



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

PERIODIC TEST 1 2025-26

ENGLISH

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, 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.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 marks a transformative development in India's legal landscape, specifically addressing the acute need for a specialized statutory mechanism to combat child sexual abuse. Framed within the enabling contours of Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution, the Act emerged to redress legislative insufficiencies wherein the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, failed to comprehensively recognize or prosecute sexual offences against minors, particularly male and transgender children, who were historically excluded from legal consideration under gender-specific definitions of rape.

The Act defines a child as any individual below 18 years of age, thereby adopting a gender-neutral and inclusive legal stance. It meticulously categorizes offences into penetrative sexual assault (Section 3), aggravated forms (Section 5), non-penetrative sexual assault (Section 7), sexual harassment (Section 11), and utilization of minors in pornography (Section 13). Each offence is accompanied by graded punishments, with the most heinous acts—particularly involving children under 12—attracting life imprisonment or the death penalty following the 2019 amendment, which was catalyzed by public outrage after the Kathua and Unnao cases.

A salient feature of the POCSO framework is its procedural sensitivity. The Act mandates that a child's statement be recorded in a child-friendly environment, by a female officer not below the rank of sub-inspector, preferably in civilian attire, and at a location chosen by the child. Further, in-camera trials conducted by special POCSO courts (Section 28) and the prohibition of identity disclosure (Section 23) reinforce the commitment to minimizing psychological trauma and safeguarding the dignity of survivors. Importantly, mandatory reporting provisions (Section 19) place a legal obligation on individuals—including school personnel and healthcare providers—to report any suspicion or knowledge of abuse, with penalties for non-compliance.

However, empirical challenges persist, undermining the Act's efficacy. According to NCRB data, over 47,000 cases were filed under the POCSO Act in 2021, yet judicial pendency exceeds 90%, reflecting systemic delays caused by overburdened courts, inadequate forensic resources, and insufficient specialization among judges and prosecutors. Additionally, underreporting remains

endemic, especially in rural and patriarchal settings where socio-economic constraints, stigma, and distrust in law enforcement deter victims and families from seeking legal recourse.

Several assessments, including those by CRY and the Centre for Child and the Law (NLSIU), highlight gaps in institutional capacity, particularly the lack of trauma-informed training among law enforcement and judiciary personnel. Schools, while legally mandated to act, often lack structured child protection policies or mechanisms for early identification of abuse.

While POCSO is a robust statute on paper, inter-sectoral coordination, legal literacy, and infrastructural enhancement remain critical to actualizing its objectives. The evolving nature of crimes—such as online grooming, sextortion, and trafficking via digital platforms—necessitates concurrent advancements in cyber forensic capabilities and international cooperation under conventions like the Budapest Convention.

In essence, the POCSO Act is not merely a legal instrument but a reflection of India's ethical commitment to child welfare. Its future success rests on effective enforcement, comprehensive sensitization, and sustained societal engagement across all levels of governance and civil society.

**Answer the following question with reference to the passage:**

**I. Assertion (A):** The POCSO Act ensures the protection of male and transgender children from sexual offences.

**Reason (R):** The Act adopts a gender-neutral definition of a child as any person below the age of 18.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

**II. Assertion (A):** Mandatory reporting under Section 19 of the POCSO Act increases child safety in institutions.

**Reason (R):** It penalizes children for not reporting cases of abuse.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

**III.** Which of the following best explains why in-camera trials are significant under the POCSO Act?

- A) To expedite court proceedings through private hearings.
- B) To preserve media rights and public access to the case.
- C) To safeguard the child victim's identity and psychological well-being.
- D) To allow special interest groups to monitor child abuse cases.

**IV.** Why was the 2019 amendment introducing the death penalty for certain offences under the POCSO Act considered necessary?

- A) It was mandated by international treaties ratified by India.
- B) It was a result of judicial activism by the Supreme Court.

- C) It responded to public outrage following specific high-profile child abuse cases.  
D) It aimed to match the punishment levels of the IPC for adult rape.

V. POCSO Act: Child sexual abuse :: \_\_\_\_\_ : Online child exploitation

- A) IT Act, 2000  
B) Indian Penal Code  
C) Cybersecurity Policy  
D) Digital India Mission

VI. Find the meaning of the word “empirical” as used in the sentence:

“However, empirical challenges persist, undermining the Act’s efficacy.”

- A) Speculative or theoretical  
B) Derived from experience or observation  
C) Based on legal definitions only  
D) Biased or prejudiced

VII. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of the POCSO Act in contemporary India, highlighting both its strengths and the key impediments in its implementation.

### SECTION B- WRITING SKILLS

(4 marks)

2. In an era of rapid globalisation and technological advancement, the preservation of cultural heritage remains a vital challenge, particularly for the youth. India continues to navigate the complexities of maintaining tradition alongside modernity. Write an article exploring the role of cultural heritage in shaping the identities of today's Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points wherever necessary. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Arti/Aman Nirula of Class XII-A.

-How have global interactions and technologies influenced or changed these traditional practices among today's youth?

-What are the benefits of preserving cultural heritage for young people? How does it contribute to their sense of identity and community?

-Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage.

### SECTION C – LITERATURE

(14 marks)

3. Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

1x5=5

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

(poem - *Keeping Quiet*)

- I. What is a common outcome of all the wars described?
- 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. Complete the following suitably.  
The putting on of 'clean clothes' by the warmongers, symbolises\_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.  
The excerpt tells us that the speaker \_\_\_\_\_ (condemns / glorifies) the destructive nature of modern warfare.
- V. Choose the correct assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.  
**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.
  - 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. Identify an instance of hope or resilience in 'Lost Spring' and analyse how it reflects one of the story's themes.
- II. Interpret the use of visual imagery by Kamala Das in her poem to depict the passage of time.
- III. Why did Douglas prefer to go to the YMCA swimming pool to learn swimming?

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

**1x3=3**

- A. Discuss the narrative techniques used by the author in The Third Level. How do these techniques effectively convey the themes of escapism and nostalgia? Provide specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

OR

- B. Seemingly small everyday wins are actually the greatest learnings of life. Comment on the statement with reference to the chapter 'Deep Water'.