



**BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION**  
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS  
SENIOR SECONDARY| CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



**MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)**

Class: X  
Date: 16.10.23  
Admission No.:

Duration: 3 Hrs  
Max. Marks: 80  
Roll No.:

**General Instructions:**

**1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE.**

**2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

**Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.**

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)**

**1. Read the following text.**

**10**

1. Dirshti was young woman who had always been fascinated by the supernatural. She had read countless books and watched numerous documentaries about ghosts and otherworldly beings. So, when she heard about an abandoned hotel on the outskirts of town that was said to be haunted, she knew she had to investigate.

2. One night, Dirshti decided to sneak into the dilapidated hotel with a few of her friends. As they made their way through the dark, eerie corridors, they heard strange noises and felt cold spots. They were convinced that they were not alone.

3. Suddenly, they came across a room that was different from the rest. It was filled with old cooking equipment and strange symbols etched into the walls. Dirshti felt a chill run down her spine as she entered the room. She knew that this was where the most paranormal activity occurred. As they were examining the room, they heard a loud bang coming from the hallway. They froze in fear, not knowing what was coming their way. They could hear footsteps approaching, and they knew they had to hide.

4. They quickly ducked behind some old shelves as the footsteps grew louder. The sound of breathing was getting closer and closer until finally, they saw a figure appear in the doorway. It was a man wearing a chef's hat, with a face that was twisted in a sinister smile. Dirshti and her friends felt their blood run cold as the man approached them. They could feel his cold breath on their faces as he leaned in, whispering in a deep voice, "You shouldn't be here."

5. Dirshti and her friends were frozen with fear as they stared into the chef's eyes. But suddenly, the lights flickered on and the figure disappeared. They looked around the room, and everything seemed normal. They had been so scared that they hadn't realized they were in a room with faulty wiring.

6. Disappointed, they realized that their ghost hunt had been a bust. They left the hotel feeling deflated and let down. They had hoped for an exciting, spine-tingling adventure, but all they got was a scary moment caused by faulty wiring. As they drove home, they couldn't help but feel foolish for getting so worked up over nothing. They had been so convinced that they would find evidence of the paranormal that they had overlooked the simple explanation for the noises they had heard.

7. Dirshiti learned an important lesson that night. Sometimes, the scariest things are the ones that we create in our own minds. She realized that she didn't need to chase after the supernatural to experience thrills and excitement. The world around her was full of mystery and wonder, and she was content to experience it without the need for ghosts and ghouls.

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

i. How does the setting contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere of the story? 1

- A. It creates a sense of nostalgia. B. It provides a sense of false security.  
C. It adds to the suspense in the story. D. It presents a contrast with the real world.

ii. List two ways, how the disappointment that Drishti and her friends felt after their ghost hunt, is analogous to the feeling of waking up from a dream. Answer in 30 -40 words 2

iii. What is the main flaw in Drishti's approach to investigating the haunted hotel? 1

- A. She was too focused on finding evidence of the paranormal.  
B. She was too sceptical and refused to believe in the possibility of ghosts.  
C. She relied too heavily on other people's accounts of the supernatural.  
D. She didn't take enough precautions to ensure her safety.

iv. After which paragraph of the story, would the following paragraph most likely be placed? 1

They commenced walking through the hotel, Drishti's torchlight barely illuminating the darkness around her. Suddenly, they heard a loud creaking noise behind them. Drishti whipped around, pointing her flashlight in the direction of the noise. Nothing. Shaken, they all quickened their pace.

v. Briefly explain (in 30-40 words) any two elements that classify the story as scary. 2

vi. Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/ phrase from paragraphs 4-6, that means the same. 1

The sound of the footsteps outside the door left her petrified and the rasping breathing added to her horror.

vii. What is the most significant lesson that Drishti learned from her experience in the haunted hotel? 1

- A. The importance of avoiding risk-taking.  
B. The need to be more sceptical of the supernatural.  
C. The value of evaluating your weaknesses  
D. The power of imagination to create suspense.

viii. Complete the following appropriately. 1

Based on the use of the word "dilapidated" to describe the hotel, in Paragraph 2, we can infer that its condition was \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Read the following table displaying the details of five House Captains.

10 m

Name	Motto	Participation in activities	Achievements	Awards	Personal Qualities	Drawbacks	Other notable things
Rohit	"Together we can achieve greatness"	Debate club, Quiz club	1st prize in Science Olympiad	Best Student	Diligent, confident, empathetic	Sometimes tends to be overly competitive	Volunteer at a local NGO
Sanya	"Service before self"	Social service club, Drama club	1st prize in Debate competition	Best Orator	Compassionate, organized, responsible	Can be overly self-critical at times	Participated in a Model United Nations conference
Rajat	"Never give up, always rise up"	Sports club, Music club	2nd position in Chess competition	Best Sportsperson	Perseverant, team player, adaptable	Can sometimes be indecisive	Plays in a local band
Aryan	"Success through hard work"	Photography club, Science club	1st prize in Photography competition	Budding Innovator	Creative, curious, detail-oriented	Can sometimes procrastinate	Built a working model of a wind turbine for a science fair
Ananya	"Strive for excellence"	Dance club, Art club	1st prize in Art competition	Creative Mind	Confident, hardworking, imaginative	Tends to overthink things	Published her own poetry collection

Answer the following questions, based on the table above.

i. Identify the person who is likely to ask many "why" questions, and support your choice with one reason. 2

ii. Which house captain is most likely to struggle the most with handling stress during the school's annual inter-house sports tournament? 1

A. Rohit                      B. Sanya                      C. Rajat                      D. Ananya

iii. Give two justifications for Sanya being the best fit to lead a school-wide initiative to promote mental health and well-being among students. 2

iv. Select the correct option to fill the blank and complete the analogy. 1

\_\_\_\_\_ : paint brush :: Rajat : tabla

A. Rohit                      B. Sanya                      C. Aryan                      D. Ananya

v. Based on the personal qualities of the House Captains, why is Rajat the most likely to be a collaborative worker? 1

vi. Complete the given sentence with the appropriate reason, with reference to the information in the table. 1

We can infer that Aryan's overall performance may be negatively impacted by his weakness in time management because \_\_\_\_\_.

vii. Explain briefly why situation (b), from the three situations given below, showcases Ananya's motto, "Lead by example"?

1

(a) During a group project, Ananya assigns each team member specific tasks and sets a high standard for the project's quality. She tells them to actively participate in the project and take it to fruition.

(b) During a house debate competition, Ananya notices that a few of her house members are struggling to articulate their arguments effectively. Ananya takes the time to listen to their concerns and provides constructive feedback and support.

(c) During a fundraising event, Ananya volunteers to be in charge of organizing and coordinating the event but she frequently delegates tasks to others and attends to her school assignment while her team completes the task successfully.

viii. Select the option that correctly matches the House Captains (a) -(c), to the trophies (i)-(v).

1

HOUSE CAPTAINS - (a) RAJAT

(b) ANANYA

(c) ARYAN



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)

A. (a) - (ii) , (b) - (i) , (c) - (iii)

B. (a) - (i) , (b) - (v) , (c) - (iv)

C. (a) - (v) , (b) - (iii) , (c) - (ii)

D. (a) - (iii) , (b) - (iv) , (c) - (i)

## SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

### GRAMMAR 10

3. Complete the following tasks, as directed.

i. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.

Did you know that the lack of hydrological resources affects more than 40% of the world's population?

No, I didn't. What are hydrological resources?

WATER RESOURCES, / SURVIVAL / AND PLANT / TO HUMAN, / ANIMAL, / REFER TO / WHICH /  
ARE VITAL / HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCES

ii. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ itself under the chair before the children arrived.

A. has been hiding    B. was hid    C. have hid    D. had hidden

iii. The hospital board clearly mentioned that you \_\_\_\_\_ smoke in the hospital as it is a health hazard for all.

A. cannot    B. must not    C. need not    D. might not

iv. I am taking driving lessons now. Hopefully, I \_\_\_\_\_ my driving test by November.

A. will take    B. would pass    C. will have taken    D. will be taking

v. Identify the error in the given newspaper headline and supply the correction.

Athletics Star Helps State Stays Ahead of Competition

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

vi. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete this advertisement.

Are you looking for more books to read? Due to popular demand, we \_\_\_\_\_ back our 'Buy One Get One Free' offer next weekend!

A. brings                      B. brought                      C. will bring                      D. were bringing

vii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a doorway sign.

Caution! You \_\_\_\_\_ not enter.

Only employees are allowed beyond this point.

A. need                      B. must                      C. could                      D. might

viii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the text message below.

Let's meet another day since neither Kavi nor Samantha \_\_\_\_\_ free today as they have tennis practice.

A. were                      B. are                      C. be                      D. is

ix. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb in the brackets.

The girl in my class on arts and crafts .....(be) very good at drawing.

x. Fill in the blank with the correct option.

Anyone who has had children .....(understand/understands) the importance of discipline.

### WRITING 10

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5

A. You are Nehal Kumar, Head of the Computer Club in Sunshine School, Noida. Digital literacy refers to someone's ability to use digital technology to find, evaluate, create and communicate information. You believe that digital literacy and navigating the digital world responsibly is crucial in today's technology-dependent age.

Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, stressing the need for promoting digital literacy among individuals of all age groups. Discuss the benefits and challenges of digital technology, and propose initiatives to empower people with digital skills.

OR

**B.** You are Ishaq Shah, of Starlight Apartments, Trivandrum. You recently read an article that stated that an average Indian wastes approximately fifty kilograms of food per year.

Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concerns about the alarming amount of food waste in the country. Share practical ideas and suggestions for reducing food waste at home and encourage readers to distribute surplus food to those in need.

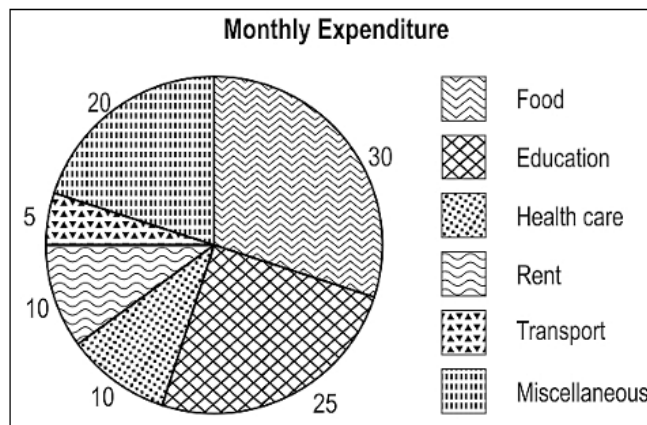
**5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.**

**5**

**A.** The monthly expenditure of a family is represented in the pie chart shown below.

Write a paragraph in about 100-120 words, analysing the information in the pie chart to support your stand on how the family is using the money wisely.

**OR**



**B. Read the following excerpt from an article in a fashion magazine:**

'Colorism' is the term describing the preference for lighter skin. Several of the world's biggest advertising firms have come under severe criticism for selling beauty products that promise whiter skin. What is worse is the manner in which these fairness products are being promoted - the parallel drawn between being fair and being successful; the perfect fair heroine showcased in movies; celebrity endorsements of fairness products; and matrimonial advertisements where everyone seeks a fair bride. This type of advertising has created an inferiority complex among darker-skinned women as seen in the rising sales of fairness cosmetics. This form of biased advertising has come under harsh criticism. Are we as a society encouraging and supporting 'colorism'?

Write a paragraph in 100-120 words to analyse the given argument.

You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

#### **SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)**

**6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

**5**

The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face." Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. But the stolen money did not last long, and presently Griffin had to admit that he had no more ready cash. He pretended, however, that he was expecting a cheque to arrive at any moment. (Footprints without Feet)

**i.** In which of these does 'ready' have the same meaning as used in the extract?

A. Griffin didn't believe that he was ready to speak before the audience.

B. The landlord usually got the rooms ready before any guests arrived.

C. Mrs. Hall said that there was a ready supply of food at the hotel.

D. The stranger was getting ready to take on new challenges.

ii. Complete the analogy by selecting a suitable word from the text.

arrival: exit:: \_\_\_\_\_ : company

iii. Why did the people start talking about the stranger's arrival?

1. because he was mostly quiet
2. because he was mean to people
3. because he was enjoying the snow
4. because he paid the inn charges in cash
5. because he was dressed in a strange manner

Select the correct option.

- A. only 1 & 5      B. only 2 & 3      C. only 3, 4 and 5      D. only 4

iv. Mrs Hall was prepared to ignore Griffin's rudeness and weird behaviour.

2

State **two** reasons why this was so.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat.

Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.

"You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine."

i. Which of these describes how Fowler felt at the beginning of the extract? 1

A. His heart sank. B. He was shaken up. C. His stomach was in knots. D. He was at the end of his rope.

ii. State one observation about Ausable based on the way he handled Fowler's disappointment with him. 1

iii. Which of these means the same as 'romantic' in the line below? 1

It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

A. great      B. exciting      C. idealistic      D. passionate 1

iv. How did the atmosphere of the French hotel influence Fowler's mood? Answer in 40 words. 2

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

**5**

*Some say the world will end in fire*

*Some say in ice.*

*From what I've tasted of desire*

*I hold with those who favour fire.*

- i. Who is the poet of these lines? 1
- ii. What is the poet's opinion about the world? 1
- iii. Choose the CORRECT statement about the given poem. 1
- A. Fire and ice are images – they help the readers visualise the power of nature over man.
- B. Fire and ice are symbols – not of natural disasters but of humanity's ability to create disasters of its own.
- C. Fire and ice are elements – not of nature but man-made and possess the ability to create havoc for mankind.
- D. Fire and ice are agents – they change the thinking of mankind from negative to positive and bring harmony.
- iv. How are ice and fire similar to each other though they have contradictory traits? 2

**OR**

*Money is external.*

*He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,*

*The epistemology of loss, how to stand up*

*Knowing what every man must one day know*

*And most know many days, how to stand up*

*(The Ball Poem)*

- i. The poet says money is external. What does it mean in this extract? 1
- A. Money helps us purchase materials that make life worth living.
- B. Money promotes materialism and hunger for power among youngsters.
- C. Money only impacts a person's external environment.
- D. Money buys materialistic things and can be earned again, when lost.
- ii. What does the boy learn by losing the ball, according to the extract? 1
- 1) Loss is the unavoidable truth of life.
- 2) Material objects can be replaced.
- 3) Money buys happiness.
- 4) Losses in life can be prevented with care.
- 5) Life continues despite losses.
- A. (1), (2) and (5)                      B. (2) and (4)                      C. Only (1)                      D. (3) and (5)



iii. The boy is learning how to stand up... 1

This means that he is learning to be in the face of difficulties.

A. patient B. resilient C. defensive D. judgemental

iv. According to the poet, from whom do we mostly learn about loss? Explain. 2

**8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12**

i. Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. (Glimpses of India-I)

ii. How does the repeated use of the name 'Amanda' influence the overall tone of the poem? (Amanda!)

iii. State two ways in which the oppressor and the oppressed are similar, according to Mandela. (Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

iv. Explain how hunger is nature's strongest motivator in the story His First Flight.

v. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? What did it do two days after that?

**9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6**

i. The story, A Triumph of Surgery is a powerful example of the importance of saying "no". Explain.

ii. How important is curiosity to scientific exploration and discovery? Justify your answer with examples from the text The Making of a Scientist

iii. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Comment.

**10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6**

A. Imagine Robert Frost from A Dust of Snow met with Lencho from A Letter to God and discussed the various ways nature can influence a person's mood. Create this conversation in not more than 120 words.

You may begin this way:

Lencho: As a farmer, my livelihood depends on nature and sometimes nature can be cruel.

**OR**

B. How do you assess Mr. Keesing as a teacher/ support your answer by citing examples 'From the Diary of Anne Frank'.

**11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6**

A. Imagine that the young lady thief writes a letter to Horace Danby while he is in prison. Write the letter imagining yourself to be that young lady with respect to the story.

**OR**

B. Hari Singh says- "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.

\*\*\*\*\* *The End* \*\*\*\*\*