



**BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION**  
**SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS**  
**SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**  
**Pre – Board 1 (2024-25)**  
**ENGLISH CORE (301)**



**Class: XII**  
**Date: 20.11.24**  
**Name:**

**Duration: 3 hrs.**  
**Max Marks: 80**  
**Exam No. :**

**General Instructions:**

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)**

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

**12**

**Adaptations in Extreme Environments**

(1) Life has a remarkable ability to adapt to even the harshest environments on Earth. From the freezing temperatures of the Arctic tundra to the boiling waters of deep-sea hydrothermal vents, organisms have evolved extraordinary ways to survive. One such adaptation is the ability to withstand extreme temperatures. For example, certain bacteria known as extremophiles thrive in conditions that would be lethal to most life forms. In the deep sea, where sunlight does not penetrate, these bacteria derive energy from the chemical reactions of the minerals spewed by volcanic vents.

(2) The discovery of extremophiles has challenged long-standing assumptions about the conditions necessary for life. For a long time, scientists believed that life could only exist within a narrow range of environmental conditions. However, organisms that live in extreme environments have shown that life is far more resilient and adaptable than previously thought.

(3) Not only bacteria, but also more complex organisms, such as fish, have adapted to extreme environments. In the Antarctic Ocean, fish have evolved antifreeze proteins in their blood, preventing their bodies from freezing solid in sub-zero waters. These proteins bind to ice crystals, inhibiting their growth and allowing the fish to survive where the water temperatures drop below the freezing point.

(4) Adaptations are not limited to cold environments. In deserts, plants and animals have evolved to survive with very little water. Cacti, for example, have modified leaves into spines, which reduce

water loss, and their stems store water for long periods. Animals such as the kangaroo rat in the American southwest can go without drinking water for their entire lives, obtaining all the moisture they need from the seeds they consume.

(5) These adaptations to extreme environments demonstrate the incredible versatility of life on Earth. As scientists continue to study these organisms, they provide valuable insights into how life might exist on other planets. If organisms can survive and thrive in the extreme conditions of Earth's most inhospitable places, it opens up the possibility that life might also be able to survive in the extreme environments found on other worlds.

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

i. The passage is primarily concerned with . 1

- A. describing the ways organisms adapt to extreme environments
- B. discussing the impact of climate change on biodiversity
- C. proving that all organisms can survive harsh conditions
- D. contrasting adaptations in different ecosystems

ii. According to the author, the discovery of extremophiles has . 1

- A. confirmed previous scientific theories
- B. proven that life is fragile
- C. challenged assumptions about life's limitations
- D. had no impact on scientific understanding

iii. The mention of Antarctic fish is intended to . 1

- A. contrast them with bacteria in hydrothermal vents
- B. highlight an adaptation to extreme cold
- C. show that only bacteria can adapt to extreme environments
- D. discuss how all fish survive in cold water

iv. Cacti are mentioned in the passage to . 1

- A. illustrate how plants survive in extreme environments
- B. show how animals depend on plants for survival
- C. explain the role of spines in desert ecosystems
- D. prove that deserts are harsh environments

v. Life on other planets might be possible because . 1

- A. organisms on Earth adapt to similar conditions found on other worlds
- B. scientists have found water on other planets
- C. Earth's environment is becoming more like other planets
- D. bacteria can survive anywhere

- vi. What misconception did scientists previously have about life? 2
- vii. How do antifreeze proteins help Antarctic fish survive? 2
- viii. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the phrase "life is far more resilient and adaptable than previously thought"? 1
- A. Life is stronger than ever imagined.      B. Life cannot survive in harsh conditions.
- C. Life adapts only to mild environments.      D. Life rarely changes in extreme environments.
- ix. What partial explanation does the author give for the ability of kangaroo rats to survive without water? 2

**2. Read the following carefully. 10**

(1) The rapid advancement in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has raised both opportunities and challenges for countries globally. AI is being seen as a key driver of economic growth and development, with applications ranging from healthcare, education, agriculture, and space exploration to military technology. However, the use of AI in autonomous weapons systems has led to international debates about the ethical and security implications. Nations are now confronted with the need to develop regulations for AI to prevent it from becoming a destabilizing factor in global security. Just like nuclear energy, AI technology has dual-use potential, where it can be employed for both constructive and destructive purposes.

(2) Countries like the United States, China, and India are investing heavily in AI research and development. India, in particular, has launched several initiatives, including the National AI Strategy, which emphasizes using AI for social inclusion, particularly in the fields of healthcare and agriculture. While AI holds enormous promise, it also presents significant challenges, including job displacement due to automation, data privacy issues, and potential misuse by malicious actors. It is crucial to harness AI responsibly to ensure it contributes to global welfare rather than creating new forms of inequality or conflict.

(3) AI also plays a pivotal role in climate change mitigation. With its ability to process large data sets, AI can predict weather patterns, optimize energy usage, and even model the effects of environmental policies. AI-driven solutions are increasingly being applied in renewable energy management and conservation efforts. By integrating AI into smart grids, countries can improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, there are concerns about the carbon footprint of data centers that power AI systems, as they require vast amounts of electricity.

(4) The rise of AI also necessitates international cooperation. Countries must come together to create global governance frameworks that address the ethical use of AI in sensitive areas such as healthcare, privacy, and defense. The United Nations has already initiated discussions on the potential dangers of AI weaponization. Such cooperation is essential to prevent the AI arms race, which could destabilize international relations.

(5) In the healthcare sector, AI is already revolutionizing diagnosis and treatment. AI-powered diagnostic tools can analyze medical images and detect diseases like cancer with greater accuracy than human doctors. Furthermore, AI is being used in drug discovery, speeding up the process of identifying potential cures for diseases. However, the growing reliance on AI in healthcare also raises concerns about patient data security and the potential for AI to perpetuate biases if trained on incomplete or skewed data sets.

(6) Despite its potential to transform industries, AI also has its limitations. Machine learning models, which form the backbone of AI, require large amounts of data and computing power to function effectively. This makes the technology accessible primarily to wealthier nations and companies, raising concerns about widening the digital divide. Additionally, AI systems lack the human ability to understand context and emotion, which limits their application in areas that require empathy and judgment.

(7) For AI to realize its full potential, it is essential to ensure equitable access to the technology and to address the ethical dilemmas it poses. As the world becomes increasingly reliant on AI, global governance frameworks must evolve to manage the risks associated with its use, much like the regulations that govern nuclear technology. The key to AI's future lies in balancing innovation with responsibility.

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

i. Countries are confronted with the need to develop regulations for AI because . 1

- A. it drives economic growth
- B. it can prevent job displacement
- C. it has dual-use potential, for both constructive and destructive purposes
- D. it helps in climate change mitigation

ii. The carbon footprint of data centers is a concern because . 1

- A. they require vast amounts of electricity
- B. they are powered by AI
- C. they help reduce fossil fuel usage
- D. they optimize energy consumption

iii. India's National AI Strategy emphasizes . 1

- A. military applications
- B. the ethical use of AI in autonomous weapons
- C. AI for social inclusion
- D. AI for data privacy

iv. AI plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation. 1

- A. Renewable energy
- B. AI technology
- C. Machine learning
- D. Global governance frameworks

v. AI-driven diagnostic tools raise concerns about. 1

vi. How is AI used to mitigate climate change? 2

vii. What ethical concerns arise from the use of AI in healthcare? 2

viii. State True or False. 1

AI weaponization is a concern discussed by the United Nations.

### SECTION-B

#### CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

**3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4**

**A.** As Sports Secretary of G.D.G. Public School, Pune. Draft a notice for your school notice board informing the students about the sale of old sports goods of your school. You are Rohini/Rohit.

**OR**

**B.** You are Manpreet/Anushka. You have planned a two week creative writing workshop to be arranged to inspire and educate young aspiring writers of Modern School, Bangalore to hone their creative writing skills. Draft a notice stating the objective of the cause, also provide the necessary details and requesting students to participate in the workshop.

**4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4**

**A.** You are an English teacher of St. George High School. Draft an invitation to the author, Ms. Karuna K. requesting her to conduct a workshop on creative writing in your school.

**OR**

**B.** Draft a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present on the occasion of the wedding of Ankush S/o Mr & Mrs Shankar of 24, Green Park Road, Kanpur. You are Vikram Gaur of Raja Ki Mandi, Agra.

**5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** You are Arun/Anjali of 21 Kailash Park, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Editor of the local newspaper about the menace of stray animals in your colony.

**OR**

**B.** You are Kirti/Ketan of, 34, Raj Lanes, Delhi-12. You saw an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of accountant in a reputed firm. Write an application to the The Area Manager, ABC Consultants 2, Chandni Chowk, New Delhi-06, giving your detailed bio-data.

**6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120-150 words. 5**

**A.** Write an article throwing light on child abuse and what we can do to prevent it.

**OR**

**B.** You are Latha/Lalith of Gurgaon. You attended the inaugural ceremony of the newly opened vocational stream and hobby classes at the secondary school level in Paras Public School, Gurgaon. Draft a report to be published in 'Gurgaon Times'. Invent other details.

### SECTION C

**7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B**

**A.** Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,

victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their  
brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.  
What I want should not be  
confused  
with total inactivity.

i Which of these uses the same poetic device as used in the third line of the extract? 1

- A. The boy ran at lightning speed.                      B. The little joys of life are necessary.  
C. The absence of his presence was felt.              D. The hooter buzzed when the shooter shot.

ii From the extract, identify the line or phrase that suggests the following:

Humans are involved in the exploitation of natural resources. 1

iii Based on the extract, which of these best describes the poet? 1

- (i) prudent    (ii) spiritual    (iii) visionary    (iv) methodical  
A. (i) and (ii)    B. (i) and (iii)    C. (ii) and (iv)    D. (ii), (iii) and (iv)

iv Complete the sentence appropriately in no more than TWO words. 1

When the poet says that people who participate in wars 'would put on clean clothes' he means that they should \_\_\_\_\_.

v Based on the extract, select the correct option with reference to (1) and (2). 1

(1) Not every win is a triumph.

(2) Self reflection is crucial to evolution.

- A. (1) is the result of (2)                      B. Both (1) and (2) are true  
C. Both (1) and (2) are false                D. (1) is a hypothesis based on (2)

vi Which of these is an appropriate title for the extract? 1

- A. Standing in Solitude                      B. Looking for Prosperity  
C. The Desire for Renewal                    D. The Road to Uncertainty

**OR**

**B.** 'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;

All lovely tales that we have heard or read;

An endless fountain of immortal drink,

Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

i Based on the extract, complete the following analogy: 1

have heard: alliteration :: .....: oxymoron1

ii Which of these best indicates the phrase 'mid forest brake'? 1

A. hidden pond                      B. mass of shrubs      C. canopy of trees      D. sparkling stream

iii According to the extract, which of these bring joy to human life? 1

(i) shady trees (ii) delightful drinks (iii) fragrant flowers (iv) changing seasons

(v) enchanting stories

A. (i) and (iii)              B. (iii) and (v)              C. (i), (iv) and (v)      D. (ii), (iii) and (iv)

iv. Complete the given sentence appropriately. 1

When the poet mentions 'an endless fountain of immortal drink', he refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

v Based on the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1

(1) Beautiful things are blessings from the divine.

(2) Beauty is an outcome of imagination.

A. Only (1) can be inferred from the extract.              B. Only (2) can be inferred from the extract.

C. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.      D. Neither (1) nor (2) can be inferred from the extract.

vi. Which of these best describes the tone of the poet in the given extract? 1

A. nostalgic      B. generous      C. passionate      D. contemplative

**8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)**

**A.** The dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.

i According to the extract, how is the author's portrayal of the tiger different from real life? 1

ii Which of these best describes the Maharaja and the Dewan, based on the extract? 1

A. Dewan: gullible; Maharaja: narcissistic              B. Dewan: conscientious; Maharaja: cruel

C. Dewan: submissive; Maharaja: perceptive              D. Dewan: unremarkable; Maharaja: unrealistic

iii Which of these can be best used as a title for this extract? 1

A. The Big Cat  
Kingship

B. The Shrewd King C. The Tiger's Legacy

D. The Perils of

iv In one sentence, explain what the author means when he says that 'the tiger launched its satyagraha'.

1

**OR**

**B.** I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck, and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's! In my anguish I moaned for my mother, but no one came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do; for now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.

i Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

1

The writer refers to herself as a 'wooden puppet' because \_\_\_\_\_.

ii Which of these best describes the change in the author's attitude from the beginning to end of the extract?

1

A. hostility followed by guilt

B. misery followed by apathy

C. rebellion followed by despair

D. denial followed by vengeance

iii Which of these can be best used as a title for this extract?

1

A. The Sea of Turmoil

B. The Price of Freedom

C. The Burden of Beauty

D. The Road Towards Maturity

iv In one sentence, state why the writer uses the phrase 'gnaw off' while referring to her hair being cut?

1

**9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.**

**A.** The Champaran episode was a turning-point in Gandhi's life. "What I did," he explained, "was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country." But Champaran did not begin as an act of defiance. It grew out of an attempt to alleviate the distress of large numbers of poor peasants. This was the typical Gandhi pattern — his politics were intertwined with the practical, day-to-day problems of the millions. His was not a loyalty to abstractions; it was a loyalty to living, human beings. In everything Gandhi did, moreover, he tried to mould a new free Indian who could stand on his own feet...

i In the extract, the phrase 'loyalty to abstractions' refers to a strong commitment to \_\_\_\_\_.

1

A. selected groups

B. simple pleasures

C. certain ideologies

D. governmental authorities

ii Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:

1

change: transform :: relieve: \_\_\_\_\_.

iii Select the correct option to fill in the blank.

1

The primary motive of Gandhi's actions was to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. make Indians self-reliant



B. eradicate peasant poverty

C. unite the people of Champaran

D. expose the incompetence of the British

iv Which of these best describes the primary purpose of the extract? 1

A. It highlights Gandhi's intention to use peasants to overthrow colonial power.

B. It points out why the Champaran episode is still relevant in free modern India.

C. It explains the differences between the political strategies of Gandhi and the British.

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

v Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer Gandhi's view of his own accomplishments (clue: a word). 1

vi Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1

Gandhi uses the words 'turning point' to refer to the Champaran incident because it \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

**B.** No one can imagine how sad and monotonous life can appear to such a vagabond, who plods along the road, left to his own meditations. But one day this man had fallen into a line of thought, which really seemed to him entertaining. He had naturally been thinking of his rattraps when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world about him — the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages — was nothing but a big rattrap. It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people.

i According to the extract, which of these words best describes the man? 1

A. reflective B. impulsive C. indifferent D. simpleminded

ii Rewrite the given sentence after replacing the underlined phrase with its synonym. 1

It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people.

iii On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. 1

(1) The world offers living beings a life full of pleasure.

(2) However, only compassionate people can enjoy those pleasures.

A. (2) has been caused by (1)

B. (2) is a hypothesis based on (1)

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

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

iv In one sentence, rationalise the given statement. 1

It is challenging for others to be able to understand the despair of a vagabond's life.

v Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract. 1

The man who thought that the world was a rattrap lived a life that was interesting.

vi The mood of the extract can be best described as \_\_\_\_\_.

1

A. cautious                      B. malicious                      C. melancholic                      D. apprehensive

**10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each:                      5 X 2 = 10**

i. 'A smile does not always indicate happiness.'

Does My Mother at Sixty-Six reflect this statement? Justify your response with an example from the poem.

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

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

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.

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

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

**11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each :                      2 X 2 = 4**

i. In The Enemy, Hana's thoughts and actions regarding Tom were in discord.

Support this statement with examples from the text.

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.

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.

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.                      1 X 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.....

**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.

**13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words** **1 X 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....

**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]