



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)



Class : XI
Date : 21.10.23
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.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

12 m

Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an "infinite improbability drive." It was all too much for him.

5 Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door.

"Hey, Earthman," he said, "come and have a look at this."

Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship's control room. He gazed in amazement at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the centre of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.

10 "What's that?" asked Arthur.

"That's the ship's computer," said Ford.

Arthur stared at the mouse. "That's a computer?" he said.

"Yup," said Ford. "Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?"

15 "I don't know," said Arthur. "I don't think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the ship's computer?"

"It's a long story," said Ford. "But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they're using the Heart of Gold to 20 finish the calculation."

Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship's intercom crackled to life.

"Good evening, Heart of Gold," said a smooth, computerized voice. "This is Eddie, your shipboard computer. I'm feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?"

"Oh, not again," groaned Ford.

25 "Eddie, would you mind shutting up?" said Arthur.

Arthur sighed and leaned back against the console, trying to make sense of everything. But as he closed his eyes, he heard a voice inside his head.

"Hello?" it said.

Arthur jumped, startled. "Who's there?" he said.

30 "It's me," said the voice. "Marvin."

"Marvin?" said Arthur. "Who's Marvin?"

"The Paranoid Android," said the voice.

35 Arthur looked around, but he didn't see anyone. "Where are you?" he said.

"I'm down here," said the voice.

Arthur looked down and saw a small, metal figure shuffling across the floor. It was about three feet tall, with a round head and a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts. Its eyes were a dull red, and its voice was a monotone.

"I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin.

Adapted - An excerpt from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams / 444 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i What is the significance of the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold spaceship?

- A. It is the captain of the ship
- B. It serves as the ship's computer
- C. It is a pet of the crew
- D. It is used for scientific experiments.

1

ii Select the option that classifies Arthur's confusion about drastic events such as the destruction of his home planet and the introduction of new technologies, correctly.

1

- A. Routine and boredom
- B. Adventure and excitement
- C. Loss and change
- D. Calm and relaxation

iii Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer's writing style is descriptive and humorous.

2

iv Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.

Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that the mice who built the Earth are _____.

1

v Select the option that is similar in meaning to Ford's expression, "Pretty neat, huh?".

- A. Easy, isn't it?
- B. Could be worse, no?
- C. Impressive, yes?
- D. Too difficult for you?

1

vi Explain, in about 40 words, why the name "The Paranoid Android" is considered ironic.

2

vii In the line, "...a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts...", what comparison does the word "cobbled" refer to?

1

viii How does the following, impact the reader, even though they know Marvin is just an android?

"I've been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years," said Marvin.

ix Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below:

1

- (a) HUMANITY'S JOURNEY WITNESSED BY A DEPRESSED ROBOT
- (b) HITCHHIKING THROUGH SPACE: A COMICAL TAKE ON THE END OF THE WORLD
- (c) NEW STUDY FINDS ALIENS LIVING AMONG US
- (d) GROUNDBREAKING TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON ENABLE TIME TRAVEL
- (e) INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL VIA NEW INFINITE IMPROBABILITY DRIVE

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.

- A. Only (a)
- B. (b) (c) and (d)
- C. Only (e)
- D. (a) and (e)

2. Read the following text.

10 m

(1) In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices.

(2) Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).

(3) On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socializing and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organized transportation (38%).

(4) Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers).

(5) However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritize luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).

(6) Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i Infer two possible ways that the survey, mentioned in paragraph (1) could be beneficial.

Answer in about 40 words.

2

- ii Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events, and shared accommodations in their itinerary? 1
- A. Freedom to customise itinerary
 - B. Luxury and comfort
 - C. Security and safety
 - D. Desire for making new friends.
- iii What do the top choices in the survey, for traveling solo and in a group suggest about young adults? 1
- iv Identify the solo traveller from the following three travellers: 1
- (a) Reshma- I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle is perfect.
 - (b) Nawaz-I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation.
 - (c) Deepak-I'm not worried about my well-being , even while exploring remote areas.
- v Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1
- A. Trying new cuisine
 - B. Hiring a tour guide
 - C. Purchasing local artefacts
 - D. Advance booking travel tickets
- vi How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? 2
- vii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to _____.
- viii State **TRUE or FALSE**. 1
- The title, "Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India", is appropriate for this passage.

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

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

4

A. Bali High Public School has recently created Cure Green, a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Rachel Tiwari, Captain of the Eco-Club, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of classes XI-XII, about a guided walk through Cure Green , post assembly, on Friday, 10 July. Invite care-giver applications, for Cure Green.

OR

B You are the Secretary of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme , Jastinapur, Sector D-3 Society. Draft a notice for the Society notice board, informing residents about the change of personnel, Head Security, Gate 2 and share necessary details. Also, include the news of installation of the much awaited security camera, on the Eastern periphery of the Society.

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

4

A You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs, at M.K. Sr. Sec. School. Your school is organising a 2-day Yoga camp over the weekend, for parents of the school students. Create an invitation, inviting the school parents for this Yoga camp. Share information about the camp organisers and include other necessary details.

OR

B Smt. Leelavati Khatri, your grandmother, has received an invitation from her childhood friend, residing at a distance in the same city. The invite is for the blessing ceremony and celebratory dinner, marking the birth of her granddaughter. Your grandmother wishes to attend the event but would need to be accompanied by a family member to assist her with her wheelchair. Create an appropriate reply, accepting this invitation, on behalf of your grandmother.

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

5

Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not respect zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules, which results in hazardous situations on the roads. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern, and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved, and ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Soma Baruah, a concerned city resident.

- For awareness-
 - General public / educational institutions
 - How ? – in person / social media
- Dire consequences – self and others
- Adherence-
 - Fines & penalties
 - Revoking driving licences
 - Strengthening traffic police force – monitoring resources and

OR

B.You are a social worker. You feel upset as some of the good schools are admitting as many as 60-70 students in a class just to mint money. This is adversely affecting academic standards. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting this corrupt practice. Sign the letter as Ranjan /Ranjni.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two , in about 120-150 words.

5 m

A You are Sohail Hassan of class XII-B. Write an article for your school magazine , sharing the importance of young adults , as volunteers in one’s local community , the need to do so and the benefits involved. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

Importance for personal growth+ community development
Benefits – for self; new skills, experiences, a sense of purpose
For community; positive impact
What are the ways one could get involved?

OR

B. The present-day youth are greatly stressed due to cut-throat competition and consumerist culture. You are Keshav/Karuna, a social worker and counsellor. You are concerned about the stressed behaviour of

students. Write an article in 150-200 words on the causes of the stress on the modern generation suggesting suitable solutions.

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

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

6

When did my childhood go?
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,
To use whichever way I choose,
Producing thoughts that were not those of other people
But my own and mine alone
Was that the day!

(i) What refrain literary device is used in the poem 'Childhood'?

- A. When did my childhood go?
- B. Hell and Heaven
- C. Could not be found in Geography
- D. That's all I know

(ii) What is meant by 'Producing thoughts that were not these of other people'?

(iii) Which stage of life has been under consideration above?

(iv) Based on the poem rhyme scheme, evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1? _____

Thine, couple, flown, show, may

(v) Quote the line from the above extract where 'inversion' occurs.

(vi) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.

By referring to 'my own' the poet emphasizes on the inability to use one's mind independently.

OR

She stokes it fully, then flirts out to a branch-end
Showing her barred face identity mask
Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty.

(i) What do you notice about the beginning and the ending of the poem?

(ii) What Transferred Epithet was used in the poem 'The Laburnum Top'?

- A. her barred face identity mask
- B. engine of her family
- C. Sleek as a lizard
- D. September sunlight

(iii) Why does the poet use the word 'eerie'?

(iv) Write the synonym of the word 'endless' from the above extract.

(v) How was the tree in the end when the bird flew away?

- A. It was still alive and thriving
- B. Another bird came to the tree
- C. it was death-like again
- D. None of the above

(vi) State whether the following statement is **TRUE / FALSE**:

In September the Laburnum tree is in full bloom.

8.A. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

4

Mrs. Fitzgerald: Let 'em wait or look after themselves for once. This is where your foot goes down. Start now. [She lights a cigarette from the one she has just finished.]

Mrs. Pearson: [Embarrassed]

Mrs. Fitzgerald—I know you mean well—in fact, I agree with you— but I just can't—and it's no use trying to make me. If I promise you I'd really have it out with them, I know I wouldn't be able to keep my promise.

Mrs. Fitzgerald: Then let me do it.

Mrs. Pearson [Flustered]: Oh no—thank you very much, Mrs Fitzgerald—but that wouldn't do at all. It couldn't possibly be somebody else— they'd resent it at once and wouldn't listen— and really I

(i) Quote the line from the above extract that explains: To adopt a firm policy when faced with opposition or disobedience.

(ii) What is the contrast in the personalities of the two women?

(A) Polite vs Assertive

(C) Scared vs Brave

(B) Gentle vs Sensible

(D) They have nothing to contrast

(iii) Mrs. Fitzgerald encourages Mrs. Pearson to be the _____ in her own house. She acquaints Mrs. Pearson with her _____ in the family.

(iv) what is genre of the play 'Mother's Day'?

OR

B. I got down and my cousin Mourad kicked his heels into the horse and shouted, Vazire, run. The horse stood on its hind legs, snorted, and burst into a fury of speed that was the loveliest thing I had ever seen. My cousin Mourad raced the horse across a field of dry grass to an irrigation ditch, crossed the ditch on the horse, and five minutes later returned, dripping wet.

(i) Where had Mourad got the horse from?

(ii) When Aram rode the horse alone, it ran down the road to the _____.

(iii) Who was the true owner of the horse?

A. John Byro

B. Fetvajian

C. Dikran Halabian

D. Zorab

(iv) List any two sensory details present in the extract

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

6

I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone.

From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the verandah breaking the bread into little-bits, hundreds of little birds collected round her creating a veritable bedlam of chirruping. Some came and perched on her legs, others on her shoulders. Some even sat on her head. She smiled but never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half-hour of the day for her.

(i) What was the common link of friendship that was snapped between the narrator and his grandmother?

(ii) How did the grandmother spend her time in the city?

A. feedings dogs

- B. reading books
- C. spinning the wheel
- D. talking to neighbours

(iii) Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the grandmother was philozoic.

(iv) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

- A. the Bond of friendship
- B. the Innocence of a lady
- C. Selflessness and Kindness
- D. Respect and Ignorance

(v) What does the term 'seclusion with resignation' indicate about the grandmother?

(vi) Complete the sentence with ONE word.

The phrase "never shooed them" suggests that the grandmother was the _____ in that half-hour.

OR

B. The first indication of impending disaster came at about 6 p.m., with an ominous silence. The wind dropped, and the sky immediately grew dark. Then came a growing roar, and an enormous cloud towered aft of the ship. With horror, I realized that it was not a cloud, but a wave like no other I had ever seen. It appeared perfectly vertical and almost twice the height of the other waves, with a frightful breaking crest.

(i) What was the first indication of impending disaster for the narrator?

(ii) Complete the sentence with ONE word.

The narrator compared the wave with _____ in terms of its height and shape.

(iii) What do you mean by 'the wind dropped'?

- a. wind fell down
- b. wind slipped out of the hands of author
- c. speed of wind greatly reduced
- d. Wind started coming from below the ship.

(iv) Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the narrator was in a state of shock and fear.

(v) What sort of wave hit the ship? How did the narrator react?

(vi) The line, "It appeared perfectly vertical with a frightful breaking crest" can be best classified as:

- a. A catastrophe
- b. An account
- c. An anecdote
- d. A narrator

10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

5x2=10

- i. What has been the role of Howard Carter in the discovery of Tut?
- ii. Our only hope was to reach these pinpricks in the vast ocean. Elaborate.
- iii. The sea 'appears to have changed less' in comparison to the three girls who enjoyed the sea holiday. Comment
- iv. What is the parallel drawn between rain and music in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'?
- v. What is the poet trying to convey to the readers through the following line?

**It went to some forgotten place,
That's hidden in an infant's face,
That's all I know.**

vi. What stories of the grandmother did the author treat as 'fables' of the prophets? Why?

11 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

2x2=4

- i. 'Have you come back?' said the woman. 'I thought that no one had come back.' Does this statement give some clue about the story? If yes, what is it? (The Address)
- ii. How was the 'deed' of taking away somebody else's horse and hiding it without the owner's knowledge not a theft according to the boys?
- iii. This play, 'Mother's Day', written in the 1950s, is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family. What are the issues it raises?

12 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

The different portrayals of childhood in the texts 'Photograph', 'Portrait of A Lady', 'The Address', 'Mother's Day' and 'Childhood', offer insights into the experiences of a child in various circumstances.

You have been asked to address your peers and share-

→ the ways these portrayals highlight that "Childhood is an essential state in the process of growing up, but it can't go on forever."

→ the role of a mother in forming the personality of a child.

Compose this draft, with reference to **any three** of these prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone.

As I analysed the allotted texts.....

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that

OR

Imagine you are Walt Whitman, the poet of 'The Voice of Rain'.

What views might you share to Ted Hughes, the poet of 'The Laburnum Top, in the context of your appreciation, as displayed in parentheses-?

(For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfilment, wandering,

Reck'd or unreck'd, duly with love returns.)

Reference: The poem provides us with insight into the role of nature in building our lives. It describes its life cycle. Pen down your expression, in a letter to Ted.

You may begin this way:

Dear Ted

I recently read your poem, "The Laburnum Top," and...

You may end this way:

I hope we poets keep enriching and soothing mankind with our.....

Warmly,

Walt Whitman

13 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

The story, 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse', revolves around characters who belong to tribe in Armenia. Mourad and Aram are members of the Garoghlanian family. Now locate Armenia and Assyria on the atlas and prepare a write-up on the Garoghlanian tribes.

As, John Byro write an article about people, their names, traits, geographical and economic features as suggested in the story.

OR

We talk of women's liberation movement but it is a grim and sad reality that our women, except some, are slaves of the wheel as they were in the past. What place do women have in Indian society?

As Mrs. Fitzgerald, create a diary entry , expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame.

You may begin like this:

I find myself reflecting on an event that happened few days ago...