



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
A CBSE DAY-CUM-BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

TERM 1 2026-27

ENGLISH
SET II (MS)

Class: IX
Date: 04.09.26
Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs.
Max Marks: 80
Roll no:

SECTION A READING SKILLS

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 12

I. Which of the following habits is most likely to help maintain a healthy biological clock according to the passage?

Answer: B. Following a consistent daily routine, eating meals on time, and getting adequate sleep.

II. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

Answer: A. I and II only

III. Complete the Analogy.

Biological Clock : Regulates body functions :: Chrono-biology : *Study of the biological clock (or study of biological rhythms).*

IV. State whether the following statement is True or False.

People living in a time-free environment eventually develop random sleeping and eating habits.

Answer: False

V. Counsellors advise students not to disturb their sleep routine during examinations because

Answer: it disturbs the biological clock and the body's metabolism, reducing optimum performance during examinations.

VI. Find the word from the passage that means the same as 'best or most favourable'.

Answer: optimum

VII. Assertion (A): Scientists created a time-free environment during their experiment.

Reason (R): They wanted to determine whether humans possess an internal biological clock independent of external time signals.

Answer: A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

VIII. A student stays awake till 2:00 a.m. every night using social media during examination week. Although the student studies hard, he feels sleepy during exams and finds it difficult to concentrate. Using information from the passage, explain two reasons why this is happening.

Answer:

1. Staying awake late and following an irregular sleep schedule disturbs the student's biological clock.
2. Excessive use of electronic devices before bedtime disrupts the body's natural rhythm, leading to fatigue and poor concentration.

IX. Why did scientists remove clocks, television, radio, and social contact during the experiment?

Answer: They removed all external time cues to find out whether humans have an internal, self-sustaining biological clock that works independently of environmental signals.

X. According to the passage, mention any two habits that help maintain a healthy biological clock.

Answer:

- Following a consistent daily routine.
- Getting adequate sleep.

(Other acceptable answers: eating meals on time; limiting screen exposure before bedtime.)

II. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 10

I. According to the passage, approximately how much is the projected increase in annual global cancer cases by 2050 compared to current levels?

Answer: c) More than 75%

II. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE according to the passage?

Answer: c) Access to advanced cancer treatments is equal across all countries.

(The passage clearly states that access remains unequal across the world.)

III. Which of the following combinations correctly identifies preventable risk factors mentioned in the passage?

1. Tobacco use
2. Obesity
3. Genetic inheritance
4. Physical inactivity

Answer: a) 1, 2 and 4 only

IV. Complete the sentence by choosing the most appropriate option.

Experts believe that defeating cancer requires not only scientific breakthroughs but also public awareness, affordable healthcare, timely diagnosis, and equal access to treatment.

V. Why does the passage suggest that cancer is not merely a medical issue but also a global development challenge?

Answer: The passage suggests this because rising cancer cases, especially in low- and middle-income countries, place a heavy burden on healthcare systems. Addressing cancer requires public awareness, affordable healthcare, early diagnosis, equal access to treatment, and international cooperation.

VI. The overall tone of the passage is:

Answer: Informative and cautiously optimistic

VII. Which statement best reflects the central idea of the passage?

Answer: c) Combating cancer requires prevention, early detection, scientific innovation, and equitable healthcare.

VIII. Why are low- and middle-income countries expected to face a greater cancer burden in the coming decades? (Answer in about 40–50 words.)

Answer: Low- and middle-income countries are expected to face a greater cancer burden because the number of cancer cases is rising while their healthcare facilities often struggle to meet increasing demands. Limited access to advanced treatments, timely diagnosis, and affordable healthcare further adds to the challenge.

SECTION B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. (4 Marks)

A. ABC COLONY, PUNE
NOTICE

3 August 2026

House Available for Rent

Residents are informed that my newly renovated independent 3-BHK house is available for rent as I am relocating due to a job transfer. Interested families may contact the undersigned at 98765 43210 for details and inspection.

Rohan
(Owner)

B. HELPING HANDS YOUTH CLUB
NOTICE

1 August 2026

E-Waste Collection Drive

Residents are requested to deposit old electronic gadgets at the Community Hall on 10 August 2026, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Let us ensure responsible e-waste disposal and protect the environment.

Riya
Secretary

4. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. (4 Marks)

A. 24, Green Park
Pune – 411045

20 October 2026

Dear Teachers,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits.

It gives me immense joy to share that my first book of short stories, *Beyond the Horizon*, has been published. To celebrate this special milestone, I am hosting a book launch and interaction session on 12th November 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Pune International Centre, Pune.

Your guidance, encouragement, and faith in my abilities have played a significant role in shaping my journey as a writer. It would be a privilege to have you present on this memorable occasion. Your blessings and good wishes would make the event truly meaningful.

Kindly grace the occasion with your presence. I look forward to meeting you and reminiscing about the wonderful days at school.

With warm regards,

Yours affectionately,
Apurwa Singh

B. In a BOX

The Principal, Staff and Students of
Sunrise Public School, Jaipur

cordially invite

Dr Nandini Rao
Environmental Scientist

to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and deliver the Keynote Address during the

Environment Awareness Week

on Thursday, 12th November 2026
at 10:00 a.m.
in the School Auditorium

Your esteemed presence and inspiring insights on environmental conservation will greatly motivate our students to become responsible stewards of the environment.

R.S.V.P.
Cultural Secretary
Sunrise Public School, Jaipur

5. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120–150 words. (5 Marks)

A. Green Meadows Society
Indore

1 August 2026

The Editor
The Times of India
Indore

Subject: Need for immediate repair of non-functional street lights in our locality

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the issue of non-functional street lights in Green Meadows Society, Indore. The lights have remained out of order for several weeks, causing great inconvenience and creating serious safety concerns for residents.

The poorly lit streets increase the risk of accidents, theft, and other untoward incidents. Senior citizens, pedestrians, and school-going children are particularly affected as they face difficulty while commuting during early mornings and evenings.

I request the municipal authorities to conduct regular inspections, repair faulty street lights promptly, and establish a complaint monitoring system for quick action. The Resident Welfare Association (RWA) should also coordinate with authorities, maintain records of complaints, and encourage residents to report issues immediately.

I hope the concerned authorities will take swift action to ensure a safer environment for all residents.

Yours sincerely,

Aarav/Aarushi
Green Meadows Society
Indore

OR

B.24, Shanti Nagar
New Delhi

1 August 2026

The Editor
The Indian Express
New Delhi

Subject: Need for effective measures to preserve historical monuments

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to express my concern over the poor maintenance of several historical monuments across the country. Despite growing awareness, many heritage sites continue to suffer due to vandalism, littering, and careless behaviour of visitors.

These monuments represent our rich cultural legacy and reflect the history of our nation. Damage to such sites results in the loss of valuable heritage for future generations. Lack of regular maintenance and inadequate monitoring further worsen the condition of these important landmarks.

Citizens should act responsibly by avoiding littering, respecting heritage rules, and spreading awareness about conservation. The government authorities should ensure regular cleaning, proper security arrangements, strict penalties for vandalism, and involve local communities in preservation efforts.

I hope the concerned authorities and citizens will work together to protect and preserve our invaluable cultural heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Nikhil/Nikita

6. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 120–150 words. (5 Marks)

A. The Power of Volunteering: Young Minds Creating Positive Change

By Rohan/Riya, Class XII

In today's fast-changing world, volunteering has emerged as a powerful way for young people to contribute to society. It provides students with opportunities to step beyond the boundaries of classrooms and become active participants in creating a better world.

Volunteering helps young minds develop empathy, compassion, and leadership skills. By spending time with the elderly, supporting underprivileged communities, and assisting those in

need, students understand the importance of kindness and social responsibility. Activities such as cleanliness drives, environmental campaigns, and awareness programmes encourage students to identify problems and work towards meaningful solutions.

Apart from serving society, volunteering also helps students learn valuable life skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making. These experiences prepare them to face real-life challenges with confidence and sensitivity.

Every small act of kindness has the potential to create a lasting impact. A simple initiative, whether helping a neighbour, planting trees, or spreading awareness about important issues, can inspire others to contribute towards positive change.

Volunteering is not merely an activity; it is a step towards building responsible citizens who care for their communities. When young minds come together with dedication and compassion, they can transform society and create a brighter future for all.

OR

B. Emotional Intelligence: The Key to Success beyond Marks

By Mehak/Mohit

In today's competitive world, success is often measured through marks and achievements. However, true success depends not only on academic excellence but also on emotional intelligence. The ability to understand, manage, and express emotions effectively helps individuals face challenges with confidence.

Emotional intelligence enables students to develop empathy, build healthy relationships, and communicate effectively with others. It helps them handle stress, failures, and setbacks positively instead of feeling overwhelmed. Skills such as conflict resolution, teamwork, and decision-making play an important role in both academic and professional life.

In schools and workplaces, emotionally intelligent individuals are better equipped to adapt, collaborate, and achieve their goals. Therefore, students must focus on balancing their ambitions with emotional well-being. Developing emotional intelligence ensures not only success in careers but also a happier and more fulfilling life.

SECTION C
LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow: -

1x6=6

A. *The Laburnum Top* (Extract-Based Questions)

I. Which poetic device is used in the expression "sleek as a lizard"?

Answer: Simile

(The bird's smooth and quick movement is compared to that of a lizard using the word "as".)

II. Why does the poet compare the bird to a lizard as it enters the tree?

Answer: The poet compares the bird to a lizard to highlight its smooth, swift, and stealthy movement as it enters the thick branches of the laburnum tree.

III. What effect does the bird's arrival have on the laburnum tree?

Answer: The arrival of the goldfinch brings the silent tree to life. The tree becomes filled with chitterings, fluttering wings, and joyful sounds, creating a sense of activity and energy.

IV. The expression "a machine starts up" suggests that the tree becomes _

Answer: a hub of activity and sound

(or)

alive with movement and noise

V. Which aspect of the bird's behaviour is highlighted through the phrase "alert, and abrupt"?

Answer: The phrase highlights the bird's quick, cautious, and sudden movements as it enters the tree.

VI. How does this extract reinforce the idea that nature is interconnected?

Answer: The extract shows that the arrival of a single bird can transform the silent tree into a lively space filled with sounds and movement. It highlights the dependence and relationship between birds, trees, and the natural environment, showing that every element of nature contributes to the balance of the ecosystem.

OR

B.I. What does Howard Carter's decision to analyse the resin sample suggest about his approach?

Answer: b. He preferred scientific investigation over superstition.

II. What conclusion does the passage draw about the so-called curse of Tutankhamun?

Answer: c. There is no archaeological evidence to support it.

III. Why did Howard Carter analyse the resin sample taken from the mummy?

Answer: Howard Carter analysed the resin sample to investigate the truth behind the rumours of the curse and use scientific evidence to distinguish facts from myths.

IV. Which central idea of the chapter is best reflected in this extract?

Answer: The extract reflects the central idea that scientific research and archaeological evidence help uncover historical truths by separating facts from myths and legends.

V. The phrase "separate the truth from the legend" highlights the importance of:

Answer: d. relying on evidence and scientific enquiry

VI. What lesson does this extract convey about the importance of evidence while studying history?

Answer: The extract conveys that historical claims should be examined through reliable evidence and scientific methods rather than being accepted based on rumours, beliefs, or legends.

8. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (4x4=4)

A.I. What does Mrs. Pearson's tone in the extract primarily convey?

Answer: b. Confidence and determination

(Her words show that she has decided to stand up for herself and bring about a change in her family.)

II. What does Mrs. Pearson realise about her role in the family?

Answer: c. Her efforts have been taken for granted.

(She feels that despite doing everything for the family, she receives no appreciation and only orders and complaints.)

III. What change does Mrs. Pearson announce in the extract?

Answer: Mrs. Pearson announces that she will no longer silently accept being treated as a servant and will demand respect and fair treatment from her family members.

IV. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: Mrs. Pearson decides to demand the respect she deserves from her family.

Statement 2: The extract marks a turning point in Mrs. Pearson's relationship with her family.

Answer: c. Both Statements 1 and 2 can be inferred.

B.I. What does Aram's reaction in the extract primarily suggest?

Answer: a. He was surprised because his family could never afford a horse.

(Aram is astonished because the Garoghlanian family was extremely poor and could not imagine owning a horse.)

II. Why does Aram initially think that what he sees is a dream?

Answer: d. Owning such a horse was beyond his family's means.

(Since his family could not afford even simple luxuries, seeing Mourad with a horse seemed impossible to Aram.)

III. What does this incident reveal about Aram's understanding of his family's financial condition?

Answer:

The incident reveals that Aram was aware that his family was poor and could not afford to buy a horse, which is why he found Mourad's possession of the horse unbelievable.

IV. Which quality of Mourad is reflected in his decision to take the horse for riding despite knowing it did not belong to him?

Answer:

Mourad's decision reflects his love for adventure, strong desire for freedom, and impulsive nature. However, it also shows that he did not fully consider the moral implications of taking someone else's horse.

9. Read the following extracts and solve ANY ONE of the given two, (A) or (B) (1x6=6)

A.I. What does the behaviour of the children in the extract reveal?

Answer: b. They displayed courage and emotional maturity during the crisis.

(Despite being injured, the children remained calm and encouraged their parents.)

II. How did the children contribute to keeping the family's morale high during the storm?

Answer: The children kept the family's morale high by remaining brave, not complaining about their injuries, and offering smiles and reassuring words to encourage everyone.

III. The extract suggests that inner strength is often reflected through _____

Answer: courage, positivity, and the ability to remain calm during difficult situations

IV. Why does the narrator describe the injuries suffered by each family member? *(Answer in one sentence.)*

Answer: The narrator describes the injuries to highlight the severity of the crisis and the remarkable courage shown by the family in facing it together.

V. Which quality of the children is most evident from their actions despite being injured?

Answer: The children's courage and emotional resilience are most evident from their actions despite being injured.

VI. What does this extract suggest about the role of optimism during times of adversity?

(Answer in one sentence.)

Answer: The extract suggests that optimism helps people remain strong, hopeful, and united while facing challenging situations.

B. I. What can be inferred about the grandmother's outlook from the extract?

Answer: The grandmother had a traditional and conservative outlook. She valued religious education and believed that modern English education and activities like music were not suitable.

II. The grandmother disapproved of the English school mainly because _____

Answer: it did not teach about God and the scriptures and included subjects that she did not believe in.

III. What does the word "distressed" mean in the context of the extract?

Answer: *Distressed* means deeply worried, upset, or troubled.

IV. Why was the grandmother unhappy when the narrator started learning music?

Answer: She believed that music had immoral associations and was not meant for respectable people.

V. Which literary device is used in the expression "music had lewd associations"?

Correct Answer: c. Symbolism

VI. If you were the narrator, how would you have respected your grandmother's beliefs while continuing your education? *(Answer in one sentence.)*

Answer: I would respect my grandmother's beliefs by listening to her views while politely explaining the importance of my education and new learning experiences.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40–50 words each. (5 × 2 = 10)

I. The grandmother never complained about the changing circumstances of her life. What does this reveal about her character? (The Portrait of a Lady)

Answer: The grandmother's acceptance of changing circumstances reveals her strong, patient, and contented nature. She adjusted to the changes in her relationship with the narrator without expressing bitterness. Her calm behaviour, spiritual devotion, and selfless love show her inner strength and dignity.

II. The poet says, "Its silence silences." Explain how silence becomes a powerful means of expressing grief in the poem. (A Photograph)

Answer: The phrase "Its silence silences" shows that the photograph brings back memories of the poet's mother's cheerful past but also reminds her of her absence. The deep silence represents the poet's inability to express her sorrow in words, making grief more powerful and profound.

III. Why did modern archaeologists prefer a CT scan instead of disturbing Tutankhamun's mummy further? What does this suggest about present-day archaeological practices? (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)

Answer: Modern archaeologists used a CT scan to study Tutankhamun's mummy without causing further damage. This reflects the present-day approach of using advanced technology to preserve historical remains while gathering information. It shows greater respect for cultural heritage and scientific methods in archaeology.

IV. Why did the grandmother stop talking to the narrator after he joined the English school? How did this affect their relationship? (The Portrait of a Lady)

Answer: The grandmother stopped talking to the narrator because she disliked the English school's teachings and was unhappy that religious lessons were replaced by modern subjects. This created emotional distance between them, although her love and concern for him remained unchanged.

V. How does the poet use the contrasting images of silence and activity to emphasise the significance of the goldfinch in *The Laburnum Top*?

Answer: The poet contrasts the quiet, lifeless laburnum tree with the sudden activity created by the arrival of the goldfinch. The bird's presence brings energy and movement, making it appear like a source of life and vitality. Its departure restores the tree's silence.

VI. Despite severe damage to the Wavewalker, the narrator refused to lose hope. What qualities helped him and his family survive the crisis? (We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together)

Answer: The narrator and his family survived due to their courage, determination, teamwork, and positive attitude. They faced the dangerous situation with patience and resilience. Their mutual support, presence of mind, and refusal to give up helped them overcome the life-threatening crisis.

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40–50 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)

I. Why does the narrator decide not to take back her mother's belongings from Mrs. Dorling's house? What does this decision reveal about her emotional growth? (The Address)
Answer: The narrator decides not to take back her mother's belongings because they no longer hold the same emotional value in the changed circumstances after the war. Her decision shows that she has accepted the painful past and understands that memories matter more than material possessions.

II. Mourad believed that a horse had a natural right to enjoy freedom. How does this belief reflect his unique personality despite his questionable actions? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)

Answer: Mourad's belief reflects his imaginative, compassionate, and freedom-loving personality. Although taking the horse was morally wrong, his deep affection for animals and desire to experience joy reveal his innocent and unconventional nature. He sees life differently and values happiness over social rules.

III. How does Mrs. Pearson's behaviour at the tea table surprise each member of her family? What effect does it have on them? (Mother's Day)

Answer: Mrs. Pearson's bold and confident behaviour surprises her family because she refuses to serve them and openly criticises their selfish attitudes. Her changed personality shocks them and makes them realise their mistakes. It encourages them to respect her efforts and treat her more considerately.

12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (1x5=5)

A. What do you understand by the statement, "Archaeology has changed substantially..."? Discuss with reference to the chapter '*Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues*.' What do you learn from modern technology?

Answer: The statement shows that archaeology has moved from traditional methods of excavation and physical examination to advanced scientific techniques. In *Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues*, modern archaeologists used CT scans to study Tutankhamun's mummy without causing damage. Technology helps researchers uncover historical facts while preserving valuable remains. It teaches us that innovation and science can work together to protect our heritage and deepen our understanding of the past.

OR

B. Both chapters '*The Portrait of a Lady*' and '*A Photograph*' explore the theme of recollections of memories of their loved ones. With reference to these chapters, describe the commonality between the main idea and characters.

Answer: Both *The Portrait of a Lady* and *A Photograph* deal with the power of memories and the emotional bond between loved ones. In *The Portrait of a Lady*, the narrator remembers his grandmother's love, simplicity, and devotion. Similarly, in *A Photograph*, the poet recalls her mother's childhood through an old photograph. Both works highlight love, loss, and the lasting impact of cherished memories.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words (1x5=5)

A. The play ‘Mother’s Day’ is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the woman in a family. Bring out briefly the elements of humour and satire. (Mother’s Day)

Answer: The play *Mother’s Day* uses humour and satire to highlight the unfair treatment of women, especially mothers, within families. Mrs. Pearson is shown as a hardworking woman who is taken for granted by her husband and children. The humorous element arises when Mrs. Fitzgerald magically exchanges personalities with Mrs. Pearson and teaches the family a lesson through her bold and unusual behaviour. The family members are shocked when Mrs. Pearson refuses to obey their demands and openly criticises their selfishness. The satire lies in exposing how women’s efforts are often ignored despite their constant sacrifices. Through comedy and exaggeration, the playwright encourages families to respect and value mothers. The play delivers a serious message in an entertaining manner, showing the importance of equality and appreciation in family relationships.

OR

B. Can stealing be justified for any reason? Discuss Aram and Mourad’s stealing of a horse in the light of this statement. (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)

Answer: Stealing is generally considered wrong because it violates the rights of others. However, in *The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*, Aram and Mourad’s stealing of the horse appears to be driven by their innocent love for adventure rather than selfish motives. The boys belong to the Garoghlanian family, which is famous for its honesty, and they do not intend to sell or harm the horse. Mourad believes that the horse deserves freedom and wants to enjoy riding it. However, their action cannot be completely justified because the horse belonged to someone else. Their innocent nature and willingness to return the horse reveal their good intentions, but the incident teaches that even harmless desires should not be fulfilled by taking what belongs to others. True happiness must be achieved without compromising honesty.