



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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



## PERIODIC TEST 2 (2025-26) ENGLISH

Class: XI  
Date: 04.11.25  
Admission no:

Time: 1 hrs.  
Max Marks: 25  
Roll no:

### Section A – Reading Skills (7 Marks)

#### 1. Read the following passage.

In an era increasingly governed by artificial intelligence and automation, emotional intelligence (EI) has emerged as a paramount attribute distinguishing human capability from mechanical precision. While machines can assimilate data, execute algorithms, and perform repetitive functions with unerring accuracy, they remain devoid of empathy, ethical discernment, and emotional adaptability. Conversely, individuals endowed with high emotional intelligence possess the capacity to navigate intricate interpersonal dynamics, cultivate trust, and galvanize collective effort toward shared objectives.

Empirical research underscores that EI often surpasses cognitive intelligence (IQ) in determining professional success and leadership efficacy. It refines one's ability to negotiate, collaborate, and resolve conflicts with sensitivity and foresight. Yet, the cultivation of EI is neither instantaneous nor incidental—it demands profound self-awareness, reflective practice, and a conscious effort to perceive and regulate emotions while discerning the motivations and sentiments of others.

In a milieu that extols technological innovation, emotional intelligence endures as the quintessential human differentiator. Unlike quantifiable academic credentials or algorithmic efficiency, EI reveals itself through intangible yet potent expressions—grace under criticism, empathy in leadership, and composure amid adversity. Within educational ecosystems, emotionally perceptive educators nurture curiosity, confidence, and resilience—virtues that remain impervious to replication by any artificial construct.

Moreover, as civilization advances toward a hyper-digitalized future dominated by robotics and data-driven governance, emotional intelligence will serve as the moral compass anchoring technological progress. It will safeguard the ethical application of innovation and ensure that intellect is harmonized with compassion. Ultimately, the confluence of reason and emotion will sustain the essence of humanity itself. Emotional intelligence, therefore, transcends the boundaries of mere professional competence—it stands as the very soul of enlightened and sustainable human evolution.

**Answer the following questions:**

I. According to the passage, what is the *defining human advantage* in the modern world?

- a) Artificial intelligence
- b) Emotional intelligence
- c) Technological progress
- d) Intellectual quotient

II. Which of the following best describes the author's tone in the passage?

- a) Critical
- b) Persuasive
- c) Pessimistic
- d) Indifferent

III. Complete the Analogy

Artificial Intelligence : Machine Efficiency :: Emotional Intelligence : \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Find the word in the passage that is the antonym of "indifference."

V. Complete the following line appropriately based on the passage:

"Developing emotional intelligence requires self-awareness and constant practice—recognizing one's emotions, \_\_\_\_\_."

VI. What do you analyse about the author's perspective on balancing technology and human emotion?

(2)

**Section B – Writing Skills**

**(4 Marks)**

2. You are the President of RWA, Preeti Nagar. Your society recently organized a cooking competition for the residents on the occasion of Women's Day. Eminent chef Sanjay Kumar was invited to be judge. Write a report on the event to be published in a local daily. Use the following cues:

Date, venue, time      No. of participants      Variety of dishes displayed      winners

**Section C – Literature (14 Marks)**

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**(4 Marks)**

"Laburnum top is silent, quite still

In the afternoon yellow September sunlight."

I. How does the poet set the mood in the opening line?

- a) By using imagery that evokes tranquillity and stillness
- b) By depicting an unsettling and eerie atmosphere
- c) Through dynamic action and movement
- d) By introducing a sense of urgency and tension

II. What does the phrase ‘yellow September sunlight’ symbolize?

The harsh and unforgiving glare of the late summer sun

The gentle decline of the year, suggesting maturity and change

The cold, lifeless light of early winter

The vibrant rebirth typical of springtime

III. Explain the transformation that takes place in the poem later.

a) The calm atmosphere intensifies into a vivid celebration of life

b) The scene darkens as shadows take over, indicating gloom

c) The landscape becomes desolate and abandoned

d) The poem shifts from joy to melancholy, emphasizing loss

IV. What poetic device is used in the expression ‘Laburnum top is **silent**\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Answer the following questions in 30–40 words each:**

**(3×2=6 marks)**

I. How does Mrs. Pearson assert her individuality in ‘Mother’s Day’?

II. What role does Dr. Andrew Manson play in the story ‘Birth’?

III. How does the poem ‘The Laburnum Top’ celebrate the relationship between the bird and the tree?

**5. Answer the following in 120–150 words:**

**(4 marks)**

I. Compare and contrast the themes of individuality and transformation as depicted in the story ‘Mother’s Day’ and the poem ‘The Laburnum Top’.

**OR**

**II.** Based on your understanding of the story, analyse how Dr. Andrew’s professional commitment and emotional resilience reflect the true spirit of a dedicated doctor.

\*\*\*\*\*ALL THE BEST\*\*\*\*\*