



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



Class: XII

Date: 22.01.25

Name:

Duration: 3 hrs.

Max Marks: 80

Exam No. :

General Instructions:

- 1. This paper is divided into three parts: Reading, Writing and Literature. All questions are compulsory.*
- 2. Wherever necessary, separate instructions are given with each section and question. Read these instructions very carefully and answer accordingly.*

Section A- Reading

I. Read the passage given below:

1. "Opportunity doesn't knock twice!" is an oft-quoted phrase. Do we make the best out of the opportunities that pass our path? Good question!
2. Everyone who says, "I wish I had more opportunities," doesn't understand what its true essence is. It is your chance to give before you get. An unmet need, for example, is an opportunity. The door of opportunity swings on unexpected hinges.
3. As a student, you will face a variety of challenges that will test your resilience, perseverance, and adaptability. These challenges can come in many forms, such as academic, social, financial, and personal.
4. Academic challenges can include heavy workloads, difficult coursework, and intense exams. Social challenges can involve navigating new relationships and peer pressure. Financial challenges can range from paying for tuition to balancing a part-time job and schoolwork. Personal challenges can be anything from homesickness to mental health struggles.
5. Students learn most effectively when they have time to engage with new learning, practice it, and transfer it to different tasks or contexts. They also benefit from revisiting and building upon their big ideas and key processes.
6. It is important that you never take things for granted because many of the opportunities you have are things, which seem so normal, that you might take them for granted.
7. Having a good Internet connection is an example. The Internet is a land of opportunities, but many people take their access to it for granted. They never make the most of it. They only use a portion of the potential.
8. The opportunity to learn (OTL) for students is the chance to study a topic or learn how to solve a problem. It can also refer to the experiences and situations that students can learn from both organized and spontaneous sectors. These opportunities can help students gather and process knowledge, and develop skills and attitudes that can help shape their character.
9. My favourite example is how Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft. It started when Paul Allen saw a magazine cover about the first microcomputer. Most people might think of it as just another news of the day, but they recognized the great opportunity there. They knew that the microcomputer revolution was about to begin. They decided to get into action and Microsoft was born.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Choose the option that best explains the phrase, 'opportunity doesn't knock twice':

[1]

- a. Opportunity has been compared to a human being.
- b. We may not get another chance to explore something.

- c. If we ignore one opportunity it will come back again.
 d. The first opportunity is always the most successful one.
- ii. Students go through various challenges. Choose the correct option to describe the challenge as shown in the image below: [1]



- a. Educational b. Social c. Financial d. Academic
- iii. Read the following statements and select the correct option that reflects the correlation between them: [1]
 Assertion (A): Students learn most effectively when they have time to engage with new learning.
 Reason (R): They can learn new things at any time.
- a. A is correct, and R is the correct explanation for A.
 b. Both A and R are wrong.
 c. A is wrong, but R is correct.
 d. A is correct, but R is not the correct explanation for A.
- iv. How do people misuse the opportunities of internet? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- v. Complete the given sentence with ONE word: [1]
By the fact that students may have to work part time to support their education, we can infer that the challenge is _____.
- vi. Find the correct alternative of the highlighted word in the given sentence: ‘Students can learn from, both organized and **spontaneous** opportunities’: [1]
 a. voluntary b. unstructured c. planned d. impulsive
Statement: Spontaneous learning is a process of discovery and reflection when students conduct active learning engagements.
- vii. How did Bill Gates and Paul Allen make use of a brilliant opportunity? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- viii. Which of the following is NOT the correct explanation of the sentence given below? [1]
‘The door of opportunity swings on unexpected hinges’.
 a. We have to wait for an opportunity to swing in our favour.
 b. Opportunity sometimes appears when least expected.
 c. We have to be alert to find an opportunity even in unexpected quarters.
 d. When opportunity knocks unexpected things can happen.

- ix. Look at the grid below. The first is done for you. Fill in the effect you can infer from the given example: [1]

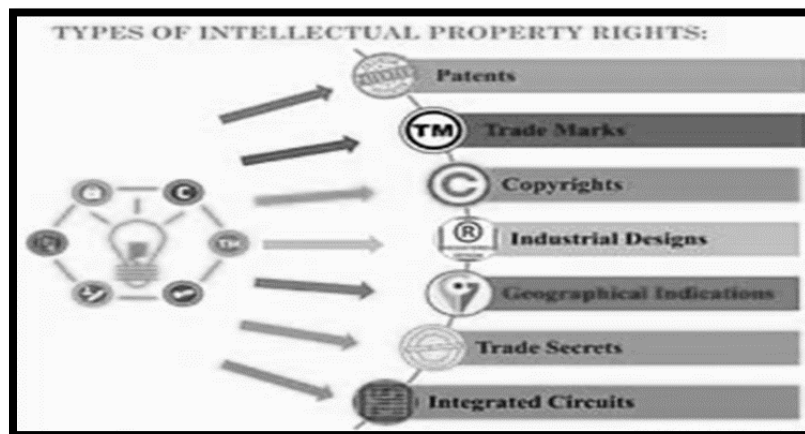
CAUSE	EFFECT
Bill Gates and Paul Allen saw a magazine cover.	The microcomputer (Personal computer) led to Microsoft being born.
Taking things for granted	

- x. The tone of the author in the given passage is: [1]

- a. reserved and cautious
- b. casual and nonchalant
- c. positive and encouraging
- d. negative and discouraging

II. Read the passage given below:

1. Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, and symbols, names, and images that are used in commerce.
2. IP is protected in law by patents, copyrights and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefits from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish.
3. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the United Nations agency that serves the world's innovators and creators, by ensuring that their ideas travel safely to the market and improve lives everywhere.
4. There are many types of intellectual property. The best-known types are patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets.



5. Traditional knowledge is a living body of knowledge that is developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity. As such it is not easily protected by the current intellectual property system, which typically grants protection to inventions and original works, by individuals or companies.
6. Turmeric, neem, and basmati have been the subjects of patents, which have been challenged by the Indian government and organizations. The challenges were based on evidence that these plants and their products had been grown and used traditionally in India for centuries before being patented by foreign organizations. The patents were either revoked or amended as a result.
7. Turmeric and Neem had to fight for recognition as the former has been used as a healing agent in India for centuries and neem is a natural bio-pesticide.
8. The US suggested that the term 'Basmati' is not generic in nature to the Indian subcontinent. It went on to say that 'Basmati' does not imply a specific region and is considered to be in the 'public domain'.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- i. Based on the reading of paragraph 3, choose the option that explains the relation between Assertion and Reasoning, correctly:

Assertion (A): WIPO was created to protect individual and industrial innovations and creations.

Reason (R): They wanted safe travel arrangements for ideas.

- a. A and R are both False.
- b. A and R are not connected.
- c. A is True, and R is the correct explanation for A.

[1]

d. A is False, but R is true.

ii. The following are some options for Intellectual property. Choose the option that can NOT be considered intellectual property: [1]

- a. a brand name b. a design c. an idea d. a logo

iii. Geographical indications (GIs) are place names or words associated with a place that identify the origin and other characteristics of a product. Which of the following would be given a GI tag? [1]

1. Madhubani Painting
2. Darjeeling Tea
3. Chat Masala
4. Russet Potato
5. Mysore Silk
6. Ikkat Print

- a. 1, 2, 4, 5 b. 2, 3, 4, 5 c. 3, 4, 5, 6 d. 1, 2, 5, 6

iv. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 8: [1]

Domain: realm; _____: suggest

v. From the reading of paragraph 5, find one sentence from the passage which is parallel to the given statement: [1]
'As such it is not easily protected by the current intellectual property system.'

vi. Why is it fair to say that the following statement is an example of 'irony'? [1]
'Turmeric and Neem had to fight for recognition'.

vii. Which of the following options gives the correct classification? [1]



A



B



C



D

- a. A- GI Tag, B- Trademark, C-Copyright, D-Brand
- b. A- Patent, B- Copyright, C- Brand, D- Trademark
- c. A- Trademark, B- Copyright, C- Brand, D-GI Tag
- d. A – Brand, B- Industrial Design, C- Copyright, D- Trademark

viii. Paragraph 3 includes the words – 'creativity' and 'innovation'. Classify the following sentences as 'creative' or 'innovative' in their usage: [1]

Sentence 1: Broadband providers have been asked to examine some real-life examples and suggest solutions that would work in a number of situations.

Sentence 2: You can discipline them all you like but you need flair as well.

- a. Sentence 1 is an example of 'creative' and Sentence 2 is 'innovative'.
- b. Sentence 1 is an example of 'innovative' and Sentence 2 is 'creative'.
- c. Both the sentences are examples of 'creative'.
- d. Both the sentences are examples of 'innovative'.

ix. Assess the potential challenges and benefits of the surveys conducted by Intellectual property organizations. Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Section B- Writing

III. Attempt any one of the following questions, in about 50 words: [1x4=4]

A. Your school is planning to conduct an 'Ethics Bowl Competition.' Each team would be given a case study to present their opinion. As the Head of the organizing committee, write a Notice to inform all students about the competition, and invite entries from classes X-XII for trials. Include other necessary details. You are Rishi/ Revati.

OR

B. You are Raman/ Rehana. Your Residential Association is creating a volunteer group to take care of the elderly. Draft a Notice informing the residents, about a meeting to discuss the plan and allocate duties. Specify why it is a necessary step.

IV. Attempt any one of the following questions, in about 50 words: [1x4=4]

A. Modern International School is celebrating its Silver Jubilee Celebrations in the coming week. As the Vice-Principal of the school, draft an invitation for Ms. Usha Iyengar, the renowned Bharat Natyam dancer, requesting her to be the Chief Guest. You are Madhu/ Mohan.

OR

B. You are Rubin DeMello the famous motivational speaker. You had accepted to be a speaker on 'Life Skills for the 21st Century Leaders' for students of Grades XI and XII at The New Horizon High School, New Delhi. However, due to some unavoidable circumstances you will not be able to attend the function on the said date. Draft a reply suggesting a reschedule of the event.

V. Attempt any one of the following questions, in about 120 words: [1x5=5]

A. You are Sudipta Das, a Counsellor with the organization, named 'The Human'. You are disturbed by the recent spate of crimes against women all over the country. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper, highlighting the need for society to reset the value system, and how this must start from the family.

OR

B. You are Surya/ Simone. You saw this advertisement posted on the net on 25th of November, 2024. Being a qualified Engineer, you feel that you are eligible for one of the posts. Write an application to the organization, requesting a placement.

One of the fast emerging organization headquartered in Pune requires the following personnel for their North operations:

SALES MANAGER
With experience in marketing of Hardness Testers.

SALES MANAGER
With experience in marketing of Teaching Equipment.

SALES & SERVICE ENGINEERS
For Mechanical, Scientific & Analytical Instruments.

Right candidates will be offered attractive salary. Pl. apply in confidence along with your latest photograph to: hr.ttpl@gmail.com

VI. Attempt any one of the following questions, in about 120 words: [1x5=5]

A. You are Tushar/ Tanya Rao, a member of the School Magazine Editorial Board. Your school recently participated in a programme called, 'Empowering Seniors,' a programme designed to help senior citizens. Write a comprehensive

Report, detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the event. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community.

OR

B. You are Mahima/ Mukul Sen, of Class XII. You recently read an article, 'Technology's Graveyards.' You were moved by its content. Draft an Article in 120-150 words to highlight the necessity to have products with longer life spans, thereby reducing toxic chemicals like lead, cadmium, and polyvinyl chloride that leach into the air and ground.

Section C- Literature

VII. Read the given extracts and answer the questions based on any one of them:

[6x1=6]

A. *For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines...*

- i. The poet believes that humanity's constant need to move forward has come at the cost of:
 - a. engaging in wars.
 - b. loss of peace and friends.
 - c. ignoring our environment.
 - d. competing with others.
- ii. Not speaking in any language is a perfect moment for:
 - a. reflection
 - b. creativity
 - c. relaxation
 - d. learning
- iii. Read the Assertion and the Reason, and select the correct option with reference to the given extract:
Assertion (A): The poet wants us to keep quiet.
Reason (R): There are too many languages in the world.
 - a. Both A and R are false.
 - b. A is true, and R is the correct explanation for A.
 - c. A is true, but R is not the correct explanation for A.
 - d. A is false, but R is true.
- iv. State whether the following statement is True or False:
The poet does not have any opinion about racial and linguistic differences.
- v. Which phrase in the given extract expresses the poet's plea to stop violence?
- vi. 'It would be an exotic moment' because people _____.
 - a. love peace and harmony.
 - b. are used to peace and harmony.
 - c. dislike peace and harmony.
 - d. have forgotten the feeling of peace and harmony.

OR

B. *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. Select the phrase that suggests that the world of the dead is as beautiful as that of the living.
- ii. In the line, 'An endless fountain of immortal drink,' Keats has used the poetic device of _____.
 - a. Personification
 - b. Imagery
 - c. Metaphor
 - d. Oxymoron
- iii. With reference to the given extract, mention the two things, which tell us about the poet's view of beauty as a continual source of pleasure and joy.

- iv. In the poem, Keats tries to convey that _____.
- stories of great heroes inspire us to do great things.
 - the tales we have heard do not reflect the present times.
 - beauty of nature is greater than those of the heroic tales.
 - stories seem to pour down from heaven.
- v. Complete the given sentence with reference to the extract:
The poet uses the term 'mighty dead' to denote _____.
- vi. Read the following sentences and choose the option that is the most suitable with reference to the context:
- John Keats suggests that beauty can be a source of inspiration.
 - Eternal beauty is found in nature and also in the works of literature.
- 1 is an Opinion and 2 is a Fact.
 - Neither 1 nor 2 can be inferred from the extract.
 - Both 1 and 2 are Facts, and can be inferred from the extract.
 - 1 is a Fact and it is the Effect of 2.

VIII. Read the extracts given below and attempt the questions based on any one of them:

[4x1=4]

- A. *But her distress and his inability to go to her at once made him impatient and irritable with this man who lay like dead under his knife.*
"This man," he thought, "there is no reason under heaven why he should live."
Unconsciously this thought made him ruthless and he proceeded swiftly. In his dream, the man moaned but Sadao paid no heed except to mutter at him.
"Groan," he muttered, "groan if you like. I am not doing this for my own pleasure. In fact, I do not know why I am doing this."
- i. Complete the following sentence suitably, with reference to the above extract:
The reason for her distress was _____.
- ii. What kind of mood do you think Sadao was in?
- iii. What is the thought that did NOT cross Sadao's mind when he was treating the wounded man?
- As a doctor, he felt it was his duty to treat his patients with care.
 - It would be his duty as a patriotic Japanese, to hurt the enemy.
 - He felt distressed because he was confused about his duty.
 - He felt upset because he could not help his wife.
- iv. The author uses the narrative style of _____ to disclose Sadao's thoughts while he was treating the patient.
- dialogue
 - speech
 - monologue
 - argument

OR

- B. *"Your majesty may kill ninety-nine tigers in exactly the same manner. But..." the astrologer drawled. 'But what? Speak without fear.'*
"But you must be very careful with the hundredth tiger."
"What if the hundredth tiger were also killed?"
"Then I will tear up all my books on astrology, set fire to them, and..." "And..."
"I shall cut off my tuft, crop my hair short and become an insurance agent," the astrologer finished on an incoherent note.
- i. Fill in the gap suitably, with reference to the above extract:
The conversation between the Tiger King and the astrologer conveys a sense of _____ on the astrologer's part.

ii. What was the significance of killing the hundredth tiger? Choose the option which is NOT true:

- a. The King was too selfish to care about anyone else's life but his own.
- b. The King believed that the astrologer might be speaking the truth.
- c. There were too many tigers in his forests who were dangerous for his subjects.
- d. The King wanted to prove that he was more powerful than any creature.

iii. List one characteristic trait of the Tiger King as evinced from the given conversation.

iv. Find the line that expresses the ruthlessness of the King from the given extract.

IX. Read the given extracts and answer the questions based on any one of them:

[6x1=6]

A. *How can you help what people choose to believe? But all the same, it makes me despondent, this knowing I'll never be able to show them they're wrong to doubt me.*

She waited, measuring in this way the changes taking place in her. Resignation was no sudden thing. Now I have become sad, she thought.

And it is a hard burden to carry, this sadness. Sitting here waiting and knowing he will not come I can see the future and how I will have to live with this burden. They of course will doubt me, as they always doubted me, but I will have to hold up my head remembering how it was.

i. Select the correct option to fill in the blank:

The use of the narrator's question to herself in the first sentence of the extract serves to express the speaker's _____.

- a. excitement
- b. hopefulness
- c. disenchantment
- d. anger

ii. What does the expression, 'Resignation was no sudden thing' indicate?

- a. Sophie quickly decides to return home.
- b. Sophie slowly accepts that Danny is not going to come.
- c. Sophie does not care whether Danny comes or not.
- d. Sophie suddenly makes up her mind to resign from her job.

iii. From the given context, what can you deduce about Sophie's position in her family?

- a. She was accepted as the greatest admirer of Danny.
- b. No one believed what she said.
- c. Geoff was the only one who trusted her.
- d. She was responsible for earning her bread.

iv. Sophie says, "I can see the future..." What do you think it will be like?

- a. She will always be scorned and disbelieved.
- b. She will become more responsible and practical.
- c. She will be received with respect.
- d. She will start her own boutique or factory.

v. What kind of nature do you think Sophie has, as indicated by the passage?

- a. imaginative
- b. caring
- c. bitter
- d. carefree

vi. What could be the most probable reason that Danny did not come to meet Sophie?

OR

B. *Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British.*

The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians.

The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

Gandhi protested against the delay.

- i. What does the crowd gathering in large numbers reveal about the local farmer's aspirations?
- ii. On the day of trial, when a large crowd gathered near the court, Gandhiji _____.
 - a. appeased the crowd
 - b. told the peasants to hold on until further instructions
 - c. made the crowd take arms against the British
- iii. supported the British to curb the peasants
- iv. In the light of the given extract, pick the option, which lists the qualities of Gandhiji that attracted the peasants to him:
 1. Pragmatic
 2. Obedient
 3. Compassionate
 4. Philanthropic
 5. Patient
 6. Dramatic
 - a. 1, 3, 6
 - b. 2, 4, 5
 - c. 1, 3, 5
 - d. 2, 4, 6
- v. Why do you think Gandhiji behaved in a polite and friendly way in such a tense situation?
 - a. He thought that the peasants were too weak to fight the British.
 - b. He thought the British would arrest him if he was rude to them.
 - c. He did not want the British to bring any further charges against him.
 - d. He believed that any problem could be resolved in non-violent ways.
- vi. From the given options, state which was NOT the outcome of the incident at the Motihari court:
 - a. The peasants realized that it would not be possible for them to win against the British.
 - b. The British understood the power of common men when they united.
 - c. Gandhiji's non-violent methods proved to be more powerful than the mighty British.
 - d. The government could not decide what sentence to bring against Gandhiji.
- vii. Complete the given sentence with reference to the context:

On that day the peasants of Motihari realized that _____.

X. Answer any five of the following questions in 20-30 words:

[5x2=10]

- i. The vividness of the narration about the incident at the YMCA pool, makes the experience of Douglas impactful to the readers. Comment.
- ii. After having stolen from the crofter, why do you think the vagabond in 'The Rattrap' behaved differently with Edla?
- iii. In 'A Roadside Stand', why does the poet seem unconvinced about the intentions of the 'good-doers'?
- iv. Why do you think, the people of Firozabad have not been able to move out of the bangle-making profession?
- v. The use of imagery made by the poet to describe what she sees outside the window of the car, makes the scene inside more poignant. Elucidate.

vi. What is the significance of 'interstices' in the life of Umberto Eco that he reveals to Mukund Padmanabhan, during his interview?

XI. Answer any two of the following questions in 20-30 words:

[2x2=4]

- i. In what ways was Tisani Doshi's visit to the Antarctic significant?
- ii. Do you think Charley's friends made the right analysis of his character? Give reasons for your answer.
- iii. The general in 'The Enemy', is not portrayed to be a likable character'. What evidence do you gather while reading the story to authenticate the comment?

XII. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words:

[1x5=5]

- i. You are Ritesh/ Ritika. You have read about Saheb and Franz in your textbook, and are moved by both their stories. You feel that despite their differences, they are similar in many ways. Write your reflections in the form of a Diary Entry.
- ii. Both the poems, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' deal with women- their inner conflicts and constraints. Write an Article to express your views on the topic.

XIII. Answer any one of the following questions in 100-120 words:

[1x5=5]

- i. How did Derry's character evolve from the beginning to the end of the play 'On the Face of It'? Describe with ideas and examples from the play.
 - ii. Imagine Zitkala-Sa and Bama meet at an Award Ceremony where they have been invited to be felicitated for their contribution to society. What do you think they would talk about? Briefly record the dialogues they might possibly exchange.
-