.Com degree from Delhi University and have completed a diploma in Accounting. I am proficient in accounting software and have a keen eye for financial accuracy. Though I am a fresher, I am confident in my abilities to handle accounting tasks with diligence.

Enclosed is my resume for your consideration. I look forward to an interview opportunity.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Kirti/Ketan

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Sender's address, date, salutation, subject, signature) – 1 Mark

Content (Qualifications, interest) – 3 Marks

Expression (Politeness, correctness) – 1 Mark

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120-150 words (5 Marks)

## A. Article on Child Abuse

### Child Abuse: A Grim Reality

By Akshay, Graham Public School, Indore

Child abuse is a pressing issue that requires immediate action. Children are subjected to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, often by those they trust. This leads to long-lasting trauma, affecting their mental and emotional well-being.

To prevent child abuse, awareness programs should be conducted in schools and communities. Parents and educators must be trained to recognize signs of abuse and provide a safe environment for children to report such incidents. Stricter laws and penalties for offenders can also help reduce the occurrence of abuse. Every child deserves to live without fear, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure their safety.

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Title, Byline) – 1 Mark

Content (Explanation of problem, suggestions) – 3 Marks

Expression (Clarity, coherence) – 1 Mark

## B. Report on Inauguration of Vocational Stream

### Vocational Stream and Hobby Classes Inaugurated at Paras Public School

By Latha, Gurgaon Times

Gurgaon, 9th October 2024: Paras Public School inaugurated its vocational stream and hobby classes at the secondary level yesterday. The event was attended by local dignitaries and parents. The principal highlighted the importance of vocational training in today's job market. New courses in photography, carpentry, and web designing were introduced to provide students with practical skills.

The inaugural event was followed by a student exhibition showcasing their projects. The response from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many appreciating the school's initiative to prepare students for a broad range of careers.

Marking Scheme (as per CBSE Guidelines):

Format (Title, Byline, Date) – 1 Mark

Content (Event details, inauguration, response) – 3 Marks

Expression (Clarity, coherence) – 1 Mark

## SECTION C

IV Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.

1 Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1.A

i C. The absence of his presence was felt.

ii Those who prepare green wars / green wars

iii B. (i) and (iii)

iv start afresh /become non-violent / adopt peace

(Accept any other similar response)

v B. Both (1) and (2) are true

vi C. The Desire for Renewal.

OR

1.B

i mighty dead

ii B. mass of shrubs

iii B. (iii) and (v)

vi the eternal joy that beautiful things give / the everlasting joy things of beauty bring

(Accept any other similar response)

v A. Only (1) can be inferred from the extract.

vi D. contemplative

2 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

2.A

i The author shows the dewan dragging the tiger out of the car. He pushes it down like a harmless being which is strikingly different from real life where

tigers are dangerous / the author treats the tiger as if

it is human and portrays it to be submissive, which is



entirely the opposite of its ferocious nature / the author suggests that the tiger is talking which is impossible in real life.

(Accept any other valid interpretation supported by the text)

ii B. Dewan: conscientious; Maharaja: cruel

iii A. The Big Cat

iv When he says that 'the tiger launched its satyagraha', the author means that the tiger protested non-violently/passively.

OR

2.B

i

she is being controlled by others / she is at the mercy of the people who took her away from her mother / she cannot live her life as she would like / she has lost her own voice

(Accept any other similar response)

ii C. rebellion followed by despair

iii A. The Sea of Turmoil

iv to indicate the violent nature of the act / to demonstrate the unpleasant nature of the experience / to show that the haircut was done in an unsophisticated manner

3 Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

3.A

i C. certain ideologies

ii alleviate

iii

A. make Indians self-reliant

iv. D. It shows how Gandhi's position in the Champaran struggle reflected his political views.

v ordinary

vi was Gandhi's first instance of civil disobedience/helped people realize the importance of being self-reliant/marked the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence

(Accept any one/any other similar response)

OR

3.B

i A. reflective

ii It had never existed for any other purpose than to lure people. [accept - tempt/any other word/phrase with a similar meaning

iii D. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot be

iv because most people's experiences are different from that of the vagabond / people typically live with others (family, friends, community) while a vagabond has no one to call his own and lives alone / because most people live a predictable and stable life while a vagabond lives a nomadic life

v. monotonous

vi A. cautious

V Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each.

i Value Points

- Yes, the poem reflects this statement.
- This can be observed when the poet becomes painfully aware of the possibility of losing her ageing mother and chooses to hide it behind her smile / she hides the fear of losing her mother behind her smile to show her mother a happy face.

ii What does the description of Mukesh's family in Lost Spring reveal about gender roles?

Value Points

- reveals patriarchy and inequality in the treatment of men and women
- that women are still assigned stereotypical gender roles such as being in charge of household chores and care-giving, as seen with Mukesh's sister-in-law
- that women need to respect the older men in the family by covering their faces

(Accept any other similar response)

iii What does Asokamitran's narrative in Poets and Pancakes demonstrate about Subbu?

### Value Points

(Any two)

- He was a hardworking man because there were no properly established studios and film companies when he started out.
- He was imaginative because he could come up with numerous innovative ways of performing the same scene.
- He was immensely helpful to his friends and acquaintances.
- He was a celebrated poet who chose to dedicate his poetry to the masses.

(Accept any other valid response)

iv 'It is only when we are fearless that we begin to create.'

Does this statement hold true in the case of the poem, Aunt Jennifer's Tigers? Support your stance with evidence from the text.

### Value Points

- no, this statement does not hold true with respect to the poem
- even though Aunt Jennifer was fearful of her husband, which is indicated by her 'fluttering hands' / was burdened by her marriage to him, which is indicated by the weight of her wedding band, she channelled that fear/burden into creating her art. Her fear did not stop her from creating her art.

v In Deep Water, which qualities of the swimming instructor played a role in helping Douglas overcome his fear?

### Value Points

- The instructor's ability to empathise with Douglas and understand his fear led him to put a belt around Douglas to teach him to swim. This gave Douglas confidence.
- The instructor's patience was key as day after day, he held on to the rope and walked the length of the pool to help Douglas swim.

vi State any two characteristics that can be inferred about the people from the countryside in The Roadside Stand.

### Value Points

- The people from the countryside wait endlessly for the kindness of the people from the city, as shown by the poet. This demonstrates their patience/ persistence.
- They have a desire to live an ideal/a perfect/ a happy life like it is shown in the movies, which shows that they are hopeful/optimistic.

(Accept any other valid response)

**VI Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.**

i In *The Enemy*, Hana's thoughts and actions regarding Tom were in discord. Support this statement with examples from the text.

Value Points

- Hana mentions that the kindest thing that they could do for Tom would be to put him back in the sea and yet, she takes him back inside the house with Sadao.
- When Sadao decides to operate upon him, she stops him from trying to save Tom. Yet, when he asks her to help give him anesthesia, she does, even though she retches at the sight of blood.

ii In *On the Face of It*, Mr Lamb told Derry about his tin leg and how kids called him 'Lamey Lamb'. Why do you think Mr Lamb shared these details? State two reasons to support your answer.

Value Points

- Mr Lamb intended to show Derry that it is okay to be imperfect.
- He wanted to show Derry that he is not alone.
- He wanted to show Derry that he should not be afraid of what people think of him/say to him/say about him.

(Accept any two of the above points)

iii Identify Tishani Doshi's writing style in *Journey to the End of the Earth* and state two aspects that characterise it using examples from the text.

Value Points

- Descriptive style
- She uses precise factual details in her writing / she pays close attention to detail such as the name of the vessel, the number of hours that took her to reach Antarctica, the number of time zones / the number of checkpoints / geological/historical facts to build her narrative / she divides her writing into three coherent parts, each with its individual heading for clarity
- She uses her words to create vivid word-pictures/ she uses visual imagery to compare ice-clad Antarctica to an endless stretch of 'stark whiteness', giving the reader a mental image of the place / she uses similes to bring the experience to life, saying that going to Antarctica 'is like walking into a giant ping-pong ball'.

(Accept any other valid response)

**VII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1\*5=5**

i Franz from *The Last Lesson* and the peddler from *The Rattrap* demonstrate the importance of learning from our mistakes to evolve into better people. Imagine that Shubhangi, your friend, feels as if she has made a mistake by not taking her academics seriously. Write an essay to Shubhangi in 120–150 words discussing instances from the two texts to give her an insight into the human tendency to make mistakes and learn from them.

You may begin like this:

Shubhangi, all of us have made mistakes at one point or another in our lives. After all, to err is

human.....

#### Value Points

- Mistakes are common - all of us, whether old or young, may make numerous mistakes. For example, little Franz is careless, indisciplined and unpunctual while the vagabond, who is much older than Franz, remains greedy and chooses to engage in petty thievery.
- If not corrected in time, our mistakes bring our growth to a standstill. As in the case of Franz, since he does not take Mr Hamel's classes seriously, he is unable to learn French despite being present in the classroom. The man with the rattrap, on the other hand, is not satisfied by people's kindness to him.

Instead, he steals from compassionate people like the old crofter who shared his meal with him and gave him a place to rest, without any remorse. He also greedily pretends to be the master blacksmith's longlost acquaintance, hoping for money from the blacksmith.

- However, when they are confronted with their respective situations, they realise their mistakes. Franz attends the last lesson only to realise that he had lost the only opportunity to learn his mother tongue while the vagabond who pretended to be Captain Von Stahle was taken aback by the goodness of Edla.
- Upon this realisation, Franz is filled with remorse and tries his best to recite the lesson. He is unable to do so and feels guilty, so he listens to the remaining part of the lesson with rapt attention. Similarly, inspired by Edla's kindness to him, the rattrap man returns the stolen money.
- Both of these characters thus realise their mistakes and take initiative to fix them. They make the choice to evolve into better people by learning from their mistakes, something that makes a difference in their lives.

(Any 4 points to be included) (Accept associated relevant points)

OR

ii 'The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home.'

(The Lost Spring)

'...far from the city we make our roadside stand and ask for some city money to feel in hand'.

(A Roadside Stand)

Create a conversation between a bangle maker and the owner of a roadside stand with reference to the above extracts.

You may begin the conversation like this:

Owner of a roadside stand: Your bangles are pretty. Tell me about your experience in this business.

#### Value Points

- The bangle maker from Firozabad shares how bangle makers cannot do anything else but make bangles. This job does not pay them enough. The lack of money prevents them from getting educated. This in turn makes it hard for them to find other jobs, thereby allowing for the vicious cycle of poverty to continue.

- The owner of the roadside stand shares how they wait all day for city people to stop by and buy something from them so that they can earn a little money.
- Both of them are plagued by poverty and are unable to make ends meet.
- While the bangle makers of Firozabad are afraid that the police, bureaucrats and the sahu-kars will punish them for forming a collective to assert their rights, the people of the countryside are misled by the promises of the government and other agencies who pretend to help them.
- There seems to be no solution to help the bangle makers or the owners of roadside stands to improve their financial positions.

(Any 4 points to be included) (Accept any other similar response)

VIII Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1\*5=5

i. Imagine that a few days after Mr. Lamb's fall from the ladder, Derry writes his thoughts on how his meeting with Mr Lamb changed his perspective towards life. Think of yourself as Derry and express these thoughts.

You may begin like this:

A few days ago, I met an extraordinary person....

Value Points

- It was an interaction that stood apart from most interactions of Derry's life - to talk to someone who is welcoming and not afraid of him.
- Mr Lamb treated him like a regular human being without expressing any judgement, comments, fear or sympathy.
- He taught him to believe that he was the same as others despite the burns on his face by explaining how both flowers and weeds are the same despite their outward appearance.
- He taught him to accept himself.
- He provided an insight into self acceptance and remaining unaffected by people's comments.
- He encouraged Derry to live life to the fullest.

(Any 4 points to be included.) (Accept associated relevant points)

OR

ii Both the general (The Enemy) and the Maharaja (The Tiger King), deal with death. They are powerful figures confronted by a similar fate.

You wish to include both of these characters in an upcoming play. As a part of your research essay, compare and contrast their experiences and their responses to these experiences in 120–150 words.

[Clue: Include the similarities and differences of their circumstances - their way of dealing with things - their ultimate fate]

Value Points

- Both of them face death, one owing to old age and disease while the other was destined to die at the hands of the hundredth tiger he came across.
- The general, weak yet hopeful, turned to a doctor to cure him of his illness. Anticipating that he would die, he went to the extent of keeping Sadao in the country instead of letting him go to the war front like others. The king challenged death and decided to kill a hundred tigers to ensure his safety.
- In order to protect Sadao from possible arrest because this would leave him without a doctor, the general offered his personal assassins to murder Tom. The king decided to marry a girl from a royal family whose kingdom had a healthy tiger population. Thus, both of them took extreme measures for their safety, albeit differently.
- The king was careless and so self-absorbed that he did not kill the 100th tiger properly, which eventually led him to be killed by a toy tiger instead. The general behaved similarly because he was so preoccupied with his illness that he forgot to send the assassins.
- However, this carelessness cost the king his life while the general recovered.

(Any 4 points to be included.) (Accept associated relevant points)