

BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL

MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

Marking Scheme



Class: X
Date: 16.10.23
Admission No.:

Duration: 3 Hrs
Max. Marks: 80
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 (20 marks)

1. Read the following text.

10

- i. C. It adds to the suspense in the story.
- ii. Ways the disappointment that Drishti and her friends felt after their ghost hunt is analogous to the feeling of waking up from a dream -- (any 2)

both involve a sense of disappointment that reality didn't live up to their expectations.

In both cases, they may have had high hopes for what they would experience, only to find that it was not as exciting or satisfying as they had hoped.

Just as waking up from a dream can be jarring and leave us feeling let down, Drishti's realization that the haunted hotel was not as spooky as she had imagined was a letdown for her and her friends.

- iii. A. She was too focused on finding evidence of the paranormal.

- iv. After paragraph 2

- v. Elements that classify the story as scary -- (any two)

Suspense: The story creates a sense of unease and tension through its use of foreshadowing, eerie descriptions, and unexplained phenomena.

Eerie atmosphere: The hotel setting contributes to the overall sense of fear and dread, with its dilapidated and abandoned state.

Supernatural elements: The story includes unexplained noises, movements, and apparitions that suggest the presence of supernatural forces or entities.

Isolation: Drishti and her friends are all alone in the hotel, adding to the sense of vulnerability and fear.

Psychological fear: The story plays on the psychological fears of the reader, such as the fear of the unknown, the fear of being watched or followed, and the fear of the dark.

- vi. frozen with fear (paragraph 5)

- vii. B. The need to be more sceptical of the supernatural.

viii (Any one, from those given / similar)

...in a state of disrepair and neglect

...old, damaged, and possibly unsafe (just 'old' is not acceptable)

...in a state of decay

2. Read the following table displaying the details of five House Captains.

10

i. Aryan is likely to ask many "why" questions.

Reason (any one):

Aryan's personal qualities include curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning. These qualities suggest that he is likely to ask many "why" questions in order to better understand the world around him.

Aryan's academic achievements and co-curricular activities demonstrate his strong critical thinking skills, which would likely lead him to ask thoughtful and insightful questions.

ii. A. Rohit

iii. Justification: (any two)

Her motto "Service before self" shows a commitment to helping others, which is essential for promoting mental health and well-being.

Her co-curricular activities in the social service club and drama club demonstrate a desire to work with others and address important issues.

Her personal qualities of compassion, organization, and responsibility would be valuable in leading such an initiative.

Her academic achievements and awards, such as the Best Orator Award, demonstrate strong communication skills that are essential in promoting mental health and well-being.

iv. D. Ananya

v. Rajat the most likely to be a collaborative worker because of his personal qualities of being a team player and an adaptable person.

vi. ... because his drawback is procrastination which means that he may struggle with completing tasks on time,

vii. The second situation (b) aligns with Ananya's motto because she actively listens to her team members and provides support, ultimately helping them to succeed by leading through her actions and setting a positive example.

viii D. (a) - (iii) , (b) - (iv) , (c) - (i)

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR 10

3. Complete the following tasks, as directed.

i. Hydrological resources refer to water resources which are vital to human animal and plant survival.

ii. D. had hidden

iii. B. must not

iv. C. will have taken

v.

Error	Correction
Stays	stay

vi. C. will bring

vii. B. must

viii. D. is

ix. is

x. understands

WRITING 10

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5

A. Suggested Response: Format 1 mark, Content 2 Marks & Expression 2 Marks

Sunshine School

Noida

31 September 2024

The Editor

The Times

New Delhi

Subject: Digital Literacy is the Need of the Hour

Dear Ma'am

I am writing to highlight the crucial importance of digital literacy in today's technology-dependent age. As the Head of the Computer Club at my school, I firmly believe that digital literacy is a skill that can help every individual navigate a rapidly changing world. Technology and the internet have made the world smaller than ever. Digital literacy is essential to enhancing communication, creating access to resources, and equipping everyone to participate in a digital society.

However, I am also aware of the challenges that come with technology. Issues such as cybersecurity, misinformation, and online privacy present dangers. Digital literacy programs can help people navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. To promote digital literacy, initiatives such as community workshops for a variety of age groups, and collaborations between educational institutions and technology companies can be established.

By focusing on digital literacy, we can empower individuals to harness the full potential of technology.

Sincerely,

Nehal Kumar

OR

B. Suggested Response:

Starlight Apartments

Trivandrum

30 September 2024

The Editor

The Times

Trivandrum

Subject: Concern about Food Wastage

Sir,

Recently, I came across an article that highlighted the shocking fact that an average Indian wastes around fifty kilograms of food annually. Considering that there are millions of people who struggle to get a single square meal each day, this amount of food waste is a grave concern that requires immediate attention.

Every citizen can contribute towards reducing wastage. Simple practices at home such as planning meals wisely, storing food properly, and being mindful of expiry dates can be helpful. Additionally, any surplus food can be donated in a local community to those in need. This will help reduce hunger as well as food wastage.

Together, by taking conscious steps, we can create a more mindful and compassionate society that values food and does not waste it.

Yours sincerely,

Ishaaq Shah

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

5

A. The monthly expenditure of a family is represented in the given pie chart. Food and education make up 30% and 25% respectively of their monthly expenses. The family spends the most on these two areas. Miscellaneous items come next in order of percentage, that is, 20% which comprises of money spent on both essential and luxury goods, such as, clothes, gadgets, vacations, etc. Health care and rent take up 10% each. Transportation takes up the last 5% of their monthly expense. Overall the data shows that the family does maintain a good balance on expenditure. After spending on food, they have spent a significant amount on education. Spending 25% on it shows that the family gives it a lot of importance. About 80% of the total money is spent on liabilities, and the remaining 20% is spent on other items. In conclusion we can say that this family spends its money wisely indeed. (153 words)

OR

B. Read the following excerpt from an article in a fashion magazine:

Argument FOR the subject of the statement:

The desire to be beautiful is natural. What is not natural is determining that only one type of skin colour is beautiful. We need to be inclusive of all skin tones and look at the diversity of beauty. Every skin colour shade is beautiful. Additionally, beauty is only 'skin deep'. We need to stop equating light-coloured skin with beauty because 'black is beautiful' too. 'Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and therefore is a very subjective

matter. Discrimination on the basis of skin shade is therefore not logical. Many such discriminations have been defeated over the past decades. We should stop encouraging ads that promote colorism. Let us not regress but rather progress. Real beauty is the personality and the qualities of a person. The focus should lie on being beautiful from within, rather than obsessing over outer appearance. (140 words)

Argument AGAINST the subject of the statement:

We as a society have always been obsessed with fair skin tone and it is time to put a stop to this. This prejudice has been around for way too long, including in our books, movies and real life. We find a wonderful example in the children's fairy tale 'Snow White', where her mother the wicked queen asks the magic mirror, "Who is the fairest of them all?" and the mirror replies saying that Snow White is the most beautiful, thus stressing on inner beauty rather than outer appearance. Fair skin instills confidence and sets one up for success. Fairer people seem to get better jobs, deals and life partners, so it's natural that people will desire to be fair. If some people want to use beauty products to make their skin lighter they should be allowed to do so without criticism as it is a matter of personal choice. (150 words)

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

5

i. C. Mrs. Hall said that there was a ready supply of food at the hotel.

ii. solitude

iii. A. only 1 & 5

iv. (i) because she felt Griffin was a peculiar scientist

(ii) because he paid advance rent (Or any other suitable explanation)

OR

i. A. His heart sank.

ii. (Any one)

We can infer that:

◆ Ausable was perceptive and observant as he noticed Fowler's disappointment as well as the cause of it.

◆ Ausable was confident. He didn't feel the need to apologise for disappointing Fowler. He accepted his disappointment without judgement.

◆ He was experienced enough in his field to understand that the reality of being a spy differs from perceptions of it.

◆ He was smart and quick-witted in the way he responded to Fowler's disappointment.

Accept any other valid response.

iii. B. exciting

1

iv. The French hotel is described as 'gloomy', 'musty' and 'small'. This sombre atmosphere of the hotel added to Fowler's feeling of disappointment. He expected a grand atmosphere of mystery and danger, and was disappointed by the reality of the situation.

Accept any other valid response..

2

- 7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** **5**
- i. Robert Frost 1
- ii. According to the poet, the world will end in fire. 1
- iii. B. Fire and ice are symbols – not of natural disasters but of humanity’s ability to create disasters of its own. 1
- iv. Both ice and fire are similar in the sense that both of them would destroy everything in the world. 2

OR

- i. D. Money buys materialistic things and can be earned again when lost. 1
- ii. A. (1), (2) and (5) 1
- iii. B. resilient 1
- iv. Our Experiences. Along with some relevant explanation. 2

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. **4x3=12**

i. People of all ages, faiths, and social groups eat bread every day in Goa, where it is a staple of the local cuisine. The bakeries, which are operated by trained artisans who learned their profession from their ancestors, are regarded as a significant component of the Goan cultural legacy.

ii. The repeated use of the name 'Amanda' throughout the poem creates a sense of authority and control.

◆ As the name 'Amanda' is repeated throughout the poem, it conveys a commanding tone, as if someone in a position of authority, such as a parent, is speaking directly to Amanda.

◆ Since the name 'Amanda' is repeated numerous times, followed by instructions or directions, it also creates a tone of frustration or annoyance.

◆ The repetition of the name also adds a sense of familiarity and intimacy to the tone. It suggests a close relationship between the speaker and Amanda, indicating that the instructions and restrictions come from a place of care and concern.

Accept any other valid response.

iii. According to Mandela, both the oppressor and the oppressed require liberation.

◆ Both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity. According to Mandela, if one person takes away another person's freedom, they themselves become a prisoner of prejudice. They become shackled and restricted by their own biases and actions.

◆ While the oppressed are dehumanised because that is how the oppressors treat them, the oppressors too are dehumanised as a consequence of their own actions.

◆ The oppressed may be seen as actual prisoners, but the oppressors too are prisoners of their own hate.

Accept any other valid response.

iv. In the story, His First Flight, the seagull was afraid to fly until his intense hunger made him forget his fear.

◆ The young seagull was desperate for food as he had not eaten since the previous night.

◆ He observes his family members flying and catching fish and enjoying their food. The sight of his siblings and parents successfully feeding themselves intensifies his hunger.

◆ As his hunger deepens, his fear of flying becomes secondary to his overpowering desire to find food. This is why when his mother offers him a piece of fish he musters the courage to jump off the cliff and dive at the food, and thus take his first flight.

Accept any other valid response.

v. When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in the shooting operand down the length of the bathtub underwater and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. Two days after, Mijbil escaped from the bedroom and entered the bathroom. He struggled with the chromium tap till it had a full flow.

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

2x3=6

i. The story - a powerful example of the importance of saying no when it comes to making decisions that affect the health and well-being of others, whether it be for pets or for people Mrs. Pumphrey's love and indulgence for her dog, Tricki, leads to the dog becoming severely overweight and unhealthy Despite Herriot's advice to put Tricki on a diet and exercise regimen, Mrs. Pumphrey is unable to say 'no' and abstain from overfeeding the dog -- Tricki becomes seriously ill due to his weight and unhealthy habits. The story, thus, highlights the fact that sometimes, the best way to help someone is to say no and steer them towards a better path, even if it may be uncomfortable or unpopular in the moment.

ii. Curiosity is extremely important to scientific exploration and discovery. It is curiosity that leads a person to question things around them, which in turn could help them stumble onto new discoveries.

◆ It was Ebright's curiosity that led him to collect items such as butterflies, fossils and coins. His desire to explore and constantly learn served as the foundation for his future scientific pursuits.

◆ It was curiosity that led Ebright to investigate different aspects of butterflies for his school projects. Since he was curious to understand the cause of the viral disease that killed monarch butterflies, that was what he studied.

◆ While in high school, Ebright was curious about the purpose of the twelve gold spots found on a monarch pupa. This drove him to conduct more research on the topic, which indirectly led to his new theory on the life of cells.

iii. Brilliant scientist (give example) - he was a lawless person, he was disliked by most people, was quick-tempered, burnt the house of the landlord to take revenge on him, stole money at priest's house, (any other trait that reveals his darker side) undoubtedly brilliant but his brilliance eclipsed by his negative traits.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1x6=6

Content 3

Expression 2

Accuracy 1

A. [A detailed conversation has been presented to allow for usage of content points as per individual choice. However, the final answer has to be a cohesive whole, structured as a conversation, in about 120 words.]

Lencho: As a farmer, my livelihood depends on nature and sometimes nature can be cruel. Once, I was looking forward to the rain. In fact, I was hoping for it for my crops, and when it did start to rain, I was so satisfied! I even went outside in the rain to feel the rain on my skin and breathe in the sweet air. But the weather very quickly changed and the rain turned into a hailstorm and all of my crops were destroyed.

Robert Frost: I'm so sorry that happened to you. Nature can definitely be cruel, but I've noticed that it can also be full of hope. I was once having a bad day when a single flake of snow fell on me. It was so small and beautiful that it completely lifted my mood. I think the way nature influences our mood depends on a variety of factors. I felt hope because I saw the beauty in a single snowflake. But had I seen a hailstorm that destroyed a farm, I'm sure I would have been hopeless too.

Lencho: It's interesting you say that you found hope in nature. For me, I found hope and faith in God. And you're right, there are definitely a lot of factors that contribute to how nature can influence our mood.

Once the hailstorm was over my entire field was covered in a sheet of white. Anyone else seeing that may have felt it was beautiful and the view may have lifted their spirits. But since that sheet of white meant that all my hard work had gone to waste and my family would go hungry, to me, it only represented sorrow.

Robert Frost: Yes, we may not know in whether nature can influence someone's mood in a good way or a bad way, but what we do know is that nature is powerful and capable of affecting our moods and feelings.

Accept any other valid response.

OR

B. Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher. He did not allow students to talk in his class as he wanted them to concentrate on their studies. He often punished Anne for talking in between classes by giving her essays and extra work. However, he appreciated Anne for her strong arguments every time which can be traced from the instance when Mr. Keesing read out her beautiful poem on the topic 'Quack Quack Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox.' Such an instance shows that he was not only a strict teacher but also a fun loving person.

Any other relevant answers to be given due credits.

11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1x6=6

A. Dear Horace,

I sincerely hope you are doing well and making the most of your imprisonment. I wanted to use this chance to express my regret for my part in the circumstances that led to your arrest. I recognise how dishonest and immoral my actions were, and I'm sorry for the harm and misery I've brought you.

I wanted to let you know that I've changed my ways and stopped being a criminal. I had a wake-up call after the necklace incident and now I know there are more honourable and fulfilling ways to live. I hope that one day you will be able to forget about what I did and that we can both move on to better and more honest means of living.

Sincerely,

[Name of the young lady thief]

OR

B. despite knowing that the money had been taken (dampness of notes) Anil chose to remain quiet about the matter - pretended that all was normal- realized that Hari Singh's honesty had prevailed over his temptation - wanted to reward him/ encourage him-discussing the theft would have been counterproductive.

***** *The End* *****