



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

## PERIODIC TEST 2 (2025-26) ENGLISH

### Section A

#### Reading Skills

(7 Marks)

I. (b) Emotional intelligence

II. (b) Persuasive

III. Artificial Intelligence: Machine Efficiency: Emotional Intelligence: Human Sensitivity

IV. Antonym of 'indifference' – empathy

V. “Developing emotional intelligence requires self-awareness and constant practice—recognizing one’s emotions, regulating them, and understanding others’ feelings.”

VI. The author emphasizes that while technology enhances efficiency, emotional intelligence ensures humanity and ethics remain central. A balance between intellect and empathy is vital for sustainable progress.

### Section B

#### Writing Skills

(4 Marks)

COOKING

COMPETITION

CELEBRATES

WOMEN’S

DAY

Preeti Nagar, March 8 — To mark International Women’s Day, the Residents’ Welfare Association (RWA), Preeti Nagar, organized an engaging cooking competition at the Community Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 25 residents who showcased a variety of mouth-watering dishes ranging from traditional Indian cuisine to continental delights. Eminent chef Sanjay Kumar graced the occasion as the judge and appreciated the creativity and presentation skills of the participants. The first prize was bagged by Mrs. Neha Sharma for her innovative fusion platter, while Mrs. Pooja Mehta and Mrs. Ritu Verma secured the second and third prizes respectively. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the President, who appreciated the participants for making the event a grand success.

### Section C

#### Literature

#### Q3. Extract-based Questions

(4 Marks)

I. (a) By using imagery that evokes tranquility and stillness

II. (c) The gentle decline of the year, suggesting maturity and change

III. (a) The calm atmosphere intensifies into a vivid celebration of life

IV. Personification

**Q4. Short Answer Questions**

**(3×2=6 Marks)**

I. Mrs. Pearson asserts her individuality by refusing to be treated as a servant in her own home. She stands up to her family, demanding respect and equality, thereby breaking traditional gender roles.

II. Dr. Andrew Manson, the protagonist of 'Birth', exemplifies dedication and compassion. He revives a stillborn baby through relentless effort, symbolizing hope, faith, and the triumph of life over despair.

III. The poem 'The Laburnum Top' beautifully portrays the symbiotic bond between the goldfinch and the tree. The bird brings life and energy to the otherwise silent tree, symbolizing rejuvenation and harmony in nature.

**Q5. Long Answer Question**

**(4 Marks)**

(A) Both 'Mother's Day' and 'The Laburnum Top' explore themes of individuality and transformation. In 'Mother's Day', Mrs. Pearson undergoes a transformation from a submissive homemaker to a confident woman who asserts her identity. Her individuality shines through as she challenges the gender stereotypes within her family. Similarly, in 'The Laburnum Top', the transformation of the tree from lifeless stillness to vibrant activity upon the arrival of the goldfinch reflects the beauty of renewal. While Mrs. Pearson's transformation is emotional and social, the laburnum's is natural and symbolic, yet both highlight how external influence can awaken inner strength and vitality.

(B) Dr. Andrew in *Deep Water* exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated doctor through his professional commitment and emotional resilience. Despite facing personal tragedy—the loss of his son—he does not allow grief to compromise his duties. His unwavering focus on patient care, meticulous attention to medical procedures, and calm demeanor in stressful situations highlight his deep sense of responsibility. Moreover, his emotional resilience is evident in how he channels personal sorrow into empathy for others, understanding their fears and suffering without being overwhelmed by his own. This balance of professional dedication and emotional strength reflects the true spirit of a doctor: someone who prioritizes the well-being of patients while maintaining composure, compassion, and integrity, even in the face of adversity.