



B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PERIODIC TEST 1 2025-26
ENGLISH MARKING SCHEME

Class: XII
Date: 02.07.25
Admission no:

Time: 1hr
Max Marks: 25
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

(7 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- I. C. Below 18 years
- II. C. It is gender-neutral
- III. A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- IV. ... to protect children from sexual abuse and ensure a safe environment for minors.
- V. Transparency/Right to Information (*Accept either term*)
- VI. Any of the following:
 - a. Lack of awareness among the public
 - b. Underreporting of cases due to stigma or fear
 - c. Delays in the judicial process
- VII. Any of the following:
 - a. Conducting child safety workshops and awareness drives
 - b. Training staff to recognize signs of abuse and respond sensitively
 - c. Creating a safe and open environment for students to report concerns

SECTION B- WRITING (4 marks)

2. Answers of the students will be evaluated as per the following points.

Format -1 Content -1 Organisation -1 Accuracy of spelling and grammar -1

SECTION C – LITERATURE (14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x5=5

(poem - Keeping Quiet)

- I. **Gaining victory with no survivors.**
- II. What does the imagery of 'walking about with their brothers in the shade' primarily represent?
 - A. The readiness for further conflicts.
 - B. A return to normal activities post-conflict.
 - C. A moment of unity and peaceful reflection.**
 - D. The physical environment of a typical war zone.

- III. The putting on of 'clean clothes' by the warmongers, symbolises **a potential for change and renewal / a moment of pause and reflection / an act of cleansing of their actions / embracing a peaceful existence/ the possibility of transformation**
- IV. Condemns
- V. **Assertion:** The poet advocates for 'doing nothing' as a way to prevent the devastation of war.
Reason: 'Doing nothing' refers to a time for stopping any action for a few moments.
 Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.
- A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

4. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words each:

3x2=6

- I. An instance of hope or resilience – Saheb's continued search in the garbage, driven by the occasional discovery of a rupee or a ten-rupee note, symbolises his hope and resilience against the overwhelming odds of his harsh life. This reflects the theme of enduring hope amidst poverty and destitution - the human spirit's capacity to dream and hope, even in the terribly dire circumstances -- suggesting that the desire for a better life can exist independent of one's current state of poverty.
- II. The image of her aging mother - 'pale as a late winter's moon,' -- conveys the fragility and the inevitability of aging -- highlights the physical changes brought by time and evokes a sense of gentle, serene decline rather than abrupt decay
- The image with the vivid, lively description of young trees sprinting and merry children spilling out of their homes --- contrasts sharply with her mother's stillness and silence --- enhances the sense of her mother's isolation in her old age / the relentless passage of time that spares no one -- life's transient nature.
- III. Douglas preferred the YMCA swimming pool because it was safe and shallow. Unlike the treacherous Yakima River, which his mother warned him against due to several drowning incidents, the YMCA pool had a gradual slope, making it a secure place for a beginner like him to learn swimming.

5. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 60-80 words:

1x3=3

- A. In *The Third Level*, Jack Finney uses a blend of first-person narration and a non-linear timeline to create a sense of ambiguity and wonder. The narrator, Charley, recounts his discovery of a mysterious third level at Grand Central Station, which symbolizes his longing to escape the anxieties of modern life. This unreliable narration blurs reality and fantasy, effectively highlighting themes of escapism and nostalgia. For instance, Charley's yearning for the peaceful 1890s reflects a deep desire to find comfort in the past.
- OR
- B. In *Deep Water*, Douglas's triumph over his fear of drowning is a powerful example of how small, personal victories can lead to profound growth. What seems like a simple act—learning to swim—actually teaches him courage, determination, and self-belief. His journey reflects that overcoming inner fears, no matter how small they appear, builds resilience and shapes character. These everyday wins often become the foundation for facing larger challenges in life with confidence.