



B K BIRLA CENTRE  
FOR EDUCATION  
(Sarla Birla Group of Schools)

# 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 CORE (301) Marking Scheme

Class : XI

Duration : 3 Hrs

Date : 21.10.23

Max. Marks : 80

Admission No.:

Roll No.:

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)		
1.	<b>Literary passage</b>	<b>12m</b>
i	<b>B. It serves as the ship's computer</b> [It is mentioned in the text that the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold spaceship is the ship's computer.]	1 No partial credit
ii	<b>C. Loss and change</b> [Destruction of his home planet = loss and the introduction of new technologies = change]	1 No partial credit
iii	<b>Descriptive</b> "In the center of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse." [This description provides a clear image of the setting and the unconventional form of the ship's computer.]  <b>Humorous</b> "Oh, not again," groaned Ford. [This line is humorous because it suggests that the ship's computer, Eddie, frequently offers to sing songs and annoy the crew. Ford's reaction of groaning implies that this is a common occurrence and that he's tired of it. The humour comes from the fact that a computer is attempting to sing a song, which is an unexpected and absurd situation.]  <b>Note-</b> Accept any other appropriate example identified from the text.	2 -2 for correct identification -1 for correct identification of either
iv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ highly intelligent / technologically advanced [they built the Earth as a giant computer]</li> <li>▪ indifferent to the suffering of other beings [they ran out of money and had to destroy the Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass.]</li> </ul>	1 No partial credit
v	<b>C. Impressive, yes?</b>	1 No partial credit
vi	The name "The Paranoid Android" is ironic because- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ it is unexpected for a robot to exhibit human-like emotions such as paranoia.</li> <li>▪ robots are often thought of as logical and unemotional, whereas the name "paranoid" implies irrational fear and anxiety.</li> <li>▪ it plays with readers' expectations and stereotypes of robots.</li> </ul>	2 -2 for correct interpretation and explanation -Partial credit 1 for partially addressing the Q - No ½ credit
vii	The comparison is with cobblers, who take scraps of leather and stitch them together to create a shoe, in the same way in which the body of Marvin was put together or 'cobbled', using spare parts. [The word "cobbled" here, implies a sense of roughness and unevenness, as if the body has been put together in a haphazard manner. It also suggests that the body is assembled together, rather than being a cohesive whole.]	1 No partial credit

viii	The statement by Marvin, despite being an android, humanizes the character by evoking a sense of loneliness and isolation that is relatable to the reader. It also emphasizes the theme of the alienation and lack of communication between beings in the vastness of space.	2 -2 for correct interpretation and explanation
	This creates a sense of sympathy towards Marvin and also raises questions about the meaning and value of existence, regardless of whether one is organic or synthetic.	-Partial credit 1 for partially addressing the Q - No ½ credit
ix	<b>B. (b) (c) and (d)</b> [(a) accurate -represents the main focus of the excerpt: Marvin, a depressed and paranoid android who precedes humanity; (b) incorrect- downplaying serious implications and though the passage does contain humorous elements, it also deals with weighty topics such as the destruction of Earth and the search for a new home; (c) incorrect- no mention of aliens ; (d) incorrect- there is no mention of time travel in the excerpt. The technologies mentioned, such as the Heart of Gold spaceship and the Infinite Improbability Drive, are related to time travel; (e) correct- there is mention of a new technology, the Infinite Improbability Drive, that allowed for Arthur’s quick travel across galaxies in a spaceship]	1 No partial credit
<b>2.</b>	<b>Case-based factual passage</b>	<b>10 m</b>
i	Some possible ways: (Any 2/ relevant) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help travel companies to tailor their services to meet the preferences and expectations of young adult travellers, leading to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty.</li> <li>▪ Provide insights for the development of new travel packages and itineraries that cater to the specific needs and interests of young adult travellers.</li> <li>▪ Enable the tourism industry to better understand the changing preferences and behaviours of young adult travellers, which can inform future marketing and promotional strategies.</li> <li>▪ Can help policymakers and tourism boards to identify key trends and areas of growth in the tourism sector, and plan accordingly.</li> <li>▪ Allow researchers to gain a better understanding of the motivations and travel behaviours of young adults, which can inform academic studies and literature in the field.</li> <li>▪ Can provide a benchmark for comparison with similar studies conducted in different regions or countries, helping to identify cross-cultural differences in travel preferences.</li> <li>▪ Help young adults themselves to gain a better understanding of their own travel preferences and motivations, and make more informed travel decisions in the future.</li> <li>▪ Can highlight the importance of certain factors in the decision-making process for young adult travellers, such as budget, safety, and cultural exploration, which can inform discussions and debates around the future of the tourism industry.</li> </ul>	2  - Full credit 2, totwo relevant ways -partial credit 1, to one relevant way -No ½ credit
ii	<b>D. Desire for making new friends</b>	1 No partial credit

iii	The top choices in the survey, for traveling solo and in a group suggest that young adult travellers value independence and freedom when traveling alone and when traveling in a group, they value socializing and making new friends.	1 No partial credit
iv	(b) Nawaz	1 No partial credit
	[solo traveller-budget friendly; (a) group traveller- organised transport; (c) group traveller-high focus on safety and security]	
v	<b>A. trying new cuisine</b> [ It allows an individual to explore new flavours and ingredients that they may not have been exposed to before, thus helping them discover more about themselves by way of likes/ dislikes]	1 No partial credit
vi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To cater to budget-conscious solo travellers, the industry may need to provide more affordable accommodation options such as hostels and budget hotels.</li> <li>▪ For group travellers, the industry may need to focus on offering more luxury accommodations and experiences that cater to their desire for comfort and convenience.</li> </ul>	2 -Full credit 2, when correct response for both is stated -Partial credit 1, when correct response for either is stated -No credit of ½
vii	(Any one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a shared desire for adventure</li> <li>▪ a willingness to step outside of their comfort zones.</li> <li>▪ the fact that that young adults in India are becoming more interested in cultural exchange and global understanding</li> </ul> (Any other relevant)	1 No partial credit
viii	FALSE [The passage is not about solo travel trend but more of solo vs group travel debate among young adults in India]	1 No partial credit

**SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)**

**Note : All names and addresses of places and organisations used, are fictitious.**

**3. NOTICE : Format – 1    Content -2    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1**

Name of Organisation	
NOTICE	
Date	
Heading	
[details]	
Signature	
Name (issuing authority)	
Designation	

A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Correct format ( as listed)</li> <li>→ Drawing attention—students of XI-XII</li> <li>→ Mentioning the event</li> <li>→ Giving details -D,T,V</li> <li>→ Inviting applications</li> <li>→ Line with reference to the undersigned</li> </ul>
B	→ Correct format ( as listed)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Drawing attention—residents</li> <li>→ Stating the information</li> <li>→ Giving details</li> <li>→ Sharing awaited news</li> <li>→ Line with reference to the undersigned</li> </ul>
<b>4. INVITATION &amp; REPLY : Format – 1    Content -2    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1</b>	
A	<p><b>Card type-formal invite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ a single sentence presentation in third person / end line punctuations skipped</li> <li>→ Use the simple present tense</li> <li>→ answers the questions who, whom, when, where, what time and for what</li> <li>→ includes name and address of the organiser /host and name/s of special invitees (if any)</li> <li>→ No signatures</li> </ul> <p><b>Layout usually pertains to the following--</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Name of host /hosts</li> <li>→ Formal standard expression-cordial</li> <li>→ Purpose of invitation</li> <li>→ Date /time of event</li> <li>→ Venue (address)</li> <li>→ Name of special guest (if any)</li> <li>→ RSVP</li> <li>→ Contact detail/ number</li> </ul>
B	<b>Letter type-informal reply</b>
<b>5. FORMAL LETTER :</b>	
<b>Format – 1    Content -2    Organisation -1    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1</b>	
<p><b>Format</b>  Sender’s address, Date, Receiver’s address, Subject and Salutation/ Salutation and Subject, Letter, Complimentary close (largely accepted –<i>Yours truly</i> for letter to editor &amp; in business circuits - <i>Yourssincerely</i>)</p>	

A	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Lack of awareness of the significance of zebra crossings and traffic rules, ignorance of etiquettes involved, and the lack of enforcement of existing laws related to road safety.</li> <li>→ Increased risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities, disruption of traffic flow, damage to public property, legal penalties and fines, and revocation of driving licenses.</li> <li>→ Public campaigns, educational programs in schools, colleges, and other public places, informative pamphlets, posters, and videos on traffic rules and etiquettes, and highlighting the consequences of not following traffic rules and respect for zebra crossings.</li> <li>→ Imposing penalties and fines for those who violate traffic rules and do not respect zebra crossings, attending road safety awareness classes, and revoking driving licenses if necessary. Strengthening traffic police and providing them with the necessary resources and technology to monitor and enforce traffic laws.</li> </ul>
B	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ commercialization prevalent in the good schools renowned for providing quality education, it has become a trend to admit your children to prestigious public schools, which admit students after conducting so many tests and charging a hefty amount as various funds.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ classrooms with 60 to 70 students in the primary section tell a different story. The overcrowding of classrooms adversely affects the academic standards. It is very difficult for any teacher howsoever resourceful to build any rapport or conduct interactive sessions in such large classes. The curriculum is covered in a poor manner.</li> <li>→ The academic values are brushed aside with nonchalance and the sole factor that governs the school authorities is the money that these large numbers rake in.</li> <li>→ Will the authorities look into this sad state of affairs and bring an end to this commercialization of education resulting in falling academic standards?</li> </ul>

**6. ARTICLE WRITING / REPORT WRITING :**

**Format – 1    Content -2    Organisation -1    Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1**

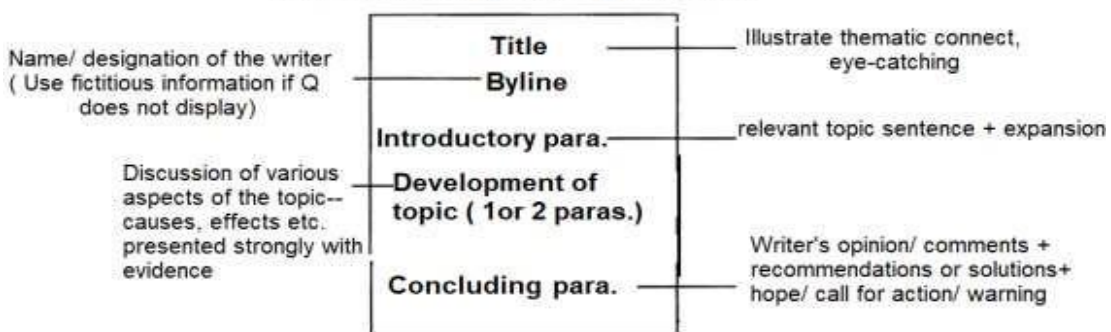
**Article Writing**

**Format**

- Title & By line

**Organisation & Content:**

The article should be crafted in this manner:



**Note:** An article is not boxed. A box has been used here, as a tool for clear illustration.

A	<p>→ Intro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Volunteering in the local community -- a valuable experience for young adults --helps them develop new skills and interests ---benefits the community as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>→ Reasons to volunteer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a great way to give back to the community --can make a positive difference in the lives of those around --create a sense of community and strengthen social bonds</li> <li>▪ can help develop new skills and interests -- gain practical experience in a variety of areas such as event planning, communication, and leadership-- useful in future job applications and can also be personally fulfilling</li> <li>▪ provides opportunities for personal growth and self-reflection --helps gain a deeper understanding of own values and beliefs --can also learn more about the needs and challenges faced by others in their community</li> </ul> <p>→ Conclusion:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ volunteering in one's local community is a rewarding experience that can benefit both the individual and the community --is important for young adults to get involved and make a positive contribution to the world around them</li> </ul>
<p>Causes Of Stress On The Modern Generation</p>	
B	<p>→ main cause of stress on the modern generation is the cut-throat competition and consumerist culture prevalent in our society. This always puts them under pressure of efficiency and productivity.</p> <p>→ The modern environment is highly competitive and calls for relentless effort on the part of each youngster. To achieve the goals they have to devote all their time and capacity, without rest. So they have no time to care even for their own selves. They have no time for relaxing or to pursue something of their own interest sounds like a luxury to them. The effects of this stress on the youth also visible in their physical being whereby they have increased pulses and a lot of tension in their muscles. With increased professionalism and specialization there seems no practical and suitable solution for this stress due to the competition.</p> <p>→ In this age of consumerism, it is not surprising that the youth of today are also constantly vying to outdo each other in acquiring material things. But now it is high time each one of us sat back in quiet introspection to contemplate where we are actually heading in this high-speed pace.</p>

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

7. Answers:

6 m

- (i) When did my childhood go?
- (ii) 'Producing thoughts that were not these of other people's means: The poet has gained confidence to express his views independently.
- (iii) The poet is transitioning into adulthood.
- (iv) Show
- (v) To use whichever way I choose,
- (vi) False

**OR**

- (i) In the beginning of the poem the tree is calm & silent & in the ending it ends with motionless & empty level.
- (ii) A. her barred face identity mask
- (iii) The poet uses the word 'eerie' because he fails to find out the idea the mother goldfinch bird is trying to convey through it.

- (iv) Infinite
- (v) C. it was death-like again

**8. Answers:**

- (i) 'This is where your foot goes down. Start now'.
- (ii) (A) Polite vs Assertive
- (iii) Mrs. Fitzgerald encourages Mrs. Pearson to be the mistress in her own house. She acquaints Mrs. Pearson with her rights in the family.
- (iv) satirical and humorous

**OR**

- (i) He had stolen it from Byro's barn
- (ii) Vineyard
- (iii) John Byro
- (iv) 1. kicked his heels into the horse      2. shouted, Vazire, run.

**9. Answers:**

- (i) The common link between the grandmother and the grandson was the room they share in the city house which was ultimately snapped when the author went to university.
- (ii) C. spinning the wheel
- (iii) feed the sparrows
- (iv) C. Selflessness and Kindness
- (v) The grandmother accepted her separation from the life of the grandsons without any objection.
- (vi) The happiest / any other relevant answer

**OR**

- (i) The ominous silence was the first indication of impending disaster.
- (ii) Cloud
- (iii) c. speed of wind greatly reduced
- (iv) The narrator uses words like 'ominous', 'horror' and 'frightful' to describe what he saw and felt.
- (v) It was a powerful, enormous wave. It seemed to be exactly vertical. Its height was about two times that of the other waves. The narrator was horrified since he had never witnessed such a massive storm.
- (vi) a. A catastrophe

**10. Answers:**

- i. Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, was the first archaeologist to discover King Tut's tomb in the year 1922. His was a great discovery but during the investigation process, he damaged the mummy to a great extent. As the body was found cemented to its gold coffin, it was impossible to move it.
- ii. The narrator spotted two small islands on the chart. One of these, Ile Amsterdam, was a 65-km wide island in 1,50,000 km of ocean. It was a French scientific base. But it was not easy to reach those small islands which were like pinheads in that vast ocean.
- iii. The poet contrasts the transient character of people with the enduring qualities of the sea or other natural objects. The huge sea hasn't changed much since the photo was taken, even though the poet's mother grew old and passed away over time.
- iv. The following words/phrases indicate the parallel between rain and music: 'Poem of Earth', 'eternal I rise impalpable out of land and the bottomless sea' 'For song duly with love returns.'
- v. Both originate from a source, rise up, reach fulfillment, wander about whether cared about or not and finally return to source of origin with love.

- vi. The poet is trying to convey to the readers through the following line that an infant is really innocent as he trusts everyone and does not try to fool others. The poet brings out this fact by contrasting it with the behaviour of adults, who become manipulative and are hypocrites. As a person develops rational thoughts, his childlike innocence fades away.
- vii. The author treated the stories of grandmother's youth and beauty as fables as he had always seen her old and he found it was hard to accept that she could once be pretty and young.

**11. Answer:**

- i. The quoted statement indicates that the two families knew each other. When the war was going on some people left their homes to take refuge in distant lands. Few people who remained there thought that those people who had left their land would never come back. That is why the woman feels surprised to see one of them returning back.
- ii. According to the boys, they stole the horse that actually belonged to John Byro in order to go on joy rides. It was not a 'theft' until they offered to sell the horse.
- iii. The main issue that the play raises is that the lady of the house, who is just like an axis, is never given her due respect, especially, if she is a simple housewife. The family members take her for granted. She works like an unpaid servant. The second issue is that the mistress of the house should assert her position very firmly to the family members. She should be ready to put across her views with determination rather than surrender meekly.

**12. Answers:**

**A.** Good morning, everyone.

As I analyzed the allotted texts, I noticed that though each portrayal of childhood was unique, they all offered varied insights into the experiences of a child in different circumstances.

To begin with the childhood of the poet's mother must have been filled with fun and happiness. This is clear from the snapshot of the sea holiday. They are enjoying their holiday. The mother of the poet laughs when looking at the snapshot even after many years have passed since the sea holiday.

Similarly, in 'The Portrait of A lady', the author's childhood days in the village with his grandmother were filled with love, care, and joy. He cherished the memories of his childhood and the experiences that he had in the village. The story highlights the importance of family, nature, and culture in shaping one's childhood.

In the poem 'Childhood', the poet tells that childhood is a stage of innocence in which the child believes others and loves unconditionally. Childhood is an important stage in the process of growing up of every person. The human infant is totally dependent on others, but during childhood he gains physical, emotional and mental strength. As the baby grows bigger in size, other faculties also develop. This stage is an important landmark in man's growth, but it can't go on forever.

Likewise, in the play 'Mother's Day' Mrs. Fitzgerald makes Mrs. Pearson understand that a mother's responsibility is not only to fulfill the requirements and comforts of her children but also to teach her child the values of respect, love and care. A mother instills in her child the ability to be happy. A mother instills in her child the values and traditions of her family.

To conclude, I'd like to say that mothers assist their children in refining themselves throughout their lives. Mothers play an important role in the development and well-being of their children. The influence of a mother on a child's personality cannot be overstated.

Thank you !

**OR**

**B. Dear Ted**

I recently read your poem, "The Laburnum Top," and I really enjoyed reading it.

I appreciate the theme that tells about the mutual relationship between the tree and the goldfinch. The poem also conveys that life is a process of exchange and transformation and the importance of living with each other.

The poem is about the progress of life. Change is always there, but the beginning has always its own taste. Whereas autumn creates a sensation of future hopelessness, nature projects the spontaneity of a new starting.

The little birds, the bards of nature, voice their life-force eventuated by the presence of their mother. Even the



laburnum tree starts to live again, shedding all its future worries, and becomes a part of the eternal enjoyment that exists in nature, no matter how pessimistic the weather is.

By the same token my poem "The Voice of the Rain" represents the beauty and power of nature through the perspective of rain. The rain is a powerful force that has the ability to cleanse the earth, soothe our souls, and inspire creativity. It is a symbol of renewal and growth, and reminds us of the cyclical nature of life and the importance of appreciating the natural world.

The last two lines are very significant. They reveal the real purpose of the poem. Poems are like rain. It originates from its birth-place, i.e. heart of the poet, as rain originates from the bottom of earth. Then it goes from person to person like rain goes to all the trees. Some people love and some hate like rain is sometimes welcomed and sometimes not. However in the end, the poem brings love for the poet like trees become green because of rain. It doesn't affect the rain or the poet if someone listened to the rain or not. Nature does its duty unmindful of any recognition. Poetry nourishes humanity just as rain nourishes the planet.

I hope we poets keep enriching and soothing mankind with our works because eventually the poetry returns to us with love, regardless of whether it is criticized or appreciated.

All the best for your upcoming collections of poems.

Warmly

Walt Whitman

### **13. Answers: A.**

#### Garoghlanian Tribe

-By John Byro

Armenia is a country located in Eurasia, which is surrounded by nations like Turkey and Iran in the west, Georgia in the North and Azerbaijan in the east. Assyria refers to the cultural region inhabited historically by the Assyrian people who include parts of Turkey, Iran and Syria. The Assyrians also form minority communities in nations like Armenia. Both Armenia and Assyria are considered amongst the oldest kingdoms in the world with histories dating back to before 6th century BC.

The Garoghlanian family was an Armenian tribe. Eleven centuries ago, it was the wealthiest tribe in that part of the world. The members of the tribe were recognized for their morality. They ended up settling in regions such as Fresno and California. The Garoghlanian tribe is a group that works in modern conditions while carrying in their mind the values of the past of their native Armenia. They were proud of their family. Honesty was vital, and they had a fair sense of right and wrong.

They were poor people who hardly managed to gather food to feed their stomach every day but they were known for honesty. Hospitality is one of the important aspects of the tribe. Most of the Armenian people followed Christianity. They have a huge variety of food at social gatherings. They focused on forgiveness of sins and on the spirit of tolerance.

**OR**

### **Answers B.**

10 June 1952, Monday

Time: 9:00pm

Dear diary

I find myself reflecting on an event that happened few days ago when I was at my neighbor's place, Mrs. Pearson who was neglected and mistreated by her family members, who took her for granted and failed to acknowledge her sacrifices and hard work. Through magic, we flipped our personalities and so, I helped her earn the place and respect she deserves as the woman of the house.

India has been and is still a male-dominated society. Boys are definitely preferred to girls. In reality, the man still governs unquestioned. It will not be wrong to say that employed women in general work at home like drudges.

In our society a wife depends upon her husband; a daughter remains under her parents; a mother depends on her husband and son. The condition of a widow is worse. A woman finds it difficult to move freely. All social taboos are meant for her.

Some women today are free to choose their career, but the majority of them are still oppressed. Strangely enough

women in ancient India enjoyed honor and respect and were true better halves of men. They enjoyed equal rights to men. They were at liberty to get an education and choose their life partners.

Nowadays, due to education, the condition of women is improving. All important services are thrown open to them. We see women occupying high posts. They have excelled men in many fields. In the social, economic and political sphere, they have earned name and fame. Due to education, views and old thinking of the Indian society is changing. Today women have earned a place for themselves in every field and the future of Indian women is brighter still.

Hope now, mothers would not be neglected anymore, none would take them for granted rather shall be acknowledged for selfless hard work and sacrifices. Every women should get the respect she deserves though she is just a simple house wife and a mother.

BYE !!

Mrs. Fitzgerald