



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



PRE-BOARD I EXAMINATION 2023-24

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (184)

Class : X
Date : 15.12.23
Admission No.:

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

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)

I. Read the following text.

10 m

1. History in general remains an endeavour to search for the truth about the past in a contemporary light. The search is done by examining the treasure trove of a documented past. This also holds true for the history of food. Cookbooks have always played an instrumental role in researching the history of any community. The roots of recording the history of food are nearly as old as the history of writing itself. In the East, Meng Shen of T'ang dynasty recorded the origin and usage of every food consumed in the court. In India, mythology mentions that the oldest and first ever book on cookery is Pakadarpanam (The Mirror of Culinary Skills), written by King Nala.

2. Cookbooks are a guiding light that can take one on a journey of understanding traditions and culture. Scholars in the past also believed that cookbooks are a source of information not only to understand social or gender-specific roles but also material factors such as trade and network.

3. So what could be considered a cookbook in our modern society? It has been noted recently that there is a surge in the number of infotainment and documentary programs about food. Recipes are no longer just about cookbooks. In fact, a new breed of Indian culinary experts are cooking their way to celebrity status. And they are achieving this via social media. As they demystify Indian cuisine and offer step-by-step guidance to creating mouthwatering Indian dishes, these talented men and

4. Women are inspiring a lot of Indians to pick up their ladles and try out various recipes in their own kitchens.

The social media chefs are here to stay. No longer does an amateur home chef have to struggle with trying to understand what exactly the recipe instruction means when it says things like, "the batter should be of pouring consistency". Now one can see the chef demonstrate on video what exactly 'pouring consistency' ought to be like.

5. A lot of people used these recipes that were easily available on social media to get through the COVID-19 pandemic. Cooking, which was considered a necessity at the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown days, turned into a recreational activity over time. It also functioned as a tool to improve people's psychological well-being. This gave them a goal-oriented behaviour to engage in, while also being a way to connect with others by sharing recipes or posting pictures of their creations on social media. Thus, documenting recipes online is the modern version of authoring a cookbook.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I. The search is done by examining the treasure trove of a documented past. This also holds true for the history of food. (Paragraph 1)

- Why would the author refer to cookbooks as a 'treasure trove'? 1
- A. because they contain recipes for rich foods
 - B. because writing them requires a lot of time and money
 - C. because they hold a wealth of information about the past
 - D. because writing recipes is considered a rewarding experience

ii. Refer to the following from Paragraph 1:

Meng Shen: records of food consumed in court

King Nala: Pakadarpanam, the oldest book on cookery (Paragraph 1)

Which of the options display the MOST LIKELY the reason the first cookbooks were from royal households? 1

- A. The royalty was involved in the planning of all their meals.
- B. The royalty wanted ordinary folk to know how to eat like kings.
- C. The royalty had to be ready to serve special food to foreign visitors.
- D. The royalty had the resources to create complex dishes and document them.

iii. Cookbooks are a guiding light... (Paragraph 2)

Which of these options uses the same literary device as the line above? 1

- A. This cake is the heaven of taste!
- B. These grapes are as sweet as candy.
- C. These biscuits are delicious. They're the best!
- D. This recipe was so interesting. It jumped right off the page.

iv. The author says "cookbooks are a source of information to understand gender-specific roles." (Paragraph 2)

State one of the ways how cookbooks could reveal information on gender-specific roles. 1

v. Provide one example of how cookbooks can be a source of information about trade and network. 2

vi. Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3. 1

Phrase	Meaning
.....	gradually progress from one stage to the next

vii. The social media chefs are here to stay. (Paragraph 4) Which of these best describes the tone in the above line? 1

- A. curious
- B. hopeful
- C. confident
- D. argumentative

viii. Based on the passage, state any two reasons why more Indians are exploring the art of cooking. 2

1. _____ 2. _____

II. Read the following text. 10

1. Access to primary education is a basic right of every child. An effective primary education can build a solid foundation and open avenues for future success. With its profound implications on both the individual and society, primary education plays a crucial role in reducing extreme poverty and promoting social changes. The Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledges the importance of primary education in Goal 4 which stipulates that by 2030, the world should ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, including a target on universal

access to primary education. Though there are varying standards, primary education is typically designed for children 6 to 11 years of age.

2. Significant progress has been made toward achieving universal primary education. Globally, the adjusted net attendance rate reached 87 percent in 2019 and about four out of five children attending primary education completed it. Additionally, over the past two decades, the number of out-of-school children was reduced by over 40 percent. However, there is still a long way to go: 58 million children of primary school age remain out of school, with the majority of them coming from marginalised groups. In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have foundational reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

3. Globally, a lower proportion of children from the poorest families attend primary education compared with their wealthier peers. While almost all children from the top wealth quintile attend primary education, only 75 percent of children from the bottom wealth quintile do.

4. Across different regions, household wealth impacts primary school completion rates differently. West and Central Africa has the largest gap of 58 percentage points in primary school completion rates between the richest and poorest quintiles. In contrast, in East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, children from the top and bottom wealth quintiles complete primary school at more similar rates, with a gap of just 13 percentage points.

5. In the past 20 years, the number of out-of-school children of primary education age fell by more than 40 per cent, from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019. However, 54 per cent of these out-of-school children were girls. Despite this tremendous progress, the world must accelerate the pace at which the number of out-of-school children is reduced, as the total has remained stagnant since 2007.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1

_____ have the highest rates of primary education completion in the rich quintile.

ii. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage: 1

There was a decline of _____ (from 99 million in 2000 to 58 million in 2019/ from 99 million in 2000 to 68 million in 2019) in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades.

iii. How is primary education critical to both an individual and a society? 2

iv. State one target related to primary education. 1

v. How much decline in the number of out-of-school children of primary education age is seen in the past two decades? 1

vi. Which word can substitute the word 'Foundational' in the following, sentence from paragraph 2. 1

In addition, recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) results show that many children do not have **foundational** reading and numeracy skills, highlighting the massive challenge to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

(a) Essential (b) Fundamental (c) Required (d) Primary

vii. How does the Sustainable Development Goals give importance to primary education? 2

viii. In 2019, about four out of five children attending primary education completed it suggests that 1

- (a) almost 100% children completed primary education
- (b) about 80% children completed the primary education
- (c) more than 80% children completed primary education
- (d) less than 80% children completed primary education

SECTION B : GRAMMAR 10

III. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

1x10

i. Read the conversation between a mother and her son. Complete the sentence by reporting the mother's reply correctly.

Son: Mom, how do I become an artist?

Mother: You will need to learn more about the art you like and practice it every day.

A son asked his mother how he could become an artist. She told him _____.

ii. 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

iii. 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

iv. 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

v. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a diary entry:

Dear Diary,

Today I saw the most beautiful sunrise over the ocean.

I wish I could _____ (painting) it to truly capture and preserve the beauty I witnessed.

vi. Select the option that identifies the error in a museum plaque and supplies the correction for the same.

These building, inaugurated on 29 March 1954, was a former residence of a Maharaja.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	These	This
B	Building	Buildings
C	On	At
D	of	by

vii. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the sentence below.

You must have got good news. I could _____ you celebrating!

- A. hear B. hears C. heard D. hearing

viii. Read the conversation between a lawyer and his client. Complete the sentence by reporting the lawyer's reply correctly.

Client: I am worried, this is a very complicated case.

Lawyer: Don't worry, I have never lost a case in my life.

The client was worried as it was a very complicated case, but his lawyer told him _____.

ix. 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

x. Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Ayan and his mechanic, Vir.

Ayan: By when do you think you can fix my car?

Vir: Probably by tomorrow. I don't think your car has any major issues.

Ayan asked his mechanic Vir when he thought he could fix his car. Vir replied that he could probably fix the car by _____ as it had no major issues.

A. that day B. one day C. tomorrow D. the next day

xi. Identify the error in the advertisement given below and supply the correction for the same.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

Looking to Buy a Guitar?

The brand new guitar is for sale. It comes with a wooden, velvet-lined guitar case.

If interested, contact me at 99889xxxxx for more details.

xii. Rishi asked Ali the question given below. Report Rishi's question.

Could you give me some advice on how I could be a better school captain?

SECTION C : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)

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

5

A. You are Rakesh Mehta, Secretary of Rainbow Apartments, Marathalli, Bangalore. A major pipeline supplying water to your apartment complex burst recently. Repairs are expected to be time consuming and the available water is insufficient to meet the requirements of residents and staff within the premises. Write a letter to the Area Development Officer, Marathalli Area, Bangalore, in not more than 120 words, requesting him to complete the repair work at the earliest, drawing attention to the difficulties faced by the people and the challenges of procuring water from outside.

OR

B. You are Polly Chawla, a resident of Worli Park, Mumbai. You recently saw a documentary about the youth of the nation titled, '**A Country in Good Hands**'. Write a letter of appreciation to the Editor of The Youth Times, in not more than 120 words, drawing her attention to the good that the youngsters around you are doing. Suggest ways in which they can further contribute to the betterment of society.

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

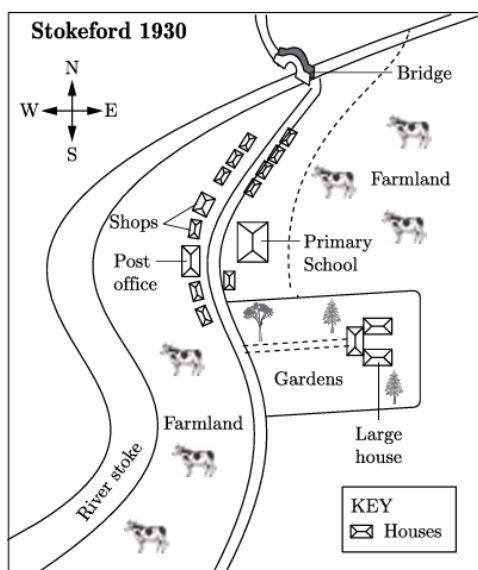
5

A. Given below is a newspaper report on the state of cancer prevailing in India. You have been asked to write an analytical paragraph on 'Cancer - a silent killer' Taking information from the clipping given below together with your own ideas, write this paragraph in 100-120 words.

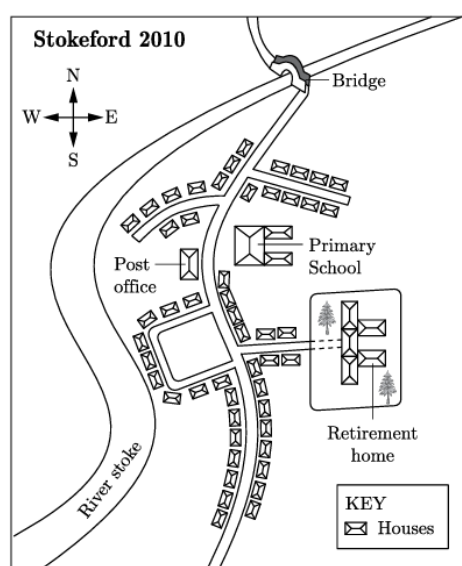
"In India, cities are more cancer-prone than rural areas. In the early 1990's, we expected one out of 10-15 urban Indians to get cancer in their life-time, that is every second or third family would have to face this disease. This is partly due to high levels of benzene in the air and also that the metros are exposed to high levels of pesticides in their foods. To check the steady growth of cancer in the country, the Government shall have to give priority to preventive action. At the same time measures to undertake improvement in facilities for the treatment of cancer shall have to be adopted."

OR

B. The maps below show the village of Stokeford in 1930 and 2010. Write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words by selecting and reporting the main features, and making comparisons where relevant.



(a)



(b)

SECTION D – LITERATURE (40 M)

VI. Reference to the Context

10

1 Attempt **ANY ONE** of the two extracts given.

5

1. A. Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence - but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested. Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing table, he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas. When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said, "God, Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho." (A Letter to God)

i. Why was Lencho not surprised when he received the money?

- A. because he knew the post office employees were kind
- B. because he knew his hard work would pay off

- C. because he had been lucky in the past
 - D. because he had faith in a higher power
- ii. How did the postmaster MOST LIKELY feel when he read Lencho's second letter?

iii. **Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only.**

The postmaster rushed to open Lencho's second letter. This tells us that the postmaster was _____ to know the contents of the letter.

iv. Why did Lencho wrinkle his brow when writing the letter?

- A. He was not able to put his thoughts into words.
 - B. He was not sure that God would respond again.
 - C. He was not comfortable writing in front of the others.
 - D. He was not able to calculate how many pesos were missing.
- v. Which of these uses the word 'stamp' with the same meaning as used in line 5 of the extract?

- A. Simon could stamp and crush dry twigs with his boots if he had to.
- B. Simon has an impressive stamp collection he liked to boast of.
- C. Simon happily gave his stamp of approval on the new recipe.
- D. Simon bears the stamp of a retired naval officer with pride.

OR

1.B Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished, but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places. Maybe the father is not alive, but the son still carries on the family profession. These bakers are, even today, known as pader in Goa. What are elders often heard reminiscing nostalgically? (Glimpses of India)

i. The narrator says that the furnaces were 'time-tested' because

- (a) they had been thoroughly tested each time before being used.
- (b) they had proved the test of time and were working well.
- (c) they had been tested by modern-day experts.
- (d) they had the power to withstand inexperienced usage.

ii. What does the "fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished" imply? 1

iii. In the line "Those eaters of loaves might have vanished, but the makers are still there", What is the tone of the narrator and why? Answer in about 40 words. 2

iv. Read the following options from (a)-(c) and identify which word would correctly substitute 'signalling' in the given sentence from the extract. 1

A horn sounded, signalling the arrival of Peter's opponent.

- (a) unimportant
- (b) heralding
- (c) mediocre

2. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

5

A Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.
If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again. (How to Tell Wild Animals)

i. Complete the sentence appropriately. The word 'discern' in line 6 of the extract means the same as _____.

(Clue: explain contextual meaning here)

ii. Identify the option that explains the poetic device used.

**With black stripes on a yellow ground...
...Whose hide with spots is peppered**

- A. a word formed from a sound
- B. a word or phrase repeated at intervals
- C. a word or expression used in place of an unpleasant one
- D. a word or phrase that creates a mental image through vivid description

iii. State whether the following statement is **TRUE or FALSE**:

The extract tells us the similarities between tigers and leopards.

iv. Select the appropriate option to complete the sentence.

The tone of the poet when telling how to identify a wild animal is both scary and _____.

- A. funny
- B. exciting
- C. shocking
- D. sorrowful

v. Identify the option that has the same rhyme scheme as these 4 lines.

**Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.**

A. The sky is very sunny.
The children are funny.
Under the tree we sit,
But iust for a bit.

B. I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent.
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.
—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture

C. The people along the sand
All turn and look one way.
They turn their back on the land.
They look at the sea all day.

D. Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask—Thou smilest and art still,
Out-topping knowledge. For the loftiest hill,
Who to the stars uncrowns his majesty,

OR

2.B (I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you, Amanda!

i. Which of these reflects the speaker's tone in the second stanza of the extract?

1. critical 2. worried 3. Concerned 4. sympathetic 5. commanding
A. 1, 5 B. 2, 3 C. 2, 4 D. 4, 5

ii. Why has line 6 of the extract been referred to as ironical?

iii. Identify the reason Amanda says she will never let down her hair.

- A. She has very short hair.
B. She likes her hair a lot.
C. She wishes to be left alone.
D. She awaits her Prince Charming.

iv. Complete the analogy with a word from the extract.

life: death:: grinning: _____

v. Select the sentence in which the word 'bright' is used in a similar manner as line 3 of the extract.

- A. Sekhar is a very bright child.
B. Rama looked bright and chirpy today.
C. Bobby's shirt was so bright and cheerful.
D. Hemant has such bright prospects for the future.

VII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each.

3X4=12

i. Explain the given statement with reference to Nelson Mandela's dreams.

"A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." (Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom)

ii. Give two reasons to support the opinion that Anne's diary is interesting to readers.

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

iii. What does 'Fog' tell us about the speaker's relationship with nature?

Support your answer with an example from the text.

iv. How do we know that bakers were an integral part of Goan society? (A Baker from Goa)

v. Explain why the author describes Coorg as 'a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of god'?

VIII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.

2X3=6

i. How did Matilda's belief that she was 'an error of destiny' result in a lifetime of sorrow for her? (The Necklace)

ii. What lesson did Ebright learn when in the seventh grade he entered a country science fair?

iii. Based on 'The Book That Saved the Earth', state how jumping to conclusions had an unintended consequence for the Martians.

IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words.

1X6=6

i. Compare and contrast what Anne from the poem 'Anne Gregory' would look for in a life partner as compared to Natalya from 'The Proposal'. Justify your answer with one example from each of the texts.

OR

ii. Explain how the setting of a story or a poem can enhance its plot with reference to 'Dust of Snow' and 'Tea from Assam'.

X Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100-120 words.

1X6=6

i. Readers believe that Griffin was a man without a conscience. You have a class discussion on why our conscience plays a vital role in shaping our character.

Present a summary of your views on this.

OR

ii. Bholi has multiple handicaps. She is a girl. She has pock-marks, she stammers. How can we change the social attitudes towards the differently abled?