



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION 3 - 2024-25
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (101)



Class: X
Date: 29.01.2025

Duration: 3 hrs.
Max Marks: 80

SECTION A
READING SKILLS

1. Read the passage given below:

- (I) (c) Concerned and cautionary about the potential health risks of wireless technology.
- (II) The impact of wireless communication on society can be likened to a double-edged sword. On one side, it offers unparalleled convenience and connectivity, transforming the way we communicate and access information. Much like the sharp edge of a sword, wireless technology has cut through barriers, making communication faster and more accessible.
- (III) (d) The author exaggerates the severity of health issues associated with wireless signals.
- (IV) The given sentence should come after the last paragraph i.e paragraph 10. 11 after the line, 'For instance, adults carrying cell phones (and other wireless devices) can either turn off the device or convert device to 'airplane mode' when servicing or interacting with children and pregnant mothers.'
- (V) The passage primarily aims to inform the reader about the impact of wireless technology on health, presenting facts, evidence, and classifications from authoritative sources like the World Health Organization. Moreover, It also follows a logical sequence, presenting information in a structured manner.
- (VI) The underlined word can be replaced by the word 'hardpressed.'
- (VII) (b) The passage suggests that adults should limit their use of wireless devices to prevent potential health risks.
- (VIII) the passage acknowledges and expresses concern about the negative impacts or potential risks associated with the use of wireless technology.
- (IX) the passage predominantly focuses on the potential health risks associated with wireless technology rather than solely emphasizing the positive aspects.
- (X) False

2. Answer the following questions, based on the conversation above.

- (I) In the given conversation, it's more likely that the HR Manager, Rohan, would be the one asking "why" questions. Asking "why" questions helps HR Managers understand the candidate's motivations, career goals, and decision-making criteria.
- (II) (b) *limitless learning opportunities*
- (III) (1) Rohan might be expressing that Kritika's skills and experiences align well with the requirements of the position at ABC.

(2) The "excellent" response could also indicate that Kritika's description of her current role fits well with the kind of work environment or company culture that ABC values.

(IV) (c) e-mail

(V) Questions that can be asked:

(1) Can you give a brief of a situation when you had to deal with a difficult customer?

(2) Can you describe a challenging technical problem you've solved in the past, and what steps did you take to resolve it?

(3) Will you be comfortable devoting extra hours in case of too much work?

(VI) her qualifications, relevant experience, and potential suitability for the position.

(VII) (d) The HR was persuaded that Kritika possesses a solid background and skill set.

(VIII) (c)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

3. From: disciplinary_department@abcschool.com

To: class_teachers_abcschool@gmail.com

Cc: principal@abcschool.com

Date: 6th December, 20XX

Subject: Meeting Regarding Enforcement of School Rules

Dear Teachers,

This is to bring to your attention that we are scheduling a crucial meeting to discuss strategies for ensuring that students adhere to school rules and maintain decorum. The meeting will be held on 16 December, 20XX, at 12:30 p.m. onwards, in the conference room of the school.

Warm regards,

Disciplinary Department.

4. During my travels to Kyoto, Japan, I purchased a handcrafted **kintsugi tea bowl**, a symbol of resilience and beauty in imperfection. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold, reflects the philosophy of **wabi-sabi**, embracing flaws and the passage of time. The delicate cracks filled with shimmering gold highlight the item's unique history, transforming damage into art. This practice represents Japan's deep-rooted respect for transience and renewal. Every time I hold the bowl, it serves as a reminder to find grace in life's imperfections and to cherish the stories that shape us, much like the repaired vessel.

5. [Senders Address]

[Date]

[Receiver's Address]

Subject: Need for Responsible Pet Ownership and Cleanliness in Our City

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight an issue affecting the cleanliness of our city. The growing trend of keeping pet dogs is accompanied by a lack of responsibility

among some owners. Many allow their pets to defecate on roads and streets, creating unhygienic conditions and inconveniencing residents.

I urge local authorities to install designated pet waste disposal bins and enforce penalties for non-compliance. Awareness campaigns should also educate pet owners about responsible behaviour. Cleanliness is a collective responsibility, and adopting simple measures can significantly improve the quality of life in our city.

Thank you for addressing this pressing concern.

Yours

sincerely,

Purna

[Your Address]

B. [Senders Address]

[Date]

[Receiver's Address]

Subject: Request for Introduction of "Green Path" Initiative

Dear sir,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to request the introduction of a "Green Path" initiative in our school to promote environmental preservation. This initiative can include activities such as tree-planting drives, recycling programs, and awareness campaigns to educate students about sustainable practices.

Such programs will not only help the environment but also instill a sense of responsibility in students towards nature. Organizing competitions like eco-friendly art or debates on climate change could further engage students.

With your support, this initiative can make our school a model for environmental stewardship. I kindly request you to consider implementing this program.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Apurwa Singh

Class: [Your Class]

B K Birla Centre for Education

6. A

A World with Smog-Free and Clean Air

India's ever-growing population and rapid economic growth have brought about an alarming rise in pollution levels, especially in urban areas. The transport sector remains a significant contributor to air and noise pollution, which impacts public health and the environment.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) have emerged as a game-changer in creating a smog-free and clean world. With **zero tailpipe emissions**, EVs offer a sustainable solution to air pollution, reducing harmful particulate matter in the atmosphere. Their **low running and maintenance costs** make them not only eco-friendly but also economical in the long run. Unlike conventional vehicles, EVs operate silently, addressing the critical issue of noise pollution.

Adopting EVs is not just a choice but a necessity for urban India to ensure a greener, healthier future. With increased awareness and government incentives, we can move closer to achieving a world with cleaner air and a better quality of life for future generations.

B. The Impact of Sports on Global Unity

Sports have long been a unifying force, transcending cultural, political, and social boundaries to bring people together. International events like the **Olympics** and the **FIFA World Cup** exemplify this spirit of unity, where athletes from diverse backgrounds compete on a common platform, promoting mutual respect and understanding.

These events encourage cultural exchange as athletes and fans interact, sharing traditions and values. Nations competing fiercely on the field often share common goals, such as the pursuit of excellence and fair play, fostering a sense of global camaraderie.

The media plays a pivotal role in broadcasting these moments of unity, inspiring millions worldwide with stories of sportsmanship. For instance, in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, high jumpers Gianmarco Tamberi and Mutaz Essa Barshim chose to share a gold medal, symbolizing friendship and solidarity.

Sports remind us that, despite our differences, humanity thrives when we come together with respect and shared aspirations.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10marks)

7. Fill the blanks (A) -(C) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets.

A. (i) were

(ii) entered

(iii) a

B. route root

Suffers suffer

A the

And as

C. Do as directed.

a) **The upgraded plan will offer higher speed and more reliable connectivity to improve your internet experience.**

b) (i) it was after two weeks.

(ii) Mona was taking part in it.

SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for any *two excerpts*, of the three, given.

(A) (A) The tiger's actual death meant that Mrs. Packletide's claim of having shot it was false. She had to maintain a fake story to protect her public image.

(B) Mrs. Packletide's reaction to the tiger's death, where her thoughts quickly shift to the luncheon-party, reveals her self-centeredness and preoccupation with social status and appearances.

(C) The writer means that Mrs. Packletide felt immense satisfaction and joy from the villagers' celebration and excitement over the supposed tiger kill.

(D) Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and sense of accomplishment are emphasised as she anticipates the upcoming luncheon-party in Curzon Street. This event is a symbol of her social validation and the acknowledgment she seeks.

(B) (A) Patol Babu's early experience was pivotal as it allowed him to rise from that humble position to more prominent roles in the future. It also earned him recognition and a silver medal.

(B) The role in the film, despite being small, rekindles his enthusiasm for acting and reminds him of the joy and fulfillment he once experienced on stage.

(C) Patol Babu is remembering all these experiences because they serve as a reminder of how he started his career with humble beginnings and how far he has come. This reflection helps him to appreciate the opportunity he has now, no matter how small the role may seem.

(D) Patol Babu shares his excitement about the film role with his wife. His wife responds with skepticism. She points out that Patol Babu has a tendency to count his chickens before they hatch.

(C) (A) Calpurnia uses visual imagery to convey her fears through the description of Caesar's statue "like a fountain with an hundred spouts".

(B) The significance of the statue running pure blood in Calpurnia's dream lies in its symbolic representation of Caesar's impending death and the ensuing chaos. The blood, flowing freely from the statue, signifies violence and murder.

(C) The tone of Calpurnia's statement is one of desperation and urgency. By saying, "O Caesar! these things are beyond all use," she expresses her profound distress. Her tone reflects her fear that these signs are alarming.

(D) The reference to the graves yielding up their dead suggests extreme severity and a catastrophic nature of the omens. It implies that the natural order has been disturbed, with the dead rising from their graves.

9. Answer *ANY FIVE* of the following questions in 30-40 words:

(I) Lawrence shows the snake's slow, deliberate departure as a moment of beauty and dignity, which makes the speaker's regret sharper. The speaker's sudden, clumsy reaction and immediate remorse highlight his deep regret for not valuing the snake's presence.

(II) In "A Shady Plot," the metaphor of "a ghostly whisper in the dead of night" conveys the subtle and pervasive influence of supernatural elements. The phrase evokes a sense of something intangible and unsettling, suggesting that the influence of the supernatural is present in a subtle, yet pervasive manner throughout the story.

(III) In "The Dear Departed," irony is used when the characters express exaggerated grief and concern over the deceased's belongings while being more interested in his possessions than honouring the grandfather's memory.

(IV) The sailor's killing of the Albatross shows the clash between believing in omens and facing real consequences. While the bird was seen as a good sign, its death led to disastrous outcomes, highlighting how superstitions can sometimes lead to problems.

(V) Shelley's "Ozymandias" conveys the theme of immortality through the contrast between the king's grand ambitions and the reality of his crumbled statue. The poem illustrates how Ozymandias's claim to eternal glory is undermined by the desolate remains of his monument. The inscription boasting of his might is rendered meaningless by the passage of time, emphasising that even the greatest achievements eventually fade into obscurity.

(VI) Technology in "Virtually True" shapes characters' experiences by providing them with an immersive virtual world that affects their real lives. The protagonist's interaction with this technology leads to a disconnection from reality, highlighting how dependence on digital tools can alter perceptions and influence behaviour in both positive and negative ways.

10. Answer *ANY ONE* of the following two questions in about 150 words.

(I) Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments is the 55th sonnet written by William Shakespeare. In "Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments," Shakespeare uses vivid imagery to highlight the impermanence of physical grandeur compared to the lasting power of poetry. The tone is confident and celebratory, suggesting that true worth lies in enduring artistic achievement rather than temporary fame.

In "The Frog and the Nightingale," the imagery of the "sumac tree" and the nightingale's singing contrasts the frog's harsh "croak" with the nightingale's beautiful song. The tone shifts from mockery to pity, showing the frog's shallow desire for fame and control, which ultimately destroys the nightingale's true artistic spirit. The poem conveys that real worth lies in authentic self-expression and true artistry, rather than in the fleeting applause or external validation. Both poems use rich imagery and tone to show that lasting value and artistic achievement come from genuine, heartfelt expression rather than from temporary, superficial recognition.

OR

(II) Dhumaketu's "The Letter" employs a poignant and reflective narrative style to explore themes of estrangement and regret. The story's tone is one of melancholy and introspection, focusing on the emotional impact of separation between a father and his estranged daughter. The letter, which the father never received, symbolises lost opportunities and unspoken feelings, underscoring the theme of regret.

In contrast, A.J. Cronin's "Two Gentlemen of Verona" uses a more uplifting and dramatic narrative style to highlight themes of selflessness and bravery. The story's tone is one of admiration and inspiration, showcasing the selfless acts of two young men who, despite their hardships, work tirelessly to support their family. The contrasting themes of sacrifice and resilience provide a hopeful and motivational message, differing sharply from the sorrowful reflection in "The Letter." Both stories use their respective tones and themes to deliver profound emotional and moral insights.