



# B.K. BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

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

TERM 1 - 2025-26

ENGLISH

Class: IX  
Date: 12.09.25  
Admission no:

Time: 3 hrs  
Max Marks: 80  
Roll no:

## General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains FOUR sections-READING, GRAMMAR, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

## SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

### 1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

Animal migration, one of nature's most awe-inspiring spectacles, involves billions of creatures journeying across continents, oceans, and skies in search of food, breeding grounds, or milder climates. Monarch butterflies, for instance, flutter 3,000 miles from North America to Mexico's oyamel fir forests, navigating by the sun's position and Earth's magnetic field—a feat that spans multiple generations, with no single butterfly completing the round trip. Similarly, humpback whales traverse 5,000 miles between polar feeding waters and tropical calving sites, singing complex songs that may serve as cultural transmissions passed down through pods.

Scientifically, migration is driven by evolutionary adaptations honed over millennia. Birds like the Arctic tern clock an astonishing 44,000 miles annually, from pole to pole, capitalizing on endless summer daylight for foraging. These journeys rely on internal biological clocks, fat reserves for fuel, and sensory cues like star patterns or olfactory maps. However, human-induced challenges threaten these odysseys: climate change alters blooming cycles, disrupting food availability for pollinators; habitat fragmentation from urbanization blocks traditional routes; and light pollution confuses nocturnal migrants, leading to fatal collisions with buildings.

Conservation efforts are rising to the occasion. International agreements, such as the Convention on Migratory Species, foster cross-border protections, while citizen science apps enable tracking via satellite tags on animals like sea turtles, revealing migration corridors for marine protected areas. In Africa, the great wildebeest migration—1.5 million animals thundering across the Serengeti—supports ecotourism, funding anti-poaching initiatives. Yet, plastic pollution in oceans ensnares marine migrants, and overfishing depletes stocks, underscoring the need for sustainable practices.

Philosophically, migration embodies resilience and interconnectedness, reminding us that borders are human constructs in a borderless natural world. As biologist Rachel Carson observed, "In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth." Modern technology, from drones monitoring herds to AI predicting migration patterns amid weather shifts, aids preservation, turning data into action.

Ultimately, animal migration teaches lessons in adaptation and survival, urging humanity to safeguard these epic voyages. As ecosystems teeter, protecting migrants preserves biodiversity, ensuring the planet's rhythmic pulse continues for generations.

(378 words / Adapted from BBC Wildlife Magazine - June 2025 issue)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- i. Why does the passage describe animal migration as 'one of nature's most awe-inspiring spectacles'? (Paragraph 1)
- a) It involves dramatic performances for entertainment.
  - b) It showcases massive, coordinated movements that captivate observers.
  - c) It occurs only in controlled environments like zoos.
  - d) It relies on human guidance for direction.
- ii. What is the primary purpose of the monarch butterfly's 3,000-mile journey to Mexico? (Paragraph 1)
- a) To escape predators
  - b) To reach breeding grounds
  - c) To find new food sources
  - d) To avoid cold climates
- iii. Which sensory cue is NOT mentioned as aiding animal migration in the passage? (Paragraph 2)
- a) Star patterns
  - b) Earth's magnetic field
  - c) Wind speed
  - d) Olfactory maps
- iv. What does the passage suggest is a direct consequence of light pollution for nocturnal migrants? (Paragraph 2)
- a) Increased food availability
  - b) Fatal collisions with buildings
  - c) Enhanced navigation accuracy
  - d) Reduced migration distances
- v. Which phrase in Paragraph 3 highlights the role of technology in tracking animal migration?
- a) Cross-border protections
  - b) Citizen science apps
  - c) Anti-poaching initiatives
  - d) Sustainable practices
- vi. What does the passage imply about human borders in relation to animal migration? (Paragraph 4)
- a) They are essential for migration routes.
  - b) They are artificial constructs in a borderless natural world.
  - c) They enhance migration patterns.
  - d) They prevent habitat fragmentation.
- vii. Explain how the monarch butterfly's multi-generational journey demonstrates a unique aspect of migration, and infer what this suggests about their survival strategy. (Paragraph 1) 2M
- viii. Analyze how ecotourism from the wildebeest migration supports conservation efforts, and explain its broader impact on local ecosystems. (Paragraph 3) 2M
- ix. Describe two ways AI contributes to migration preservation, and justify their educational value for students. (Paragraph 4) 2M

**2. Read the following.**

**10**

In 2021, Singapore opened its first “vertical farming” tower — a 9-metre-high structure that grows leafy vegetables in rotating trays under controlled light and temperature. The concept is designed to address the country's limited agricultural land while ensuring food security for its growing population. Each tower can produce several tonnes of vegetables annually using a fraction of the space and water required by traditional farming.

Vertical farming relies on hydroponics — growing plants without soil, using nutrient-rich water. LED lighting replaces sunlight, and sensors monitor moisture, temperature, and nutrient levels. This system allows year-round production regardless of weather, reducing dependency on imports.

However, the method has challenges. The high initial investment for equipment and energy costs for lighting can make produce more expensive than conventionally grown vegetables. Critics also point out that vertical farming is currently best suited for leafy greens and herbs, limiting crop variety.

Supporters argue that as technology advances, costs will decrease and crop diversity will increase. Some researchers are experimenting with growing strawberries, tomatoes, and even grains in vertical farms. The Singapore government has introduced subsidies and training programmes to encourage adoption among local farmers.

**Answer the following questions, based on your reading of the above information.**

i. The main purpose of Singapore's vertical farming towers is to:

- a) increase export of vegetables                      b) reduce dependency on imports and save space
- c) promote rooftop gardening                      d) replace hydroponics with soil farming

ii. What is one limitation of current vertical farming systems?

- a) They cannot be used in cities.                      b) They require large amounts of soil.
- c) They are mostly suited for leafy greens and herbs.                      d) They produce less food than traditional farms.

iii. Which technology helps control plant growth in vertical farms?

- a) Solar panels                      b) LED lighting and sensors
- c) Artificial rain systems                      d) Drone pollination

iv. Which word in the passage means “dependent on someone or something for support”?

- a) Variety      b) Controlled      c) Dependency      d) Rotation

v. The Singapore government supports vertical farming by:

- a) Buying all the produce                      b) Offering subsidies and training
- c) Providing free land                      d) Importing seeds from abroad

vi. Which statement would critics MOST likely agree with?

- a) Vertical farming will solve all food problems immediately.
- b) Vertical farming has limited crop variety and high costs.
- c) Vertical farming should be banned in cities.
- d) Vertical farming is cheaper than traditional farming.

vii. Complete the statement and explain why this effect is significant for Singapore.

2M

Cause: Limited agricultural land in Singapore → Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

viii. Why might researchers be experimenting with crops like strawberries and tomatoes in vertical farms, and what does this imply about the future potential of this technology?

2M

## SECTION B WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)

*All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.*

3. You met your favourite author during a book launch event. Write a diary entry expressing your excitement, the conversation you had, and what you learnt from the interaction. 3M

4. Write a descriptive paragraph of your favourite gadget in not more than 100 words, highlighting its key features and functionalities. 4M

**5. Attempt any ONE of the following: 7M**

A. You are Meera Nair, 17, Park View Apartments, Lucknow. Write a letter to the Editor of The Daily Times expressing concern over the growing noise pollution in your locality due to unregulated construction and late-night events. Suggest measures to address this issue.

**OR**

B. You are Ankit Verma, Head Boy of Sunrise Public School. Write a letter to the Principal requesting the introduction of a “Skill Development Week” where students can attend workshops on coding, photography, creative writing, and public speaking.

**6. Attempt any ONE of the following: 8M**

A. You are Rohit Sharma, Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on “The Role of Youth in Combating Climate Change”, discussing practical actions young people can take at home, in school, and in the community.

**OR**

B. You are Ananya Reddy, Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on “The Rise of Electric Vehicles: A Step Towards Sustainable Transportation”, discussing benefits, challenges, and future prospects in India.

## SECTION C GRAMMAR (10 marks)

**7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those in brackets. (3×1=3 marks)**

The school authorities plan to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (introduce / introducing / introduced) a fitness programme for all classes. Students (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have / having) the option to choose between yoga, aerobics, and sports. Experts say such activities (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (will improve / improving / improves) the students’ concentration and stamina.

**8. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word before and the word after, as shown in the example. (4 × 1 = 4 marks)**

Example: Word Before Omission Word After

Good health is most valuable asset. Is the most

i. We all aware that regular exercise is essential.

ii. A balanced diet also key to staying healthy.

iii. You must avoid junk food it is harmful.

iv. Every student should aim at at least eight hours of sleep.

**9. Do as directed (1 + 2 = 3 marks)**

I. Fill in the blank with a suitable modal verb:

Students \_\_\_\_\_ carry their ID cards during school trips. (1 mark)

II. Complete the sentences using suitable modal verbs to express the meanings in brackets: (2 marks)

a) You \_\_\_\_\_ speak politely to elders. (show obligation)

b) We \_\_\_\_\_ win the match if we practice harder. (show possibility)

**SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 MARKS)**

**10. Read the given extract and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the three, given.**  
**2x4=8**

**A.** “I am touching the feet of a teacher, not my granddaughter; a teacher who taught me so well, with so much of affection that I can read any novel confidently in such a short period. Now I am independent. It is my duty to respect a teacher. Is it not written in our scriptures that a teacher should be respected, irrespective of the gender and age?”

- i. Whose feet is the speaker touching?
- ii. Why does the speaker say they can read any novel confidently?
- iii. According to the speaker, who should be respected irrespective of gender and age?
- iv. What reason does the speaker give for respecting a teacher?

**B.** “A few weeks ago, worded as if in special tribute to Duke, an order came through from the chemical company’s headquarters: ‘... therefore, to advance our objectives step by step, Charles Hooper is appointed the Assistant National Sales Manager.’”

- i. What does the phrase “step by step” in the order symbolize in relation to Charles Hooper’s journey?
- ii. Why is the order described as a “special tribute to Duke”?
- iii. How does this appointment reflect the impact of Duke on Charles Hooper’s life?
- iv. What message does this extract convey about determination and partnership?

**C.** “I come from haunts of coot and hern,

I make a sudden sally

And sparkle out among the fern

To bicker down a valley.”

- i. What does the phrase “haunts of coot and hern” mean?
- ii. How does the brook ‘sparkle out’ among the fern?
- iii. What poetic device is used in the line “To bicker down a valley”?
- iv. What does the extract suggest about the movement and character of the brook?

**11. Answer any five of the following six questions in about 30–40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10 marks)**

- i. Why was Private Quelch nicknamed 'the Professor', and what impact did this nickname have on his standing in the platoon?
- ii. How does Duke's loyalty impact Chuck's life in "A Dog Named Duke"?
- iii. In "The Man Who Knew Too Much," what effect does Private Quelch's behaviour have on his peers?
- iv. Describe how Robert Frost uses symbolism in "The Road Not Taken."
- v. What does the solitary reaper's song convey in "The Solitary Reaper"?
- vi. What are the comic elements in the play "Villa for Sale"?

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (1 × 8 = 8 marks)**

I. In "Villa for Sale," comic misunderstandings and shifting motivations drive the plot and create humour. Discuss how the play's characters—Mrs. AlSmith, Gaston, and Juliette—use wit, persuasion, and opportunism to further their own interests. How do their actions and interactions lead to the surprising outcomes in the story? Support your answer with reference to specific incidents from the play.

**OR**

II. "The Road Not Taken" and "The Brook" both present journeys—one of life and choices, the other of nature and continuity. How do the poets use these journeys to reflect on broader themes? Discuss.

..... ***ALL THE BEST*** .....