

# **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



# **General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains FOUR sections-READING, GRAMMAR, WRITING and LITERATURE.

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

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

#### Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions.

**1.** Cardamom, the queen of all spices, has a history as old as the human race. It is the dried fruit of a herbaceous perennial plant. Warm humid climate, loamy soil rich in organic matter, distributed rainfall, and special cultivation and processing methods all combine to make Indian cardamom truly unique in aroma, flavour, and size and it has a parrot green colour.

**2.** Two types of cardamom are produced in India. The first type is the large one, which has not much significance as it is not traded in the future market. It is cultivated in the northeastern area of the country. The second type is produced in the southern states and these are traded in the future market. These are mainly cultivated in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. As per the future market rules, only 7 mm quality was previously traded in exchanges. But later, it relaxed its norms and now 6 mm quality is also traded in the exchanges.

**3.** Cardamom is an expensive spice, second to saffron. Indian cardamom is known in two main varieties: Malabar cardamom and Mysore cardamom. The Mysore variety contains leaves of cineol, and limonene and hence is more aromatic. India is the world's largest producer and exporter emerged as the leading producer and exporter of cardamom.

**4.** The main harvest season of cardamom in India is between August and February. Cardamom reaches at yielding stage two years after the plantation. The primary physical markets of cardamom are Kumily Vandenmodu, Jhekkady, Puliyarmala in Kerala, and Bodynaikkaur and Cumbum in Tamilnadu.

**5.** Kerala is the main producer of cardamom and contributes up to 60% of total production. Karnataka produces around 25% of the total production of cardamom. Ooty is the main producer of cardamom in Tamil Nadu and contributes around 10-15% of the total production. Besides India, Guatemala also produces around 1,000-2,000 tons of cardamom per year. Due to the low quality of cardamom from Guatemala, it remains available at cheaper rates.

## i. Answer the questions:-

- 1. The Mysore variety contains leaves of :
  - (a) Limonene
  - (c) Both (a) and (b)
- 2. Indian Cardamom is:
  - (a) Poor in quality
  - (c) Better in quality
- 3. Guatemala produces cardamom :
  - (a) More but poor in quality
  - (c) More and good in quality

(b) Cineol (d) None of these

(b) Average in quality

- (d) None of these
- (b) Less but good in quality
- (d) Less and poor in quality



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

(8)

4.	The main harvest season of cardamom in Ir	ndia is:	
	(a) August-February	(b) August-March	
	(c) November	(d) February-April	
5.	Cardamom reaches its yielding stage in :		
	(a) Immediately after plantation	(b) Depends upon the plantation	
	(c) One year after plantation	(d) Two years after plantation	
6.	India produces cardamom of :		
	(a) One type	(b) Two types	
	(c) Three types	(d) None of the above	
7.	Which of the following is the variety of Indian cardamom?		
	(a) Malabar cardamom	(b) Mysore cardamom	
	(c) Both (a) and (b)	(d) None of the above	
8.	Which of the following production of cardamom is produced by Karnataka?		
	(a) 25%	(b) 10%	
	(c) 15%	(d) 60%	
9.	Based on the passage what in your opinion	, is the reason that other states in India are unable to	

# Read the poem carefully and then answer the questions.

#### The Guava Tree

I grew a guava tree In my courtyard, And nurtured it with selfish zeal; I waited patiently for years To harvest the fruit of labour But the ungrateful one, Spread its branches, Beyond my boundary walls.

grow cardamom?

With open arms

It welcomed bird and beast,

And passerby,

To partake Freely of its bounty

Even as resentment burned,

And frustration rode like a gall;

I learnt with awestruck wonder,

From this silent gesture,

The art of selfless giving.

## ii. Answer the following question:

- 1. Who is this 'I' in the poem referred to?
- a. The Poet
- c. The passerby
- 2. The word 'nurtured' means
  - a. cared for
  - c. neglected
- 3. The meaning of the word 'resentment' is
  - a. gratefulness for a favour
  - c. happiness

- b. The Guava Tree
- d. The birds
- b. worked hard
- d. was irresponsible
- b. wonder at something
- d. a feeling of bitterness for bad treatment

(4)

(2)

4. The antonym of the word 'silent' is				
a. scream	b. swim			
c. loud	d. low			
5. What did the poet learn from the guava tre	e?	(2)		
6. Why does the poet call the guava tree 'the ungrateful one'?				
7. Who are always welcomed by the tree with open arms and why?				
SECTION B : GRAMMAR (10 marks)				
iii. Identify the type of sentences (Declarative/ Im	perative / Interrogative/ Exclamatory)	(3)		
1. Never mess with him.				
2. What is your educational qualification?				
3. Kashmir is a very beautiful place.				
iv. Select the correct form of Tense and complete	the sentences:-	(3)		
1. I currently for my exam. (st	:udy)			
2. Mukesh lunch when h	is parents arrived. (eat)			
3. The policemen the guy who	stole the purse. (chase)			
v. Fill in the blanks with the proper degree of adje	actives.	(2)		
1. Today's homework is than yesterday		(~)		
2. Kiara is than me. (tall)				
vi. Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns:-		(2)		
1. Virat and Rohit are brothers are	helpful and caring	(-)		
2. I looked for my sister, but couldn't find SECTION C : WRITING				
vii. Letter Writing (within 70-80 words)		(5)		
Write a letter to your childhood pen-friend, reconnecting after years of lost contact and sharing updates about your life.				
viii. Advertisement		(5)		
Prepare an advertisement for a Book Fair in your	school.			
SECTION D : LITERATURE (40 marks)				
ix. Answer the following questions in short:-		(6x1=6)		
<ol> <li>In the poem 'The First Tree' Who sings a song "a</li> <li>How did Mamta's parents afford to send her to</li> <li>Give at least two examples of fauna attracted to</li> <li>Why Dharmapada was liked by his teacher?</li> <li>Why were the bells tied to the feet of pigeons?</li> </ol>	the Public School in the city?			
6. What proverbs Mamta used to describe her bes	t practice?			
x. Answer the following questions :-		(2x2=4)		
<ol> <li>What did Rakesh do with the caterpillar who ate up the cherry tree's leaves?</li> <li>What are the two contrasting uses of flowers mentioned in the poem 'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad'?</li> </ol>				

## xi. Answer the following questions with the help of the reference to the context:-

xii. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 60-70 words.	(6x2=12)
5. Explain the proverb 'Practice makes a man perfect' with a reference to the chapter.	(3)
4. Why did Rakesh put pebbles around the cherry plant when it was young? What does this action tell about him?	
3. What role does nature play in the poem 'The First Tree'?	(3)
2. Why did the artisans not want to give a chance to Dharma at first?	(3)
b. "Richly your wares are displayed" means?	(3)
a. What does the merchant want to convey in the poem?	(3)
Tunics of purple brocade,	
Turbans of crimson and silver,	
Richly your wares are displayed,	
1. What do you sell, O ye merchants?	

1. Dharma goes through a range of emotions in the second half of the story. Write about Dharmapada's emotional journey and the last decision he has taken in the story.

2. Inspired by the story of "Mamta –Worthy Teammate" write a diary entry about determination and focus, two of the main qualities you need to have to support your house during the Annual Sports Meet.

3. Imagine Rakesh was in the garden and saw a beautiful butterfly there. Surprisingly the butterfly started talking to Rakesh. Write the conversation between the two talking about the fauna the cherry tree attracted.

THE END